



Western Tidewater Radio Association

"HAMTOWN WAVE"

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PO Box 323 Smithfield, VA 23431-0323 <http://www.wt4ra.org>



CHRISTMAS PARTY

All members and spouses (or significant others) are invited to attend a WTRA Christmas Party at the home of Jim and Linda Wise on Saturday, December 15th at 6:30 PM. Please inform Linda (w7pro) if you are coming and what food or drink you plan to bring.

Presidents Corner:

Most of you will recall that I began my first newsletter column by outlining some goals for the club for 2007. With 2007 winding down to a close, I figured now would be a good time for a “year in review” report. So first, here were the goals that I laid out in January last year and how the club made out in achieving those goals:

(1) conduct at least one licensing class:

I am pleased to report that, thanks to Fred, KG4BKI, not one but two Technician class license classes were held in 2007. Thanks Fred!

(2) establish a club “Ham of the Year” award with a suitable trophy/plaque and certificate.

Thanks to the work of Jim W4PRO, Janet W4NMH and Stu WA4JUO, the framework for the Ham of the Year Award has been established and the final details are being worked out. Look for a final document on the Ham of the Year Award in the very near future.

(3) conduct another successful Field Day

Thanks to many club members, under the competent leadership of Jim W4PRO, for another very successful Field Day at Nike Park. I look forward to another one in 2008 and hope to see many more club members come out to operate the Field Day stations.

(4) host another County Fair booth

Well, we didn't do a “Fair booth” this past year but we did have a very successful Special Event station, out in the public, at the Pork, Peanut and Pine festival. Many thanks to Bruce KE4GFM, Fred KG4BKI, and all the club members who came out to operate for bringing off that special event.

(5) have a December “Holiday” dinner or gathering

Thanks to Jim and Linda (W4PRO and W7PRO), I am really looking forward to the WTRA Christmas Party at the home of Jim and Linda on

December 15th. I hope to see everyone come out and celebrate a very successful year for the WTRA.

If you will remember in that February newsletter, I said “...if we can do some or all of these things, that the club will continue to grow and “the numbers” will take care of themselves”. Well, I am pleased to report that the numbers have indeed “taken care of themselves”. In 2007, the WTRA has grown 26% to a membership of 53 members! Here are some other highlights of 2007. In February, the FCC eliminated the Morse Code requirement for amateur licensing; In March, some club members participated in the USS Monitor Special Event at the Mariners Museum. A picture of Fred KG4BKI in period garb working a wire line code demonstration even appeared on the cover of the SARA Repeater Journal; of course the previously mentioned Special Event station at the Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival; Field Day in June; the Bronco Club Pig Pickin’ in June; the new General Class Question Pool was effective in July; the WTRA Elmer Program was kicked off in late summer; we had a successful antennas workshop and also a successful digital modes workshop during the year; and finally, the WTRA VE Team examined a total of 35 license applicants in 2007, resulting in 30 new licenses or upgrades – 12 Technicians, 13 Generals and 5 Amateur Extras. Coming in 2008, the VE team will begin processing its test session paperwork electronically with W5YI.

All in all, it has been a very successful year for the WTRA and I look forward to an even better year next year. Brenda, Ben, Alex (KI4UNO) and I wish you all the very best for the Holidays and a very successful and blessed New Year!

73 for now
Chris – N4KIT



Alex Peters, KI4UNO working in the ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone contest

The Exam Room:

Upcoming VE sessions:

None scheduled at this time.

WTRA NOVEMBER 12TH CLUB MEETING



Jarvis Hearn tells about how amateur radio interfaced with his being a minister and missionary.

Rusty Chase, Isle of Wight Emergency Services Manager discusses how amateur radio and Isle of Wight County team together.



Chris (N4KIT) looks on as Fred (KG4BKI) discusses ARES district locations.

NEWSLETTER EXTRAS

What Engineers do in their spare time:

http://www.chilloutzone.de/files/player.swf?b=10&l=197&u=ILLUMIISOAvIF//P_LxP92A42ICHCeeWCejXnHAS/c

A Christmas greeting from the Newsletter Editor-

<http://www.elfyourself.com/?id=9565098820>

You're bound to get the below email sometime before Christmas.

Subject: Christmas Card Time

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get.

A Great Idea!!!

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Verified false here:

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/Christmas/soldiercards.asp>

