



Linear Lines for March 2009

Welcome to the Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) newsletter. It is published to serve you! We hope you find it informative, useful, and maybe even a little entertaining. The newsletter is dependant on information submitted by its readers, so please get to work and start sending us information you think others would like to read to smeyer1@sc.rr.com.

2009 Charlotte Hamfest News

AI4SX

The Charlotte Hamfest was held at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center in Concord NC this year and it was a good thing! It rained the entire time I was there but, the entire event was held indoors in a spacious modern facility. No fuss, no muss. It was easy to find, easy to park, and easy to purchase tickets at the door. Once inside it was well run and easy to move around in. The event was smaller than the Orlando HamCation event but on the other hand, it was a lot closer. This was the first event I've seen with substantial new equipment dealer discounts posted right on the cartons. I saw a lot of new equipment marked down well below catalog prices. As usual, I had a couple of current catalogs along to check prices. Time will tell if this phenomenon is because of the current economy mess or if Charlotte is the place to shop. If you are in the market for new equipment, now might be the time to call the dealers and check for deals. The Charleston area was out in force and I say a lot of familiar faces.



The ARRL Booth



Ted K7OM/4, Bob K4RSP, Bob AI4SX



Bob K4RSP, Vince K4AOC, Dave NJ4F



Nice setup

An Announcement from Greg Johnson, WA7TSP

FREE AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

APRIL 25 & 26 8AM TO 5PM

**AMERICAN RED CROSS CHAPTER OFFICE
8085 Rivers Ave, N. Charleston**

Study guide available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>

order product # 9639. \$24.95

Please read chapters 1 through 7 before class

License testing following the class at 3PM on
Sunday

\$12.00 Testing Fee

Please contact Greg Johnson to reserve a spot for this
class. johnsongreg@usa.redcross.org

or

Wa7tsp@arrl.net

Or

Phone 843-412-8913

Knowing the Phonetic Alphabet Pays Off

An e-mail from Ed Steeble, K3IXD

TARC,

This was sent to me by the sponsor of K4DMS, DuBose Middle School Radio Club, Alene Wilkins, KG4NKD. She is a science teacher. Both the students mentioned are active members of K4DMS.

73, Ed
K3IXD

Hi Ed,

Sarah, KI4ZGQ, came by during courtyard to talk to me yesterday. Both she and Joe were involved in the Quest competition the day before - in fact both did very well. Joe took the "Overall Best" for the competition. Quest is a "Trivia -type" contest about Social Studies, Science, Math (I think) and Debate (I think).

Well, anyway, Sarah wanted to me to know that one of Joe's questions was, "What 2 figures in literature and 2 dances are represented in the phonetic alphabet - alpha, bravo, charlie."

Joe was the only one in the entire competition able to answer: Romeo and Juliet & the foxtrot and tango. Afterwards he wrote on some board "Thank You, Mrs. Wilkins". I do not think Joe specifically thanked anyone else for his ability to answer any of the other questions.

Now, since this competition is between middle schools, I believe throughout the state - guess who gets to brag about his students coming in so high in the science portion of the competition. I also want to thank you - without you - Joe probably would not know his phonetic alphabet.

Thanks,

Alene
KG4NKD

A Few Words of Wisdom from Pete, W2GJ

I wish to commend Alene Wilkins for her commitment to Ham Radio programs in a school environment and Ed Steeble for his support and inspiration as an outside the school mentor/Elmer for the DuBose Middle-School program.

The obvious influence of the Ham Radio program on Young Joe points to "value" of such extracurricula programs in the school's overall reason for being: that is to educate our young

minds, to open the minds of young people to many real experiences above and beyond "just the basic three R's...Reading, Riting and 'Rithmetic" and to develop problem solving skills that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. Properly integrated into school programs, Ham Radio can be a catalyst for all of the above...and more.

Unfortunately, not all school administrators view extracurricula activites such as Ham Radio as "worth the effort." In fact, they worry that the students will tend to focus on an extracurricula activity rather than strive for superb results in the three R's...which are the measures of the administrator's performance at the end of the day. Very little credit is given to the administrator by his superiors for having great extracurricula programs in this day and age where huge emphasis is placed on "No child left behind (in the three R's)."Hence, we have a hurdle to clear when approaching the various schools where a Ham Radio activity might germinate, and eventually flourish. The "value" of a Ham Radio program must be made clearly evident to the administrator.

I picked up my pen today for one reason: I thank my lucky stars that when I was in middle school in 1952, I was "Joe." An "Alene" science teacher of mine saw my interest in amateur radio (I was already a General Class licensee @13wpm) and she guided (goaded) me on a Ham Radio electronic science project that she felt was worthy of submission to a National Science Foundation competition in Washington, DC. Subsequently, I placed in the top three Nationwide and won a \$1,000 treasury bond. I, too, wrote my "Alene" a note of thanks in the school's student paper. I also credit this experience for heightening my interest in electronics, which was the basis for my career, even today, almost 60 years later. On to the conclusion....

The Ham Radio activity in any school requires an inside sponsorship (like Alene) and an outside system of mentors (like Ed Steeble). Any such program can only thrive if the administrator is on board and, in best case, is involved in the program. If any one of the three are missing, a building process is required. I encourage members of our local clubs to become involved in such programs. Not everyone will find this to be of interest to them; on the other hand , there are many of you who have the skills and mentoring experiences that could help another "Joe" to become successful in his own right...as well as be a contributor in our Nation's society. And, oh by the way, I guarantee that "Joe" will not be left behind!!!

Please feel free to pass this on to anyone not in the distribution list, but who can be part of the Ham Radio in schools program.

73

Peter Radding, WN3TXL, W3TXL, W2DIQ, W2GJ, C6APR

Guess the Ham Terms

AI4SX

If any of the following guessing games sound familiar let me know the source. If you have a good one, send it in. I would like to publish all the guesses either right or wrong. I think the answers would be entertaining. Dave, NJ4F and Vince, K4AOC correctly guessed all three.

Last month's hints were:

- A receiver type that could "re-grow" on you. Answer, Regenerative
- An all female Navy division guide would be one. Answer, Wave Guide
- A type of plastic insulated transmission line with rectangular holes. Answer, Window Transmission line

This month's hints are:

- It's great for propagation or sight seeing!
- An energy drink could give you some but real hams prefer a transmitting system.
- My favorite dog or a contester who won't stay in one place.

Please send me your Net and VHF/UHF News!
If it is not listed here you didn't submit it!

VHF Digital Net, net control is Skip (KH6TY).

Drop in and visit the net (2100 Sunday, 2000 Wednesday, 145.000.) No repeater or SSB radio is required! Just run DominoEx8 on your FM rig! If you need any help running DominoEx8 email Skip or contact Bob (AI4SX).

See you all soon and thanks to all that submitted material for this newsletter!

73, Bob, AI4SX