

TEARA 2 METER NET CHRONICLES

Vol. I, Issue 07



NOTE! Promote Our Nets Often NOTE!
NOTE! Promote All Amateur Radio Nets Often NOTE!

BACKGROUND

The goal of this information source is to keep interested parties abreast of the amateur radio activities and other deemed pertinent ham related topics that are discussed during the TEARA club meeting each month and the TEARA 2 meter net held each Tuesday at 8:30 pm using the 147.390,+ , 88.5, FM 2 meter repeater located in Clayton, NC. The Chronicles may also include other topics of general interest to hams. Note that the net is not held on the date of the TEARA regular monthly meeting which is normally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

CONTRIBUTING

Any information that you may have that would be pertinent to the amateur radio participants of this club or its nets please send it to ki4fyr@bellsouth.net for inclusion in a future issue.

NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

So Far during the month of April, 2006 the TEARA 2 meter net handled 16 check-ins. A table and map showing the net activities to date is included as **Appendix A** of this document. The club is now back using the WB4IUY 147.390, +, 88.5 repeater (Dave Hockaday) that is located in Clayton, NC. The 147.390 repeater will be the primary repeater for future nets.

TEARA **(TRIANGLE EAST AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION)**

TEARA normally meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall of the Wendell Methodist Church, located in Wendell, NC. Individuals start arriving around 6:00 to 6:30 pm and may bring their dinner with them and socialize until the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. **Please give our club a visit and consider becoming a member.**

MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

If you have a technical, or non-technical, question that you would like to pose to the recipients of the TEARA 2 meter net Chronicles please send them to Larry Royster at ki4fyr@bellsouth.net. They will be included in a future issue of the Chronicles and any responses received will appear in following issues.

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

If you would like to be put on a direct email distribution list to receive a copy of the TEARA 2 meter net Chronicles please send an email to Larry Royster at ki4fyr@bellsouth.net. You can also request to be put on the distribution listing for the TEARA 6 meter net Chronicles. This publication is somewhat more technical in content than the 2 meter net Chronicles. Please note that your email, etc. information will not be provided to any other source! It will be used solely to include you in the email distribution of each Chronicle. Presently, 17 individuals have signed up to receive the TEARA 2 Meter Net.

REFERENCE MONTHLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2006						1
2	3	4 2 MET NET	5	6 6 MET NET	7	8
9	10	11 2 MET NET	12	13 6 MET NET	14	15
16	17	18 2 MET NET	19	20 6 MET NET	21	22
23	24	25 CLUB MEET.	26	27 6 MET NET	28	29
30						

**NOTE! 2 METER NET IS AT 8:30 PM AND 6 METER NET IS AT
7:30 PM (CHANGES TO 8:30 PM IN MAY)**

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for any discussions, data, etc. presented in all issues of the TEARA 2 meter net Chronicles rests upon the editors of each issue and does not necessary reflect the opinions of TEARA, its officers or members.

LET'S INCREASE OUR NUMBERS

Let's try to increase the number of hams and non-hams that check into the TEARA 2 and 6 meter nets. A couple of possible options for achieving this goal are as follows: **First**, if you know of an amateur radio operator in our area that might be interested in our clubs nets, Chronicles, etc. send all the information that you have about them to ki4fyr@bellsouth.net and they will be contacted. **Second**, if you know of someone that might be interested in becoming an amateur radio operator, invite them over to your radio shack and let them check in during any of TEARA's nets or other club nets.

The protocol for allowing a non-amateur radio licensed individual to use your radio is outlined in the following information that I received from Ronnie Reams, WA4MJF: The licensed operator has to be present and able to take control should the third party do something illegal. The third party can not make any adjustments that affect the transmitter. The third party can ID and operate the RTL (release to listen) control. The third party can only talk to other countries with a third party agreement with the US and all international third party traffic must be logged and the call signs of both the US and the other country must be given. The third party can do anything that the control operator can/allows the party to do, except make any adjustments that affect the transmitter. The third party can adjust the volume, squelch, listen on input, etc. , but can not change frequency, set CTCSS transmit tone, adjust power output, etc.

