

Ham Chatter



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May 2023

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Making a Big Decision -- Together
From the ARRL (April 20,2023)
Page 4

BARC General meeting May 9, 6:30pm
All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville, NC. Access is at the parking lot.

Speaker:
“Solar Powered Portable Operations”
Hosted by John Leonardelli VE3IPS

June 13, 2023
Field Day Prep Meeting

Oct 10, 2023 Speaker:
Dale Burmester
About FT8 Digital mode.



A report of a silent key, a BARC club member from long ago, WD4JAD George Ron Dale. Funeral will be next Sunday at Wilkerson's, [Obituary information for George Ronald Dale \(wilkersonfuneralhome.com\)](#)

50/50 drawing re-starting

At the BARC meeting.
\$1 a ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.
50% to Club and 50% to winner of the night.

Repeater Update page 22

ELMERS WANTED

Need folks willing to help others get their license, learning or with help on their radio needs.
Please contact hamchatter@w4amc.com
A list will be made of those willing to help and in what area for those looking for help.

BARC Board Meeting - May 30 2023. The meeting will be on ZOOM at 7:00 PM. All members invited. See Zoom information.

Speaker

John Leonardelli VE3IPS

I am active on all bands and all modes and also enjoy QRP, SOTA and Portable Ops

I enjoy building QRP radios, homebrew, antenna work and experimentation.

I am using the following radios:

Icom 7610, 7300, 746pro, 756Proii, 703, 7200 and the 705

Yaesu 991, 891, 817, 818, FT-100D, FTDX-3000

Xiegu G90 - sold

Drake 4 Line

Yaesu FT101E

I use my Full legal limit linear amplifiers when needed but my focus is on low power QRP activities.

Several military manpack radios - Classified as LRRP missions are still ongoing in the XXXXXX zone

AB5Fc6

Several QRP radios from kits or home brew

Operated as 6Y5IPS in Jamaica with over 150 Dstar contacts from the beach and 1st place in Winter Field Day

Operated as XE3 in Oaxaca, Mexico, VK3 Australia, JA1 Japan, I/VE3IPS in Italy, VX3HIRAM/150, CF3BP

Transatlantics for Edward S Rogers

Antennas: Chameleon MPAS, Chameleon Emcomm, Chameleon TD, Chameleon TD Lite, Buddistick with lots of extras, Super Antenna MP1, Super Antenna MP Screwdriver, Hustlers and Hamstick, PackTenna mini and the regular ones - all the baluns, LDG baluns, Hygain 12avq, MFj 43 footer with 160/80/40m coils, OCFD, NVIS antennas, T2FD, AT-271

I am also a Volunteer Examiner with over 90 hams licensed from 13 years old to 65 years old.

Active in the York Region Amateur Radio Club and ARES

Licensed for Experimental VLF transmissions - beacon is down currently pending a new antenna system

I blog at ve3ips.wordpress.com and suggest you take a look to see what I am up to as I share some ideas that may be of interest to you.

Icom 705 owners go look here

<https://ve3ips.wordpress.com/2020/07/27/getting-ready-for-the-icom-705-delivery-for-september-2020/>

<https://ve3ips.wordpress.com/2018/04/03/drum-roll-please-6y5ips-takes-1st-place-in-winter-field-day/>

<https://ve3ips.wordpress.com/2018/01/15/packtenna-mini-11-balun-arctic-field-test/>

Speakers

October 10, 2023 Speaker Dale Burmester about FT8 Digital mode.

Dale Burmester, KA9SWE, has been a ham radio operator since 1985 and has held an Amateur Extra license for the last decade. Dale made his first digital mode HF contact using PSK31 in 2009 and continued on his HF digital mode journey using JT65 in 2010, JT9 in 2013, FT8 in 2017, and FT4 in 2019. The KA9SWE log-book contains over 28,000 entries with LOTW confirmed 5 Band Worked All States and 202 DXCC contacts. A Kenwood TS-480SAT running 25 Watts or less into a vertical multi-band antenna is responsible for the majority of those contacts. In 2015, Dale placed 1st in the CQ WW 160m DX contest "Single Operator - Low Power - WI" category. The KA9SWE shack runs Ham Radio Deluxe, WSJT-X, and JT-Alert on a Windows 11 PC. Dale is also a registered professional engineer in the state of Wisconsin and manages the Economic and Stakeholder Planning team at ATC (<https://atcllc.com>).

The "Chris Keen Memorial Unfest" Tailgating Extravaganza!

UNFest (Local Hamfest) (Tail-Gate FREE Hamfest)

May 6, 2023 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

First PH Church, Goldsboro, NC (Parking lot) 1100 The First Church Rd, Goldsboro, NC

Contact: Pete Wene, WA5T pete@wene.net

Making a Big Decision -- Together From the ARRL (April 20,2023)

Dear member,

For only the second time in 22 years, we are considering a dues increase. Promoting and protecting amateur radio requires a strong and vibrant ARRL. Paying our dues (and some of you go above and beyond) is one way each of us does our part.

In my column in the April issue of QST ([read now](#)), I introduced the following question:

How does ARRL handle an increase in dues?

On May 1, we will launch an online survey, inviting all ARRL members to participate. The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity to share your feedback. The participation of every member is important.

Do this before May 1: Review your ARRL website account

Before you can take the survey in May, you'll need to make sure you have a working ARRL website account that is associated with your membership.

Follow these steps:

Go to www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey . This is a member-only page.

If you are already logged in to your account, you'll see CONGRATULATIONS! on the members-only page that will host the survey in May.

If you are NOT already logged in to your account, follow the instructions on the page to log in. Or, select the Login button at the top of the web page, and you will be prompted to enter your ARRL website username (usually your call sign) and password. If you have not logged in since April 2022, please use these [Login Instructions](#). The survey will open on May 1. Return to this web page to take the survey on, or after, May 1: www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey.

If you need additional help with your login, call us Monday - Thursday from 8 AM to 7 PM ET, and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM ET at 860-594-0200 or email us at membership@arrl.org.

We'll send an update on May 1 once the survey is live.

Thank you for being a member and collaborating on this big decision.

73

David A. Minster, NA2AA
Chief Executive Officer

VE News

To find the next VE testing session please go to the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session> and find one in your local area.

Practice taking the test on line with <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com>.
hamradioPrep.com
HamStudy.org

Study material at: <http://www.arrl.org/courses-training>.

The contents of this Newsletter doesn't necessarily express the opinion or views of Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club or it's members. No offence is intended.

Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays :

05-09 KD4NGW Jack
 05-20 W3LPR Louis
 05-26 NG9T Gary

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. If yours is missing, I don't have it! Email hamchatter@w4amc.com

Next VE Session

Please bring to the Test the following, required:

- Photo ID (drivers license)
- Original Amateur Radio License
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Original CSCE's
- Copy of CSCE
- Test fee (Cash) .
- ♦ FRN number is required. *
- ♦ A valid Email address will need to be provided.

See this link for further information: <https://w4amc.com/get-your-license-ve/>

Gil Cartoons Courtesy of ARRL's 2021 Calendar(2020) and Gil, a Collection of Classic Cartoon from QST(1986-2007)

Articles in the Chatter may be from the ARRL Newsletters, ARES Newsletters and Section Managers. Others may be Material provided by others. Please respect possible copyrights.

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

SK WD4JAD George Ron Dale. Condolences to the Family.

Brad Brechtelsbauer KG4ZVM, Fighting Cancer.

Please inform the Vice President and Ham Chatter of any changes or needs. This can be of death announcements, sickness or prayers requested.

Presentation Ideas Needed

Please send ideas of new presentation topics and presenters to our VP Judy W3JUJ
 Email: info@w4amc.com

BARC Needs YOU!

BARC needs to know where You think we should go as a Club. Service the Community, Contesting, Teaching, Elmering, What? Give us your thoughts.

In This Issue

Presidents Corner - KN4FZB	6
Presidents Corner—NG9T	14
Greetings from High	20
Yabba and other Clubs	29
ARES/EmComm	33
Columns from the Past or new postings	
W1AW Operating	
ARRL Emails, News and Radio in the News	40
Hurricane Resources	55
Nets:	56
Ham AD's	58
BARC & PARC Calendar of Events	61

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BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB



Dear Members:

Well, you may have missed the best picnic ever! It was the first "The BARC -n- The PARC" picnic held on Saturday 4/29/23 at 11am at the Clark's Neck Fire Department building between Washington and Greenville. The master grillers were Gary and Jorge, who did a fine job grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers over a real charcoal grill. Delicious! Sides were provided by too many to list here but are all thanked for their efforts to make this a success. About 30 people were in attendance and a lot of rag chewing went on between the members of the two clubs. We started with queso and chips, moved on to coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, cornbread, salad, and many other dishes that filled the plates to the very edge. Then you cannot forget the deserts like fresh Key Lime Pie, a delicious apple bake, cookies of all descriptions and cakes. I cannot remember all the items as a food fog set in after I was full! Many drinks were brought to wash down the great picnic. And finally, thank you to those who donated to the "tip" jars. We offered \$11 to the fire department and \$20.42 to the ENC Repeater Association. Here are some pictures:

73 Beth, KN4FZB.











BARC Board Meeting on Zoom 4/25/23

Voting Board members: (need 4)

- President: Beth KN4FZB,
- V.Pres: Judy W3JUU,
- Secretary: Peter N4PVH,
- Treasurer: Dave W4EJ,
- Trustee #1: Bill W4SLC
- Trustee #2: Scott K9SPJ

Non Voting Committee Members:

- Gerald KN4CKL, VE
- Webmaster: PVH,
- Ham Chatter Editor: Mark Raysin,
- Susan Jones.
- Dave Langley W4YDY (OM)
- Pete WA5T, ENC Repeater Association W4NBR
- NOT PRESENT:
- Public Relations/Historian: Sherry
- QSL/Equipment: Richard
- VE Liaison: -

Items for discussion:

—
Dave: Treasury: \$3400 approx. in checking.

Expenses, upcoming:

Upgrade battery & solar to trailer. Need estimate from PVH

Renew W4AMC \$35 to WA4SLC to get this done

Memorial for rick Lamonica - done

Eileen T Van Houten Memorial to Rocking Horse Ranch donation - done with many thanks from PVH

—
Judy: Program: May 9 Solar Power, Jun 13 Beth and FD prep

Need 3 speakers for Jul 11, Aug 8, Nov 14.

Dec 12 party, waiting to hear from Emanuel Church, alternative at the Library

Suggestion by Dave wood for July: Murray Adams CYC0 presentation

—
Beth: Cookout on Sat. "BARC the PARC" picnic and tailgate

cookout on Saturday, 4/29/23 starting at 11:00, eating at 12:00. The location is Clark's Neck Fire Department 3797 Warton Station Rd, Washington, NC 27899. Family and friends are welcome to come along. Bring along something to share. Please let me know if you have any questions.

—
Auxcom training report by Judy...

—
Pete Wene: May 6th, 6th annual Unfest 8-12 Goldsboro at the 1st PH church, Goldsboro.

Grifton Repeater 146.685 poor functioning since 2019? At 1600' , Have a new antenna, repeater, link radio, etc... to put up there but has to have a professional go up the tower with liability insurance.

Please support the effort by joining the ENC repeater group, ENCrepeater.org pete@wene.net
Needs \$2500 for a professional to climb the tower.

New Members

Dennis chapman, K4JUJ, full membership.

Christopher Garris, no call, associate membership

New Activity:

POTA activation: <https://ncpota.org/rules/>, Sept 9-10
(same weekend as MS bike in New Bern however).

Respectfully Submitted, Peter N4PVH.



Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner



4/3/2023

Hi Ham Friends and PARC Members,

I hope that everyone is doing well. I am a little behind on my Club updates, so I will try to hit all of the highlights. I'm not going to complain about working on the house in Cape Carteret, it's almost done and everyone is probably tired of hearing me whine about it hihhi!!

80m Net: Tomorrow night (Every Tuesday) at 7:00pm. Net control for April will be George Armistead KD4MTN. Frequency is 3.807mhz if the freq is free and quiet. Otherwise, look for the Net Control in between 3.800-3.820mhz

2m Net: The PARC 2m net is changing to twice monthly, on the 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month. The net is held at 8:00pm on the Bath repeater 146.955 PL 131.8 Alternate repeater is the Washington Repeater (Chocowinity) 147.255 PL131.8 It would seem that holding net on 1st and 3rd Thursdays would make more sense but the PARC monthly meetings fall on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We had an awesome turnout last month on the extra day so we may go to every Thursday minus the meeting nights. If you would like to volunteer to be a net control operator, please let me know. Everyone should have some experience with calling a net, we do them to practice for a real emergency. We live in hurricane country!!

