



The Spectrum

Issue 3

March 2008

Words from the President

We are continuing to move forward. Please see details of our Dinner Meeting March 3 below in the newsletter, in a new, more comfortable indoors location.

Thanks to all that have renewed their memberships. We will publish a new roster next month. Club membership appears to remain over seventy members at this time, with several of our military members unable to renew while they are deployed overseas.

We are continuing our efforts to upgrade folks so that they don't get "stuck" on 2 meter repeaters. Please see the announcement of the General License instruction classes in this newsletter.

Sean Gorman W5CDR is continuing our Public Service / Emergency Communications activities. If any of you were not at the last club meeting to register your interest in these very worthwhile activities on his sign up sheets, please contact Sean directly at 675-9565 or W5CDR@arrl.net. Sean will be glad to discuss his plans to resume CARS' Public Service meetings in the near future.

Please keep in mind our club's opportunities to

participate in Ham radio activities such as the VA QSO Party March 15 -16, our annual fund raiser Hamfest (Springfest) Sunday April 6, our two public service operations Tour De Cure and Dismal Swamp Stomp both on April 19. Due to both of those events being on the same day, we are in an unusual need of volunteers. Please do what you can do to help out in either of these April 19 events. Contact Sean Gorman W5CDR at W5CDR@arrl.net or 675-9565.

We have a lot going for us and with your help we will keep moving forward. Your involvement is what makes this happen. Let us know whenever / however you can contribute. Remember, this is your club and whatever you can get out of it is directly dependent upon what you put into it.

Thanks and 73,

Paul K4PRB

Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Home - KG4ZXK.COM - IRLP and much more!](#)

[South Hampton Roads Sky warn Net](#)

[ARRLWeb: New US Amateur Bands Chart](#)

[ARRLWeb: FCC ULS Modifies Customer Support Hotline Hours](#)

[QRP Amateur Radio Club International - Home](#)

[QRZ Ham Radio](#)

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Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 27th at 7:30 pm

CARS Public Bus. Dinner Meeting

KRISTY'S KITCHEN

200N. Battlefield Blvd

Chesapeake, VA 23322

Monday, March 3rd

Gather around 6 pm; meeting starts @ 7:30 pm

Shack Day

Saturday, Mar 15th at 10:00 to ??

Virginia QSO Party Contest

March 15 & 16

<http://www.qsl.net/sterling>

Chesapeake Springfest

Sunday April 6th, 2008

Tour De Cure & Dismal Swamp Stomp

April 19th

DINNER MEETING

Our next club meeting on Monday, March 3 will be a Dinner Meeting. This will be in a different location but still centrally located in the Great Bridge area.

We will have dinner at KRISTY'S KITCHEN, 200 N. Battlefield Blvd. in the same strip mall as Three Amigo's Mexican restaurant and a pizza joint two blocks North of the Great Bridge bridge. Turn off Battlefield Blvd. onto Wayne Ave., then into the strip mall.

Kristy's menu is not as "fancy" as the Silver Diner's menu, but it is noticeably less expensive. They have agreed to provide a vegetarian selection. Most notably, Kristy's is indoors which should be more comfortable than the Silver Diner at this time of year. The Silver Diner has failed to maintain their tent over the patio and thus is much too drafty / cold. Perhaps we can get back to the Silver Diner when the weather is more moderate.

As usual, it is important to let our host restaurant know how many of us will attend so that there is enough food available. Please email me (K4PRB@arrl.net) or telephone me (484-6047) with your reservations no later than Wednesday, February 27.

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS

CARS is offering GENERAL class license instructions this Spring. The class will have eight sessions, every Tuesday and Thursday evenings March 11 through April 3, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Location will be in the CARS' clubhouse.

An ARRL VE exam session will follow at our Springfest event Sunday April 6 at 1:00 pm.

All prospective students are welcome, please contact me (K4PRB@arrl.net) or 484-6047 for planning purposes.

Willing volunteers (General class and higher) to serve as instructors are welcome to help good people upgrade. There is no better way to sharpen your own level of knowledge than to successfully teach it. Help yourself while you help others! That is what helps me keep the cobwebs cleared out of my aged mind. I hope you take advantage of the same opportunity for your own benefit.

LOCAL NETS

SKYWARN NET Wednesday 2000 Hours.	146.820 MHz
CARS 2M Net Sundays 2000 Hours	146.820 MHz
CARS 10 Meter Net 2000 hours on Mondays CARS doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
Hampton Roads Public Service Net Mon-Sat 2100 hours	146.970 MHz
VBARC 10 Meter Net 2000 hours on Thursdays VBARC doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
Portsmouth "RagChew" Net Monday & Wednesday 1930 hours	146.850 MHz
Southeastern Virginia Traffic Net Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 2000 hours	146.850 MHz
Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net Fridays 2000 hours	146.850 MHz
Tidewater Radio Association WT4RA net Thursday 1930 hours (code drill follows net)	147.195 MHz

Getting that Antenna Cable into the house

Thumbing through March's QST, I was reminded of an article I've been meaning to write for our club's newsletter. I wanted to share how I had constructed a pretty nice arrangement for bringing coax cable through an exterior wall into the shack. The QST write up can be found on page 68, titled "Getting that Antenna Cable into the house". It hits the subject right on the head and is worth a reading.