Just have this third party say, "(Net controller call sign), pause, this is (Call Sign Of The Control Operator), (Name), no traffic, over." Then the third party can respond as everyone else does to the net.

COMPUTER STUFF

Computers and Ham Radio

By Norman Young, KA4PUV



Hamcalc - back to the future...

I marvel at just how far we have come with personal computers in the last thirty or so years. The computer is now the brains for Internet access, scanners, CD and DVD players, cameras, and a whole host of other devices. In addition, there is software to do just about everything you can imagine.

Compare that to the early desktops with your basic monitor, printer, a 5.25 inch floppy or two, and maybe even a 20 meg hard drive. Programs were limited in size and variety, and if you wanted a program to do something not readily available on the open market, you had to write it yourself. For that, each operating system featured some version of the BASIC programming language. (BASIC is an acronym for Beginners All-Purpose Symbolic Instructional Code.) The early systems featured a variety of flavors, such as BASIC, BASICA, TRS-BASIC, AppleBASIC, and the “gold standard” for computer users, GWBASIC. Regardless of kind, all the languages were similar and if you learned to program in one version, it was relatively easy to translate the code into a different version.

The computer magazines of the 80’s regularly featured programs written in the various BASIC’s, and bookshelves were filled with programming guides. Most computer classes at the time consisted of an introduction to how to load and save programs, and the balance consisted of writing your own programs.

Writing simple programs was certainly easy enough. But the really good stuff took some doing, and even so, the results looked primitive by today’s standards. It’s a little like comparing Pac Man circa 1980 to the latest video games.

GWBASIC was long ago replaced with newer and more high tech languages. I have personally used a number of programming languages since that time, including QuickBasic and Visual Basic, each of which comes with its own

compiler to create executable files. However, the more versatile the language, the more difficult and less intuitive it is to master. For that reason, even after a quarter of a century, I still find myself reverting back to GWBASIC when I need to do a simple task quickly and there is nothing else readily available to get it done. The results don't always look all that impressive, but the job gets done, and gets done fast.

And I am by no means the only one still using this language. If you surf on over to <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/HamCalcem.html>, you'll be able to download one of the most interesting amateur radio packages on the net today. It's called "Hamcalc," and it is the brainchild of Canadian ham George Murphy, VE3ERP. This is not the slickest collection of ham radio programs you'll ever see, but it is the most diverse... and every one of them is written in GWBASIC! George has been working on Hamcalc for years, and every few weeks, he releases an updated version with new stuff on it. As of this writing, he is currently up to Version 84.

The download package includes everything you need to run it, including a copy of the GWBASIC interpreter, gwbasic.exe. And installation could not be easier. All you have to do is download the package and unzip it into a temporary folder on your desktop, insuring that you retain the path names. The temporary folder will contain one folder and two files, gwbasic.exe and ve3erp.bat. These three items need to be moved to your c:\ directory, and you're ready to go. You can click on the ve3erp.bat icon to launch Hamcalc, or create a shortcut to the desktop for it.

When you run Hamcalc, the first thing to come up will be a menu program that lists all the programs in the package. You'll use keystrokes (not the mouse - it's not supported), to access the programs. When you make your selection, the selected program will open automatically. You should never see any indication that you are running GWBASIC. (If for some reason you *do* find yourself in GWBASIC for whatever reason, just type in "system" or do <CTRL><ALT><DEL> to get Windows to bail you out. You can't hurt anything.)

The neat thing is that every one of these ham radio programs has something of a "retro" look about it that will remind the Oscar Foxtrots of days gone by, and give the newbies a glimpse of the way things used to be. It will also reveal whether your computer manufacturer was too cheap to install an internal speaker. If you hear sounds when you're supposed to, it's there, somewhere

inside the box. If you don't... well, GWBASIC never did have sound card support.

Still, the neat thing about VE3ERP's collection is that he makes maximum use of the language to do some very clever things. He uses color extensively, and has designed the menu program so that you never need to invoke GWBASIC.

However, if you want to learn (or refresh your memory on) how to use this old language, you can run GWBASIC and load the programs yourself. You can also modify them as desired.