VE Exams: Next exam date is May 13. Exams are given by appointment only. Our VE Coordinator is Tom Kottke, WT4TK, ably assisted by Al Mullis K4GOE. You can contact Tom at tkottke@centurylink.net to schedule an exam.

April PARC Meeting: April 20 Thursday at 7:00pm
Zion Episcopal Church
7302 Hwy 264 E
Washington, NC 27889

+++++ UPCOMING EVENTS+++++

RARSFEST The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's yearly Hamfest is this upcoming Saturday, April 8th.8:00am to 3:00pm If you have a table reserved you can drive inside the building if you arrive between 6am-7:30am or on Friday from noon to 7:00pm. Preregistration is closed and a table at the door is \$27 and admission is \$12. There are many vendors this year and you can see a list of them at rarsfest.org plus there are many drawings for prizes. Look for the PARC Banner above our tables.

New Bern Amateur Radio Club, Battle of New Bern Adventure Day If you can't make it to RARSFEST, then you can always go to New Bern for a fun afternoon. The Battle of New Bern

Adventure Day is a Civil War reenactment and the New Bern Club will have a ham station set up and will be using a special event callsign of N4B. The last I heard, they were asking for CW operators. The New Bern club contact person is John Riley KO4OFO Jriley@dsbscience.com The activities will run from noon to 4:00pm

ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB Sunday April 16, six hours from 1800-2359utc. Details can be found at ARRL.ORG

World Amateur Radio Day Held every April 18 from 0000utc Apr 18 to 0000utc Apr 19. This is a celebration of Amateur Radio and is not a contest! Get online and have fun. For details, visit www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day

PARC-BARC Cookout Scheduled for Saturday, noon, on April 29. Brightleaf President Beth Gonzalez KN4FZB and myself are looking for a good location. Wildwood Park in Greenville is OUT due to their rates of \$100 hour with 2 hour minimum. When we have the definite details we will let everyone know. This is a social event (no radio operations) and hopefully we can turn it into an annual event. I'm looking forward to it and hope that you are as well!!

2023 Field Day Yes, it's coming up quickly!! June 24-25. Time to plan! The location of Goose Creek State Park is not going to work out for PARC this year. Cheryl McGuire KX4EC and myself are looking for a suitable location for this year's Field Day, prefer to have indoor (AC!) and restroom facilities. Contact Cheryl or myself if you know of a good location with parking and room for antennas.

+++++TIDBITS of Interest [+++++](#)

QRP Operating If you receive the QST Magazine (and you SHOULD IMHO) there is a nicely written article about Thomas Witherspoon K4SWL of Swannanoa, NC, the owner/editor of the SWLING Post and QRPer.com. I enjoy QRP CW and am usually operating at 5watts or less in CW mode, so I have really been enjoying the posts that K4SWL writes and the ones that he shares written by other hams. He has a great no-ad YouTube channel and he posts his POTA activations with very little editing so you can experience his activations in real time. Thomas has a wide variety of QRP rigs and antennas plus all the extras that we need when we operate in the field. Look for all the posts at www.QRPer.com

Emergency on the AIR!! My good friend and fellow ham Anthony KD3Y in Newport shared this tidbit with me earlier this afternoon. He was hanging out on 7.188mhz around 2am on the 3905 Century late net. Part way through the net someone broke in with emergency traffic. There was an airplane somewhere and a door blew off. The pilot asked everyone to clear the frequency as an Air Traffic Controller was talking him down to a safe landing. Everyone cleared the frequency and listened as the ATC guided the pilot through a list of procedures. Anthony was unsure of the location of the emergency but it may show up on the news.

OK my many friends, that is all I have for now. Have a great week, and a wonderful Easter. He is Risen!

73 de NG9T dit dit

Upcoming Events:

Club Meetings:

Good Evening all,

April 24, 2023

I hope that you all have had a great weekend!!

We had a great turnout (in person and Zoom) at our April meeting Thursday. Thanks for the attendance and for all of the contributions that so many of you made during our Q&A session. We still have to do a little bit of work on our Zooming as the online attendees' verbal input was garbled for some reason. I tested it with Dave W3DET before the meeting and it was fine. Not sure what changed.....we will get there. A special Thanks to Lee Hemink WD4JFR for his input on Echolink, to Wayne Estabrooks KB1WE for his input on repeater linking and providing the handouts (with very short notice, my fault) and to Scott James K9SPJ for sharing his technical knowledge with us.

Attached are the meeting minutes. Read at your convenience and let me know if you have any questions and/or input.

The First Annual PARC-BARC Spring Cookout is **this** coming Saturday, April 29, from 11:00am until 3:00pm. Plan to eat around noon. I would like to recap a few things in case there was any confusion or questions.

Location:

Clark's Neck Fire Department
3797 Wharton Station Rd
Washington, NC 27889

The easiest route is to turn off of HWY 264 between Greenville and Washington at Cratche's Mini Mart and the fire station is half of a mile Across the store on the right.

Please do not block the fire trucks when parking.

Don't forget to RSVP TO BETH GONZALEZ KN4FZB at info@w4amc.com

I am covering the grill, charcoal and accessories. Also cole slaw and cooler of ice and bottled water.

BARC is covering the burgers, dogs, buns, and condiments.

PARC is covering plates, utensils, napkins, etc.

Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert.

Spouses, children and any friends interested in Ham Radio are invited. **Include head count in your RSVP.**

I am looking forward to seeing everyone Saturday!!!

Pamlico Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes April 20, 2023

Call to Order: President Gary NG9T called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm with 19 members present and via ZOOM, guest BARC President Beth Gonzales KN4FZB, BARC/PARC member Dave Wood W4EJ, and PARC members Dave Tabbutt W3DET and Tim Cashion KQ4CEN.

Pledge of Allegiance and Member Introductions.

Meeting Minutes: Lee WD4JFR 1st motion to accept March meeting minutes Scott K4WSP 2nd

Treasurer's Report: Available United Bank balance is \$2,839.78.

Repeaters: Wayne KB1WE states that the new Yaesu Choco Repeater Is up and running. He is going to do some fine tuning on levels.

VE Examinations: Tom WT4TK / Al K4GOE will be sharing the position of VE Coordinator for the next testing session. The next exam date is May 13, 2023 at the EOC one person is currently signed up. Pre-registration is required.

Business: Meeting being conducted in person as well as via Zoom. BARC/PARC picnic will be at the Clark's Neck Fire Department Building a half mile behind Cratch's Mini Mart off of HWY 264, April 29 th Arrive 11:00-11:30 am. Eat at Noon, stay to 3:00 pm Hamburgers and Hot Dogs and condiments provided by BARC. Grill, Utensils, plates, napkins, etc provided by PARC. Everyone is requested to please bring a side dish and/or dessert and drinks. Ice and bottled water will be furnished. Spouses, children, and any friends interested in ham radio are welcome!

Address:

Clark's Neck Fire Department
3797 Wharton Station Road
Washington NC 27889

PLEASE RSVP Beth at info@w4amc.com

HF/DX: Bosnia, Tom WT4TK & Netherlands, Al K4GOE

Ham Fests & Contests:

Chris Keen Memorial UnFestTailgate Sale May 6 Goldsboro <http://www.k4cyp.com>

Contests: reference ARRL Contest Corral and also the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com

ARRL's very first digital contest will be June 3-4.

The **NC State Parks on the Air** event will be the weekend of Sept 9-10. The goal is to activate as many of the 107 NC State Parks as possible. Reference: www.ncpota.org for rules and list of parks. **Note:** Only NC State Parks are being activated, not Game Lands, so be sure to reference the list. (More on this later!)

Field Day: June 24-25 This will be the topic of discussion during the May club meeting.

Next 2m net: April 27 @ 8:00 pm, Net Control George KD4MTN. Lee W4LOR to call the May 4th net. May 25 th still open.

Next 80m net: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm on 3.807mhz or close by. Gary NG9T will be net control for May.

Next Meeting: Will be held on May 18, 2023 7:00 pm @ Zion Episcopal

Next VE Session: Will be May 13. Test starts promptly at 10:00 am @ EOC One person scheduled to test so far.

April Refreshments: Were provided by Marcian KC4TOI, George KD4MTN and Cheryl KX4EC

May Refreshments: Will be provided by Marcian KC4TOI, George AG8AR

50/50: \$70 collected Billy KC4HHW won and donated his half to the club.

Program: Repeater linking, Echolink, Yaesu FUSION. Program given by Wayne KB1WE, and Lee Hemink WD4JFR. Scott James K9SPJ contributed a great deal of his personal knowledge on repeater technology.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl KX4EC
PARC Secretary/Treasurer

2023 "New Bern Bike MS" morning meeting for Hams



We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at:

Zion Episcopal Church
7302 US 264 East
Washington, NC 27889
Next Meeting: May 18

Nets:

2m Net 1st and 4th Thursday of each month at 8:00pm
Bath repeater 146.955mhz PL131.8
Alternate: Washington Repeater 147.255 PL131.8
Upcoming Net: May 2 and May 25

80m Net every Tuesday at 7:00pm
3807 SSB (or close by if freq in use)

Breakfast Every Wednesday at 9:00am at:

Shep's Grill
129 N. Market St
Washington, NC 27889

Gary Faust, NG9T
President, Pamlico Amateur Radio Club
gfaust1963@gmail.com
(252)531-4982

Letter from PARC Member Lee Hemink RE: Echolink

Greetings to my Ham Friends:

Many thanks to Bob, W7WOW of Dyer, NV....Eight years, almost to the day, after this first contact via the WD4JPQ (147.09) repeater in Greenville, NC. And after looking, reading, thinking, and asking questions of some of you, I have finally found an aspect of Amateur Radio that suits my CURRENT IMMEDIATE needs with my limited physical and health restrictions. Unlike years passed, I am no longer capable of climbing towers and trees, crawling under the house, etc, or even walking around HamFests; nor am I anymore interested in contesting or equipment building, having sold off all my HF equipment.

But, I DO enjoy meeting with and talking to people, here in Beaufort County (ENC) and wherever I can find them, in person and "on the air". My new "niche aspect" of HAM communicating is EchoLink. Just by using my trusty, next-to-my-easychair, small VHF radio coupled with a computer/lap-top and specific software, I now will be able to reach out to other EchoLink (EL) registered/validated users all over the world. For security and admin-control purposes, I was also required to submit official proof of being an FCC-approved Amateur Radio License holder. Some of these physical disabilities I have, may sound personally familiar to many of you, too. But, I hope not.

Nancy and I are absolutely Blessed to be able to annually travel to a family summer home location in Michigan, which does NOT allow antennas of any kind (National Historic Preservation Site). And the historic building architecture (Victorian home) does not have any attic space. If I had such HF equipment any longer, I would not enjoy dragging it with me every year (or leaving it there) to set up a pathway to make contact with my friends in PARC or around Eastern NC. I have discovered, and am beginning to use, ECHOLINK as a way to make contact with other EchoLink repeater-users (HAMS) when traveling (anywhere in the world with in-

ternet connection), even from my SmartPhone (with app). Go to "echolink.org" for a rather complete, step-by-step, educational website experience (my opinion).

I am by NO MEANS any kind of EL expert. Those kinds of folks (KE4TZN, K9SPJ, KG5WWD) have offered me excellent help in installing my personal "node" to allow me to use the system. Others that I know of, who have used EchoLink (EL) in the past are WB6JRV and KB1WE. It is not difficult to be "validated" to just "use", but to have your own "node" does require some additional effort. The EchoLink website does an excellent job of explaining how it basically works, minimal equipment needed, etc. Having "Elmers" to help us is always useful!!

Here, I am only offering an explanation of why I got involved. I am not interested in discussing whether or not EchoLink is "real Ham Radio" using just RF. I AM, however, interested in providing this basic information to brother- and sister-HAMS if it can help them, as I envision it will help me and my family. I am excited to have this opportunity to rejuvenate my Ham Radio interests and keep learning new things each day.

Hope to talk with you soon here on the Chocowinity Repeater as usual, or via EL, or from our cottage in Michigan (and other travels) using my laptop. And, thanks to all of you who have been supportive of this personal project!

