

Thank you Outer Banks Community Foundation!!!!

With the changes that come with time, the local ham communities have seen much change in how we maintain the equipment necessary for us to communicate. Years ago ham radio operators did all their own maintenance work on the equipment that hams use, but over the years legal issues have necessitated that professional services be contracted to do the work previously done by ham operators at no cost, such as climbing towers to maintain antennas. This has become quite expensive and the cost is more than most ham clubs can afford.

Recently we realized that we needed to update our ham equipment in Dare County so we could provide reliable communications, especially for emergencies, but also to provide communications for the many community service events for which our members volunteer at no charge. Because an upgrade of our facilities was far more than our club could afford, we turned to the Outer Banks Community Foundation for help. With the help from the Outer Banks Community Foundation and the grant we obtained from them, we were able to update our local repeater system. This update has enabled us to increase our coverage area and expand the capabilities available to our ham population, especially during emergencies when we may be called upon to provide communication backup should the public systems fail. We have been able to step in to help in the past, and this grant will provide us the ability to have a reliable system so we can step in again should we be needed in an emergency, such as a hurricane.

For this we are extremely grateful and we thank the Outer Banks Community Foundation for helping us so we can continue to be available if needed.

**Jim Bailey, N4ACT
President
Outer Banks Repeater Association Inc**