But why bother? For one thing, GWBASIC is about the easiest programming language to learn. It's not fancy, but it is simple.

For another, think of GWBASIC as one of those multipurpose tools. You would not use one to build a house or rebuild a car engine, but when you need a screwdriver, pliers or knife for a simple job, that little multi-tool sure comes in handy. In the same way, GWBASIC provides you with a way to quickly throw something together to do multiple calculations or other tasks that cannot be done with anything you have on hand.

Finally, programming is sort of an electronic form of home-brewing. When personal computers initially hit the market, hams were among the first to exploit them and to write useful programs in one of the BASIC's. Radio programs written by hams were featured prominently in the offerings of shareware vendors at both computer shows and hamfests. Hamcalc carries on that fine tradition of hams rolling their own software, and it is an excellent source of programming examples if you want to learn how to do it yourself.

Of course, you don't need to know anything at all about GWBASIC to use Hamcalc, but if you want to learn, there are dozens of sites that offer tutorials, guides, and a multitude of programming examples. Just type "gwbasic" into any search engine and you'll see what I mean.

Regardless of whether you want to know the first thing in the world about programming in GWBASIC, give Hamcalc a try, and go back to the future.

And by all means, have fun!

FOOTNOTE: Lest anyone here accuse me of living in the past, before you do, ask yourself whether you have ever had a bad case of nostalgia for old code keys, AM or tube rigs. QSL?

WEATHER RELATED STUFF

(A) More Sun-Pillar (Ice) Pictures



(B) Web Site To Get Basic Data On Sun/Moon Rise, Set, Etc.

The following web site provides data with respect to the time of the sun rise/set and other related data for the moon rise/set/etc. for any location on the earth.