Cheers to you all, 73's,
Lee Hemink, WD4JFR, Chocowinity NC



GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY

April 18, 2023

At long last, lawns up here have turned green, flowers are in bloom, and when one looks out at the trees across the hills, the buds are turning from brown to gold and the pace of trees showing green leaves will no doubt pick up after a couple more sunny days. There is remains concern over the potential for wildfires because the greening of the hills is not yet complete in the High Country. There have been periods of high winds that also increase the risks of wildfires.

AMATEUR RADIO MATTERS

ROANOKE DIVISION TOWNHALL ON APRIL 24

Next Monday evening, April 24, from 8 to 9 pm, ARRL members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia are invited to participate in a virtual Town Hall with various ARRL leaders. This is a unique opportunity to pose questions to ARRL CEO David Minster, Roanoke Director Jim Boehner, Vice Director Bill Morine and the Section Managers in the four states comprising the Roanoke Division. Look for an email in the next couple of days which contains the link for the video Town Hall.

AMATEUR RADIO NUMBERS

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Group	3/31/2023	3/31/2022	CHANGE
North Carolina	4,465	4,461	+4
Roanoke Division	12,360	12,351	+19
USA	150,572	150,803	-221

HOW MANY HAMS ARE THERE?

FCC LICENSE DATA, March 31, 2023

LOCATION	NOVCE	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL	ADVANCED	EXTRA	TOTAL
NC	192	10,445	5,859	1,050	5,098	22,064
USA	6, 177	388,672	186,573	33, 994	154,755	765,171

ARRL DUES INCREASE?

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, published an editorial in the April QST that discussed the cost of operating the ARRL and noted that revenues do not cover the League's expenses. In fact during 2023, Vice Director Bill Morine has reported that ARRL is operating at a \$2 million annual deficit.

A Revenue Enhancement Committee meeting was held in the past few days which discussed options that will likely come up during the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Connecticut. ARRL plans to conduct a member survey regarding options to raise additional revenues for ARRL.

The survey will be conducted in M(? *Missing info, editor*)

NC PARKS ON THE AIR IN SEPTEMBER

Zach Thompson, KM4BLG, and his POTA team are doing a wonderful job in organizing a weekend operating event on September 9-10. The hope is to activate stations at each of the 107 state parks during a beautiful early Fall weekend shortly after Labor Day.

What could be more fun than going to a state park and operating a station from a state park in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Piedmont or down on the Coast? Information about the event can be found at <https://ncpota.org/>. Kudos go out to Zach for putting this event together. Drop him a message if you are interested in participating. His email is km4blg@gmail.com,

DAYTON HAMVENTION, MAY 19-21

The Greene County Fair and Expo Center near Xenia, Ohio replaced the decrepit and in some ways disgusting Hara Arena which was torn down after being hit with bankruptcy and severe weather.

Newer facilities at the Fairgrounds including a large open air flea market plus several buildings housing displays from the major radio manufacturers and other dealers all make the trip to Xenia worth it.

Information from the Hamvention organizers indicates that there will be two new options this year. First, you will be able to drop off items that you purchase at a Hamvention site and before you leave you will be able to drive your vehicle up to that site and pick up the item you purchased. Secondly, the Hamvention organizers will be running buses on Friday and Saturday between 10:30 am to 3:30 pm so that you can sample the food options in downtown Xenia should you desire more food choices than you can find at Hamvention.

The saying is "If you can't find it at Dayton you probably won't find it anywhere".

Side trips to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson plus the Voice of America Museum not far away from the Hamfest add to the fun of going to Dayton. A three hour drive to the Northeast will take you to the doors of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

FIELD DAY 2023

Besides a trek to Dayton for Hamvention, the next big event is Field Day which will be held on June 24-25. Rules covering the way that points are earned and the listing of sites at which Field Day operations will be held can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

Help me plan my Section Manager visits on Field Day weekend in Eastern North Carolina when I start out from Raleigh. Please drop me a line if your club or group will be operating in ENC so that I can attempt to fit in a visit to your Field Day site.

FCC RF EXPOSURE LIMITS

The May 2023 issue of QST has an article beginning on page 64, written by Greg Lapin (N9GL) alerting hams to the regulations to RF exposure limits which were announced by the FCC on May 3, 2021 and are about to

take effect on May 3, 2023. Your attention is directed to this article as a guide to complying with the FCC rules as well as limiting the exposure of family members and neighbors to strong RF fields.

RF limits should be a consideration in planning your Field Day setup so you will want to read the QST article before setting up your Field Day station(s).

NC SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT

W4DNA, Dave Roy, Section Traffic Manager, reports each month on message traffic handled by various nets that operate within North Carolina.

Limitations in the txt mailing system used by ARRL to send information to NC Section members makes it difficult to share with you the entirety of Dave’s report but we post a summary each month. The complete report prepared by the Section Traffic Manager can be found at ncarrl.org and contains additional data beyond that which is set out below.

W4DNA - NC Section Net Report - MARCH 2023

NET	NMGR	QNI	LISTED	PASSED	TIME	SESSIONS	TFC %
SECTION NETS							
CN	AA4MP	379	136	132	581	62	97.06%
CSN	KI4KZS	142	18	18	587	31	100.00%
NCEN	WK4WC	390	118	114	470	31	96.61%
NCMN	W3OJO	269	110	105	370	31	95.45%
THEN	K4SEH	186			107	15	
LOCAL NETS							
CWTN	N4CNX	384	101	101	642	31	100.00%
ENCTN	W4DNA	107	10	10	198	30	100.00%
PCTN	W4TTO	254	37	37	227	31	100.00%
TOTAL		2111	530	517	3182	262	97.55%

HURRICANE SEASON AND DISASTER READINESS

Hurricane season is approaching quickly. According to the National Hurricane Center, the official season for hurricanes begins on June 1 and runs through November 30.

North Carolina State University Meteorologists have released its 2023 hurricane and predicts that up to fifteen of these storms will be strong enough to be named. Information on the NCSU forecast can be found at <https://news.ncsu.edu/2023/04/nc-state-researchers-predict-normal-hurricane-season/>,

Three of the storms are expected to become major storms.

Is your station ready for high winds? Are you ready for power outages?

Are you up to date on emergency operating procedures? Have you reached out to your local emergency management agency indicating you are ready to help and have been trained as an EmComm volunteer?

While it is important that you are well prepared for a disaster, the State Division of Emergency Management is constantly making preparations for various disasters that will affect the 10.5 million people who live in North Carolina.

Amateur radio has a seat at the table developing response plans and in responding during major emergencies.

Consider the history of recent storms and other disasters affecting North Carolina, each of which involved Auxcomm operators.

FEMA DECLARED DISASTERS IN NC SINCE 2016

YEAR	DISASTER
2023	
2022	HURRICANE IAN
2021	TROPICAL STORM FRED
2020	TROPICAL STORM ETA; HURRICANE ISAIS; SEVERE STORMS& TORNADOES; COVID 19 PANDEMIC; COVID 19 EMERGENCY
2019	HURRICANE DORNIAN; HURRICANE DORIAN EMERGENCY
2018	HURRICANE FLORENCE; HURRICANE FLORENCE EMERGENCY; TORNADO & SEVERE STORMS
2017	
2016	CHESTNUT KNOB FIRE; PARTY ROCK FIRE; HURRICANE MATTHEW; HURRICANE MATTHEW EMERGENCY

NC EM EXPECTS AMATEUR EmCOMM RADIO OPERATORS TO CONFORM TO ICS STANDARDS

On May 11, 2005, Governor Michael Easley directed that all North Carolina responders conform to the National Incident Management System training and operation standards. In 2010, NCEM advised NC amateur radio leaders to bring amateur radio into conformity with ICS standards or amateur radio would be dropped from the NC Emergency Operations Plan.

In order to remain involved in disaster communications, amateur radio leaders in NC chose to conform to the ICS training requirements that match those completed by fire, rescue, ems and other responders. As a result, for more than a decade, North Carolina has been a leader among the states in training and deploying amateur radio operators in disasters.

North Carolina Amateur radio EmComm operators include more than 900 persons who have completed the four on-line FEMA ICS courses. The amateur radio coordinators in half of North Carolina's 100 counties have completed advanced ICS training, including about 200 operators who have completed the Auxcomm course. Approximately 150 Auxcomm trainees are currently working on their Auxcomm Position Task Books. Moreover, a number of the Auxcomm personnel have completed the three-day ICS300 Incident Management

course. A number of Auxcomm personnel have met the rigorous standards to serve as members of one of three NCEM Incident Management Teams.

NC DISASTER COMMS ACADEMY

Amateur radio operators involved in EmComm are urged to enroll in the Disaster Comms Academy in Charlotte in August.

The Charlotte Police-Fire Training Academy will again host NCEM's Disaster Comms Academy during the week of August 28-September 1.

Approximately 150 personnel will receive training during the 2023 Academy that will offer several advanced Disaster Comms courses.

Courses will be open to persons endorsed by their local emergency management agency and who have completed various lower-level prerequisite courses.

The following courses will be offered in Charlotte in August:

Communications Leader (COML); Communications Technician (COMT); Information Technology Section Leader (ITSL); Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC); and Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD). Each of these courses relates to a named position within the Incident Command System's approved Organization Chart.

For a better understanding of how these positions relate to each other, you may want to take a few minutes and read this document:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ict-functional-guidance.pdf

At the completion of the Charlotte training week, there will be a COMMEX on September 1 in which persons from the various courses are formed into teams and given opportunities to demonstrate some of the skills expected of them during actual emergency. Opportunities will exist for students to work on portions of their PTB's which are reviewed by Credentialed COML's and Instructors. NCEM provides reimbursement for lodging, meals and travel to approved students who travel more than 50 miles from their home to attend the training.

Each student will be issued a Position Task Book which identifies a number of tasks that must be completed during at least two incidents and two exercises under the supervision of credentialed evaluators.

Completed task books are submitted through the COMU Credentialing Committee for review and potential approval by the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) which is comprised of subject matter experts and leaders of the state's public safety communications systems.

The SIEC has published standards which identify the steps needed to become a North Carolina Emergency Management Credentialed COMU member.

The qualification standards used by North Carolina can be found at <https://www.ncdps.gov/nc-all-hazard-comu-guidebook-r-6-23-20/open>.

NC AUXCOMM HAS SET A GOAL TO HAVE EACH COUNTY AUXCOMM QUALIFIED

NC EmComm leadership has set a goal that by the end of 2024 each county in North Carolina will have at least one person qualified to serve as Auxcomm Coordinator. Does your county have an amateur radio operator who has completed the Auxcomm course? Please contact your Auxcomm Branch Coordinator (Charlie Ingle, Virginia Enzor or Monroe Hicks) to express your interest and get on the list for priority enrollment in the Auxcomm course. Future issues of this newsletter will highlight opportunities for persons to work on their Position Task Books.

EASTERN HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS COALITION HURRICANE EXERCISE (MAY 4)

COMMU personnel holding open Position Task Books may want to consider participating in a hurricane exercise involving hospitals and support agencies in Eastern North Carolina. Information about the exercise can be found at

<https://terms.ncem.gov/TRS/courseDesc.do?sourcePage=courseSearch&cofid=147490> and

<https://cdn.subsplash.com/documents/F4HMQF/source/445d337b-e36e-4c43-9147-e1eb9efca83e/document.pdf>.

CLOSING COMMENT

As Section Manager for the past three years I have been able to see first-hand that amateur radio is alive and well in North Carolina.

However, data from the FCC over the past year shows that the number of new Technicians greatly exceeds the number of Techs who are upgrading to General or Extra. Those of us who have been hams for several decades need to make sure that the new Techs feel welcome and learn how to be good operators.

Best wishes,
Marv, WA4NC

Repeater update

Board,

Please see the email below from Pete Wene, new trustee for the W4NBR/Grifton 146.685 repeater. They are preparing to have a climber go up and fix the broken rx antenna but need some funding via new memberships to accomplish it.

Mark, this may be good to share in the Chatter.

Scott K9SPJ

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Peter M. Wene" <pete@wene.net>
Date: April 12, 2023 at 10:36:09 PM EDT
To: Scott James <scott@k9spj.com>
Cc: Dave Roy <w4dna@att.net>, "Burt, David W4OFO" <dburt@inner360.com>
Subject: RE: Grifton VHF info

Scott,

Thanks so much.....here is what I will be sending out to all the clubs in the near future.