I started with a weather tight box, where I installed a bracket made from aluminum to physically mount the arrestors. After that added a connector to tie all the grounding wires, and mounted it on the outside of the house where the cable was to penetrate the wall. The box was originally for a satellite cable, but any watertight box could work. On the inside I mounted a piece of plywood fitted with a sheet of aluminum for the selector switch and all the grounding braids to land. To make a clean conduit between the exterior box and the interior demarcation board I used two 1 1/2 inch PVC tubes. Normally these tubes are used as a drainpipe, attached to the strainer of a kitchen sink. They are conveniently constructed with a "tee" top, which finishes off nicely when pulled tight against the interior aluminum sheet.

My project began within days of passing my exams. Not with drilling of holes or cable runs, but with paper planning of what I needed to do and buy. One item on the list of which to buy was "the radio", and this was going to take many weeks to save money for the purchase. During that time, I wanted to be productive and feel some satisfaction that progress was being made; so I started purchasing and installing some of the small dollar items. With plenty of time on my hands, I buried wire for the counterpoise, drove grounding rods and installed two vertical antennas. Next came the cable pulls and the mounting of the lighting arrestors.



The excess tube protrudes into the exterior box where it can be cut to length.

In the end, the clean "professional look" has keep my wife happy and has not raised a single concern from the neighbors, did I mention the wife is happy!

As I hope this may help someone with their shack; I would like to thank the many who helped me with mine. Just to name just a few,
Barry K5VIP, Bill WF4R, Dennis K4DKR, Jim KG4WOJ, Keith KG4ZXX, Paul K4PRB, Rich WA4BUE.

Thank you my friends,
Terry KI4RXC

ARISS Team Looking for Ground Stations

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered:

- Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency
- Ability to speak and understand English
- Minimal horizon obstructions
- 24/7 access and availability of station
- Operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times
- Phone patch
- AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override
- Multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred)
- Pre-amps
- Transmit output greater than 70 W
- Note: If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required:

- Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies
- Ability to speak and understand languages other than English
- 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware
- Packet
- SSTV
- Digital ATV
- Redundant power system
- High-speed Internet

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an [e-mail](#) to ARISS with details about your station and contact information. --
Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman

CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 2/ 4 / 08

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm.

Attendees:23

Sean W5CDR gave a very interesting presentation about OWA (Optimized Wide Band Antennas) including displays of his 2 meter and 440 mHz antennas which had very low SWR's (>1.3:1) over both ham bands and well beyond all band edges.

Paul K4PRB read his minutes the last club meeting. The Club Secretary AI4CM didn't provide those minutes. Approved as read.

Paul K4PRB read the Treasurer's report provided by Barry K5VIP who was attending the Orlando Hamfest.

Sean W5CDR gave the Communication Officer's report which included mention of the extremely good 7 new J pole antennas and three PVC bases for emergency shelter use / club. Terry KI4RXC was commended for his fine workmanship and initiative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PS / EC: Sean W5CDR announced plans for Tour De Cure and Dismal Swamp Stomp events that are both scheduled for Saturday, April 19. We will need as many volunteers as possible. The Portsmouth club has agreed to provide four volunteers to assist us with the Swamp Stomp event.

Repeater: Bill WF4R reported progress on the .61 repeater link up to UHF for IRLP / Echolink service via KG4ZXX's portal, and that the UHF 444.000 will be out of service during relocation to Butts Station.

Springfest: Keith KG4ZXX reported that the Moose Lodge (same location as last 2 years) has been secured for our hamfest on Sunday, April 6. Volunteers will be needed for set up on Saturday 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm, parking lot control Sunday morning 7:00 am - noon, clean up 2:00 – 6:00 pm Sunday. Keith reminded us that this is CARS' one and only fund raiser that supports the club all year long, so we need to make it work well and be welcomed back next year.

Field Day: Keith KG4ZXX reported that all the paperwork has been secured from the City Parks & Rec. Dept. for out use of the Deep Creek Lock Park for Field Day. The key to the gate can be obtained from Mr. Ed Jones of P & R prior to FD.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Dec. 1 Skywarn / Ham conference was cancelled due to lack of interest. NWS Wakefield has scheduled "ADVANCED" Skywarn training. Local Skywarn training is scheduled this Spring in Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Portsmouth.

The "Cubbies For Smokies" program will be rescheduled due to the VA QSO Party contest on March 15.

The C of E towers next door will be dismantled and the land turned over to City Parks and Rec.

Terry KI4RXC has generously donated a W7YEN laminated operating aid chart for Yeasu FT-857 for any club member.

Bob N4RAZ announced tentative plans for a Ham hiking expedition into the mountains this summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sonny K4WYS announced that the club's share of proceeds from the estate sale of Earl Selover W4LPF are \$200 and he presented his check for that amount. We are very grateful for that generosity (which includes the complete donation of Earl's Kenwood TS-850 SAT radio). The club will obtain a plaque bearing Earl's image and record of generosity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Keith KG4ZXX moved the club approve membership applications of Ken Jensen KI4RUI and George Tibbets KF4UCC. Seconded and approved.

