

Davie County ARC

September Meeting

Volume 1, Issue 6

Daniel Boone Family Festival



According to the newspaper articles I read the Daniel Boone Festival was a success and there is already talk of making it an annual event. DCARC ARES members were there to provide support communications, until the plan changed. Instead of providing shadows for the various managers we ended up mingling with the crowd and providing some information to the visitors. If the festival does become an annual event we should set up a club information booth at the next one

Made in the Shade

A couple of us are taking a break in the shade. Thanks for bringing the canopy James. Even though it was miserable hot and humid most of the day, at times there was a little breeze blowing that helped a lot. With our orange vests and white caps we were definitely easy to spot in the crowd. Maybe next year the festival will be in September when it is a little cooler.



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Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact James at ki4bjr@yadtel.net
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August Meeting Minutes

Present were John Dwiggins—N4QVM, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Tag Bowers—K4TAG, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Kathy Sparks—KF4EKZ, Jack Davidson—NW4O, Norma George—KI4ADD, James George—KI4BJR, David Pinnix—KO4XV

John N4QVM and Ben K4GHS agreed to try again to have a QSO Thursday on 28.450 at 8:00 local and if that doesn't work to try 21.350 at 8:15 local. Others are invited to join in.

The ARES Callout Tree needs to be updated after members have had time to take the required ICS classes. Norma and James George will handle the update.

The documentation for becoming ARRL affiliated was resubmitted since the first submission was misplaced.

We need to think about liability insurance for the club before we do too many public events.

Event assignments for the Daniel Boone Family Festival were handed out. Everyone needs to bring their ARES badges and dayglo orange vest to the event. Please use earbuds during the event to keep communications private. It is unknown exactly where we will locate NCS for the event. Meet at 8:00 on the square, at 8:15 Gibson will meet with us. Tracy Gibson is the only one to talk to the press. Pass no names over the air.

The repeater tower will remain at the hospital.

It was voted on and passed to start an equipment fund to be used solely to purchase equipment for the club.

Some ideas to raise funds for the club include a yard sale and a 50/50 club.

Tour to Tanglewood event will be September 9 and 10. They will need 24 people on Saturday and 16 on Sunday, at this time still need more operators. Contact fancie@alltel.net John Kippe—the event coordinator. Be prepared for all day.

Austin Cavenus may speak at the next meeting for the program.

Jack Davidson will have a canned program in case there is no other program available.

Backwards Sunspots — Is Cycle 24 Starting?

For DX'ers the best news lately has been that the next sunspot cycle, Cycle 24, is supposed to rival the peak in the mid 50's. Everyone is waiting on evidence that the next cycle has started, and that evidence may have popped up in the last few weeks. The following is from the ARRL Letter, September 1.

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August -- although it subsequently began to dissipate -- and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

Topics for Discussion at September Meeting

1. Thank you to all that participated in the Daniel Boone Family Festival.
2. There seems to be a chance that the Daniel Boone Family Festival will become an annual event. Do we want to set up an information booth at the next one?
3. Do we want to have a special event station next year for Daniel Boone, regardless of the status of the festival.
4. Due to renting space on a server I (John—N4QVM) have space for a web site for the club call and can register the domain name at no cost. Do we want to register the domain name ki4orw.org, .com or .net.
5. Rowan County is going to have ARES meetings at the Red Cross building on Jake Alexander. Is anyone interested in working with the Rowan Club ARES group? You do not have to be a member of the club to be involved in ARES.

HF Traffic Nets

FROM THE SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER -- Bob Lukaszewski, K4HA

Checking into our section nets and handling traffic is fun and helps prepare you for the next emergency. In addition to the many local VHF/UHF nets, there are seven HF nets to choose from and all welcome newcomers:

7:45am, 3.926MHz: Carolina Morning Net (SSB)

6:30pm, 3.923MHz: North Carolina Evening Net (SSB)

7:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net - Early (CW -- 20-22wpm)

7:00pm, 3.908MHz: Coastal Carolina Net (SSB)

7:30pm, 3.923MHz: Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES Net -- SSB)

8:00pm, 3.695MHz: Carolinas Slow Net (CW, 8-10wpm)

10:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net -- Late (CW, 15-18wpm)

September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year, ARRL is once again a coalition member. National Preparedness Month 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The agency will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. More information is available at <http://www.ready.gov>.

From the ARRL E-Letter—Here is one of the best collections of emergency preparedness information lists that I've found: <http://www.tallytown.com/redcross/educate.html> -- Les Rayburn, N1LF

September Meeting

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

Next meeting is 5 September at 7:00
pm at the Davie County Hospital

We're on the web at
www.daviearc.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

Ernesto Comes to North Carolina

"Brunswick County's emergency operations center (EOC) and a shelter were fully activated with ARES operators staffing positions for some 70 people staying at the West Brunswick High School shelter," said North Carolina Public Information Coordinator Bill Morine, N2COP. "Some gusts broke the hurricane level of 74 MPH, but the real concern was flooding. Some areas got close to 12 inches [of rain] in 24 hours."

Morine points out that the North Carolina ARES organization mirrors that of the state's emergency management setup, with eastern, central and western branches. ARRL North Carolina SEC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, who deployed to the Eastern Branch EOC (NC4EB) in Kinston, says his state experienced a lot of street and highway flooding, with some roadways had to be closed to traffic. Nobles told ARRL the EOC also received some evacuation reports due to rising water. Assistant SEC for the Eastern Branch Ron Knapp, W9EF, said ARES volunteers used VHF, UHF and HF to maintain communication among the 31 Eastern Branch counties and the rest of North Carolina. The Tar Heel Emergency Net (ARES) ran informally after being initiated as a formal emergency net.

Knapp says a fast water rescue team from the EOC, which just happened to include one radio amateur with a hand-held transceiver, deployed to an area where the 800 MHz trunking system and cell phones had been knocked out. Using Amateur Radio, the Eastern Branch EOC and the rescue team maintained solid communication at all times, Knapp said.

The Eastern Branch EOC received reports via ham radio on traffic, open shelters and power outages and passed them along to emergency management. Amateur Radio operations stood down the afternoon of September 1.