Sir,

My name is Pete Wene, WA5T, and I am the Trustee for the 146.685 2 meter repeater owned and operated by the E.N.C. Repeater Inc.....fondly referred to as the "Grifton 2 meter Repeater." As you may or may not know, the repeater has not been operating optimally for several years now. We lost our receive antenna thus limiting its operational range/footprint. It currently receives off a ¼ wave coax stub. The ENC has purchased a new antenna and has it on hand, also we have a new repeater. controller, and link radio to replace the old equipment currently installed on the WNCT/WITN TV Tower in Grifton.

The receive antenna is at the 1600 foot level and per the tower owners it takes specially qualified individuals with a \$5 million bond to work on the tower.

So here is our dilemma.....we have not been able to find anyone qualified to do the tower work within our limited budget. The last quote we got was for \$2500.....one day's work. The E.N.C. Repeater Inc has a very limited bank account, which would be depleted in less than one day. Due in part to COVID and limited budget we have not been able to make the necessary repairs. We want to move forward with this project as soon as we can.

Over the past several years our membership has dwindled significantly. To help offset the cost of doing all the work we are soliciting donations from all clubs in Eastern North Carolina as well as trying to increase our member base. An increased membership base will help in the out years but our need is now. Any help would be most appreciated and go a long way to service the Eastern North Carolina Amateur Radio community and provide an emergency service asset. Membership applications as well as donations can be sent directly to our Secretary/Treasurer David Burt, 1425 Harris Ct., Cary, NC 27511

Membership in the ENC Repeater Inc has minimal involvement at best. We hold one meeting a year to elect officers and board members, usually in the spring, and one for a cook-out gathering in the fall. Attached is a membership application. Please see this email gets the widest dissemination. If you have any question please email me.

73

Peter M. Wene, WA5T
President KARS
VP WCARA
ENC Trustee
Member SCARS
Member NBARC

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott James <scott@k9spj.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 8:45 PM
To: pete@wene.net
Subject: Grifton VHF info

Pete,

I would like to join and support the club supporting the VHF repeater. I'm also on the Brightleaf board and would like to share info with our members. Please send along the application and any info you have. Great to hear a fix may be on the Horizon.

Sorry I could not check in tonight - I'm listening to the net on a 2m/440 radio.

Scott James
K9SPJ

Sent from my iPhone=

E. N. C. Repeater Inc.

Membership Application

W4NBR Repeater
146.685 (2 Meters)

New Application (requires President's Approval) Former Member (less than 2 years)

NAME: _____	CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: _____	EXPIRATION DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____	
Street or P.O. Box	City State
TELEPHONE: _____	EMAIL: _____
ALT. TELEPHONE: _____	A.R.R.L. MEMBER? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Membership Type (check one)

Individual Membership (Annual Dues of \$15.00)

Family Membership – All licensed individuals domiciled at same the address (Annual Dues of \$15.00)

Complete the following for family members (if more than two family members put the information on the back of this application)

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ A.R.R.L. member? YES NO

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ A.R.R.L. member? YES NO

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Associate Membership (Pending) (for individuals without F.C.C. Amateur License, Annual Dues of \$15.00)

By submitting this application you agree to the following for membership in the E.N.C. Repeater Inc. henceforth

Referred to as the Club:

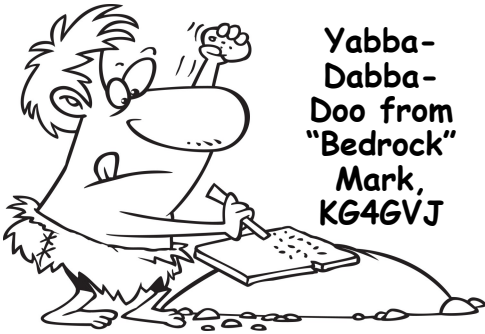
- Consent to comply with the FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations as well as the ARRL Band Plan.
- Consent to abide by the By-laws of the E.N.C. Repeater Inc. and understand your responsibilities therein as a member, as well as consent to the decisions of the membership and the Board of Directors.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

You may submit this completed application with dues (cash or check made payable to E.N.C. Repeater Inc.) to any Club Officer, or mail to David Burt, 1425 Harris Ct., Cary, NC 27511 or email to enc@inner360.com

New Ham Chatter for April is available! Thu 3/30
Dear Ham Chatter Aficionados: Here is Mark's la...



Hi Folks,

So, are you having fun yet? At this time, there is expected to be a cookout between two clubs and any guests. I hope it works out well. My wife and I have prearranged plans for the day so we're not available.

At home, I had Solar Electric panels and inverter installed to help power the house. I'll try to have a short article on my experience in a few months. I figured it won't hurt to get a idea of how Greenville Utilities does the record keeping and billing for a few months. At this time, I'm still waiting on the Electrical inspection and "Commissioning" of the system (allowing me to monitor the operation). A quick note, I haven't notice trouble on the bands yet from it.

Interested in the Ham Chatter?

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices and would like to receive them, please send an email to hamchatter@w4amc.com so we can get your email address and put you on the list. You may miss some important BARC or PARC notices.
- *KG4GVJ*

Help the Editor.

Do you have something to say or post? Want to write an article? Any ideas? Comments and notice's of help needed (Personal or club needs or activities? Can be BARC related or other Club's) are welcomed. Have interesting photo's or articles? Done something related to radio? Please let us know and we may add them to the Ham Chatter and web page Blog.

Send it along to the [Editor at Ham Chatter](#). We will see if we can fit it in soon.

Be a Net Control

Volunteer to help with the Weekly Net for BARC, or other nets. All are welcomed. It's great practice for if you need it for later, it's like First Aid training. A script is available to read off of to help in the progress on the web site.

PUBLIC SERVICE?

Website for NC hams who are interested in public service, Check it out at <https://hpsnc.org/>.

**LICENSE STUDY SESSION VIA ZOOM
Ham Radio Zoom Training Courses 2022-2023**

The following is our schedule of General and Technician class courses from November 2022 through September of 2023. (FARC) Note that we skip December after the 7th.

General:

June. 7,14,21,28
August. 9,16,23,30
November 9,16,30,
Dec 7

Technician:

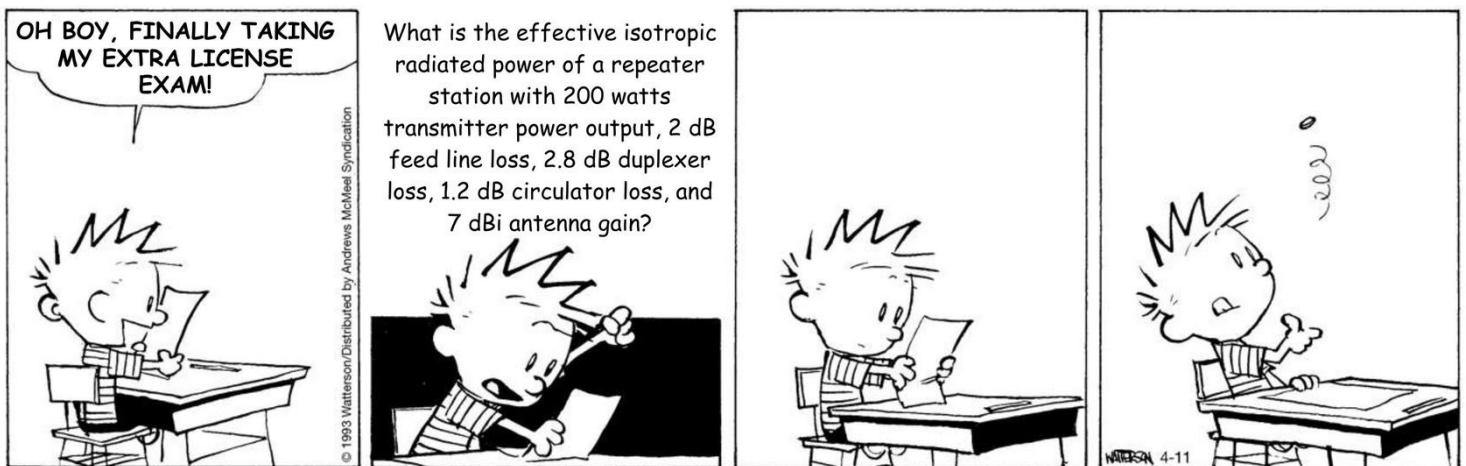
May 3,10,17,24
July 12,19,26
August 2
September. 6,13,20,27

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. The Gordon West Technician class or General class license manual is recommended in conjunction with online hamstudy.org.

Instructors: KK4RR, AJ4TF, KA4JAH, AE4TI, K4AX. No charge for the classes.

Preregistration required: contact Richard Weinbaum at KK4RR@mac.com.

Thanks and 73,
Keith - KA4JAH



All Local Area FCC Exams:**WINSTON-SALEM NC**

2023

2ND Monday, 6PM at Red Cross on Coliseum Drive

No Exams are scheduled in December, the Club has its Christmas party. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC), Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive. Pre-Registration Only. Exams start at 6:00 PM. Bring 2 forms of identification (one with picture). Pre-registration, FRN number, are required before test session date. NOTE: COVID-19 protocols still in effect. Please bring the ORIGINAL, COPY of any CSCE's and signed license to the test session. Exam fee is \$12.00. For more information, contact: Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, [Email](mailto:DMierisch@w4amc.com), [Phone 336-766-9675](tel:336-766-9675)

The following testing dates and sites are from:

<https://www.w4vec.org/ar.html>

GREENSBORO NC**TESTING 2ND SATURDAYS**

All sessions begin at 9:00 AM Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27407 ([MAP](#)) [For more information contact: David Macchiarolo- AJ4TF EMAIL](#)

[336-420-9424](tel:336-420-9424)

HIGH POINT NC**TESTING LAST SATURDAYS**

All sessions start at 10:00 AM. Location: Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr Drive) High Point, NC 27262 [MAP](#) [Pre-registration is required. Contact: David Macchiarolo Email 336-420-9424](#)

KERNERSVILLE (?)**King/Rural Hall, NC**

Piedmont Triad VE offers free of charge testing, at the King Public Library, 101 Pilot View Drive, King, NC. This is a free of charge exam session for

subject to the \$35.00 fee to be paid to the FCC. Contact Jeff Webset at webstej <at? windstream <dot> net for next exam.

SALISBURY NC

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

Bostian Heights Fire Dept. Community Room

[\(MAP\)](#)

8211 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146

For more information contact:

Fred - WB4QOC [EMAIL phone 704-534-1031](mailto:WB4QOC@w4amc.com)

Last updated 1/26/22

THOMASVILLE NC

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Test Session at 9:30am, Davidson-Davie Community College, 297 DCC Rd. Thomasville, NC 27360 ([MAP](#)) Building: Finch *Building marked with RED arrow), room 221, Preregistration and FRN number is required before test session date. NOTE: COVID19 protocols still in effect. For more information contactL Rick Weinbaum, KK4RR, cell: 446-687-8001 email: weinbaum <at> mac <dot> com. Last updated 6/1/22

New Ham? New Upgrade?**Live in Forsyth County?****Or just want to join FARC?**

For new hams, or upgrades, who have taken an exam, please complete the information on the FARC application (usually the next-to-last page of the Newsletter), if you have not already done so, for a free membership to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC). Mark the form "New Ham - Exam date". Even if this is not an FARC exam session, since we are limited in exam offerings at this time. Once the form is completed, bring to the next club meeting, or please scan and email to secretary <at> w4nc <dot> com [and an email to newsletter <at> w4nc <dot> com].

Exams usually will be offered before the FARC meeting (2nd Monday at the Red Cross) and start at 6:30 PM in room 109 at the Red Cross building **see above to make sure a session is offered**. You are encouraged to arrive early at 6:20 PM Preregistration is required at info <at> w4nc <dot> com.

[From the FARC Newsletter](#)

Pamlico Amateur Radio Club, K4BCH

Club Meeting Location:

Zion Episcopal Church
7302 US Highway 264 East
Washington, NC 27889

Contact info:

Pamlico Amateur Radio Club
C/O Cheryl McGuire KX4EC
530 Jamaka Rd
Washington NC 27889

Club President:

Gary Faust NG9T
gfaust.parc@gmail.com
(252)531-4982

PARC is a 501c3 non-profit organization legally form under the laws of North Carolina.

The club meets at 7pm on the THIRD Thursday of each month. The Club Net monthly on the FIRST and Fourth Thursday at 8pm (EST).

These monthly Nets offer practice in Message-handling procedures in the event of actual emergencies. The formal portion last about 20 minutes, followed by informal comments from Net check-ins. The Net VHF frequency is 146.955 MHz, minus 600 offset, PL tone 131.8 operated through the Bath, NC repeater. A new club repeater is at 147.255 MHz, plus 600 offset, PL tone 131.8.

