

Happy New Year



In This Issue

Elmer of the Year: Page 2

Kranda's Events: Page 3

Christmas Party : Page 4

Frostfest & APRS: Page 5

Hello New Hams: Page 6

Duane's Tech Column: Page 7

Common Q signs: Page 8 & 9

PIO Perry: Page 10



Presidential Comms

I can't say much about the world in 2014, but it has been a pretty good OBRA club year. We have trained a bunch of new Hams at our sessions, increased interest in field day, had our first Swap Meet, significantly improved our operating techniques during events, created a newsletter, successfully fielded an APRS device, and recognized our first Elmer - Jim Bailey.

At the last meeting (Christmas Party) we elected the committee members for 2015. We are fortunate that many members carried over from 2014 – thank you. But we have one new member Beryl who is taking on the Emergency Coordination role. I'm hoping that 2015 will be a creative and enjoyable year. As always, your continuing support is essential.

In my opinion the amateur radio community faces 2 interesting challenges:

1 With over a 100 years of amateur radio experimentation and thousands of significant inventions; the availability of cheap commercial equipment (Beofung etc.) might undermine the experimental and "home built" side of amateur radio.

2 We also face bandwidth competition from commercial digital devices. This may not seem much of a problem, but it manifests itself in many ways; noise on the bands, devices behaving oddly when we transmit, etc. Of course, there are pluses, digital TV was a great advancement for HF enthusiasts, as we no longer create TVI.

Cheers ! Andrew AA3YQ



Our 1st Elmer:



Jim Bailey N4ACT

As a child Jim had a neighbor who was a ham. His transmissions would bleed over into Jim's family tv. His neighbor, Mr. Creasy, would show Jim his radio set up which was very different from equipment today. This sparked Jim's interest. However he did not get his license until 1978. Early on he enjoyed making hf contacts. Our younger son got his license at 10 years of age in 1981. We had a next door neighbor who was a ham and the three of them enjoyed traveling in as many counties as they could during contests. (You can probably tell that I don't know a lot of the language of radio. Seems like they were called qso parties.) Our older son now has his ham license also.

He attended Hampden-Sydney College for two years and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia with a pharmacy degree. His career was spent at Felt's Drug Store in Petersburg, Va. except for a couple of years he spent working for K-Mart. He enjoyed his work very much and his customers loved and respected him very much.

Jim enjoyed working communications for the Virginia Special Olympics for several years. He would take vacations to come to Nags Head to work the VIP fishing tournament. Eventually after his mother passed away in 2007, Jim decided that he really wanted to live in Nags Head. We moved here to make it our home in March, 2009 and life hasn't slowed down since. Jim enjoys staying active in Ham related activities, volunteering for N.E.S.T., church related activities and time with our 4 grandchildren.

Kranda's Korner Jim Kranda N4WYO

2014 was a banner year for OBRA community activities. We participated in 18 local events and for the first time utilized an Incident Action Plan for the OBX Marathon. The plan was developed by Drew Pearson, Deputy Coordinator, Dare County Emergency Management along with representatives of Dare County EMS, Dispatch, and 911 services, representatives from each Town, the OBSE Race Director and OBRA representatives. The plan was able to put in play at the OBX Marathon which greatly enhanced overall communications during the event and we look forward to utilizing the plan and concepts in the future. Look for more about Incident Action Plans in future newsletters and discussions. Also look for implementation in more events.

On another note OBRA conducted a Technician Training Class this fall, in the process several OBRA hams were drafted as instructors and seemed to have a good time in the classroom and apparently did a good job as the OBRA VEC team was able to license 9 new local hams. Congratulations to all!

The planned events for 2015 are listed below but they are subject to change based on new requests and updated information from sponsors. There is one new event, the Sailboat Races in Manteo July 19-26 which should be VERY interesting. Keep tuned.

