

The Spectrum

March 2009

WWW.W4CAR.ORG

CARS ASSISTS IN THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

As you may know, the FCC formally requested the Amateur radio service to voluntarily assist the public with the transition to digital television broadcasting. Thanks to our friend John, W4HRO, CARS found a terrific early opportunity to answer that call from the FCC and to also assist our local Public Television broadcaster, WHRO-TV on Wednesday, February 18. Five of us (Richard WA4BUE, Vince KJ4CCR, Bill WF4R, Tracy W7UO and Paul K4PRB) manned the backup telephone bank at WHRO along with WHRO technical staff to answer viewer questions and complaints arising from WHRO-TV's cutoff of analog TV broadcasts the preceding midnight.

WHRO was expecting a large number of viewer calls and had a telephone hotline bank set up at ECPI. Our backup telephone bank at the WHRO studio took calls forwarded from ECPI that were more technical in nature than the ECPI folks were prepared to handle. Laptop computers were at all of our telephone positions, and they were loaded with all the instruction manuals of nearly all of the commercially available consumer DTV converter sets. As the more perplexing questions came in, we were able to pull up the viewers' converters' instructions and walk them through the set up process step by

step. Some calls were very time consuming – several ran nearly half an hour. But the positive results were very satisfying.

The FCC monitors broadcasters' cut-over to digital transmission to assure the public interest is adequately served, and the local FCC Resident Agent was on hand the whole time at WHRO to monitor the effort. We had the pleasure of chatting with him at length about Ham radio, his old boss Jerry Freeman, CARS, and how we were supporting the FCC's request for Hams to assist with the DTV transition.

This was a great Public Service event that CARS can be proud of, and hopefully it made some new friends for us. We are of course sending John, W4HRO and the FCC Rep. some complimentary tickets to Springfest and inviting them to our next Shack Day.

Upcoming Events

- Spring Fest — March 22
- World Amateur Radio Day — April 18
- Tour de Cure — April 18
- Dismal Swamp Stomp — April 18
- Field Day — June 27-28

CARS BOD Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35

Attendees: Paul K4PRB, Vince KJ4CCR, Phil WA9KFB, Barry K4VIP, Richard WA4BUE, Sean W5CDR

Previous Minutes: WA9KFB Phil made a motion to dispense with the reading of previous minutes. Seconded & approved.

Barry K5VIP presented the Treasure's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARES / PS: W5CDR Sean will submit for a schedule so that we can visit the emergency shelters and check the radios & gear.

Field Day: *Park* has been reserved for the function. Discussed the need for assistants in setting up for field day.

Old Business:

Frostiest: KJ4CCR Vince will transport club banner and club ticket table. Vince will also take springfest tickets for sale at our table at Frostiest.

New Website: VBARC suggested a new server for our website. KG4ZXK and W5CDR will research this information.

New Business:

Springfest: Preparations for Springfest where set into

motion.

Tickets Sales: \$5.00 in advance. \$6.00 at the door

Flyers: The club will print the flyers this year, thanks to KJ4CCR Vince, who donated a Laser printer & WA4BUR Rich, who donated a computer system to the club.

Prizes: K5VIP Barry said he would contact N3FKP about donating a software logging program. WA4BUE Rich suggested using Springfest dollars as door prizes also. Grand Prize \$100.00

Set up & Take down: A team of 12 to 15 volunteers is needed

Parking: A team of 6 volunteers is needed.

The BOD concurred that five tickets should be mailed to each member to sell, or to return if not sold.

Membership Applications: A motion for acceptance as club members for - Jim Robinson KF4FRK, Andy Barksdale KE4BQS and Steve Goldstein KE5EYT was made by K5VIP. Seconded & approved.

License Training Schedule: A schedule for training classes was determined. WA9KFB made a motion to approve the schedule. Seconded & approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50

We want to hear from you

Starting this month of March, The Spectrum will have a monthly poll or survey.

This month it is a survey. We want to know what you like and dislike about The Spectrum Newsletter, Do you like the layout? Not enough pictures or graphics? What amateur radio topics are you most interested in and least interested in?

Please take a few minutes to take the survey. It is only available until March 27, 2009.