PARC 80M Net every Tuesday at 7pm (EST) on 3.807Mhz or close by if frequency is in use.

Weekly Wednesday Breakfast: All are invited for breakfast every Wednesday morning at 9:00am EST at Shep's Grill at 129 N. Market St, Washington NC 27889. Parking is in the rear and rear door entry is best.



ARES/AUXCOMM News



The five USB channelized 60-meter frequencies are available for interoperability (communication between services). By convention, Channel 1 is designated the calling channel. This convention is established to train the amateur radio community to reach out on Channel 1 in times of national emergency, for information from the federal government. The amateur radio community uses 60 meters on a secondary basis with federal agencies. This and similar 60-meter interoperability exercises are conducted during the first full week of each month. More information [here](#). - *ARRL News*

ARES Resources

- [Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Field Resources Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Fillable PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Word\]](#)
- [ARES Plan](#)
- [ARES Group Registration](#)

Note from Editor: This section is added for information for those interested in Emergency services. Pitt County doesn't have a active ARES Presence. But the practices and lessons available can be useful if working for or helping pass traffic in times of need.



Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club:
www.arrl.org/clubs

Find Your ARRL Section:
www.arrl.org/sections

Find a License Class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a License Exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a Hamfest or Convention:
www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs:
clubs@arrl.org

The ARES Letter

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a final version (March 2023) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance. The guidance, which provides a framework for communications resources within incident management, officially includes support from amateur radio operators. The expanded Communications Unit (COMU) structure now includes the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) role, which covers personnel from services that provide communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies. This includes amateur radio.

NIMS guides government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies. "This is a major step in the recognition of the need and usefulness of amateur radio and other communications services in our national preparedness," said Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, ARRL Director of Emergency Management. "It also gives official guidance to pave the way for future training and education of volunteers in ARRL's ARES[®] program, Johnston added.

The [NIMS ICT guide](#) (PDF) is available from FEMA.

FEMA Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) members held their spring plenary over two days, April 4-5, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There were briefings from the Region 3 states, commonwealths, and the District of Columbia on their communications systems and initiatives. RECCWG partners provided topical presentations that informed RECCWG members of current programs and support initiatives. Topics included:

- The FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) program
- *Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Volunteer Support* [emphasis added].
- FCC overview of emergency response support capabilities and in-depth discussion of the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS) and Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS)
- Verizon, FirstNet, and T-Mobile disaster response capabilities

FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications Division (DECD) RECCWG and State Annex support

On Day 2, RECCWG members participated in a tabletop exercise (TTX) facilitated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), that simulated the effects an earthquake would have on public safety communications in the region. The TTX focused on the "human side" of continuity-of-operations planning (COOP). Participants shared lessons learned and potential gaps in communications interoperability to take back to their home agencies. Eric Wagner, Region 3 RECCWG Co-Chair, emphasized that relationships established in the RECCWG inevitably pay off when these partners need each other the most. This two-day event exemplifies RECCWG efforts across the country to bring together communications professionals from the public and private sectors to solve today's toughest communications challenges. -- *FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications News Clippings and Topics of Interest Vol. 12 Issue 7, April 1-15, 2023*

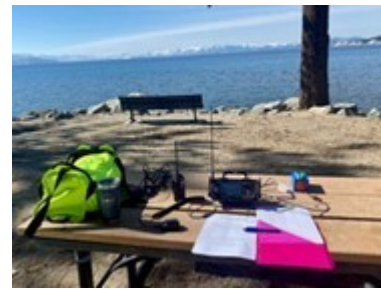
2023 Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC) Hurricane Communication and Information Sharing Exercise - to be held May 4, 2023, this exercise covers North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. "Hopefully, this will prepare us all for any eventual real-life request to provide information about our immediate environment should it be required," said [Steve Waterman, K4CJX](#), [DHS CISA

SHARES Auxiliary (Winlink Admin); FEMA R4 RECCWG AuxComm Committee, Chair; Tennessee Emergency Management Agency COMU, Williamson County, Tennessee]. Waterman added: "Having a successful showing will certainly re-enforce the capability and use of what is offered to our civil authorities and their NGO partners by illustrating that they can depend on us for situational awareness from our respective geographical areas." [More information is available here.](#)

Tahoe Basin ARES Conducts Cyber Attack SET

South Lake Tahoe with its high volume of winter tourism in the region was a perfect test bed to practice emergency communications without using traditional methods such as phone, text, or email. Thus, the Tahoe Basin ARES (TB-ARES) held a cyber-attack simulated emergency test (SET) on March 18, 2023 to demonstrate the ability to communicate with the various involved emergency centers both in California and Nevada that would now be dependent upon radio communication only.

The scenario was described as mass outages of all telecommunications services throughout the South Lake Tahoe basin and its corresponding communities across the state line in northwestern Nevada. The situation was described as continuing to worsen with sweeping blackouts in various portions of the region. Panic was evident among the citizens as roads were becoming gridlocked to buy supplies, such as groceries, and fuel from localities not currently experiencing a loss of power. Additionally, lines at banks formed due to fears that credit/debit cards may be unusable, and citizens were withdrawing cash at an alarming rate. The situation was further complicated by civil unrest.



Simulated Communication Station

Simulated Net Control stations were set up at the EOCs in South Lake Tahoe (California) and in Minden on the Nevada side. Additional operators also simulated communications from various hospitals, shelters and mobiles on both sides of the state line. Ham radio operators were to act as if they were physically at each location during the SET.

For this simulated cyber-attack, the ICS-205 (Communications Plan) called for Winlink packet Peer to Peer, and Winlink Gateways accessed both direct and through a digipeater. Additionally, simplex FM voice frequencies were active to provide communications over the Sierra Nevada range. Again, only radio station communications powered by a generator, battery backup and handhelds were in play.

This allowed the participating TB-ARES members the ability to communicate with out-of-area agencies using only amateur radio emergency power resources. Procedures and traffic used:

- Structured messages to practice correctly utilizing ICS forms for official messaging
 - Health and welfare messaging to the designated PIO in our area
- Receive situational utility reports from both agencies and individuals in the affected areas.

The goal was to provide timely and accurate communication to the Tahoe Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so that appropriate action/reaction would be generated, as needed.

The TB-ARES Emergency Communications Officer, Michael Cullen, KM6UWG, was very pleased with the result of the SET, notwithstanding a few lessons learned regarding the ability (or lack there-

of) to communicate over the mountain summit from the basin. Yet you could say all communications were sent and received through the efforts of those relaying messages through simplex -- a real team effort ending in another successful exercise of our radio equipment and Amateur Radio operators. -- [Cathy Etheredge, AC7CE](#), Public Information Coordinator, ARRL Nevada Section

2023 National Hurricane Conference Virtual Amateur Radio Workshop

Amateur radio was again represented at the [2023 National Hurricane Conference](#) which was held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year, the workshop was conducted both live at the conference and over Zoom for a "hybrid workshop." The conference theme was to improve hurricane preparedness, as it has been in past years. After the workshop was completed, the [Amateur Radio Workshop was uploaded to YouTube](#) for those who couldn't attend the sessions live. For 2023, all the amateur radio sessions were conducted on April 3. Each presenter gave not only an overview of their respective group but also how their group handled the significant hurricanes over the past year. Bob Robichaud, VE1MBR, from the Canadian Hurricane Centre presented on Hurricane Meteorological topics including the last two years in review and the forecast for 2023. Julio Ripoll, WD4R, presented on WX4NHC, the [National Hurricane Center amateur radio station](#), operations and an overview on the [Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN). A representative from the National Hurricane Center also presented on the importance of Amateur Radio surface reporting.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, presented on the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) and best practices in SKYWARN Tropical Systems. Bill Feist, WB8BZH, presented a SATERN ([Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Radio Network](#)) overview. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, gave an ARRL update.

ARRL Ohio Section ARES NVIS Antenna Day

The ARRL Ohio Section ARES NVIS Antenna Day is a non-contest operating activity open to all radio amateurs. This year's event is scheduled for April 22. In the case of an emergency, amateur radio operators may need to communicate over short distances to stations within the state of Ohio and neighboring states. The value of short-distance HF communications was proven in the immediate wake of Hurricane Michael in 2018. Michael disrupted all communications along the Gulf Coast. Many radio amateurs resorted to 80-meter local contacts, including the North Florida Traffic Net, for emergency communications. Because repeaters were down, HF proved to be the workhorse for passing messages.

Temporary NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antennas are the technology to do this with, but which are the best designs? In addition, how does *your* antenna work? Experimenting with antennas is still one of the most fun aspects of the hobby. Tie the two purposes together, add a group of friends, plenty of coffee, a BBQ grill, and you have a formula for a really good time!

The Ohio State EOC Amateur Radio station in Columbus, "The Sarge" - W8SGT, will be in operation to compare signals and provide a consistent signal strength report. Remember the overall goal is still to figure out your best NVIS antenna, and contact as many other NVIS stations as possible to plot your coverage area. Take pictures! Submit your antenna evaluations: which designs you used, how they performed, etc., and submit a log report with overall number of contacts, your location and operators. -- Blair ARES Alert!, April 2023 issue, newsletter of the Blair County, Pennsylvania, ARES program [Emergency Coordinator [Kevin Lear, W3XOX](#); Editor [Drew McGhee, KA3EJV](#)]

Notable Events on the Timeline of Amateur Radio Disaster Communications

Far from an exhaustive list, here are a few events involving amateur radio communications support over the past 100 years that may help define our role over time and its evolution.

1906 -- According to family lore, radio amateur Barney Osborne, later W6US, provided emergency traffic handling during the San Francisco Earthquake and fire.

1913 -- Hams provided emergency communications during Midwest storms and floods with spark-gap transmitters and crystal receiver sets, as vacuum tubes wouldn't emerge until after World War I and 1919.

1916 -- A national traffic relay system was organized to provide relay of messages cross-country, and 9XE in Illinois originated a message that was received in California in 55 minutes, and on the East Coast an hour after that.

1926 -- The cover of the May issue of *QST* featured a drawing of a railroad engineer holding an ARRL Radiogram with the caption reading, "Amateurs Give Emergency Service for Railroads When Wires Are Down"

1920s -- A motor provided emergency power to the plates of newly invented vacuum tubes in a station of an "RM" -- a "Radio Man" -- during a Mississippi flood.

1925 -- Amateur radio provided the only communications (5 watts CW) during the failed rescue attempt of caver Floyd Collins.

1933 -- Radio amateurs at W6BYF provided disaster communications for the Long Beach, California earthquake. Although his house was demolished, famous ham Don Wallace, W6AM, operated a portable station through his surviving extensive antenna farm with the help of the Navy in supporting the relief effort.

1935 -- Predecessors of ARES established. ARRL had a vision of them in 1917.

1936 -- The catastrophic floods of the northeast (from Maine through to the Ohio River valley) wrecked the ARRL HQ station in Hartford (along the Connecticut River), with amateur radio again providing support. Famous VHF pioneer and ARRL HQ staffer Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, and his wife provided communications.

1937 -- Dr. Joseph Vancheri, W8BWH, was a key relief communications asset, arranging for aid to refugees from the Johnstown floods.

Late 1930s -- Commercial emergency amateur radio gear appeared and was advertised: an example was the battery-powered 50-S transmitter from Harvey Radio Laboratories of Brookline, Massachusetts.

1948 -- Flooding of Vanport, Washington, after the rupture of a Columbia River dike prompted an Amateur Radio Emergency Corps response under EC W7DIS, with amateurs using handheld radios

(walkie-talkies).

1957 -- RACES was involved in providing communications support during the Malibu-Topanga Canyon (California) fires. Deputy Chief Radio Officer W6QJW operated under RACES tactical call sign CPT19 and controlled a net on 3995 kHz. The Gonset Communicator was an iconic Cold War/Civil Defense portable transceiver.

1964 -- The Great Alaskan Earthquake hit Anchorage, drawing a massive amateur response in handling emergency and health-and-welfare traffic. It was the most powerful earthquake in North American history, and the second most powerful in recorded history of the world. There was sweeping destruction in the city and the region. George Hart, W1NJM, wrote about the amateur response in the July 1964 issue of *QST*: 314 Alaskan amateurs supported the disaster relief effort, with 1,200 more from around the rest of the country actively supporting them. "KL7DVY reports he operated 20 hours on 2 meters, relaying messages from the Alaska Native Hospital to c.d. headquarters in Anchorage." See the August 2014 issue of *QST*, Public Service column, "Alaska Shield 2014."