Planned 2015 Events

- Jan 10** Sweetheart Run (OBXRC)
- Feb 2** Frostbite Run (OBXRC)
- March 1-2** NC QSO Party
- March 14** Leprechauns Run (Kelly's)
- March 15** St Pats Parade (Kelly's)
- April 18/19** Flying Pirate (OBSE)
- April 20** Senior Games 3:30pm 5K Run (Barrier Island Fitness Center)
- April 21** Senior Games 6:00am Bike Race (Wright Memorial)
- May 24** Roanoke Island CupCake 5K
- June 14** Storm the Beach (OBSE)
- June 27-28** ARRL Field Day
- July 19-26** Optimist Natl Sailboat Races (Manteo)
- Aug 15/16** International Lighthouse & Lightship weekend
- Sept 6** 10k Pink Run *FYI - we just got a \$100.00 donation from Karen Warlitner of RunCations*
- Sept 12/13** Triathlon (OBSE)
- Oct 16** VIP Fishing Tourney (Lions Club)
- Nov 8** Marathon (OBSE)
- Nov 26** Gobbler 5K (OBXRC) Thanksgiving Day

Verified event dates



Bring your hat & vest.



OBRA Christmas Party 2014

OBRA Holiday Party

December 4, 2014 5:30 PM Black Pelican Restaurant

33 members and guests present - Andrew and Susan Darling, Bob and Barbara Mulliens, Jim and Karen Kranda, Con and Marge Weltman, Jack and Sally Meagher, Jim and Doris Bailey, Peter Bruck, Tom White and friend, Ken and Maggie Daidone, Cathy Morris, Robert DeFreitas, Joe and Susan Van Gieson, Tim and Jan Moore, Beryl Iven, Perry and Mrs. Reynolds, John and Pat Ruggiero, Henry and Peggy Cathey, Elizabeth and Doug Wendling, Ron Seidman.

Doris Bailey won the raffle prize.

Andrew Darling called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Minutes and treasurer's reports were approved. The first annual Elmer Award was presented to Jim Bailey for helping new hams.

Officers were elected for the coming year:

President Andrew Darling

Vice President Peter Bruck

Secretary Sally Meagher

Treasurer Doris Bailey

Program Activities Duane Turbeville

Community Activities Jim Kranda

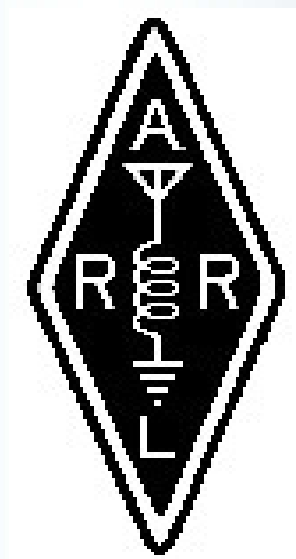
Emergency Activities Beryl Iven

Bob Mulliens reported the NC QSO party will be on March 1, 2015. He and Perry Reynolds are working to set up a Special Event station for the anniversary of First Flight next December.

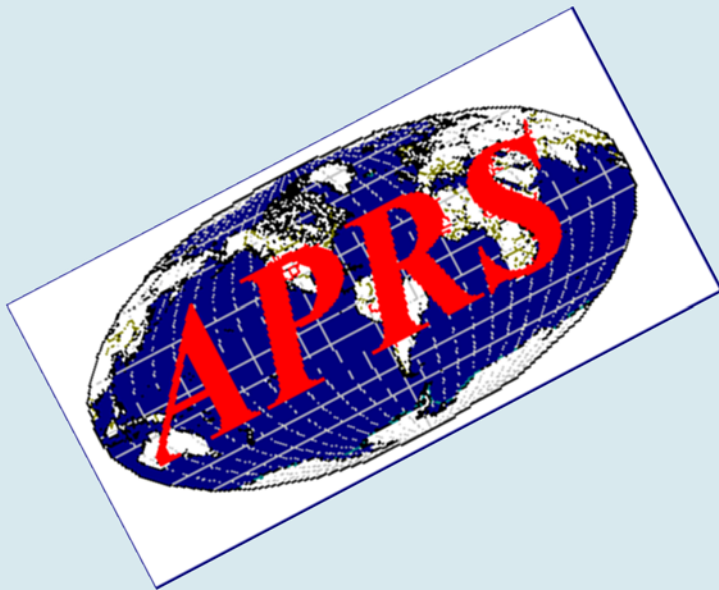
Jim Kranda informed us that we have been asked to assist in a regatta of 1500 sailboats planned for next July in Manteo.

