



Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club



GSARC NEWS LETTER MAY 2006

A few notes from the Oval Office:

First I would like to thank all for attending our May meeting. A special thank you to Don, KD4RZW for picking up the key to the building. We had a wonderful snack at Shoney's after the meeting.

We continue working toward our agreement with the Regency Hotel in hopes of having a repeater on top of there 180' building. Time will tell.

Just a few days after our May meeting we had a Skywarn alert, and may I add that the link between the 146.655 system and the 145.11 repeaters worked quite well.

Don't forget to make your plans to attend our field day project, your will have a great time. We set up the antennas on Friday, June 23 and begin operating at noon on Saturday.

If you can operate over night, call or send Web, KR4WM an email.

Our next meeting is June 5, 2006 at 7 PM, looking forward to seeing you there.

"God Bless America"

Jim, N3BRS
President, GSARC

MINUTES

1. Jim, N3BRS mentioned that May is Military Appreciation Month and if you see a Military member to thank them for their Outstanding Service.
2. A motion was made and passed to automatically link the 145.110 repeater to the K4SHP/AD4TZ Skywarn system when the weather alert went into effect. It was mentioned that the system could be de-linked if we did not wanted to.
3. Bob, KI4HEE will provide at the June Meeting an agenda for the "Cecil's World" spot to be taped on the 20th of June.
4. Web, KR4WM outlined field day and will finalize everything at the June Meeting.
5. A Motion was made and passed to go ahead with the installation of the frequency pair at the Murrells Inlet site without SERA approval due to the non-response by SERA. (Note: Since the meeting the Frequency was approved and plans are in place to get it operational in the next 3 weeks).

HAMFEST REPORT

Thanks those of you that carry our fliers to activities. As you travel, talk on repeaters, on HF, or 6 Meters, keep getting the "Word" out about our Hamfest.

"SPRING TIDE", APRIL 30, 2006, MURRELL'S INLET, SC

The GSARC has been involved with "Spring Tide" Murrell's Inlet clean up on a contentious basis for more than 15 years (just after Hurricane Hugo 1989). This is probably our oldest continuing GSARC project, with exception of "Field Day". I want to thank all that have attended in prior years and those that helped this year to make us be the professionals we are during this yearly event. Wayne KC8MSN, James KI4JKV, Jack WB3FUL, Jim N3BRS (President GSARC), Bob KI4HEE (PIO GSARC), Doug N3PYF, Fred AF4MB (Coast Guard Aux). Chip Smith ("Spring Tide" Coordinator) loves us, because we make his job easier. We are able to answer the questions censuring garbage pick-up and boating safety. A special thanks goes out to Fred AF4MB and the Coast Guard Aux for being on frequency and working the waters of the Inlet during this great event. "Spring Tide" is a very meaningful event. Please, let's continue to make it one of our best yearly events for our community.

We work little for three hours and we eat well for three. It doesn't get any better than that. Be safe.

Warmest Regards,

73, Jim KF4CJE

FROM THE DESK OF THE CLUB TRUSTEE

I regret to inform the club that due to some circumstances that have come up in the past several months I must tender my resignation as GSARC trustee. These circumstances relate to the fact that the club's new repeater has been put on the air at a site that I have no access to. I have no intention of having my callsign in jeopardy as control operator of equipment that I have no access to in the event that problems develop that may need my attention. Also there have been instances where things have been done without my approval and inclusion in involving the equipment that I am responsible for. I cannot continue to jeopardize my license under these conditions so I must ask that the club choose a new trustee and get the paperwork started and the changeover in operation as soon as possible. As soon as I receive verification that the paperwork has been filed and has been approved by the ARRL/FCC then I will relinquish all club equipment in my possession to whomever the club designates to receive it on their behalf. Again I regret that this has come about but I have standards that I live by and these actions that I have described are not something that I can deal with and feel good about.

I have some personal equipment at the 147.120 site that I will get as soon as I can get a weekend with some time available to get to the site.

At the May meeting I announced a proposal that Jason K4SHP and I discussed and thought might be a good thing for the community during weather and/or emergency

events. We proposed that the 145.110 repeater be linked to the K4SHP EAR's system during Skywarn nets. I said that the link could be turned on and off automatically by the 147.090 repeater controller which is connected to the NOAA weather station in Aynor. When an alert happens the NOAA weather radio sends a signal to the 147.090 which could trigger the link to be brought up and sends another signal when the alert has been cancelled to bring the link down. The club voted on this offer and agreed to try it for a while with the stipulation that the link could be brought down at any time overriding the automatic control. The following Friday a Skywarn event happened. Jason decided to turn the link on and try it to make sure it would work OK even though we had not had time to fine tune the audio levels and make changes to the EARS system ID's to keep it from ID'ing K4SHP over the 145.110. I got reports of comments being made by someone during the Skywarn net that refused to identify with a callsign. Other comments were made about the fact that the repeater ID'd with W4GS and K4SHP. I feel that this was totally unnecessary behavior and as far as I am concerned if it were up to me the link offer between the 2 systems would be off the table even though it was offered only as an enhancement to the area to provide complete coverage of Horry, Georgetown and a lot of Williamsburg counties. We discussed it and felt it would greatly benefit both systems and the community. Jason may want to continue the link but as for me I have no desire to try to help folks who don't appreciate it.

That is my 2 cents and I'd like the club to know that I appreciate the opportunity that I've had over the past several years to get the experience and knowledge that I have gotten by working with the repeaters and links. I just feel that it is time for me to get out and let the folks who seem to be controlling everything goes ahead with their agenda without me.

Thanks

Eddy Byerly
AD4TZ

FCC WON'T SAY PUBLICLY WHEN IT WILL ACT ON MORSE CODE ISSUE

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC might act on either Amateur Radio proceeding.

"They're at different points in the process," an FCC staffer said, refraining from saying anything that might suggest a commitment. "One is farther along in the review chain than the other." The staff member indicated that the "omnibus" proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse proceeding in the WTB pipeline.

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," one staff member demurred. Neither would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006.

"They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

Earlier this year a WTB staffer, speaking without attribution, told ARRL, "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention." Bill Cross, W3TN, the FCC Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division staff member who typically addresses Amateur Radio-related proceedings during Dayton's Hamvention FCC forum, won't be attending this year's show.

When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only sub bands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the FCC drops the Morse requirement.

The "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, released in April 2004, consolidated a dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001. The Commission has proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus sub bands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF sub bands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit).

Among other things, the FCC also proposed to essentially do away with its rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters. And it further proposed to adopt a rule to limit the number of applications a licensee may file on a given day for the same vanity call sign.

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SEE YOU ON JUNE 5, 7 P.M. AT THE SANTEE COOPER BLDG

