

Field Day & Arthur What we are all about...



OBRA 2014 Field Day Crew

Manteo, NC



Presidential Comms

The hurricane season started early this year. Tropical depression Arthur grew rapidly and hit the Outer Banks as a Cat 2 hurricane on July 4th... It was the first named storm in 2014 and thankfully the Outer Banks fared well, although Hatteras Island was cut off for a few days.

The storm knocked out an 800 tower on Hatteras Island and because of "Ham radios" Dare emergency services continued operations.

The OBRA emergency net was initiated and communications were maintained throughout the storm.

It was clear, that our weekly net has really helped. Everyone was comfortable "checking in" and relaying what they knew.

We prefer if "support" communications are uneventful" (that's the best option). We staff various locations because we cannot know, when or if, we are needed. But as demonstrated during Arthur the 800 system can break... at that time your support could suddenly go from uneventful, to being a net controller in the middle of a full emergency.

That said... we have a good team. Net communications was maintained, useful information was passed and everyone behave professionally.

Thank you. Cheers !

Andrew AA3YQ

Amatuer Radio is a “Hobby”

Emergency Communications is a Commitment

Jim Bailey N4ACT :

We do a lot of testing and tweaking of our equipment for emergencies never knowing if it will be needed in an emergency and hoping it never will. We also hone our skills and contribute to the community through the many public service projects that we undertake.

Field Day is another event that we enjoy and that helps us to be better operators in the event of a disaster or emergency when we may be called upon to provide emergency communications.

Our testing prior to the hurricane found some equipment problems that we were able to resolve prior to the hurricane.

When Arthur came through we got the opportunity to use some of these skills, and our ham radio operators really came through. We had ham radio operators staffing a number of critical locations and others waiting in the wings to come in for relief. When we had need to use equipment we did not know would ever be needed, it worked as we had expected and we performed some vital services helping to alleviate what could have been serious problems. The officials at the Dare County Emergency Operations Center asked me to pass along their appreciation for a job well done.

We are now evaluating how we can improve on our procedures and setups. After an event such as Arthur that is always a good thing to do. We learn from every such experience. I would recommend everyone evaluate how they did and if there is any way they could improve on what they did. While some were not at an assigned location, there may be things at your home or wherever you were that could be improved so you could be better informed or safer.

One thing I learned from Arthur is that things can change at the last minute, and we need to be prepared for last minute changes.

Thanks to all who participated or stood ready to participate. That is the spirit of ham radio that the public has recognized for a 100 years this year. I think the Dare County Hams carried on that tradition quite well.



Kranda's Korner Jim Kranda N4WYO

Community Events:

So far this year OBRA has participated in 8 athletic events ranging from a Half Marathon to a 5K run and one beach run. We have learned several things about our participation and have some issues to resolve with outside organizations and are still working with the Micro-Trak to resolve some difficulties. We still have 7 events to do before the end of the year. We been asked to participate in the following events this fall so get out your calendar and write in the following events. Some will be short 90 minute mini events while others will take from a full day to 2 full days.

- Aug 23 Run-Manteo 5K
- Sept 6 10k Pink Run (RunCations)
- Sept 13/14 Triathlon (OBXSE) Manteo +
- Oct 16 VIP Fishing Tourney (Lions Club) OBX Piers and 2 Boats
- Oct 18 Lost Colony (?)
- Nov 8/9 OBXMarathon (OBXSE)
- Nov 27 Gobbler 5K Thanksgiving Day (OBXRC)



OBRA Field Day Team in Action
Duane N1PLV attaching guy ropes to
dipole antenna mast,



Robert W4RDF
Leo KK4NEB



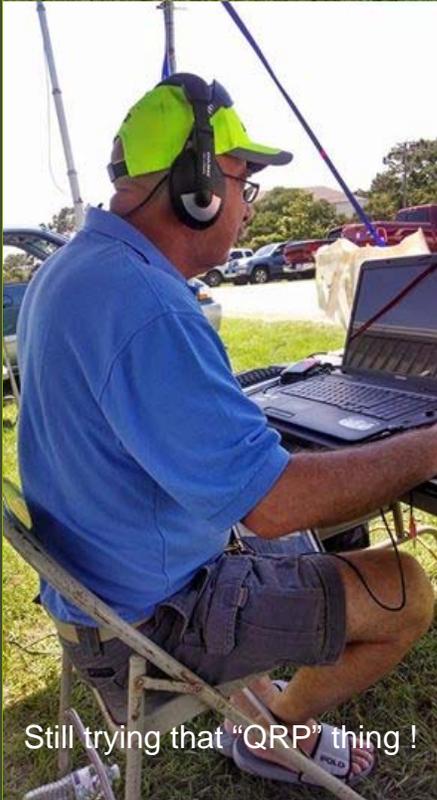
Beryl KK4UNV
Jim NWYO

Sidebar For Sale:

No submissions thus far.



Ken N2KJD showing off his pneumatic mast



Still trying that "QRP" thing !

HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act

Recently, there have been 2 announcements from the ARRL regarding HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act. This bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives and it calls on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions, such as neighborhoods with antenna restrictions enforced by Home Owner Associations (HOAs). Antenna relief in neighborhoods with private Covenants, Codes, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) is critical in North Carolina because, according to the North Carolina Home Owners Association, 62% of housing units in the state fall under HOAs, and the 2007 state antenna law does not apply to HOAs. HR 4969 would overturn private CC&Rs.