Andrew adjourned the meeting at 6:12 and we all enjoyed dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Meagher



Automatic Packet Reporting System Information Page



FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Frostfest is looking to be biggest and the best ever. February 7, 2015

Lots of hams have already gotten their tables to sell their equipment! Don't be left out! There are still great tables available.

Check out the possibilities at http://frostfest.com/wp/?page_id=47.

We have TWO great keynote speakers this year! Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the inventor of APRS, and Kay Craigie, N3KN, our current ARRL President will be making presentations during Frostfest.

We are the official ARRL Virginia State Convention.

Get your Early Bird tickets so you can get in at 8:00 AM! A half hour earlier than general admission, don't miss the best deals. You know you want to be here early!

The new layout means you can see everything under one roof at the Richmond Raceway Complex's Exhibition Hall!

I've got my tickets already !

OBRA's Training Pays Off

Congratulations to the following new hams.

We are looking forward to hearing them on the air and participating in the weekly net as well as joining in the fun of special events.

KM4FOF
KM4FOG
KM4FOH
KM4FOI
KM4FOJ
KM4FOK
KM4FOL
KM4FOM
KM4FON

Tonya Byrum
Josef Vesely
Trey Piland
Scott Hooper
Drew Pearson
Dennis Pohl
Henry Cathey
Peg Cathey
Karen Warlitner



Kudos to those who went the extra miles

Upgraded to Extra:

Richard Meserve KI4LVP (from Chesapeake)

Upgraded to General:

Robert Huggett KK4YXB (from Rodanthe)

Tech Column - Duane Turberville N1PLV

Happy New Year everybody and welcome to 2015!

Jim and Andrew have brought so many new Hams on board with their license classes and testing sessions that I think it is good time to talk about antennas. The antenna you use can make a huge difference in how well you can communicate. While your transceiver is the heart of your station the antenna and feed line are the arteries transferring your signal to the world. Whether you are on an HT or a full legal limit all band, all mode super station you need a good quality antenna. The best transceiver attached to a poorly designed/installed antenna will not perform as well as an inexpensive lower power transceiver attached to a well-designed/installed antenna.

Whether you buy your antenna or homebrew your own, do a little research and ask experienced hams in the area for advice. If you are using an HT in portable mode then your options are limited. You can design and build a decent antenna but it will limit your portability. There are several good antennas on the market made specifically for HT's; Comet, Diamond, MFJ and others have good product lines. If you are setting up a mobile station then you will likely buy your antenna as well although there are some very good mobile designs available. Home brewing a mobile antenna does require more advanced antenna design/construction skills as it must be securely attached to the vehicle, be able to withstand considerable wind shear and remain aesthetically appealing. When designing your base station antenna system you want to consider the height above ground, feed line type/length, mounting system, output power, type of ground and HOA restrictions if any as well as any other local considerations (power lines, interference sources and etc.).

When considering antennas for the UHF/VHF frequencies and above use a good quality low loss feed line and get as much height as possible. While ducting occurs at times, most communications at UHF/VHF and above will be line of sight. The higher you can get the antenna the farther your signal will go. A good starter home brew 2M/70CM base antenna is a ground plane. All that is needed is a bulkhead connector (SO 239) some 12 gauge solid wire and a bit of solder. It is omni-directional, durable and with the proper paint/mount almost invisible. Dipoles are another good choice and are easy to build. A directional antenna will provide some gain if you want to work DX or SSB. There are many readily available antennas on the market, most require a bit of assembly. There are also numerous designs available on sites like QRZ.com, N4UJW (on Hamuniverse.com), ac6v.com and many others. A Yagi appears quite daunting at first but really is a nice project once you get started.

