

Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association

eGround Wave Newsletter

April 2010 Edition

News from Jeff Mathews

I am generating an Emergency Operations Coordination and information database website to hopefully revitalize and organize emergency operations in Volusia County, and quite possibly across the U.S. (at some point)

I am updating the Hambone College website to be more dynamic, so that others can contribute information automatically..

I am converting the presentations for the web to make them smaller, and make use of resources already out there. (mostly because Saturday's presentation is over 100M..)

AJ4MQ.

Upcoming Classes:

Hambone College -- Emergency Preparedness - Portable Station setup and testing

To -hopefully- take place at the Port Orange Library on Sunday, June 6th, 2010 starting at 1:30pm (doors open at 1:00pm)

Future classes will include

- * Shelter Operations, Communications and Safety
 - Testing radios SWR, antenna configuration, radiation safety
 - * Vehicle preparedness
 - * Message Handling (beyond the intro)
 - * Skywarn Training
 - * CERT Training
 - * NET Participation and Handling
- and others as we identify the needs.

Jeff Mathews AJ4QM 2010.05.04

Volunteers for Tech Net needed!

A net technically oriented VHF net is coming to the K4BV repeater soon. This weekly repeater net will deal with your technical questions from newbie to senior citizens where technology has left us on the side of the road.

Right now the originators of the idea are looking for net hosts (for those of you that are not politically correct (PC) that is the old fashion net control operator. In addition to host operators they also need some technically proficient folks to volunteer their time to act as techno geeks or experts in many given areas.

Now we know that everyone is sitting there reading this and saying "not me!" But everyone of us has a talent for doing something better than anyone else and you are needed if this tech net is to be a success.

The head of this net at the moment is Joe at sales@palmimports.com so drop Joe a line and get off your Lazy-E-Boy recliner and in to the ham shack one night for one evening a week. You don't even have to leave the air conditioning unless you just want to.

Field Day Update

Below is the first of a series of documents concerning the joint field day operation between DBARA and DB-CERT. Both organizations have our members in them so why not have a dual operator event.

ANNOUNCING THE 2010 ARRL FIELD DAY OPERATION

The Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association and Daytona Beach CERT ARC will be participating in the 2010 ARRL Field Day, Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27, located at the Daytona Beach Police Department, 129 Valor Blvd., in Daytona Beach.

The 2010 Field Day event starts Saturday at 2 pm local time and ends Sunday at 2 pm, a 24 hour event. During this event, the DBARA 147.15 repeater will be in net operation.

The operation will include HF Phone, VHF Phone, CW, digital modes including Slow Scan TV, PSK31, and Radio Teletype, working the ham bands from 80M to 2M, all powered by emergency generators. A GOTA station (Get On The Air) will be available for visitors, both hams and non-hams, to participate in the Field Day operation. If you haven't been on the air, this is a great opportunity to get back on the air. For potential hams, this is an opportunity to get a taste of ham radio, as well as receive information on license classes and volunteer testing services.

The Field Day site will have a visitor's booth with information, and a host a talk-in on this repeater during daylight hours; if you need information, just come on frequency and ask.

Free messages can be sent will to anyone via ham radio during the field day operation. Message forms are available at the visitor's booth at the entrance to the site. We welcome the public and all ham operators to stop by and visit with us during the event.

The DBARA picnic will be held for members, friends, and families on Saturday at 5:00 pm at the Field Day site. Beverages and snacks will be available throughout the 24-hour operating period

A solicitation for volunteers will be made shortly. If you have any questions, call or e-mail Steve Szabo at 386-566-2085 (wb4omm@arrl.net). Hope to see you there!

Webmaster Needs Your Help

We want to start a "past President's" page so if you have any documentation of such how about forwarding it to the webmaster@dbara.oarg

Report on "Project School House" April 15, 2010 by John LoCicero K4TUG

Today George Silver, WB4DVP, Don McBride, WA3ZBJ, Mel Vola, K4OWK, and John LoCicero (a.k.a. Tug), K4TUG, went to Samsula Elementary School, and met with Barbra Vola, KJ4MOA, a newly licensed ham. Asked for a bit of help with station operation as well as being the teacher/ station licensee of her class at Samsula. We put together and conducted the schools very first bunny hunt with the Science Class kids .

