

Davie County ARC

November Meeting

Volume 1, Issue 8

FCC REVISES BAND PLANS, PLUS OTHER CHANGES

The FCC's newly released WT Docket 04-140 brings significant changes. The FCC is expanding the phone sub-bands on 75m and 40m and will allow Novice and Tech Plus licensees to use the General portion of the CW sub-bands on 80, 40, 15, and 10m. Amateur amplifiers will no longer be required to exclude the 10m and 12m bands. There are other changes, so check out www.arrl.org for the details. The new

rules will be effective in the next couple months.

These changes will go into effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register. That could happen any time in the next couple of months.

When these changes go into effect I will list all the changes in the newsletter and perhaps include a band plan printout.

The Rowan County SET

Jack Davidson - NW40 and John Dwiggins - N4QVM participated in the Rowan County SET on Oct 21. The planned scenario was for a tornado to touch down in a residential section just off of Grace Church Rd. Because of the shortened time frame it was decided that the ARES personnel would meet at 9:30 at the Rowan Red Cross building and wait there until we were officially activated.

Just like in a real emergency things didn't go quite as planned. ARES was supposed to be activated at about 10:00. When we hadn't received the call by 10:30, Bobby Yarbrough (Rowan County EC) called someone at the command center. We were told that we could go ahead and deploy to the Red Cross/triage staging area. Two operators were deployed to the Red Cross shelter and the net was

activated with net control operating from the Red Cross Building.

We arrived at the staging area and after a while a few "injured" people trickled in, some by Rowan Rescue vehicles and one on the back of a four wheeler cargo vehicle. We could see fire trucks moving around the neighborhood streets and up and down Grace Church Rd.

Two operators were deployed to the Incident Command Center where they set up a portable station. One piece of traffic was actually passed between the shelter and the Command Center.

There were some problems. For one, the CERT team that was supposed to participate did not show. This was one of the agencies we were supposed to support so we lost out on (continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>October Minutes</i>	2
<i>Rowan County SET continued</i>	2
<i>Easy DX, for a Change</i>	2
<i>Topics of Discussion for November meeting</i>	3
<i>Pop Quiz from October Meeting</i>	3
<i>Red Cross Background Checks</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact James at ki4bjr@yadtel.net
- November 30—Austin Cavi-ness will speak about Winter Weather

October Meeting Minutes

3 October 2006 Present were John Dwiggins—N4QVM, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Les Pinnix—N4YSB, Jack Davidson—NW4O, David Pinnix—KO4XV, James George—KI4BJR, Norma George—KI4ADD, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Kathy Sparks—KF4EKZ, Tim Slay—N4IB, David Fleming—KE4JHJ

Tim Slay, the NC Section Manager, gave a presentation about the ARRL

The members attending the meeting were given a pop quiz about different aspects of amateur radio.

There will be a nation wide ARES database maintained by the ARRL

Grants for Homeland Security funds must be submitted by the county EOC.

There is information relating to ARES available at <http://www.wakeares.org/> including links to ICS online courses

Next March the ARRL will start a new campaign about public service

The ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology program provides grants for qualifying programs

The ARRL Foundation provides grants for worthwhile causes related to Amateur Radio

Quiz Answers

1 C 2 B 3 D 4 A 5 C 6 C 7 D 8 C 9 C 10 C 11 D 12 B 13 C
14 D 15 A 16 B

Rowan Set continued.

that activity. The original plan was for the Red Cross to do damage assessment, but the fire departments did that so we lost out on another activity. There were a number of agencies involved in the exercise. The highway patrol had at least one officer on the scene, as did the Rowan County Sheriff's Dept. There were 4 fire trucks from Locke Fire Dept., at least one from China Grove and Bostian Heights. There were several Rescue Squad vehicles and an ambulance or two on hand also. The Rowan County Incident Command Center was set up and operating.

After it all was over everyone met at Grace Lutheran Church where we ate barbecue. It was when everyone gathered in one place that you got a real idea of how many people had taken part in the exercise. Without doing a head count I would guess that 100 people gave up their Saturday morning to practice for something no one wants to happen.

Easy DX, for a Change

After fighting hard in the pileups just to get a contact or two with recent countries like 3Y0X Peter 1 Island or KH8SI Swain's Island it was nice to get a shot at a local "rare" country. For about 2 weeks there has been an operation on from XF4DL Revilla Gigedo, which is in the Pacific off the west coast of Mexico. For US DX'ers this is almost a chip shot. My first contact was on 30 meters and only took three or four calls to get through. Before I had really settled down for the fight I had the contact and he was in the log. I remember thinking, that took all the fun out of that. But I'll take it, you don't get many easy shots at countries on the 100 most wanted list. By the time they went QRT I had worked them on every band from 160 m to 12 m, and four modes—SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31. This was probably a once in a lifetime deal, I can't imagine ever working a rare or semi-rare country on that many bands and modes again.