The URL is <http://tinyURL.com/200903W4CAR>

The actual URL is quite long and cryptic so I am using the

TinyURL service. I will try to make the URL easy to remember. 200903 is the year and month of the survey. To make sure no one else uses the same URL, I put the club's call at the end.

So for next months poll, the URL will be :

<http://tinyURL.com/200904W4CAR>

The results of the survey will be published in the following month's newsletter.

Field Day Locator

The ARRL will have its Field Day Locator web site up and running again this year.

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

World Amateur Radio Day

ARRL Website: "Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) was founded. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication. "

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/18/10655/>

K3TUP is a silent key

eHam.net: "John Kanzius, K3TUP, who was featured in the January issue of CQ magazine, has died. Kanzius, a former TV station owner who devoted his latter years to developing new tools to fight cancer after he was diagnosed with the disease, was 64. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper, Kanzius passed away early Wednesday morning, February 18, from pneumonia that developed as a result of chemotherapy. Kanzius used his ham radio knowledge to develop a totally new means of killing cancer cells -- by "tagging" them with tiny metal "nanoparticles" and then subjecting them to a very strong RF field which heated the cancer cells (but not surrounding healthy tissue) to a point where they

could not reproduce. Researchers at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston are working to bring the method to clinical trials. Kanzius' technology also showed promise for extracting energy from salt water, something that is being studied at Penn State University. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, two daughters and two grandchildren. "

<http://www.eham.net/articles/21073>

Longer article: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/19/10657/?nc=1>

What's all this about blogs?

According to Wikipedia: "A blog (a contraction of the term weblog) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog."

So what does that have to do with amateur radio?

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of amateur radio operators from around the world blogging. They are posting their tips and tricks, advice, on air activates, results from successful experiments and failures.

Some people concentrate on just one subject like DX, QRP or contesting.

You can find all kinds non-main stream information about the going-ons in amateur radio in blogs.

But where to find them?

Well there is <http://kg4zxc.wordpress.com> Yes that kg4zxc!

<http://ham-blogs.net/>

Besides using the main Google.com search page you can try their engine that searches blogs.

<http://blogsearch.google.com/>

CARS Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Attendees: 26 members & Guests

Previous Minutes: Read by WA9KFB. A motion to accept the minutes was made by WB4UVH. Seconded & approved.

Treasurer's Report: Read by K5VIP.

Communications Officers Report: KG4WOJ announced that he would be going over the emergency shelter radio gear on shack day.

Announcements: Training Schedule: A training schedule for Technician, General and Extra classes was announced.

Frostiest: Location of CARS table at Frostiest was announced.

Assistance for WHRO / FCC: A request was made by Paul K4PRB for volunteers to help man the phones on February 18 at WHRO to answer questions pertaining to switch to digital TV.

Paul K4PRB announced that Tour de Cure & Swamp Stomp will once again be held on the same day. Volunteers are needed.

Paul K4PRB announced that the club now has study guides for the General class license test on CD's available for check out

Paul K4PRB also made mention that is important when entering the shack that the combination key lock be reset.

WB5HQO Forrest announced that he will leaving the area and returning to Texas. He thanked the club for all the support it has given him. He will be leaving March 6th.

Paul K4PRB announced that the total club membership is 60 + 4 Honorary = 64

New Business: A request was made for volunteers to help with hail set up and take down, parking attendants and ticket sales for Springfest We need a team of 12 to 15 volunteers for set up & take down, a team of 6 volunteers for parking.

WB4UVH made the motion to recommend acceptance of the membership applications for Jim Robinson KF4FRK, Andy Barksdale KE4BQS and Steve Goldstein KE5EYT. Seconded & approved.

The 50/50 raffle was won by K5VIP who generously donated his half to the club.

Meeting adjourned: 9:02pm

Help Wanted!

Springfest is just ten days [or less] away and we are in serious need of volunteers to make it happen. Our ability to control parking, set up and clean up thoroughly and quickly, and at least appear to be well organized is what gets us invited back to the Moose Lodge each year.

So far, we have eight volunteers for the Set Up and Clean Up operations: WA9IWS, KG4WOJ, KJ4CCR, K4DKR, K4PRB, K5VIP, KI4IRL, W1ATA. We need at least EIGHT MORE!

So far, we have one volunteer to direct parking: KF4UCC. We need at least FIVE MORE!