HR 4969 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. According to the article which was posted on June 26th, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB said the most urgent task now is to get additional co-sponsors to sign onto HR 4969. For further information on the first announcement, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/house-bill-would-require-fcc-to-extend-prb-1-coverage-to-restrictive-covenants>

From the standpoint of your clubs and individual members, it is recommended that discussions are initiated about HR 4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act, that decisions are made about the grassroots actions that could be pursued, and that "first drafts" of letters are prepared. Please note that very specific "talking points" need to be included in the letter and in all likelihood, the letters should be sent (only) to the Representative from your district. Again, the information sheet, "talking points", and the sample constituent letter from the ARRL should provide the guidelines that will be needed for the grassroots campaign.

Thanks! 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager,

(919) 669-6068 (cell)

(Excerpts from email dated July 11, 2014 "ARRL members Only web site")

Tech Column - Duane Turberville N1PLV

I would like to first thank our Good Lord for the beautiful weather, a nice breeze, no rain, bright sunshiny skies and not too hot. You could not ask for better and the flyover by the Bald Eagle yesterday morning was a nice touch. Thank-you Lord.

The OBRA Field Day was held June 28th - 29th at the field beside the Dare County Airport. The site was made available for us to use as it has been in the past by Sandy Sanderson the Dare County Emergency Manager. Thank-you Sandy for your continued support. There was no preliminary set up this year and all gear was installed starting about 0800 Saturday morning. We also had a swap meet in conjunction with Field Day in the building adjacent to the site. We had spectacular weather both days with a light breeze blowing, sunny skies and not too hot. While dinner Saturday evening was not really planned out very well it came together due to the effort of several couples and individuals. Thank-you!

We had a variety of antennas and stations this year. Jim Baily brought his trailer out even though he was unable to attend himself. Thank-you Jim it was most appreciated. We ran a fan dipole (80/40/20) with 3 or 4 different rigs in Jim's trailer for a total of 47 contacts logged. We tried a Carolina Windom from a 30 foot pole in the tent and discovered a Carolina Windom is de-tuned by any metal structures near it. We then switched to a 80 M dipole and made 45 or 46 contacts with it. Bob M. set up a 10M X-Beam and tuned it to 20M for our longest contact to Slovenia. We nicknamed the antenna Bob's "special" X-Beam as it seems it had been set up wrong; it still worked great! Ken brought out his pneumatic tower and various antennas and rigs. We also ran a VHF rig primarily for call ins and directions but we made several contacts as well on VHF. Ken and Jim Kranda worked some QRP on several different types of antennas. We had a total of 100 "official" logged entries. We worked 20 or so states and 2 or 3 Canadian provinces as well as several foreign countries, primarily South and Central America but also Europe. 40M and 20M were the best bands on HF. We also worked 80M, 15M and 10M.

This year we had visitors from NY, PA, VA and WVA , several got on the air and logged contacts. We had one new member to the club welcome Jerome.

Field Day is all about fellowship among hams and emergency communications preparations. We may not have gotten the highest score but we had lots of fun, good fellowship, good food, a great swap meet and we showed we can set up quickly and efficiently. We made our first contacts on two HF rigs at 1400 (1800 UTC), 6 hours after we began. That is impressive particularly considering that involved setting up shelters (thank-you Jim K. and Jim B.), providing power, setting up antennas and rigs. Great job everyone who participated. It was truly a team effort. We learned from our mistakes and most importantly we were able to overcome them.

We had good media coverage with well written articles, Thank-you Perry White.

I would like to thank everyone who participated, operated and provided materials. We could not have done this without you and your efforts.

73, Duane

n1plv@aol.com



N1PLV's ANTENNA WORKSHOP for Hatteras Hams

(or anyone who wanted to come)

The much awaited Antenna Workshop was held on April 24th at the Chicamacomico VFD in Rodanthe.

There were approx. 14 attendees, some to build and some to help out. Duane Turberville (N1PLV) exhibited and explained several different types of antennas to the group, but it was decided prior to the event that he would instruct us in building a ground plane antenna.

We cut wire and coaxial cable, and stripped, twisted, soldered and attached the parts and pieces, then tested them for successful transmitting. We all had a terrific time, decided we will probably do this again, and came away with a newly built, better-way-to-get-our-signals-out-there antenna. Many thanks to N1PLV, and all the hams who helped out. We enjoyed the camaraderie and gained a good deal of knowledge from doing most of it ourselves. Another great event, courtesy of some great amateur radio operators.



Thanks Elmers!

Pat KK4VOL

Welcome our new Public Information Officer (PIO)

Perry White KI4IBF

(H) (252) 441-7062

(C) (252) 256-2421



Perry KI4IBF



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services, events, etc.

OBRA

info@obra.com

Visit us on the web:
www.obraobx.org

Outer Banks Repeater
Association

P.O. Box 1085

Nags Head, NC 27959

Editor-at-large:

Ken Daidone N2KJD

N2KJD@arrl.net

Sorry about being late with the newsletter. Have a good excuse - Hurricane Arthur ate my hard drive. And then I gave it to the IRS !



Bless

Leo KK4NEB

Duane N1PLV



AA3BM Bob Mulleins Swap Meet was a huge success...

I am poorer for it !



Sandy

Todd KJ4UNS

He is planning another one - Maybe late September

Get up with him for details: Rmulleins@gmail.com