1979 -- Hurricanes Frederic and David wrought destruction on the Gulf Coast and East Coast, respectively. Amateur radio support of relief efforts was in evidence in both cases.

That brings us up to the modern era and the emergence of the contemporary emergency management model. A few of the major events beginning in the 1980s that come to mind are hurricanes Gilbert (1988) and Hugo (1989), and the spate of four hurricanes in 2004 that affected us here in Florida extensively. Hurricane Andrew (1992) also wreaked incredible devastation in Florida. Hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Sandy (2012) were game-changers for emergency management thinking and policy for this country. Amateur radio was extensively involved in all cases. And, of course, amateur radio was involved in the colossal relief effort in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

[Much of the above was culled from an excellent presentation given at the ARRL Pacificon convention in San Ramon, California, 2010, by Bart Lee, K6VK, ARRL State Government Liaison, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Historian and Archivist, California Historical Radio Society, and lecturer, Antique Wireless Society. A tip of the ARRL fedora to him. -- K1CE]

Field Day is Around the Corner: Emergency Communications Categories

ARRL Field Day is the granddaddy of all emergency communications exercises. One of the most popular activities on the ARES communicator's agenda, it will be held this year on June 24-25. Below are two classes of Field Day operation of special interest to the emergency communications operator or group:

(Class E) Home stations - Emergency power: Same as Class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. Class E may work all Field Day stations.

(Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC for the event. Entries will be reported according to number of transmitters in simultaneous operation. Class F stations are eligible for a free VHF station. At Class 2F they are also eligible for a GOTA station. For Field Day purposes, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is defined as a facility established

by: a) a Federal, State, County, City or other Civil Government, agency or administrative entity; or, b) a Chapter of a national or international served agency (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) with which your local group has an established operating arrangement. A private company EOC does not qualify for Class F status unless approved by the ARRL Field Day Manager. Planning of a Class F operation must take place in conjunction and cooperation with the staff of the EOC being activated. A Class F station may claim the emergency power bonus if emergency power is available at the EOC site. The emergency power source must be tested during the Field Day period but you are not required to run the Class F operation under emergency power.

[See the full rules here](#). Catch you on the air for Field Day 2023!



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio

Emails



ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur

For over 100 years amateur radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.

ARRL Podcasts

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.



ARRL Podcasts Schedule

On the Air

Sponsored by [icom](#)

The March/April 2023 issue of *On the Air* featured an article on "The Incident Command System and Amateur Radio," that introduced the Incident Command System (ICS), an emergency management system that public safety agencies use to respond to everything from small incidents to large-scale emergencies. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins this episode of the podcast to share more about the system's origins and uses, where and how amateur radio operators fit into the system, and where to get ICS training.

Of the ARRL [Eclectic Tech](#) podcast: (Episode 67) features a discussion of power generation using graphene, synchronizing clocks with cosmic rays, multifrequency "vascular" antennas,

and listening to Very Low Frequency (VLF) atmospheric signals as part of NASA's INSPIRE project.

The *On the Air* and *Eclectic Tech* podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry - [On the Air](#) | [Eclectic Tech](#)

ARRL Audio News Diventa Italiano! The English translation of this Italian phrase reads, "ARRL Audio News Goes Italian!" The weekly ARRL Audio News will soon be available on the internet radio station [RTA PLANET](#), in Italy. Station owner and ARRL member Tiziano Antei, IU3LZL, will add the weekly report so that it airs in three different time slots and time zones.

Airing every Friday, ARRL Audio News is heard by 82 amateur radio clubs across the United States. The program highlights current news in amateur radio and ARRL special features and announcements. It's hosted by ARRL News Editor, John Ross, KD8IDJ.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News runs between 10 - 15 minutes. For those airing Audio News on repeaters, every three minutes or so, the letter "K" is transmitted in Morse code to signal a four-second pause in the audio. These breaks prevent a

repeater from timing out and provide a moment to insert a repeater ID.

ARRL Audio News is distributed through [Blubr-ry.com](http://blubr-ry.com). You can subscribe to the podcast via your IOS or Android mobile device with your favorite podcast app, or you can listen and download episodes directly from the Audio News page at Blubr-ry. Each week, the current edition is available at ARRL Audio News.

Amateur Radio in the News

["Western NY ham radio operators prepare to help in emergencies"](#) / Spectrum News 1 (Western New York), April 3, 2023 -- The Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association.

["UNCHARTED TERRITORY: New Braunfels doctor assists on 2-month expedition to Bouvet Island"](#) / The Herald-Zeitung (Texas), April 4, 2023 -- Mike Crownover, AD5A, Boerne, Texas.

["Veteran Allen County storm spotter readies volunteers"](#) / WANE -TV (Indiana), April 4, 2023 -- Jay Farlow, W9LW, of Fort Wayne, Indiana is Net Manager of the Allen County, Indiana SKYWARN Net and Assistant Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN of the Allen County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. He is an ARRL Member.

["Students study for ham radio licenses"](#) / Estes Park Trail Gazette (Colorado), April 11, 2023 -- *The Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Local amateur radio group welcomes all"](#) / The Western News (Montana), April 7, 2023 -- *The Lincoln County Amateur Radio Group is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Come help the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association celebrate its 100th anniversary"](#) / The Beaver County Times (Pennsylvania), April 8, 2023 -- *The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["In The Age Of Social Media, Thousands Of](#)

[Amateur \(HAM\) Radio Operators In Wyoming Still Use The Airwaves"](#) / Cowboy State Daily (Wyoming), April 8, 2023 -- Tom "Tex" Ritter, WY7KY.

["Brandon radio club boosting its signal"](#) / The Brandon Sun (Canada), April 10, 2023 -- *The Brandon Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["40-year-old radio society wants to get more involvement in public activities"](#) / The Enquirer Journal (North Carolina), April 14, 2023 -- *The Union County Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Meteorologist featured speaker at amateur radio association meeting"](#) / Daily Sentinel (New York), April 15, 2023 -- *The Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["West Michigan aviation students speak with astronaut in space"](#) / WOOD-TV (Michigan), April 20, 2023 -- Students from the West Michigan Aviation Academy speak to astronaut with help from several amateur radio groups.

["International Marconi Day Celebrated At Binghamton Landmark"](#) / WICZ (New York), April 22, 2023 -- *The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Columbia-based amateur radio operator named Howard's Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year"](#) / Baltimore Sun (Maryland), April 24, 2023 - *Dan Wilt, N3YQ, is a member of the Columbia Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

NASA Names Three Hams for Artemis II Moon Mission Crew

NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the four astronauts who will venture around the moon on Artemis II. This will be the first crewed mission on NASA's path to establishing long-term moon science and exploration development. The agencies revealed the crew mem-

bers on Monday, April 3, 2023, during an event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Three of the four crew members are amateur radio operators.

"The Artemis II crew represents thousands of people working tirelessly to bring us to the stars. This is their crew, this is our crew, this is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

"NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch, and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, each has their own story, but together, they represent our creed: E pluribus unum - out of many, one. Together, we are ushering in a new era of exploration for a new generation of star sailors and dreamers - the Artemis Generation."

The crew will work as a team to execute an ambitious set of demonstrations during the flight test.

Their assignments are as follows: Commander Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glover, KI5BKC, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKT. Koch had planned to study and take her amateur license exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly rescheduled 6 months earlier than originally planned. She had to immediately begin preparing for her flight instead of studying.

The Artemis II mission is scheduled to launch in November 2024. The approximately 10-day flight test will launch on the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket, prove the Orion space-



The crew of NASA's Artemis II mission (left to right): NASA astronauts Christina Hammock Koch, Reid Wiseman KF5LKT, (seated), Victor Glover, KI5BKC, and CSA astronaut Jeremy

craft's life-support systems, and validate the capabilities and techniques needed for humans to live and work in deep space.

For more information, visit the [NASA](https://www.nasa.gov) website.



Hamvention 2023 Getting Ready

Dayton Hamvention® 2023, scheduled for May 19 - 21, is just six weeks away and preparations are moving forward for the big event.

Tickets are now available online and by mail order. They can be purchased at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets>.

Hamvention, which is amateur radio's largest annual convention, is held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

ARRL is readying its large participation at Hamvention. ARRL's exhibit area will be located in Building 2 and will include program representatives and volunteers supporting over a dozen booths and activities.

With nearly 700 volunteers, this year's Hamvention will boast more than 500 indoor exhibits and more than 2,500 outdoor exhibits. The event showcases the latest in amateur radio equipment, technology, and computer software and hardware, along with hard-to-find radio and computer accessories and equipment. For the latest information about [Hamvention 2023](https://www.hamvention.org), visit their website.

Time to Get Ready for Field Day

ARRL Field Day is just over two months away, but like spring cleaning, it pays to start getting ready now.

2023 Field Day will be held June 24 - 25. It is ham radio's open house. Every June, hams

throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Some participants may also choose to operate from home, using the exercise to develop and practice their personal radio communications capability.

Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

In 2022, 4,929 entries were submitted (including check logs), and there was a total of 29,679 reported participants.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit and may submit entries as check logs.

The main focus of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, all bands on 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

For Field Day 2023, several rule changes have been made. It's a good idea to make sure that your logging software has been updated to the most current version to incorporate these rule changes including the updated Canadian sections list. There are many facets to operating on Field Day and knowing the rules and keeping good logs are paramount to successful contacts.

Many local amateur radio clubs participate in ARRL Field Day. To start preparing for Field Day, check out arrl.org/field-day for the official rules and all the information you'll need. To find

a participating radio club in your area, use the Field Day Locator on the page.

The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event commemorates the historic path the explorers took on their trek across the Midwest. The trail covers 4,900 miles and 16 states. This includes the disembarkation from Camp Dubois and what is referred to as the [Eastern Legacy](#). The event is sponsored by the [Clark County Amateur Radio Club](#), with support and participation from other clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail. The 2023 event will run 24 hours per day beginning June 3 and continuing through June 18 (June 2, 5:00 PM Pacific Time to June 18, 5:00 PM Pacific Time). The rules are simple: contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. Operating modes include SSB phone, FM phone, CW, and FT8. Any combination of modes used to work all 16 states is allowed. The on-air exchange will include the call sign and name of the operator. Additional information, such as a signal report or a Parks on the Air park designation, may also be logged but is not required. Additional information can be found at [Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air \(Ictota.org\)](#).

Canadian amateur radio operators will be able to participate in a special event honoring the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The coronation takes place on May 6, 2023, and the special event runs from **May 5 to July 2. Operators will be able to use special event call sign prefixes.** Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada ([ISED](#)) has approved the special call signs, which will correspond to the early summer operating season. All Canadian amateurs can use the special event call sign prefixes for all occasions, including Field Day and the Radio Amateurs of Canada Day Contest. More information about the special event call signs is available [here](#). Additional information about the coronation can be found at [King Charles: When is the coronation and what do we know about it? - BBC News](#)

National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting Open during 2023 Dayton Hamvention®.

The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting, in conjunction with the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, announced their expanded hours during the 2023 Dayton Hamvention®.

The museum will be open Thursday, May 18, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM; Friday, May 19, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM; Saturday, May 20, from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and Sunday, May 21, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.



Admission is \$10.00 at the door. The West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA, will be on the air. The museum is a short drive from Hamvention, down Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. Use the Crosley Blvd address on your GPS.

New exhibits include a dedicated room for amateur radio and shortwave equipment and a newly renovated ham shack with state-of-the-art equipment from Yaesu, Icom, and Elecraft. Docents and operators will be available to enhance visits to the museum.

For further information, visit voamuseum.org or wc8voa.org. You can also find the museum on Facebook or call 513-777-0027. The museum's regular hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and it is located at 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio.

ARSA Announces 2023 Award

Winner

The [Amateur Radio Software Award \(ARSA\)](#) Committee has announced that GridTracker, a project led by Stephen Loomis, N0TTL, and the GridTracker.org team, has been selected as the recipient of the 4th annual Amateur Radio Software Award.

The award recognizes software projects that enhance amateur radio and promote innovation, freedom, and openness in amateur radio software development.

The committee received many nominations for the 2023 award, and after careful consideration, GridTracker was chosen as the winner. The committee was impressed by the breadth of features in GridTracker, its innovative graphic interface, and its ability to make amateur radio more fun.

GridTracker is a tool that visualizes WSJT-X amateur radio traffic, like FT8 and contacts from log files, which makes it easier for radio amateurs to track their contacts and participate in contests. Its unique approach to visualizing radio traffic adds a new dimension of enjoyment to the radio art.

