ROANOKE DIVISION CONVENTION

http://rars.org/rarsfest/

Raleigh, NC

April 19, 2014

Trip Report

The Roanoke Division Convention was hosted by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and located at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC. The event took place in one of several large buildings on the property, and all activities including the flea market were indoors. This was fortunate because of very rainy weather on the convention day.

Holding a convention on the day before Easter struck me as odd, but the explanation makes sense. The fairgrounds are not usually available for just one day, and the rental is too expensive for a local radio club to pay. However, because of the religious holiday on Sunday, the management is willing to rent a building for Saturday alone at a reasonable price. Otherwise they would get no income at all from the property on Easter weekend. The date may affect attendance, because hams living a long distance away may be deterred from coming if they are unable to get home again in time for observances on Sunday. However, if the arrangement pleases the locals, that is fine with me.

The ARRL booth was well placed in the building. A DXCC card checker had a great deal of work to do and completed it efficiently. The North Carolina Section Manager and several of his staff worked at the booth with Director Bodson, Norm Fusaro, and me. Vice Director Boehner was unable to attend because of a last-minute family situation. I did not see any Section Managers from other Sections of the Division. Among the North Carolinians helping at the booth was Christopher Tate KJ4UBL, the young ham who appears in our centennial video and serves on the PR committee.

The program included an ARRL forum which the Director and I conducted and a centennial-related form conducted by Norm Fusaro. The ARRL forum was moderately well attended. Questions and comments were constructive. Several people expressed dislike for the format of digital QST. They would prefer the format used by the QCWA journal’s electronic edition. Norm reported that attendance at his forum was poor.

The sponsors of the event were very appreciative of the ARRL presence.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN

President