

Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club

a IRC 501 (c)(3) Entity
Post Office Box 1208
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May 19, 2003

To: **Current and Former Club Members**
From: Club President
Glenn Adams, KD4TLC
Subject: Club Update

I just want to take a minute of your time to update you on some things that have been happening recently with G.A.A.R.C.

After numerous trips up and down Crowder's Mountain, I feel like we have finally resolved the majority of our repeater problems. We had tried operating with mobile PA's in the repeater since the club's continuous duty PA was removed for repairs in 1998. In fact, three GE mobile PA's had been blown and we were operating for a time on exciter power only. Also, the transmit antenna had been damaged, and was removed for a period of time for repair. The transmit antenna has since been repaired and installed higher and with new, stronger brackets. With the hard work and ingenuity of a few dedicated members of the club, we have obtained and installed a continuous duty Motorola PA for our repeater. This PA is producing an output of approximately 68 Watts with a 'flat SWR'. We have been getting excellent signal reports from amateurs all around the area. In fact, within minutes of the PA installation, Frank (KC4WXJ) had a QSO with a ham down in Bladenboro, North Carolina, which is about 10 miles east of Lumberton, or 160 miles from the repeater as the crow flies. The above efforts should produce an extended period of high quality radio communication for all amateur operators in the area.

The club is also in the process of having an 8' x 12' building constructed to house the backup repeater at the backup site on Whetstone Mountain in Bessemer City. This building should be completed in the near future and our backup repeater should be fully operational.

As you know, the maintenance of a club repeater can be a financial burden, especially when the equipment gets older and needs to be replaced or repaired. Also, our Crowder's Mountain location comes at a price as we have to pay a monthly rent to McSwain Communications to keep our repeater there. Financially supporting a repeater is strictly a voluntary decision for each amateur to make. The G.A.A.R.C. repeater is open for use to all licensed amateur radio operators and this makes no difference if the user is a paying club member or not. However, only a small number of amateur operators have recently financially supported the 146.805 repeater, and many have contributed far more than the \$25 annual dues to keep it going. If you are a former member of this club, we would like to ask you to consider renewing your membership, at \$25 annually. If you are a former member choosing not to renew your membership, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the club to help keep the repeater on the air. All dues/donations can be sent to the club address above, or given at the regular club meeting.

Again thank you for your support, and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 704-629-2211, email me at glenn@adams-hook.com, or give me (KD4TLC) a call on the 146.805 frequency.

If you have not attended a club meeting recently, please plan now to attend soon. Our regular monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Eastridge Mall Community Room (downstairs next to Dillard's).

Til later....73's Glenn

