



**Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1208
Bessemer City, NC 28016**

June 2007

Welcome to the June 2007 edition of the Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club newsletter. Since the last newsletter, the 2007 hurricane season has started and there have been 2 named storms so far this season. Let's hope it's a quiet and calm season this year. We are also in the midst of that time of year when we can expect severe weather and thunderstorms in our area. Should severe weather happen to come into our area, first be sure that you take care of yourself and your family. I would encourage everyone to pass along any information concerning any severe weather in our area so that others will be informed as to any possible situation and make plans accordingly. Hopefully this year it should be easier to stay in touch and to pass and receive any information now that there is a link between the 146.805 K4GNC repeater and the 145.230 W4BFB repeater.

This is the first year for the link, so let's hope it works as planned

Scout Demonstration

On Saturday, May 12, 2007 several members from the GAARC went to the Gaston Mall to set up a ham radio display for the local scout show. The display included a 2-meter station, an APRS station along with a code key and oscillator. There were many inquiries both from the scout leaders as well as the scouts themselves. The biggest hit with the young scouts was being about to tap out their name in code. Who said that code was dead? Hopefully some of the visitors to the display will be future hams. Another bit of good news to go along with the scouting events, Don, KG4TQE, is now a registered Radio Merit Badge Counselor.



Swapfest

As of this writing, there is nothing new on the Swapfest to report. We are still scheduled for the first Saturday in December, at the Farmer's Market. There should be more to report once Field Day is behind us. Remember we need everyone's help and support to make this a great event. Please get involved.

Special Membership Drive

Don't forget about the membership special that is going on. For the rest of 2007, anyone can join or rejoin the club for just \$5. What a bargain! Talk it up and send out an email to let everyone know. The special membership application can be found on the club website: www.gaarc.com and mailed in or brought to a meeting. We will also have the special forms available at Field Day.

Kit Building Event

On May 19, 2007, hams from in and around Gaston County descended upon the Union Road Volunteer Fire Department to build their very own Pixie 2 QRP transceiver. The kit-building event was a huge success and offered many great opportunities for those in attendance. From sorting parts, reading schematics/blueprints to trying their hand at soldering, it was a great learning experience for many and in the end everyone took home their treasure that they built.



The beginning



Starting to come together



Finished

Stay tuned for future training and hands on events. If you have any ideas for any demonstrations, instructional classes or hands on activities, please pass along your ideas to Don

Field Day

Field Day is just around the corner. It's June 23 & 24 and this year Field Day will be held at the Schiele Museum. The Schiele Museum has great public access and exposure plus it is easy to find, just across the street from the Gaston County Public Library on Garrison Blvd. Information and directions to Field Day can be found on the club's website, www.gaarc.com. Please stop by and visit and even operate for while. If you know of anyone interested in amateur radio and they would like to see or know more about it, tell them to stop by. They can check things out, ask questions and even operate one of the radios. I hope to include a few pictures in the next newsletter and have many more on the website.

Ice Cream Social

At the June 7th meeting of the GAARC, the club sponsored an ice cream social. The meeting and event was open to not only club members, but to anyone who wanted to stop by. There was an assortment of delicious ice cream along with a variety of toppings for everyone to enjoy. It was interesting to see the different combinations of treats being put together. This provided not only a great refreshing treat but also a great way to beat the heat. Many stated, "We need to do this again." Sounds like a great idea. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped with the event.



From Don

As of this writing Don has not let loose with what he has planned for the next club meeting. I'm sure he has something planned. I'll try to twist his arm a little and see if I can get information to pass along.

If there is something that interests you or if you have a suggestion or idea that would make a great topic or you would like to present a topic, please feel free to contact Don and let him know. As he has said in the past, he'd like to put together something that you are interested in seeing. Let him know.

Repeater update:

Don and Milton have recently made a few visits to both repeater locations, Crowders Mountain and the Bessemer City site. The main purpose of the trips was for a little house cleaning, to check over the machines and to verify a few connection details. Both the primary and the back-up repeaters seem to be doing well along with the 53.110 and the 444.750 machines. We have made an antenna adjustment on the 440 machine and we may have to go back at a later date to do further work. There were a few adjustments made to the link between the 146.805 and the 145.230 repeaters. I am pleased to report that the link seems to be working fairly well. Please bear with us as we continue to make changes and improvements to the link. The link will be used primarily during any ARES drills or events and if severe weather should come into our area in an effort to help keep everyone informed.



Powerpole Connectors

Most of you are probably already aware that the Anderson Powerpole connector is fast becoming the connector of choice for many ham radio operators for use in many amateur radio projects and has been adopted by many radio clubs and ARES organizations. There are many advantages in getting everyone to utilize a common connector type. In an effort to help get this connector into the hands of local operators, Milton, KC4YOT, and Don, KG4TQE, are putting together an order for the Anderson powerpole connectors.

Those wanting to place an order are asked to order in sets of 10

One set equals:

- (1)Red Housing
- (1)Black Housing
- (2)Contacts
- (1)Roller pin



The price for each set of 10 will be \$7.50
For those of you who are interested in placing an order, please contact Don or Milton and let us know how many sets of 10 your are interested in ordering.
We are asking that you have your order placed and paid for by the end of July.



Upcoming events

On Saturday, June 16th, the GAARC will be setting up an amateur radio display at the Schiele Museum during the museum's Mid Summer Festival. This will be a great opportunity for the club and its members to get involved with the community and to share the wonderful hobby of amateur radio with others. The display will be set up from 10:00am – 4:00pm, so stop by and visit and if you would like to help out at the display, please contact one of the officers.

Also, on Wednesday June 20th, the GAARC has been invited by the Gastonia Police Department to set up an amateur radio display at a community-policing event at the Erwin Center, just down the street from the EOC. The display will be set up from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. If you would like to help out for a while, please let us know.

Contact Information:

Paul Williams K4PJW
gaarc@k4pjw.com

Don Wankel KG4TQE
kg4tqe@carolina.rr.com

Milton Rice KC4YOT
kc4yot@arrl.net

Net Club Meeting:

Thursday, July 5th

7:00 PM

at the Schiele Museum