We started off by dividing the kids up into two different groups, George, WB4DVP being the group leader and advisor of one team. Don, WA3ZBJ, the group leader and advisor of the other team.

"Tug" was the designated "bunny" and sent off to hide. Now "Tug" Having never being a bunny was at a disadvantage! I would have been easier if he had been a dolphin and had water surrounding him.

Mel, K4OWK, did his part well. He kept a chair warm in the class room and performed the role of keeping everything tied together and chauffeur.

Of course everyone knows you cannot have a "bunny" or hidden transmitter hunt without someone getting lost. "Tug" managed to get lost in the woods. Really he only thought he was hiding. But the kids were a lot better then anticipated or we may have never heard from him again. The kids found him pretty quick before he dehydrated..

Barbra, KJ4MOA, decided that it was way too easy for the kids. So she took "Tug" into a class room and hid him in a dark closet where he could not get lost, dehydrated or in trouble. But they still found him it just took longer.

"Tug" broadcasted, and waited in that dusty old closet, for what seemed to take forever for the teams to locate him (minutes seem like hours when your in the dark) But finally the "gir'ls team" found the "Tug boat captain" first. Both teams learned about direction finding and had a really good time. It was hard to tell who had more fun the grown ups or the kids. Everybody had a great time and the kids were rewarded with treats and the "ole tugboat captain" got home safe and sound.

Ham Radio and Kids

Thought you guys may like to see what others are doing in the world of Ham

Radio with Children. I gave Sam, KG4WRM an overview of DBARA's After School Ham Radio club program and sent him links to DBARA's website. Sam is one heck of a good person to put it bluntly. He also shares a similar vision as yourself and DBARA with the Ham Radio School clubs.

Just Incase the link in the body of his message did not follow I have pasted it below.

<http://drsamgray.blogspot.com/2009/06/arrrl-teachers-institute.html>

Marty - NOBBB

From: Samuel Gray <drsamgray@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: Following up with the QRZ sale.

Date: April 14, 2010 8:24:35 PM EDT

To: apple1323@me.com

Hello Marty,

I enjoyed looking through the links you sent. Congratulations to your daughter on her ticket. Also, the D-Star system seems like a great way to reach the upcoming generation.

You and your group are several years ahead of me in implementing a very similar vision. This summer the ARRL presents the summer teachers institute to employees of my school district. I hope to build a radio network similar to yours amongst the schools in my area. My local radio club is on board with building this new radio community. Click here if you wish to read about my experiences with the summer institute last June.

Your radios are in the mail and should arrive in a few days. Please give me a call if you are ever in Clemson, South Carolina.

73,
Sam
kg4wrm

Samuel Gray's blog <http://drsamgray.blogspot.com>
2010.04.14

**To go along with "the new repeater system in town" article below
Bob,**

Attached is 4 of our news letters. Tim K4KWQ in Deland ask me to send them to

you.

My name is Dick and I winter in Orange City and I'm CEO of the Interlink System IRLP reflector 9050. Please see web page. www.wb2jpb.com

Our system would like coverage in your area. Would your group consider connecting to our system on IRLP if I donated an IRLP node for that use.

Dick

WB2JPQ

716-310-4888 Jan 2010 Feb 2010 Mar 2010 Apr 2010

There is a new "Repeater System in Town (Deland)

There is a new Repeater system in Deland, Fl. its is on 444.150 with 88.5 PL Tone. The Repeater is up at 350 foot top hat, also is part of the Interlink system. when there is stations connected all over the us, to include New York, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, South Africa, and many more stations around the world.

Also we have a VOIP server too, You can download a little program for your computer, Called Teamspeak 3, and talk there to some of the guys too

The Server is called The K4KWQ Amateur Radio Server. If interested in gaining access to the server E-mail me at k4kwq@aol.com you can reach me on any of the nodes or the 444.150 repeater

Looking forward to hearing from more people soon.

Thank you

Tim Porter (K4KWQ)

Deland Fl E-Mail= k4kwq@aol.com

The DBARA way. Tuesday, April 13, 2010

A very long time ago in the Roman army the infantry soldiers always carried a large diamond shaped shield on their left arms. These shields were considered a burden to the foot soldiers and the young men would often grumble to each other about having to carry these heavy shields around with them everywhere they went.