When considering an antenna for HF, the primary considerations are height, mounting/supports and real estate. HF antennas tend to take up a lot of space. The lower the band the larger the antenna. There are numerous designs for single band and multi-band antennas to either purchase or build. Some of the more popular designs are a random wire (you will need a tuner, preferably at the antenna), Zep, double Zep, G5RV, and of course various dipole designs. All of these type of wire antennas can be configured in numerous ways: sloper, inverted v, flat top and etc. The way the antenna is mounted will affect the way the signal is propagated so if you set one up and it does not work like you thought then try a different orientation. You can also build or purchase a directional, gain antenna for HF. Yagis, loops, quads and phased dipoles are all popular. Remember HF antennas tend to be large so consider your supports and surroundings carefully. As with any other antenna use the best feed line you can afford.

73



The 'Q' Code

The Q code was instituted at the Radiotelegraph Convention held in London in 1912 as a means of creating a 'shorthand' for use with Morse code. At that time, the Q code was intended for use by shipping. The code consists of a large number of three-letter groups beginning with 'Q', of which the groups QAA to QNZ were later reserved for the aeronautical service.

When radio was introduced to civil aviation in the early 1930s all radio communication was by wireless telegraphy (W/T). It should be noted that this included aeronautical point-to-point, as well as air-ground services.

Each code group had a specific meaning assigned which remained the same regardless of the language spoken by either operator, thus neatly overcoming the problem of communications on international services (the later move to voice communication by HF and VHF radio-telephone necessitated the adoption of English as the international language of aviation).



This photo shows the cockpit of an unidentified Australian National Airways (ANA) Douglas DC-4, c.1950.

At left sits the radio operator, with racks of radio equipment to his left. On his desk is a Morse key, as most air/ground radio communication until about the mid-1950s was by HF Morse between the aircraft and [Aeradio](#) (VHF was introduced in 1949).

This photo illustrates why only large aircraft carried radio in those days - the weight and space of the equipment and dedicated operator was prohibitive in smaller aircraft.

Q-Code Question ?

QBM Has ... sent a message for me?

QRB How far are you from my station?

QCB Delay

QCS Frequency Breakdown

QCX What is your full call sign?

QDB Have you sent message... to ...?

QIF What frequency is ... using?

QMH Shift Frequency

QRA What is the name of your station?

QRB How far are you from my station?

QRG Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of ...)?

QRH Does my frequency vary?

QRI How is the tone of my transmission?

QRJ Are you receiving me badly?

QRK What is the readability of my signals (or those of ...)?

QRL Are you busy?

Answer, Advise, or Order

Here is the message sent by ... at ... hours.

I am ____ km from you station

Delay is being caused by ... 1) your transmitting out of turn
2) Your slowness in answering 3) lack of your reply to my ...

My reception on ... frequency has broken down.

My full call sign is ... OR Use your full call sign until further notice

I have sent message ... to ...

... is using ... khz (or ... mhz.).

Shift to transmit and receive on ... (Mhz.); if communication is not established within 5 minutes, revert to present frequency.

The name of my station is ...

I am ____ km from you station

Your exact frequency (or that of ...) is ... (Mhz).

Your frequency varies.

The tone of your transmission is (1. Good; 2. Variable; 3. Bad).

I cannot receive you, your signal is too weak.

The readability of your signals (or those of ...) is ... (1 to 5).

I am busy. (or I am busy with ...) Please do not interfere.

