



The Spectrum

Issue 7

July 2008

Words from the President

June's dinner meeting at the Portsmouth Moose Lodge # 898 in Chesapeake was a great success. We enjoyed a record number of 48 members and guests attending, and everybody seemed pleased with the food and atmosphere. I expect we will return there for our next dinner meeting Monday, September 8. We were especially glad to welcome all of the hams from the Portsmouth club that assisted us with our public service event at the Dismal Swamp Stomp. If anyone has a suggestion for our next dinner meeting at the Moose Lodge, please pass it to me so I can make it happen.

The Franklin club's hamfest at the Bronco club was another terrific event. CARS was again the major supporter of this fine gathering. If you weren't there, you really missed a fine opportunity. Make it a priority for next year.

There were some really fine openings in this June's VHF contest. Just ask Sean W5CDR or Jim KG4WOJ about their successes using Sean's homebrew 6 meter and two meter antennas. I'm sure some of our other members made some very significant contacts. I've heard reports of QSOs from Tidewater to California and Hawaii on six meters. But Sean's antennas are proof that you don't need an extraordinary antenna farm, huge yagis, tall towers, etc. when the VHF bands open up. All his antennas were home brewed at minimal cost and supported at modest heights on temporary poles that did not draw criticism from his CCR restricted neighborhood. We

can all learn from this. And yes, Sean has presented these antennas, construction details, and discussions about these fine antennas at CARS monthly meetings. Were you there? Were you listening? If so, you could be scoring big in VHF contests!

We are about to resume our survey / testing of City of Chesapeake Emergency Shelter radio installations. Part of our program will be to involve participation of those CARS members who may choose to man those shelters when they are activated. This will help participants to be familiar with the equipment available to them, where the equipment, antenna connection, and emergency power connection is located. Please check with Sean (W5CDR@arrl.net) so that you can be familiarized with the shelter you may support.

I'm sure we are going to have a fine Field Day again at Chesapeake's Deep Creek Lock Park. I've received a record number of reservations for Field Day supper - 38. And I'm planning on even more for our picnic lunch. Let's aim high for our operating score. Remember, Field day is Saturday, June 38 and Sunday, June 29. You can man a station and operate with all the privileges of our Extra class control operators! Let's make a good showing with our club score!

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Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Home - KG4ZXX.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, June 2nd at 7:30 PM

CARS Public Bus. Meeting

Monday, July 7th 7:30 PM
116 Reservation Dr,
Chesapeake, VA 23322-5204

Shack Day

Saturday, July 19th at 10:00 to ??

Field Day

June 28th and 29th

Virginia Beach Ham Fest

Sept 20th and 21st



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

Presidents Column Cont. from Page 1

Young Blood / new leadership is what keeps every successful organization moving forward and continues its success. Success breeds further success. Do you want the best for CARS? Can you be a major part of a growing success? Nominations for club officers are due in September. That is just a few heat waves away as us older folks judge time. If you are interested in helping to guide CARS in 2009 and letting CARS help you by developing your leadership skills, stand up and be counted! We are looking for new officer candidates and committee leaders. It is a good opportunity to grow your leadership skills and broaden your resume, in addition to the satisfaction of keeping CARS an enviable champion! Give me a call at 484-6047 if you are interested. We don't have any secrets and will be glad to guide you in leadership roles. We won't let you stumble; we'll be there to guide you whenever you want our guidance.

73,
Paul K4PRB

US Government Recalls RadioShack Power Supplies

On July 2, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)), in cooperation with [RadioShack](#), announced a [voluntary recall](#) of 13.8 V dc power supplies. The CPSC said that consumers should stop using these power supplies immediately, as the "power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards." No injuries have been reported in conjunction with the power supplies that were sold in RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004-January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85. Manufactured in China, the CPSC said that the recall involves RadioShack 13.8 V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes from 08A04 through 01A08. Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply. Power supplies with a green dot on the product and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall. The CPSC recommends for consumers to unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice. For additional information, contact RadioShack at 800-843-7422 anytime, or visit their [Web site](#).

PRESS RELEASE – June 14, 2008

(Chesapeake, Virginia) -- The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service (call sign W4CAR) will participate in Field Day, the annual emergency communications preparedness exercise, this year held June 28 and 29. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL, www.arrl.org), the national association for Amateur Radio (a.k.a. "ham radio").

During Field Day, ham radio operators set up in local parks, at shopping malls, or even in their own backyards, and get on the air using generators, solar, or battery power. Field Day was designed to test operators' abilities to set-up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the total loss of electricity.