When the orders were given to go into battle they would naturally stand close to each other and lock their shields together and advance as they were trained to do. The soldiers would place these heavy shields together over their

heads and boldly march into battle. There was abundant confidence knowing on every side of them other soldiers are protecting them just as they were protecting the others around them.

Several of the officers would get together and teach these soldiers the proper way to do many different things, like how to work together as a team and with plenty of practice drills would fearlessly march into battle, more times than not winning the battles.

The officers made sure there was constant training.

The soldiers knew exactly what they had to do when called into action.

Just like us, knowledge and practice instills confidence and courage. These soldiers received their training by experienced and knowledgeable officers who knew exactly what to do when called into action. Always working together and Training as a team these soldiers would march side by side, protecting each other and winning the battles.

DBARA works together as a team and is proactively preparing for the future as well.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Emergency Communication Training classes which are being held May 1st and May 2nd at the Port Orange Library.

This is where we are offered training by qualified instructors in the proper ways to handle emergency communications which is very important, and may even help save lives.

Learning to use new technology like D Star and practicing on our Daily traffic nets, portable operations and various other training situations we become confident knowing we have been taught how to efficiently get the job done. During a disaster when we are called to action we will be working side by side with our teachers and other club members who after attending these classes will be qualified with valuable knowledge in emergency communications along with other club members helping our community in many other ways.

DBARA teachers are already in three local schools teaching children some basic electronics and various ham radio projects making learning fun, all the while reaching out into other branches throughout our community. Volunteer teachers teach us the correct way to work together so when we are called to action just like those Soldiers of long ago, well prepared, drilled and ready to roll our sleeves up and get to work as a qualified team when disaster hits our area.

Our monthly DBARA Club meeting is next Monday April 19th and every third Monday of each month. Meetings are where both old and new friends meet in

person, share ideas, learn new things and enjoy the fellowship of other amateur radio enthusiasts. Please plan to attend the monthly meetings regularly if you have the ability, besides its too nice outside to stay home, why not set the VCR or DVR to record American Idol and get out one evening a month take a ride and come to the meeting and enjoy yourself? We enjoy your company and DBARA Monthly Meetings are where both teachers and students of all ages have fun! Where else can you talk with other Hams about Amateur Radio, drink free coffee, laugh with friends and eat a free doughnut? When we all get together and I see everyone wearing their DBARA name and call sign badges I remembered the shields of those soldiers and how they worked together as a team helping and watching out for each other a very long time ago.
Rev Glenn PIO for DBARA KJ4MNV

2010.04.14

Update on Emergency Communications Course

The introductory class on Emergency Communication at the Port Orange Library on Saturday, May 1 from 0900 to 1200 and Sunday, May 2 from 1200 to 1500.

The following is a list of subjects to be covered during the time periods:

1. We will be teaching traffic handling
2. Where to get traffic
3. How to send traffic
4. What are the terms used and what they mean.
5. What is a go kit? What to expect if deployed and finally we will have a couple of simulation radio traffic message sent and received for practice.

Today we have 51 people signed up for the class and there are still a few vacant seats remaining open. The instructors are:

1. Ed Cote KA1EHR
2. Steve Craft W1SGC
3. Ray Jones K1JPG
4. Bob Straughn WR4FSU
5. Fred Magliacaine KF4VRS

Frank Stood by Until it Hurt

I bit my lip a good bit this past week. But I broke my self-imposed silence by using the repeater Saturday morning (to correct the time and make a few other small adjustments to fix a few small bugs.)

Having gotten on the air, I figured that I might as well comment here as well.

It's been 7 months since I last posted to this list. There's been little activity so I figure one post from me here shouldn't be too annoying to those who hate to read my notes. I'll make up for my lengthy absence with some lengthy commentary. Get comfy or just delete this note now.

First, everyone should know that Allen has taken himself off the Club's Yahoogroup so emails posted to him here won't be seen by him. You have to email Allen directly if you want him to see what you have to say. His email address is j2easy@bellsouth.net if you want to reach him. I'm copying him with this note to be sure he has a chance to read my comments. I encourage you to email Allen directly in an effort to welcome him rather than shun him. His energy and enthusiasm is actually quite valuable.