QRM Are you being interfered with?	I am being interfered with.
QRN Are you troubled by static?	I am troubled by static.
QRO Shall I increase power?	Increase power
QRP Shall I decrease power?	Decrease power
QRQ Shall I send faster?	Send faster (... wpm)
QRS Shall I send more slowly?	Send more slowly (... wpm)
QRT Shall I stop sending?	Stop sending
QRU Have you anything for me?	I have nothing for you
QRV Are you ready?	I am ready.
QRW Shall I inform .. that you are calling him on .. Mhz?	Please inform ... that I am calling him on .. Mhz
QRX When will you call me again?	WAIT I will call you again at ... (hours) on ... Mhz
QRZ Who is calling me?	You are being called by ... on ... khz (or Mhz)
QSA What is the strength of my signals (or those of ...)?	The strength of your signals (or those of ...) is ... (1 to 5).
QSB Are my signals fading?	Your signals are fading.
QSD Is my keying defective?	Your keying is defective.
QSI Unable To Break in I have been unable to break in on your transmission. Or .. Will you inform ... (callsign) that I have been unable to break in on his transmission on ... khz (or Mhz.)	
QSK Can you hear me between your signals?	I can hear you between my signals.
QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?	I am acknowledging receipt.
QSN Did you hear me (or ... (call sign)) on .. Mhz?	I did hear you (or ... (call sign)) on ... khz (or Mhz).
QSO Can you communicate with ... direct or by relay?	I can communicate with ... direct (or by relay through ...).
QSV Shall I send a series of V's on this frequency (or ... Mhz)?	Send a series of V's on this frequency (or ... Mhz)
QSX Will you listen to ... (call sign(s) on ... (Mhz)?	I am listening to ... (call sign(s) on ... (Mhz)
Commonly used on the DX Packet Clusters to indicate where the DX station was listening or contacted during a split operation	
QSY Shall I change to transmission on another frequency?	Change to transmission on another frequency (or on ... (Mhz).
QSZ Shall I send each word or group more than once?	Send each word or group twice (or ... times).
QTH What is your station location?	My station location is...
QTR What is the correct time?	The correct time is ... hours
QTU What are the hours during which your station is open?	My station is open from ... to ... hours.
QTX Will you keep your station open for further communication with me until further notice (or until ... hours)? I will keep my station open for further communication with you until further notice (or until ...hours)	
QUA Have you news of ... (call sign)?	Here is news of ...(call sign).
QUC What is the number (or other indication) of the last message you received from me (or from .. (call sign))? The number (or other indication) of the last message I received from you (or from ... (call sign) is	



Public Information Officer (PIO)

Perry White KI4IBF

(H) (252) 441-7062

Perry White wants to remind everyone to view, use and enjoy our Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Outer-Banks-Repeater-Association/641515899271891>

Peter Bruck KK4JVJ, will be placing orders for vests, t-shirts and hats shortly. If you would like to an place order, the information below is helpful to decide if there are items you would like to purchase. All of the clothing items and specs are listed below. I can be contacted directly in order to save time and to place your order for immediate delivery. These will help us stay safe when we're in the field providing valuable communications during all events. Not to mention how professional we'll all look!

SAFETY VEST W/OBRA LOGO ON BACK

Radians SV55-2ZGD Heavy Duty Two-Tone Engineer Safety Vest - Yellow/ Lime

VEST COST \$50.00

EMBROIDERY COST \$15.00

TOTAL COST \$65.00

Bless



BASEBALL CAPS WITH OBRA LOGO


on the front and call sign on back

CAP TOTAL COST \$ 13.00

TEE-SHIRTS

Tee Shirts with OBRA Logo & name of radio operator on front and call sign on sleeve.

TEE-SHIRT TOTAL COST \$ 35.00

Peter can be reached at (252) 261-8549  (252) 261-8549 or via e-mail (peterb7293@aol.com) to place your order.

Contact Us

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

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BOB MULLIENS, AA3BM, IS PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT STATION FOR THE WRIGHT MEMORIAL BIRTHDAY THAT COMES ON DEC 17 2015 OUR SPECIAL EVENT STATION WILL BE SATURDAY DEC 12th 2015 LOCATION OF SITE WILL BE COMING AFTER THE FIRST OF THE



For Auld Lang Syne

Hatteras hams have not submitted any news this quarter.