For this to be the bottom of the sun spot cycle the upper bands were in very good shape a couple days lately. I managed to pick up three or four new countries, and added additional bands for other countries. Of course part of this is due to my not being able to sleep lately. There aren't many advantages to loosing sleep, but having less crowded bands at night is one of them. I hope everyone enjoys the band openings. 73

Topics for Discussion at November Meeting

Treasury Report

Check on status of ARRL affiliation.

Status of repeater - is everything ready, any help needed in getting the antenna up on the tower?

December meeting—will it be an eat out meeting? If so, where?

Any members, besides David and Les, have packet on 2 meters? Any packet on HF? Anyone know anything about TelPac program for linking VHF/UHF to internet?

Shelters are at the high school, Brock building and the new Senior Center.

Will there be a club Amateur Radio float in the Christmas parade?

Need to start thinking about club officers for next year.

Pop Quiz from October Meeting

1. What do the letters RRT represent? (A) Radio Relay Tower (B) Relay Redundant Transmission (C) Rapid Response Team (D) Remote Radio Tuning
2. How do you figure out the length of a 40 meter dipole? (A) Measure out 40 meters of wire (B) Use the formula $468/f(\text{MHz})$ (C) Use the formula $1004/f(\text{MHz})$ (D) Just eyeball it, you'll get close enough
3. From the distances below select the longest distance a 2 meter handheld can transmit. (A) 1 mile (B) 10 miles (C) 25 miles (D) 125 miles
4. From the values below, what is the least power that it takes to work stations in the Galapagos Islands or Cape Verde on 160 meters CW? (A) 75 watts (B) 500 watts (C) 1000 watts (D) 1500 watts
5. In a disaster situation what is the first thing you should do? (A) Call up all you ham buddies and tell them you're working a disaster (B) Call everybody on your groups calling tree (C) Make sure your family and home are secure (D) Call the SEC and ask him to declare an emergency
6. The more or less standard language used for DX communications is (A) German (B) Spanish (C) English (D) French
7. Our most likely natural emergency would be (A) Hurricanes (B) Tornadoes (C) Winter storms (D) All of the above
8. What is a go-kit? (A) An amateur radio construction project in kit form (B) An add on kit for radios to make it "go" through interference (C) A pre-packed bag ready to go for emcomm personnel (D) A General Operations manual
9. VHF/UHF is often called line of sight communications. What does line of sight mean? (A) You have to be able to see a station to talk to it. (B) You have to point the antenna at the other station to talk to it. (C) The distance between two earth bound stations is limited by the curvature of the earth. (D) You can only talk to stations in the direction you are looking.
10. A repeater on VHF/UHF has greater range than a handheld mainly because: (A) It has more power. (B) It usually has higher quality equipment. (C) The repeater antenna is usually at a higher elevation above the terrain. (D) There is less electromagnetic "noise" nearby.
11. At this point in the solar cycle which HF bands would you chose for night time communications between two stations located 500 miles apart or farther? (A) 10 or 12 meters. (B) 15 or 17 meters. (C) 20 meters. (D) 40 or 80 meters.
12. At this point in the solar cycle which HF bands would you chose for day time communications between two stations located 500 miles apart or farther? (A) 10 or 12 meters. (B) 15 or 20 meters. (C) 40 or 80 meters. (D) 160 meters.
13. In a wide area disaster with widespread power outages in our area how would you communicate with the state emergency office in Raleigh? (A) Using linked 2 meter repeaters. (B) Using FAX or telephone. (C) Using HF radio. (D) Using cell phones.
14. In emergency situations how rapidly can the phone system, lined and cell phone, become unreliable. (A) 12 hours (B) 6 hours (C) 1 hour (D) 10 minutes
15. TV twin lead is an example of what type of feedline? (A) balanced (B) unbalanced (C) open ended (D) closed ended
16. Coax is an example of what type of feedline? (A) balanced (B) unbalanced (C) open ended (D) closed ended

Answers on page 2

November Meeting

Davie County Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 516
Mocksville, NC 27028

Next meeting is 7 November at 7:00
pm at the Davie County Hospital

We're on the web at
www.daviearc.org
www.ki4orw.org

Monthly meetings are the first
Tuesday of every month.



The Davie County Amateur Radio Club was formed on August 16, 2005. DCARC was formed for two reasons. First, there was no amateur radio club in Davie County, and second, there was a need and desire to form an ARES group in Davie County.

We would like to welcome any amateurs in Davie County or surrounding counties to attend meetings, and if you are interested, become a member.

Club officers for 2006 are:

President John Dwiggins N4QVM

Vice President James George KI4BJR

Sec/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD

Red Cross Background Checks

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 25, 2006 -- ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a *Statement of Understanding (SoU)*, this summer notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a [statement](#) October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include a credit check and a mode-of-living check. "The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance." The on-line application allows applicants to request a copy of any consumer report resulting from its background investigation. The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) in Anderson, California, to handle the on-line background checks. Prospective volunteers visit a [secure Web site](#), click on the ARC logo and submit name, address, Social Security number (or other acceptable government ID), telephone number, and date of birth. Driver's license information, e-mail address and mother's maiden name are optional. In the course of the application process, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing . . ." more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/25/1/?nc=1>