The more of us volunteer, the less work there is for

each person. That is especially true of the parking detail. The biggest need is in the first three hours, after that two people can handle it. And with six volunteers, nobody will get stuck outside the whole time.

Please, folks, this is important to the club. This is our one fundraiser of the year, and we want it to be successful not only for our budget this year, but we want to be able to continue to have Springfest at the Moose Lodge.

Please make an extra effort to help out. Let me know what you can do to help by replying to this email or by emailing me directly (K4PRB@arrl.net) or call me at home at 484-6047.

Thanks for helping to make Springfest a success. 73,
Paul K4PRB

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I'm delighted to be able to say that CARS' membership continues to grow. We have added eight new members in the past two months, and we have several more prospects in the wings. Please be an ambassador (and recruiter) for the club whenever you contact or meet a new Ham in the area. Expanding membership means we have more people to participate in more events and produce better results for the club, which means more and better club functions for you!

Speaking of making your club experience better, Springfest is coming up fast! That is our only fund raiser, and if we want to have a successful club, we need your help. Volunteers are still needed for set up on Saturday afternoon 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm, clean up Sunday afternoon, and ESPECIALLY for parking directors Sunday 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The more volunteers we have, the less work for each volunteer. That is a simple concept, isn't it? I wish I could be everywhere doing everything every instant and that would make it a success, but that just isn't possible. It takes numbers of men for each function to be successful. So please help yourself by helping CARS with Springfest.

Elsewhere in this Spectrum is an article about CARS helping out at WHRO-TV with the Digital TV transition. I'm really proud of CARS' participation in this event. As you will read, we just may have a social visit from WHRO and / or the local FCC representative at Springfest or a Shack Day in the near future. Remember that any stranger you meet is likely to become a good friend to you and to CARS, so be sure to treat everybody you meet with the respect they deserve.

Don't forget that license instruction classes and VE exams are available throughout the year for all individuals who want them. Promote the hobby. It's true, there really is strength in numbers.

I look forward to seeing you as a volunteer at Springfest Saturday afternoon, March 21.

73,

Paul K4PRB

Contact The Spectrum

The Spectrum Newsletter's editor has a new email address. It is W4CARVA@gmail.com .

CARS Officers and Chairpersons

President

Paul Buckwalter
K4PRB

Communications Officer

Jim Rogers
KG4WOJ

Past President

Keith Ainsley
KG4ZXX

Vice-President

Vince Williams
KJ4CCR

Public Service /ECOMM

Sean Gorman
W5CDR

Webmaster

Www.w4car.org
Sean Gorman
W5CDR

Secretary

Phil Henline
WA9KFB

Repeater Committee

Chairman
Bill Runyon
WF4R

Treasurer

Barry Priddy
K5VIP

Trustee

Bill Runyon
WF4R

**Have a
comment or
suggestion for
the
newsletter?**

**w4carva@
gmail.com**



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Meetings are the first Monday of
each month in the QRM Room

The Spectrum Editor
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Local Nets

CARS 2 Meter Net
Sundays 20:00 Hrs
146.820 MHz (162.2)

CARS 10 Meter Net
Mondays 20:00 Hrs
Excluding meeting days
28.400 MHz

VBARC 10 Meter Net
Thursdays 20:00 Hrs
28.400 MHz

**Hampton Roads
Public Service Net**
Monday through Saturday
146.070 MHz

Portsmouth "Rag Chew" Net
Mondays and Wednesdays
19:30 Hrs 146.850 MHz

Southeastern VA Traffic Net
Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
20:00 Hrs 146.850 MHz

**Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emer-
gency Services Net**
Fridays 20:00 Hrs
146.850 MHz

VBCert Net
Second Tuesday of the Month
19:00 Hrs
146.985 MHz

QRM

I am a news and political junkie. I am always looking for sources of new information.

I came across a web site that categorizes news and information in a new way. It takes RSS feeds and sorts them by genre.

You can use it to scan for information on a particular topic but it will also help you discover new websites dedicated to your interests.

The website is Alltop at <http://alltop.com> .

Of course there is an amateur radio section.

<http://ham-radio.alltop.com/>

If you have a website, blog or rss feed, you can add it to Alltop for free.