To learn more about GridTracker, visit <https://gridtracker.org>.

As part of the award, Loomis has requested that a \$300 grant be donated to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) of Oregon](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

The ARSA Committee is already looking forward to next year's award and welcomes input and nominations for future awards.

2023 Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers Eastern Conference

The 2023 Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA) annual Eastern Conference will be

held at the Green Bank Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, on Sunday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

The trailblazers of American radio astronomy called Green Bank Observatory home more than 60 years ago. Today, their legacy is still alive and well. Nestled in the mountain ranges and farmlands of West Virginia, within the National Radio Quiet Zone, radio astronomers at the observatory listen to the remote whispers of the universe to answer our most astounding astronomical questions.

Attendees will participate in plenary sessions, small group workshops, a technical tour of the facilities, hands-on training, operational experience with a large radio telescope, and they will meet contemporary trailblazers in the field.

Registration for in-person attendance by non-members of SARA is \$295.00 if received by July 20, 2023. This fee includes meals and a 1-year membership, but not lodging. The registration fee for online participation is \$35.00.

Payment can be made through [PayPal](#) to treasurer@radio-astronomy.org. Please include that the payment is for the 2023 Annual Conference in the comments.

Suggested pre-conference activities include free self-guided tours of the Green Bank Observatory Science Center and paid public tours of the radio telescope area. Full details with a link for ticket purchase is available at <https://greenbankobservatory.org/visit/>.

An overall guide to other activities and attractions in the area can be found at <https://pocahontascountywv.com/things-to-do/>.

Presentations are invited. Individuals or groups who would like to present topics related to radio astronomy can submit abstracts or presentation outlines for consideration by April 30, 2023, to vicepresident@radio-astronomy.org.

Additional information, conference details, and updates are available at <https://www.radio-astronomy.org> and in the SARA journal, *Radio Astronomy*.

Almost 6 years after the [FT8 Digital Mode Club](#) was founded in 2017, club members were asking why there were no diplomas for the FT4 operating mode.

After examining the issues carefully, club founders Jo Engelbrecht, OE6VIE, and Hannes Gruensteidl, OE1SGU, arrived at a solution: founding a new club. On March 17, 2023, the FT4DMC was launched. The aims of the club are promoting radio operations in FT4, creating incentives to use this mode of operation with a moderate number of available diplomas, and increasing activity on the amateur radio bands. There are currently 17 different diplomas, with more to come. Membership in the FT4DMC is free and open to all interested parties. FT4 is becoming more popular, and many DXpeditions use this type of transmission and distribute additional band points. FT4 was developed by Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT. Contacts in this mode count for the same amount as all other digital broadcast types for the ARRL Digital (RTTY) DXCC award. The original idea was to use only FT4 for contests. With about 2.5 times the speed of FT8, FT4 is efficient, and the level of interest is terrific. In just under three weeks, the FT4DMC already has more than 1,300 members and the first diplomas have been awarded. As with the FT8DMC, the application for issuing the diplomas takes place via the program developed by Heinz Urban, DK5UR, which is used by nine clubs. The FT8DMC now has 21,600 members from 148 DXCC entities. More than 1.5 million diplomas have been issued. Every new member receives a membership certificate and new members are welcome. Additional information is available at:

FT4DMC: <https://ft4dmc.com/>

FT8DMC: <https://ft8dmc.eu/>

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, representative of Arizona's 8th congressional district (AZ-08), attended the DeVry Hamfest in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

She had the chance to visit with radio amateurs and explore information about programs such as ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES). Lesko tweeted about her experience at the event, stating, "It was wonderful to join [ARRL's] Hamfest and meet with amateur radio operators in Arizona! I'm proud to support amateur radio operators, who play a critical role in emergency situations and have provided invaluable contributions to our nation!" Lesko spent several hours at the event. Amateur radio plays a critical role in emergency preparedness plans in Arizona.

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

The US Department of Defense (DoD) will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 13, 2023. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event.



The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario.

Military stations will transmit on selected frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequen-

cies monitored. All of the times are Zulu (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted. The frequencies used for the test will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

A complete list of frequencies, time periods, QSL cards, and other information can be found at [DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day](#).

AFD is a time of honor. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The first AFD was celebrated with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. Today, many events and activities take place and may include multi-service military displays in areas open to the public, various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces, and large parades with local celebrations.

The longest running AFD parade in the United States is held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Certain types of music will be played at AFD 2023 events to show respect to those in the armed forces who died for their country.

2023 Online Ham Bootcamp

The [Nashua Area Radio Society's](#) spring 2023 online Ham Bootcamp will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 10 AM to 6 PM Eastern Time. Access to the session will be provided via [Zoom](#).

Ham Bootcamp includes a series of demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician-, General-, and Extra-class license holders get on the air. Ham Bootcamp is also a great opportunity for hams who are interested in seeing what the hobby has to offer.

The online Ham Bootcamp program is available to all licensed and prospective amateur radio operators. You can register for the next Ham Bootcamp session [here](#). For additional information, contact Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB, of the Nashua Area Radio Society at ab1qb@arrl.net.

The Nashua Area Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Dr. Ulrich Rohde Receives IEEE Award

Dr. Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, received the 2023 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ([IEEE](#)) Communications Society Distinguished Industry Leader Award.



The award recognizes an industry executive whose leadership has resulted in major and outstanding advances and new directions in the information and communications business.

According to the IEEE, Dr. Rohde won the award "for contributions and leadership in radios and electronic test-measurement equipment that has supported the design of modern communication systems and their industrial implementations."

Dr. Rohde has been an avid amateur radio operator with licenses in the United States and Germany. He has been licensed since 1956 and involved mostly in technology and systems. In 2015, he won first place in the ARRL International DX Contest in the Northern New Jersey Section. He also operates as N1UL/MM on his yacht, the Dragonfly, and is the trustee of the Marco Island Radio Club, K5MI.

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](#)® recognized Dr. Rohde as the recipient of the IEEE Photonics Society Engineering Achievement Award in 2022. In November 2022, he was inducted to the Indian National Academy of Engineering. Dr. Rohde is an ARRL Maxim Society and Life Member.

Ohio NVIS Day 2023 is Set for April 22

Ohio Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) Operating frequencies are proposed to be on the

Day 2023 will be held Saturday April 22, from 10 AM to 4 PM EDT. This is a non-contest event and all amateur radio operators are invited to participate.

The purpose of NVIS day is to construct and try various working NVIS antenna ideas. These antennas are low to the ground and provide coverage generally within a 400-mile radius, which is extremely important for regional HF communications in an emergency.



Take a step forward and answer the question, "How would we actually use these antennas?" For 2023, two operating scenarios have been added to make your day more fun and provide a learning experience for actual disaster communications. There will be a commercial power blackout, and participants will need to communicate within their ARES district and to "The Sarge" at the Ohio Emergency Operations Center in Columbus.

Stations will construct and test NVIS antennas with transmit power limited to 100 W. Power for the NVIS station will be any form of off-grid supply, like a generator, battery, or solar. Stations may test antenna coverage by contacting as many different locations as possible.

This year, they are collecting grid squares and s-meter readings as part of the exchange.

Stations should originate a message to their ARES district, local net, OHDEN, OSSBN, and W8SGT, to report their location and county and alone with whether they are participating or not participating. WinLink may also be used, as long as it is sent via RF, local node (VHF, UHF), or an HF node to KD8SCL or W8SGT. For more information on node locations, visit Winlink.org.

80- and 40-meter bands. Voice is the preferred testing format. Submit your results to contest@n8ara.org and be sure to include a photo of your group or your antenna! For more information on Ohio NVIS day, visit [Ohio ARES \(arrl-ohio.org\)](http://OhioARES(arrl-ohio.org)).

EME: Pandemic and Patience

Doug Hansel, AA1UI, found himself with some extra time during the pandemic and thought that it might be the right time to learn how to make Earth-moon-Earth (EME) contacts.

"First, I did a lot of reading and talking to other amateurs. Then, I realized I needed better equipment, software, and a lot of patience," said Hansel.

Hansel was gifted a 15-element Yagi but had to sell some older equipment to upgrade to a better amplifier and equipment.

After many attempts, his first contact was in 2021. He kept at it and was thankful for all of the help he received. Hansel stressed the need for patience, stating, "What's fun is that I really didn't know what I was doing, but the EME community was very generous with their time and advice in helping me tick this off my bucket list."

He made a detailed video of his experience that can be viewed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2n4rlnoh37rmgt7/EME%20Project%20short%20FB720-FINAL.mp4?dl=0>.

Hansel was first licensed in 1977 and now holds an Amateur Extra-class license. He is an ARRL member.

The National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a 2nd Errata for the 2023 - 2027 General Class Element 3 Question Pool. The [NCVEC](#) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has released the [second revision](#) of the

2023 - 2027 General Class element 3 Question Pool. This revision supplants the question pools released on December 1, 2022, and February 1, 2023. The changes are reflected in the new General pool downloadable files, dated April 15, 2023. Three questions have been withdrawn from use and removed from the pool: G6B09, G9C06, and G9D13. Most of the other questions had minor changes. ARRL VEC teams are advised to check the [NCVEC website](#) or the [ARRL website](#) regularly for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions. The new General Class Element 3 Question Pool goes into effect on July 1, 2023.

ARRL Life member Richard L. King, K5NA, passed away on Wednesday April 12, 2023.

King held an Amateur Extra-class license and was a well-known and respected member of the amateur radio community. King's contributions to radiosport will be greatly missed. First licensed in 1958, King was a skilled operator, a longtime DXer, and contester, and had been selected as a referee for the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2022, which will be held in Italy in July 2023. A tribute is posted on the WRTC 2022 [website](#). King had 340/374 (current/total) entities confirmed in the ARRL DXCC Mixed Standings. He had 3,167 confirmed entities in the ARRL DXCC Challenge, of which 321 were on 160 meters. A memorial service will be held later in the year, according to his widow.

ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs

when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, [ARRL petitioned the FCC](#) to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is

aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In [the NPRM](#), the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested."

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth, but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks.

2023 ARRL Field Day Gear is Now Shipping!

[ARRL Field Day](#) is June 24 - 25. Get ready for amateur radio's largest on-air operating event with official 2023 ARRL Field Day merchandise available for order now. [T-shirts](#), [hats](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), and [stickers](#) are great ways to show off your involvement in this annual event. This year's colorful design features a globe centered on North America and the words, "Tune In The World." The back of the t-shirt includes a check-off list of ARRL and RAC Sections - a fun way to keep track of your Field Day contacts.

Encourage club members, family, friends, and prospective hams to take part with ARRL Field Day recruitment [posters](#) and attractive "Get on the Air" (GOTA) [pins](#) for newcomers.

Get your 2023 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL [online store](#) or by calling the toll-free number 1-888-277-5289, from Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 7 PM and on Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. If you are outside of the US, call 1-860-594-0355.

The complete 2023 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations with the [Field Day Site Locator](#).

New STEM Trailer for All Things Amateur Radio Association

The All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA), W8ATR, in Carroll, Ohio, revealed its new science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) trailer on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Rising Park's Seeds of Change Earth Day event.

The trailer, funded by a grant from the ARRL Foundation, offers visitors a hands-on STEM experience, including a CW oscillator, a display about the history of Morse code, and signage explaining the history of wireless technology and radios.



From left to right ATARA club members: Jonathan Imlay, K8LU, Ted Stephens, N8ASH, Herb Horn, KE8RJD, Greg DerSarkisian, KD8SSJ, Jarrod Combs, KE8MBL, and Diane Warner KE8HLD. (ATARA photo)

There are three Snap Circuits® stations set up for visitors to build an FM radio, and a working replica of a spark-gap transmitter. There is also a complete amateur station with a telescoping mast and a quarter wave vertical ground plane antenna. The trailer has all of the necessary equipment for youth to fox hunt.

More than 100 people went through the trailer and ATARA is planning on setting up again for Field Day in June.

ATARA Activities Director Diane Warner, KE8HLD, said it was a great day. She stated, "It was exciting to see children's excitement as they

keyed their name in Morse code, built an FM radio, made a spark on the spark gap transmitter, and watched the waterfall on the radio station's monitor."

She added that ATARA plans to add improvements and more exhibits to the trailer.

Warner also thanked the ARRL Foundation, saying, "We have been given a wonderful opportunity to reach youth and adults and show them the wonderful world of amateur radio!"

