

President's Message Fall 2022

The past couple of months have been busy ones for the club. We have registered several new members and a few others will be joining us over the next few weeks.

Our continued work with the community is very much appreciated by those we serve. The Tour de Greene bicycle tour was a wonderful success with approximately 100 riders participating in one of 3 biking tours around the county and in part through three adjoining counties.

Our communication skills as amateur radio participants came in handy very quickly after the tour began. Within the first hour a rider fell due to a fallen branch in the road another had a flat and a third experienced a muscle cramp. All individuals were helped, and no one was seriously injured.

I worked one of the fixed station rest areas and as the bikers stopped for water, snacks and a restroom break it was heart warming to have every single person thank us for being there to help. This in part is what the hobby is truly all about.

Another facet of the club is to backup the county's Sheriff if his communications go down. Each month Steve, KN4AOB and I do a maintenance test of the equipment in the Amateur Radio Room at the Sheriff's office complex. We maintain that room at the ready if called into service by the Sheriff Steve Smith.

In October, Steve, KN4AOB and myself implemented an extensive radio test with the help of 7 other club members throughout the county of Greene to determine the "Dead zones" for both our local 2 meter repeater, AA4DH and a simplex frequency. This information is being compiled and mapped and will be given to the leaders of our local emergency services for their use.

Club participants were, Jennifer, KN4UEJ, Jim, KQ4AVP, Bobby, KZ4RTS (Formerly KN4HCG), Allen, AG4VA, Larry, KO4CCP, and Mariel, N4LST.

Our club continues to offer Volunteer Examiner test sessions during the odd numbered months of the year. Check our website, www.gcvarc.net, for the schedule.

Our club is also closely affiliated with the local ARES group with each of the ARES members being members of the club.

There is a Virginia statewide emergency test coming up on November 19th and many ARES and club members will participate in that exercise as well. I will report those results in the next President's Message later this year.

Please remember to have your batteries charge and equipment at the ready for any emergency. People's lives may depend on it.

Be well, 73.
Bill, K4FZE