I want to THANK Allen for trying to shake things up a bit. His comments are clear evidence that new hams have a different outlook and a different set of expectations from those of us who have been active for decades. While Allen's comments became somewhat belligerent in tone, it shows how frustrating it is for newcomers to justify making the time and equipment investment to become ham operators. Instead of being repulsed by his remarks, we should pay attention and learn from them.

While his tone may not have been pleasant, his concerns, suggestions and complaints are valid. On the surface, it remains very difficult for some newcomers to understand how DBARA works. Those of us who have been members for decades are used to the way things are and our comfort with the status quo is viewed with disdain by many new hams. We have become lazy and uninvolved to the detriment of the hobby and to the club.

What Allen did not take the time to learn is the fact that DBARA is one of the most laid back and non-radio-active groups around. An exhaustive study of the membership is impossible but for decades DBARA has provided 12 evenings of entertainment each year with little else in the way of outside activity. Use of the club repeater has been essentially non-existent for more than a 15 years. Many folks have said that "somebody" should do this, that or another but every time

anyone gets the urge to actually do something, they usually lay down and wait for that urge to pass. Such is the way with DBARA. Yet there has always been a core group who use the club repeater albeit within the constraints of their life/work schedules.

What Allen also did not take the time to learn is the fact that (secretly) DBARA is working very hard in the schools to build interest in science, math, technology and ham radio. There isn't much said about these efforts in media that many can see. The club has no Public Information Officer and those who are actually doing all of these fine things don't blow their own horns very well. On the surface DBARA appears to be a laid back, do little (especially on the radio) club. Digging just a bit deeper would reveal that much goes on, it's just not well publicized.

Like so many communities in Florida, Daytona Beach is populated with a large percentage of retirees. Look out at those in attendance at any club meeting and it's clearly evident that most members have transitioned to a much more relaxed lifestyle. "Let the younger folks do it" is the typical comment yet when one looks around there are few young ones to do "it." Those of us who still work full time don't need another full or part time job and we wonder why people with so much time on their hands choose to sit on those hands. There are a few spark plugs (90/10 rule applies here) who carry the club each year and are busy burning their candles at each end with little gratitude from the majority of members. We owe a debt to these folks who strive in the face of overwhelming apathy to make the hobby better.

Folks like Allen must be approached with what would seem like a completely unnatural response to their seemingly pushy, demanding and uncomplimentary remarks. Instead of getting angry and making assumptions about the complainant's personality, impatient and uneducated newcomers to the hobby need to be welcomed, personally...in person, and taken by the hand so they get a closer view of the realities. If they get a good look up close and still feel as if DBARA is undeserving of their involvement then so be it. There are no other clubs in the Daytona Beach area. That tells me that no one wants to make the effort to create something better than DBARA. Making DBARA better is a worthy objective and input from energetic newcomers would help a great deal.

I have maintained for many years now that DBARA offers newcomers

something very valuable even though the club is not overly ambitious in its on the air activities. DBARA is a fully stocked library of expertise and experience in every aspect of the hobby from basic CW operation to the most advanced digital modes from Antennas to Zero Beating. Virtually every aspect of the hobby has an enthusiast in the club. Regrettably this extensive resource can only be effectively tapped by actually coming to club meetings. And it helps to be polite, respectful and appreciative.

Most of the club's membership has written off VHF/UHF as just another variation on the CB Radio theme. The fact that DBARA members don't talk to each other PUBLICLY either on the radio or by email is one of life's greatest mysteries. Perhaps most are just overwhelmed by the constant barrage of messages, offers, demands and ads forced upon us by every form of media out there. Perhaps the abundance of retirees and active humans here just want to enjoy the peace and tranquility that comes with no (or little) email, no constant chatter on the radio as well as the attendant demands upon time that come with these distractions. Perhaps all the rumors about cliques and small special interest groups are true and these folks just text message each other. Who knows???. Clearly, the local "party line's" virtual silence is clear evidence that only a small group of hams enjoy such daily routine contact.