http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html

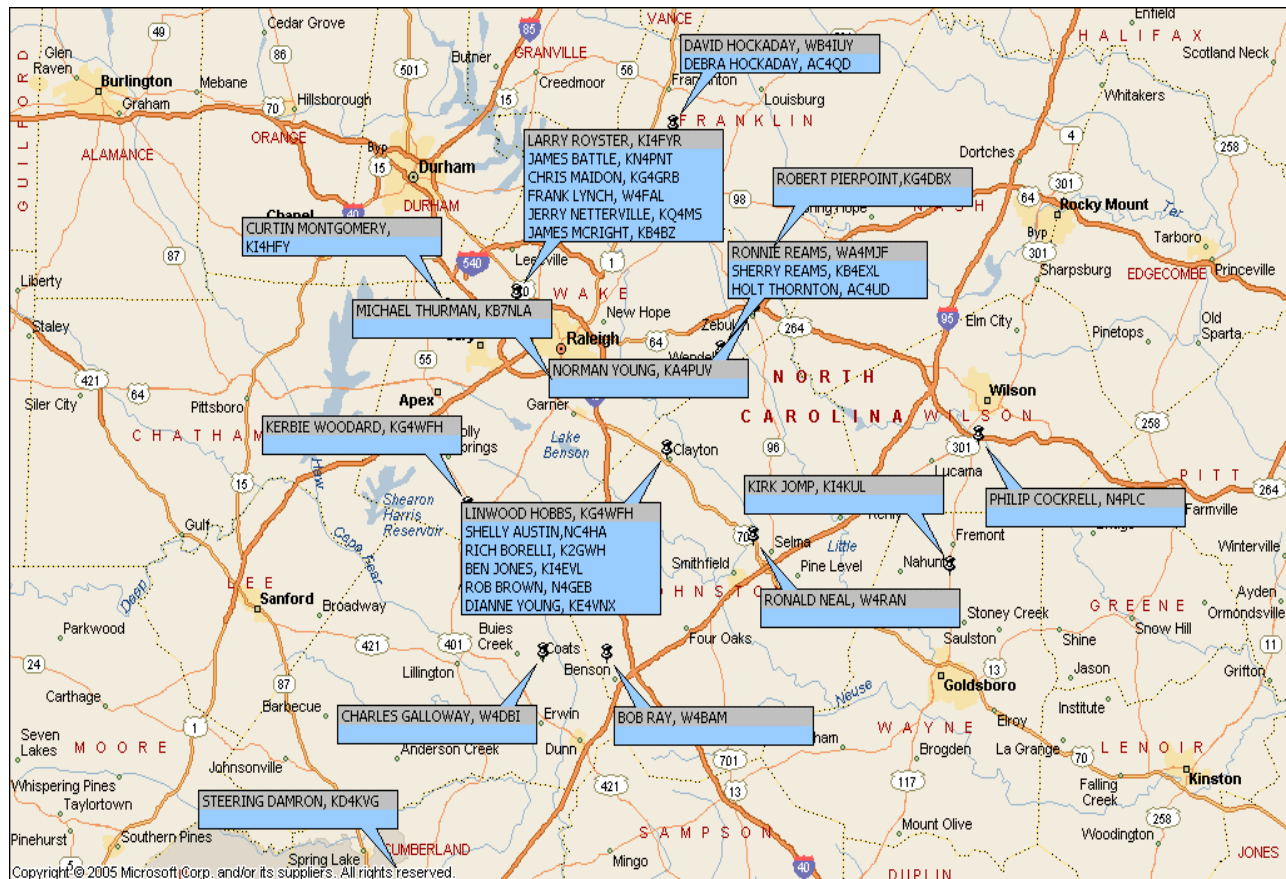
APPENDIX A

TABLE FOR MONTHLY CHECK INS/OUT TO THE TEARA 2meter TUESDAY NIGHT NET
MONTH APRIL YEAR 2006 WEEKS (1,2,3,4, OR 5)

Repeater Used: 147.39, dup+ , 88.5 tone, Clayton, NC, Dave Hockaday owner.

Note! (*) Net Caller, (**) In / Out

SEQ	I/O	I/O	I/O	I/O	I/O	CALL SIGN	NAME	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1		X*				AC4UD	HOLT THORNTON	WENDELL	
2	X	X				AF4XJ	LINWOOD HOBBS	CLAYTON	
3						AC4QD	DEBRA HOCKADAY	YOUNGSVILLE	
4						K2GWH	RICHARD BORELLI	CLAYTON	RICH
5	X	X				KA4PUV	NORMAN YOUNG	ZEBULON	
6						KB4BZ	JAMES MCRIGHT	RALEIGH	JIM
7	X*	X				KB4EXL	SHERRY REAMS	WENDELL	
8						KD4KVG	STEERING DAMRON	FAYETTVILLE	
9						KE4PNT	JAMES BATTLE	RALEIGH	RICK
10						KE4VNX	DIANNE YOUNG	CLAYTON	
11		X				KG4BDX	ROBERT PIERPOINT	PILOT	
12						KG4GRB	CHRIS MAIDON	RALEIGH	
13						KG4WFH	KERBIE WOODARD	FUQUAY VARINA	
14	X	X				KI4FYR	LARRY ROYSTER	RALEIGH	
	X	X		C			JULIE ROYSTER	RALEIGH	
15				L		KI4HFY	CURTIS MONTGOMERY	MORRISVILLE	
16				U		KI4EVL	BENJAMIN JONES	CLAYTON	
17				B		KI4KUL	KIRK JOMP	PIKESVILLE	
18						KQ4MS	JERRY NETTERVILLE	RALEIGH	JAY
19				M		N4PLC	PHILIP COCKRELL	WILSON	
20				E		N4GEL	ROBERT BROWN	CLAYTON	
21				E		NC4HA	HAROLD AUSTIN JR	BEAUFORT	SHELLY
				T					
22				I		W4RAN	RONALD NEAL	SELMA	
23				N		W4BAM	BOB RAY	BENSON	
24	X	X		G		WA4MJF	RONNIE REAMS	WENDELL	
25	X	X				WB4IUU	DAVE HOCKADAY	YOUNGSVILLE	
26						W4DBI	CHARLES GALLOWAY	COATS	
27						W4FAL	FRANK LYNCH	RALEIGH	
28						KB7NLA	MICHAEL THURMAN	GARNER	MIKE
TEARA						WA4UQC	CLUB CALL SIGN	WENDELL	
DATES	4	11	18	25					
TOTS	7	9				TTS=			



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