"We want the community to know that in the event of an emergency, ham radio operators will be ready to assist in any way we can," says Sean Gorman, Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, Emergency Communications Coordinator. "In major disasters during which time normal telecommunications services are disrupted, Amateur Radio has served as an important resource to local relief efforts, working with police, fire, and other City agencies."

Field Day is a serious test of skill, but it is also a contest for fun and the largest "on-air" operating event each year since it began in 1933. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating emergency message handling. Additionally, there will be a station dedicated to those wishing to 'try out' ham radio, no license necessary! So, as they say on 'The Price is Right', "Come on down!"

The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service will hold Field Day at Deep Creek Lock Park, and will be operating during a 24-hour period. The public is invited to visit anytime from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. Directions are on the club's web page (below).

Today there are more than 670,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. Since the 1979, the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service has been a home to Chesapeake's only free, volunteer emergency communications organization. To find out more about Amateur Radio or how you can get a radio license, go to the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service website: <http://www.w4car.org>, or e-mail to: w4car@yahoo.com for more information.

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Press Contact: Keith Ainsley: w4car@yahoo.com

Hams on Hand as Floods Sweep across Midwest US



This home in south central Indiana was a victim of the June floods. [Photo courtesy of Jason]

When severe thunderstorms started to threaten the Midwestern United States with tornadoes, hail, severe lightning and rain starting on June 4, state agencies were quick to call on Amateur Radio operators for assistance.

Indiana

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security ([IDHS](#)) activated [ARES](#) members to help out with communication efforts, providing radios for those amateurs who offered to help. ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator Tony Langer, W9AL, said hams were instrumental in many ways, including assisting in Emergency Operations Centers, sand bagging, helping out in shelters and even aiding in rescue efforts.

This storm brought 12 confirmed tornadoes to 11 Indiana counties, with some communities reporting up to 11 inches of water, Langer said; 20 counties were under a State of Emergency. On June 9, President Bush declared 29 counties in central Indiana a major disaster area, opening up the region to receive federal aid and [FEMA](#) assistance. Four people perished in the storms.

In a call put out to Amateur Radio operators on June 8, IDHS said, "The flood waters have impacted several counties here in Indiana severely. Ham Radio operators have been operating continuously since activated and are growing weary. Some counties do not have a vast amount of active hams to relieve these tired operators." Specific areas needing amateur assistance were overnight relief operators at the Bartholomew County EOC, as well as the EOC and three shelters in Columbus County.

Marion County (Indiana) Emergency Coordinator Mike Palmer, N9FEB, called on ARES members in his area to help out. "People might think, 'Why not just use telephones or cell phones?' Well, many phones are not working down there at this time. With the high waters, electric transformers are out all over; even those servicing cell towers are out. Even with today's technology, we find ourselves looking at ham radio to assist. If you can spare a few hours or an entire evening, please consider helping."

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels called in the [United States Coast Guard](#) to assist in evacuations and rescues. The Coast Guard responded by sending two helicopters to the state along with boats and personnel. The Indiana National Guard was called out to assist in evacuation and direct traffic and enforce road blocks on the many flooded roads.

Wisconsin

Torrents of rain also brought flooding to Wisconsin. On June 9, five counties -- Vernon, Columbia, Richland, Rock and Sauk Counties -- had requested aid from Amateur Radio operators, ranging from backup communications to disaster assessment and flooding communications. One county called on ARES members to provide patrols of the flooded areas overnight on Tuesday and Wednesday. Two counties, Vernon and Columbia, were the only two that have requested mutual aid at this point.

According to ARRL Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, approximately 90 ARES members responded to the call for assistance. "In Columbia County, ARES members provided dam monitoring communications early in the flooding. These communications gave critical information to public safety officials about two dams that were nearly compromised. Due to falling water levels, this activity has been discontinued, but hams remain on standby due to the threat of additional heavy rain," Niemuth said.

Richland County ARES members remain activated, Niemuth said. "Hams are providing a variety of services, including fielding information calls in the County's Emergency Operations Center and providing specialized communications for disaster assessment by hover craft and airplane. These communications are in addition to providing traditional ham radio communication links between the EOC and evacuation shelters."

On Thursday, June 12, more rains inundated the state and more counties requested aid from area Amateur Radio operators. Niemuth said Winnebago County ARES members are providing damage assessment assistance in the county and in the City of Oshkosh, while hams in Fond du Lac are helping out with shelter communications. ARES teams in Marquette and Outagamie are providing back-up communications and flooding reports to their respective Emergency Operations Centers. -- *Information provided by ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator Tony Langer, W9AL, and ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalsi, W9IXG*

CARS BOD MEETING MINUTES 5 / 28 / 08

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm.