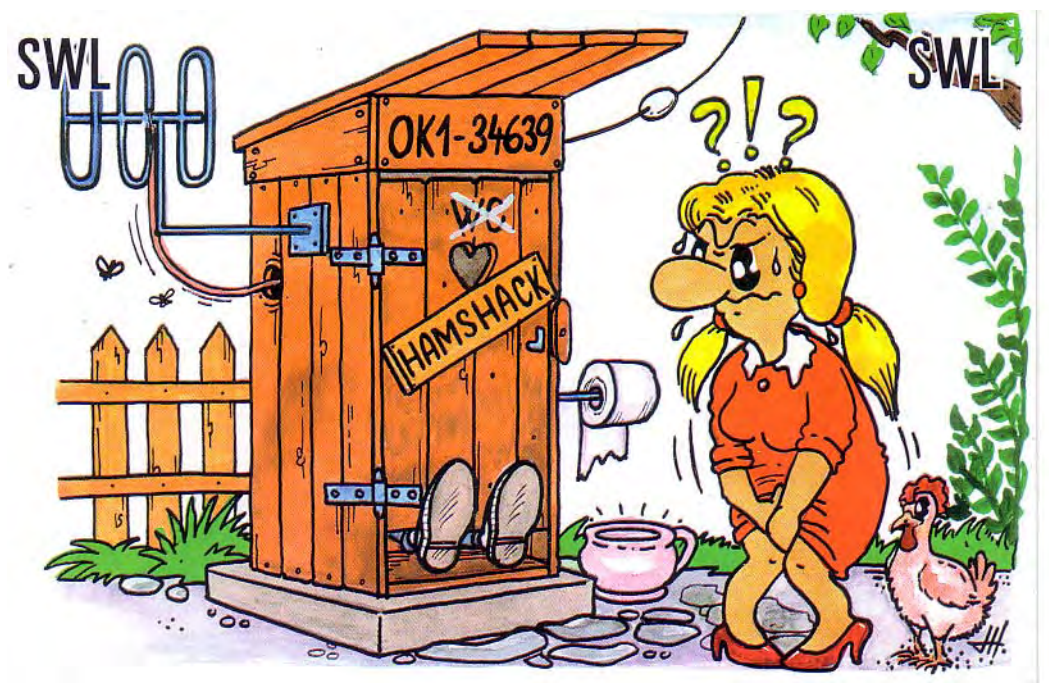
The shortened version from Snopes.com: "...the plan falters on one cruel, yet central, reality - in these times of heightened security, mail from strangers to unnamed soldiers must be discarded unopened for everyone's safety."

So, what seemed like a good idea, isn't! What a shame!

Janet Andrews N4JMA

QSL CARD OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jim Wise (w4pro)



If you have a card you would like to share, please send it to w4rrh@wt4ra.org

Officers and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report / Membership / Repeater Report (Dick Harrell): Ham Radio

Treasurer's Report (by W4RBH):

Main Account Balance as of 11/20/2007	\$ 1147.13
Cash waiting deposit	\$ 0.00
Remaining budgeted expenses for 2007	\$ 91.31
Recent expenses:	
Guest Speaker Dinner	\$ 10.94

VE Program Account Balance as of 11/20/2007 \$ 153.03

Membership Report (by W4RBH):

Currently there are 53 members on roll. Everyone please welcome our newest members: Frank Grover, K1QM, Wakefield; Casey Ohmsen, KI4RUG, Suffolk; and Jeff Laferty, KE4HUD, Suffolk.

Repeater Report (by W4RBH):

The WT4RA repeater (147.195+) and remote base system continues to function normally. Output power from the repeater amplifier remains at 130 watts. Members are encouraged to check-in to the weekly net sessions each Thursday at 7:30 PM.

A time of day announcement is available to all repeater users by entering "400" from your touch tone pad. It's been a while since I heard any of the users activate this function so I thought I would remind every one that it is available if needed.

The capability to use the remote base radio as a packet node has successfully been tested, and this function is available for use as needed. However, there is a possible issue in that when the remote base is returned from the packet mode to normal use, the frequency "step" size does not always return to the settings that the CAT 1000 controller is looking for. This in turn prevents the remote base radio from properly accepting frequency commands from the CAT 1000. This issue is being investigated, and at present requires a manual reset at the repeater site. If any of you find that you are having trouble reaching the desired frequency via the remote base please contact me via the repeater or by e-mail and I'll reset the remote base unit.

Submitted by Linda Wise (w7pro)

Hold out your hand: in the nothing that's there
All the world's voices are filling the air
Making from many lands one.

Reach for a signal, see who it might bring:
Actors or astronauts, children, a king,
Daring adventure, about anything
It's all ham radio. Let your voice spring
Out to the world, and have fun.

By: Bill McIninch, KA1MOM

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NOTE: The fifth line of the poem is quite true. The actors include Marlon Brando (FO5GJ) and Priscilla Presley (N6YOS), the kings include King Juan Carlos of Spain (EA0JC) and King Bhumiphol of Thailand (HS1A). There are over 150 astronaut and cosmonaut hams.

Thanks Chris N4KIT for a first HF QSO

I have been a ham for a year now, and upgraded to General in April. All I was missing was a station. Chris N4KIT and I exchanged lengthy emails. He guided me to intelligent questions to ask in choosing equipment, and provided some answers. He talked me into building a G0FAH dipole antenna (including an EZNEC model for it) and hoisting it into my trees. Most importantly, as a birthday gift he made time to be my first QSO on HF - we used PSK31 on 20m - and I'm 4000km away in Oregon. It is working very well - my second HF contact was with Japan. You've helped hook another physics/electronics/software tinkerer into HF. Thanks Chris, and thanks WTRA for encouraging him in this fun and useful hobby.

**James Perkins KE7JIJ
james@loowit.net**



Emails Received

(none)

Please submit items you would like to be in the WTRA Newsletter to w4rrh@wt4ra.net no later than the 20th of the month. WHEN YOU SEND ANYTHING, PLEASE SEND IT TO w4rrh@wt4ra.org DO NOT SEND IT TO wt4ra@wtr4ra.org OR USE THE REFLECTOR AS THAT MAKES IT AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS BEFORE w4rrh USES IT. Thanks.