I have wondered out loud for years about the absence of local radio operations. No one can easily explain why there is so little radio activity. As I travel around the state, the problem is pervasive. I conclude that there are simply too many other things to do and many more private methods of communicating that are preferred over the public nature of ham radio. I also find that many people have come to revere their privacy and view chats on the local repeater as a violation of that privacy. Most new hams are consumed by a fear of making mistakes on the air and being embarrassed. These fears are real and there are plenty of horror stories about newbies being brow-beaten by the "repeater police" and other misguided know-it-alls who need extensive refresher training at the Dale Carnegie Institute. Many of those who have ventured into the world of V/UHF have been offended by the arrogance and ambivalence of many long time active V/UHF operators. Taken together these conspire to eliminate any interest in repeater operation. I'm sure there are many other reasons but these are the most obvious to me.

There isn't much traffic on the Club's Yahooogroup because few members know how to type and it's just too much trouble for too little reward to compose more than a few sentences. There's also the fear of retaliation, the complaints about long emails, ridicule of spelling and grammar and all the other bad behaviors that seem to abound in email-based media. Modern society does use email extensively. Many hams who have survived this earthly travail for more than several decades don't view email as the end-all, be-all of interpersonal communication. Many people completely misinterpret the true meaning of an email which often leads to arguments for no good reason. Many people simply delete any email that is more than 2 paragraphs long.

If you've made it this far, you are either seething with anger or (hopefully) reconsidering how we should "handle" newcomers to the fold, even those who can only express complaints. Even as I approach 60 years of age and enter my 46th year as a ham, I remain naïve and idealistic about the possibilities. It has always been easier to complain than to actually take steps to fix the problem. It has always been easier to get angry than to examine the situation and ask, "What do we need to do to stop the complaints?" Is it really better to lose potential members than to ignore the rudeness and find the path to agreement? It takes a much bigger and stronger person to face down the unpleasantness and solve the root problem than to take the easy way out and let the complainant wander off disgruntled. We simply can't afford to let any new ham and potential new club member disappear into the woodwork without at least making some effort to make things work. Granted some folks just don't play well with others. But we won't know if we don't try. The odds are in our favor that impatient and suggestion-filled newbies, with their rose-colored glasses and energetic ideas about how things can be made better, will do great things if given the chance. The proof is in the performance.

There should be room in DBARA for new ideas. DBARA should be the potting soil in which these new ideas can blossom into new ways the club can effectively serve the needs of the local ham community. Change is constant even if we prefer that it not be. Despite our natural inclination to abhor change, we should force ourselves to accept it...perhaps even invite it!!!

I hope Allen reconsiders his decision to exile himself from the hobby and/or the club and take a closer look at the whole picture. Perhaps he can be the "bigger man" and get involved in a way that can create

the change he believes is needed. It certainly won't happen in isolation. Newbie enthusiasm is a natural resource which should be exploited with guidance rather than shunned with arrogance. DBARA needs improvement. DBARA needs to be modernized. The existing collection of members won't do it. Only those who are able to look forward and exert the energy necessary to effect change will be able to reconstitute DBARA into something that today's new hams will consider worthy of their precious time.

73,

Frank N. Haas KB4T
Former DBARA President
Current DBARA Life Member
Naïve and idealistic Ham for 45 years

Editors Note - Frank and others directly or indirectly involved in this episode all have valid points both pro and con. You just have to analyze the whole episode and fix the broken parts, learn from the grey parts and leave the unbroken parts alone. But since Frank admits to not having been to a club meeting in eons he would be surprised at the new faces and age groups coming to the monthly "geriatric" (;<) [The emicon is a wink with a smile for the non computer oriented] gathering.

DBARA Speaker Bureau has a Good Presentation Reception by Bill KI4AAN
Last evening Daytona Beach Masonic Lodge #270 had a family night. This event invites the members, family and friends to enjoy a dinner and program. The program was presented by John LoCicero and George Silver from DBARA. The program was about amateur radio and what we do as a hobby and what we can do for the community. My fellow Lodge Brothers tell me it was well received and very interesting. I understand that quite a few questions were asked. Hopefully there were Brothers from other Lodges in the area were present and will ask for a presentation at their Lodge. I am very proud of John and George is doing such a good job.

Bill KI4AAN
Editor note - Thanks for sharing this Bill. Editor Bob 2010.04.02