Paul K4PRB Barry K5 VIP

RicardWA4BUE Bill WF4R

Attendees:

Sean W5CDR

Keith KG4ZXK

Jim KG4WOJ

Paul K4PRB read the 4/30 BOD mtg minutes. Keith moved to accept as read. Seconded and approved.

Barry K5VIP provided the Treasurer's report and added the bank account balance was \$12.00 higher than shown. Our check refunding Ruth Bigio's dues was voided after being uncashed for six months.

Sean W5CDR provided the Communication Officer's report.

Committees:

PS / EC – Sean W5CDR provide the PS / EC committee report.

Repeater – Bill WF4R reported that we will be using Motorola GM-300 radios for both ends of the UHF IRLP link rather than the old UHF micor. Interface cables are being ordered. The board discussed repeating the receive sensitivity measurement of the .61 Icom repeater. A new IC has been ordered to repair the RC-100 controller for the 444.000 repeater.

Training: Paul K4PRB reported that a VE session is scheduled at WFOS for May 30.

Field Day: Sean will handle publicity. Keith will prepare invitations to City Officials. Paul will obtain the Mayor's proclamation and key to the park gate. Saturday, June 7 we will survey the park site for antenna installations and also exercise the generators at the trailer. Saturday, June 21 Shack Day will include Field Day preparations such as computer network setup and sort out coax, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

Barry K5VIP moved that pal K4PRB explore the possibility of conducting an Extra license class jointly with VBARC sometime after July 1, with the suggestion that classes alternate between our clubhouse and VBARC's classroom. Seconded and approved.

Shelter Radios: Sean W5CDR will make up a BOM for three additional shelter radio kits which the City will purchase. The Diamond X-50 antenna was selected as a shelter antenna due to its wind rating.

Shelter radio checks: These shelter surveys will begin shortly after the school year ends. We will try to include to most probably operators for that shelter in the survey of that shelter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Notification system: We will further investigate the Amerilert program suggested by Ken KI4RUI as a supplement to our telephone tree system.

Sean W5CDR moved to recommend approval of the membership applications of: Steve Nowak, KE8YN; Vic Culver, W4VIC; and Bill Walker, KX4WW. Seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 6 / 2 / 08

This was a dinner meeting and the normal order of business was suspended.

Business meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. Attendance: 48 members and guests.

Location: Portsmouth Moose Lodge # 898, 1400N. Geo. Washington Hwy., Chesapeake VA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thanks to Richard Siff's (WA4BUE) initiative and the further efforts of Richard, Sean W5CDR and Suzanne KJ4AVM, the Chesapeake Center of Science and Technology successfully incorporated a Technician license ham radio training program into their Broadcasting curriculum. Six students passed their Technician license test this past Friday, May 30 at the VE session administered by CARS. The WFOS studio has a 2 meter transceiver installation to link their studio to the EOC via amateur radio. A patch cord from the 2 meter transceiver into the control board will permit the EOC to broadcast information directly over WFOS.

The Franklin Club's Hamfest at the Bronco Club will be held Sunday June 8. CARS urges support of this worthy and highly enjoyable event.

Field Day – We will operate class 4A. Site survey will be Saturday, June 7 and generator exercise will follow after the survey. Shack Day Saturday June 21 will be used for Field Day preparations.

Field Day – Lunch will be provided free. Supper will be catered by Rodman's Bar-B-Que, at \$10.00 per person. The club is subsidizing \$4.00 per person. Reservations for both lunch and supper are due Monday June 16. Reservations for supper must be accompanied by payment.

CARS may provide an Extra license class jointly with VBARC if enough members are interested. Locations will probably alternate between VBARC's site and our clubhouse. Members should express their interest to see if we can pursue this.

VBARC will have a VE session Saturday June 21.

The Wisconsin club will operate aboard the USS Wisconsin Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7 for the Museum Ships on the Air weekend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim WB4UVH moved to approve the membership applications of Steve Nowak KE8NY and Vic Culver W4VIC. Seconded and approved.

50 / 50 raffle: Keith KG4ZXX won \$31. \$31 went to the club's refreshment fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Spectrum

Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
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CARS : Repeaters

146.820 (PL 162.2) MHz
146.610 MHz (PL 162.2)
444.000 (PL 162.2)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/ Emergency Communications Coordinator:

Sean Gorman W5CDR

Repeater Committee Chairman:

Bill Runyon WF4R