50 / 50 Raffle: Terry KI4RXC won \$15 and very generously donated his winnings back to the club, for a total to the club of \$30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

CARS BOD MEETING MINUTES 1 / 30 / 08

Meeting called to order 7:35 pm.

Attendees:

Paul K4PRB	Sean W5CDR	Jim WB4UVH
Barry K5VIP	Keith KG4ZXX	Jim KG4WOJ

Paul K4PRB read his minutes of the previous BOD. CARS' Secretary absent. Approved as read.

Barry, K5VIP presented the Treasurer's Report.

Communication Officer's Report: Sean W5CDR reported the construction of seven J Poles and three portable PVC bases for emergency shelter use / Public Service use / loaners to new hams. The construction of the J poles and bases reflected very skilled workmanship, unusually good design and a high degree of initiative by Terry KI4RXC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PS / EC – Sean W5CDR reported status of Tour De Cure and Swamp Stomp events. The Portsmouth club will assist us with the Dismal Swamp Stomp by providing four volunteers.

Repeaters – Paul K4PRB reported status of work at Bowers Hill to incorporate the CAT-400 controller onto the ICOM repeater (accomplished) and the tie in to the UHF Micor IRLP link and the Micor's UHF control link (ongoing). The 444.000 repeater remains out of service during relocation to Butts Station.

Springfest: Keith KG4ZXX reported that the Moose Lodge is secured for Sunday, April 6, with an adjoining building for the VE test that afternoon. Set up / Vendor Load in will be Saturday, 2:00 – 8:00 pm.

Field Day: Keith KG4ZXX announced that we have secured Deep Creek Locks Park for FD.

OLD BUSINESS:

The BOD agreed CARS will hold a General License Class Tuesdays & Thursdays 3/11 – 4/3.

The BOD agreed to hold a VE Test session at Springfest April 6.

NEW BUSINESS:

The BOD moved and approved to extend by 30 days the grace period for membership renewal for Andy KI4SOM, Chuck WA4HHG, Fred KG4BKI, Don AI4ME, Pete KG4VGH, and any other member with a valid reason for needing the extra time to renew.

The BOD moved and approved to appoint Sean Gorman W5CDR as Public Service / Emergency Comm. Coordinator (and ARES EC for Chesapeake if necessary) with authority to pursue steps discussed to move forward CARS' support of the City of Chesapeake.

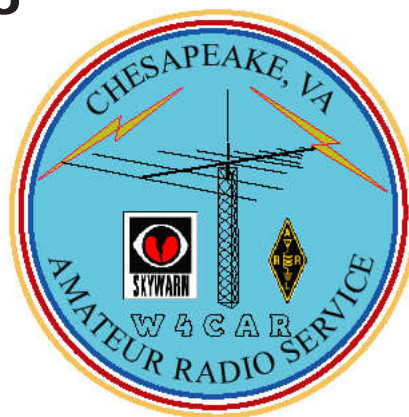
The BOD moved and approved to appoint Keith KG4ZXX our Filed Day Chairman for 2008.

The BOD moved and approved to purchase 15 used folding metal chairs at \$3.00 each.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service SpringFest 2008



Amateur Radio and Electronic Swapmeet/FleaMarket

Moose Lodge #898 (Same location as last year)

1400 N. George Washington Hwy, Chesapeake, VA23323

I-64 exit 296 North, approximately 2miles north on N. George Washington Hwy (US-17)

Approximately 7500 square feet of air conditioned space

Admission includes one table.

Talk-In Freq: 146.820 PL=162.2

\$5 Advance or at the door admission donation: \$6. 00

Additional Table: \$6.00 each

If you would like to load-in the evening before, please contact SpringFest Committee directly.

Tailgate setup 7:00 AM; general admission: 9:00 AM. earlybird.drawing: 9:15 AM

For more information please visit our web site at: <http://w4car.org>
or contact Keith Ainsley at (757) 613-7059 e-mail: w4car@yahoo.com

Mail the following information with your ticket request to:

C.A.R.S., PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323-0867

Name: _____ Tel: () _____ Fax: () _____

Business Name/Call Sign: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

_____ Advance Tickets @ \$5.00 each

S.A.S.E. REQUIRED - MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: C.A.R.S. TOTAL : \$ _____

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Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
Amateur Radio Service (CARS)

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CARS : Repeaters

146.820 (PL 162.2) MHz
146.610 MHz (PL 100.0)
444.000 (PL 100.0)MHz

W4CAR Trustee: Bill Runyon WF4R

CARS OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

President: Paul Buckwalter K4PRB

Vice President: Gavin Wright KD7GJB

Secretary: Marshall Denny AI4CM

Treasurer: Barry Priddy K5VIP

Communications Officer

Sean Gorman W5CDR

Past President:

Keith Ainsley KG4ZXK

Public Service Coordinator:

Jim Hardee WB4UVH

Repeater Committee Chairman:

Bill Runyon WF4R