The All Things Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

International Marconi Day: National Parks Director Makes QSO

International Marconi Day celebrates the accomplishments of radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi on the Saturday closest to his birthday each year. Stations around the world activate a special operating event to celebrate.

On January 18, 1903, the first public two-way wireless communication occurred between the United States and Europe. A message from President Theodore Roosevelt was sent



National Parks Service Director Charles "Chuck" Sams, III (left) operates as KM1CC from the South Wellfleet Historic Site at Cape Cod National Seashore. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club Trustee Barbara Dougan, N1NS, (right). (Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club KM1CC, photo)

to King Edward VII from the [South Wellfleet site](#). The site is preserved within the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts.

For International Marconi Day 2023, the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club [activated the site](#) with their club call sign, KM1CC. Their event featured a special guest, the Director of the National Park Service [Charles "Chuck" Sams III](#). The Director

operated third party from the site for a scheduled QSO with W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut.

During the 40-meter QSO, Sams relayed his appreciation for the history of the site, stating, "This historic site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its global importance in communication history." He also noted his time in the United States Navy and how critical it was to have two-way radio communications from ship-to-shore and ship-to-ship.

The Houston AMSAT Net has been around since the mid - 80-'s and AMSAT Board of Directors member Bruce Paige, KK5DO, started hosting it in 1993. Net sessions now total more than 1500; number 1,506 occurred on April 11, 2023. Check-ins feature discussions about satellite and balloon operations. Andy MacAllister, W5ACM (SK), was the host with Paige and Marty Smith, WV5Y. Through the years, they morphed from geostationary satellites and streaming to its current format, podcasting and EchoLink. Smith is now the host and Paige has relocated to a different area and cannot reach the local Houston, Texas, repeater. However, he provides the copy each week for the ARRL Audio News. Vern Jackson, WA0RCR, has put the program on the top band for all these years. You can listen to the last net on 1860 kHz AM. The net can be heard on the local Houston repeater, W5BSA, on 145.190 MHz on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM Central Time. At amsatnet.com, you can find a link to the live stream of the net, a link to the recorded nets for the past four weeks, and some older live streams. There is also a link for the URLs that are referenced during the net, so you do not need to write them down. A subscription is available to receive the links via email when they are posted. The AMSAT net can be found with a stream on EchoLink connecting to *AMSAT*. A special thanks to Bruce Paige,

KK5DO, AMSAT Board of Directors member for the updated information.

Former Section Manager of the ARRL Northern Florida Section Stephen Szabo, WB4OMM, passed away Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Szabo was an ARRL Life Member and a Quarter Century Wireless Association Inc. member. He served as the Northern Florida Section Manager for four years, from 2014 to 2018. In



June 1968, he began his radio journey with the Boy Scouts while on a weekend camping trip to Montrose, New York. He earned his Novice license in 1971. Szabo retired from his full-time role as a captain of the Daytona Beach Police Department of Florida in 2010 but remained active part-time until 2021. He was a member of the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association (DBARA) and served as President from 1992 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2003. He also served as Vice President in 1998, Director in 1990, 1991, and 1997, Secretary in 2004, License Trustee, and Treasurer in 2011 and 2012. Szabo won DBARA Ham of the Year in 1995 and 2009 and the President's Award in 1996 and 1997. In 2005, he started the Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team and had been very active in the club as President until he stepped down due to illness in early 2023. Read more about his life and his amateur radio journey on

Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, in 2018. (Robert Nocero, W4KBW, photo)

his [webpage](#).

The Hualapai Amateur Radio Club (HARC), WB6RER, in Kingman, Arizona, presented the Kingman Regional Medical Center's WL Nugent Cancer Center with a check for \$1,300 in memory of club member Alan Stevenson, KG7YLB, (SK). The check was presented by club President Rick Cooper, K7CNT, Trustee David Admire, KE6HHL, and Stevenson's widow, Carol Stevenson. Mrs. Stevenson donated her late husband's amateur radio equipment to the club to be sold. She asked that a portion of the sales be donated to a cancer charity. The remainder of the money was kept by the club to fund activities, which include communications in support of the local community. Most of Stevenson's equipment was purchased by club members eager to help. HARC chose Kingman Regional Medical Center's WL Nugent Cancer Center to further assist the people of Kingman. Club Secretary Mike Risser, KG6ECW, said, "One of the reasons that amateur radio exists is to help the communities that we live in, [and] this is another way we were able to do that." The HARC is focused on radio communications that use internationally allocated radio frequencies. HARC provides communications for community events, promotes Kingman through on-the-air activities and events, and assists with emergency communications. HARC also stands ready to assist people in becoming licensed radio amateurs through certified testing sessions. They are restarting their annual Hamfests, which were on hiatus due to COVID-19. The club is heavily integrated in county and municipal activities throughout the Kingman/Hualapai County area. For more information or to contact HARC, visit <https://www.wb6rer.net>. HARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Amateur Radio Activity Honors African American Heritage

Parks on the Air® (POTA) sites that honor African American heritage are the focus of a casual operating event organized by the OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc (OMIK). The [OMIK POTA Challenge 2023](#) will run from April 1 to December 31.

OMIK was founded in 1952 by black amateur radio operators. While it is still a predominately African-American organization, today it represents a multi-racial, multi-cultural organization with members from the US and around the globe. OMIK is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

The group hopes to attract at least 750 radio contacts for the program by the end of the year. All modes permitted by the POTA program are eligible. OMIK members are encouraged to activate sites using the OMIK club call sign, K0MIK. The club's call sign must be reserved at least a week in advance.

The group has a list of suggested sites that are known to have a significant role in African American history. They hope that at least five unique national parks will be activated as part of the event, contributing to a total of at least 10 successful activations.

[Parks on the Air](#) is a movement to get radio amateurs to set up portable operations in recognized park locations. It promotes a culture of operators who make as many contacts as possible from and with such locations.

Radio Merit Badge Sees Biggest Gain in Scouting

According to a *Scouting* magazine study of Merit Badges earned in 2022, Radio had the biggest jump.

It is now the 81st most popular Merit Badge, up from being 98th in 2021. Trailing just behind it on the biggest gains list is the Elec-



tronics Merit Badge, which jumped 15 spots, from 80th to 65th. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, members must earn 21 badges, 14 of which are standard. The Scout gets to choose the remaining badges based on personal interests.

Special event station K4S in Jasper, Tennessee, 2018 photo; Radio Scouting.

Many Scouts take part in Jamboree on the Air, which is being held October 20 - 23, 2023.

**BARC Website, some Blog
page Titles******* Membership Dues*****

Even more than this on the
website.

Feel free to view, comment and
add.

Membership dues for BARC are due **January 1** every year. Membership dues are as follows and are almost the same as 2020: • Regular Member \$20.00 • Family Member \$2.00 • Associate Member (Non-Licensed) \$5.00 • Honoree Members \$0.00 • New Hams: Free first calendar year (Jan. to Dec.)

We are requesting that you send the application form in, so that we can have your correct information on file. The form can be downloaded at:

<https://n4pvh.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/application-for-membership.pdf>

Please give the application and dues to the Treasurer at the meeting or mail your dues, along with the member application form to:

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835

Or go to <https://w4amc.com/membership/> to use PayPal at the page bottom.

If there are any questions concerning membership status or dues, please contact Treasurer@w4amc.com.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

****Renew/Join Now****
Help Support BARC.

HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

National Hurricane Center
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Tropical Tidbits (current forecast models)
<https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/>

Active Red Cross Shelters
maps.redcross.org/website/maps/ARC_Shelters.html

Red Cross Safe and Well
www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/contact-and-locate-loved-ones.html

Facebook Safety Check
www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck

Hurricane Watch Net
hwn.org

VOIP Hurricane Net
voipwx.net

Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Center
www.WX4NHC.org

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Ready.gov - Plan ahead for disasters
www.ready.gov

Hurricane Central - The Weather Channel
<https://weather.com/storms/hurricane>

Nets to Know

[Caribbean Emergency Weather Net](#) - Meets daily at 1030Z and 2230Z on 3815 kHz.

[Hurricane Watch Net](#) -- 14.325 MHz, 7.268 MHz -- Activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 nautical miles of expected landfall. Dis-

seminates storm information and relays meteorological data to National Hurricane Center via embedded NHC station WX4NHC. Also relays post-storm damage reports and other relevant information.

[Intercontinental Net](#) operates from 7 AM to noon US Eastern Time on 14.300 MHz, providing a means of emergency communications to any location where normal communications are disrupted.

[Marine Maritime Services Net](#) -- 14.300 MHz -
- The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center.

[Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network](#) (SATERN) -- 14.260 MHz -- The purpose of the SATERN net is to support the Salvation Army operations in local, regional and international disaster situations. - *ARRL US Virgin Islands Section News*

WinLink Nets and Practice

Great Lakes Area Winlink Net

March 2021 Newsletter (Editors Note:
Great way to learn and practice)

A new Great Lakes Winlink Net to promote the use of Winlink and training on the various facets of the hybrid amateur radio data/internet system. The net is open primarily to those states that border any of the Great Lakes: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, and the Canadian province of Ontario. However, radio amateurs wishing to check in from other states or provinces anywhere are welcomed to participate. This net is modeled on the [Wisconsin ARES Winlink net](#).

The net check-in process is as follows: Send either a basic, plain text message, or use any of the forms templates on the Winlink Express platform available that will allow you to include the following line of text in the body of the message or in an appropriate part on the form you choose to send: FIRST NAME, CALLSIGN, CITY, COUNTY, STATE, COUNTRY. For example: RYAN, KB8RCR, REMUS, MECOSTA, MICHIGAN, USA.

The net is on each Wednesday, amateurs may send their messages or forms any time during the day using Winlink in any mode available, RF or via Telnet. Send your message to KB8RCR as the recipient on Winlink. - *Ryan Lughermo, KB8RCR, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Data Management/Special Projects, Michigan Section; and Official Relay Station From ARES*

The EmComm Training Organization (ETO) will continue the popular Winlink Thursday exercises to foster Winlink-knowledgeable operators across the country. Procedures will include a weekly exercise for routine practice with a fourth Thursday exercise of a more challenging nature. Exercises will almost always include a Winlink Express Check-in form. Please [send questions about Winlink Thursdays](#). Questions about the ETO group can be sent [here](#).

The Canadian American Net ([CANAM](#)) aims to unite hams in the Eastern US and Canada. Some 40 amateurs from Canada and the US typically check in for each session, and the net accommodates CW and SSB. The Canadian-American Net operates 7 days a week on 7.153 MHz, with check-in starting at 1300 UTC.

Recommend: Programming your local Emergency Simplex frequency's into your Radio's. It's easier now than when you need them. Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club uses the Repeater frequency in Simplex in case of Repeater failure.

National Hurricane Center

[Voice over Internet Protocol \(VoIP\) Hurricane Net](#), Nets: 14.325MHz, 7.268MHz

NETS

VHF/UHF

- ◆**BARC Net**, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆**Down East Hospital Net**, 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon
Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone
N4HAJ, Traffic Net 2030 local
Fountain 444.425 MHz, 88.5 Tone
N4HAJ
- ◆Newport-145.450..... IRLP 8561 links to Columbia
- ◆Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone
- ◆Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone
- ◆444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone
- ◆Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone
- ◆Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.
- ◆Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 444.725-91.5 tone.
- ◆Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 444.725MHz, 91.5 tone
- ◆Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz, tone 100
- ◆Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ 220 Net, Wednesday 2000hrs, 224.840 MHz -1.6, PL 91.5
- ◆ PARC Bath Repeater 146.955 PL Tone 131.8 1st Thursday of month at 2000 hours

HF

- Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.
- PARC Tuesday net 3.807Mhz SSB 1900 hours(EST)
- NTS CW Nets**
- ◆3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20wpm)
- ◆3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina
- National Traffic System**
- Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (ENCTN)
146.685 (146.085 in) MHz (PL 88.5)
2030E

More Nets:

New Swap and Trade Net - There will be a new swap and trade net starting up on 6 meters 53.25 N4YR repeater -1.0 MHz, tone is 100 Hz at 8PM.

Thursdays: 8:30 PM Forsyth County Auxcomm net on 145.47 MHz. 3rd Thursdays are training programs on Zoom at 8:00PM.

Thursdays: 9:00 PM 2 Meter SSB on 144.200 MHz

Sundays: 8:30 PM 6 meter SSB net on 50.155 MHz

Sundays: CW Legacy Net every Sunday from 12:30-1:45 p.m. every Sunday afternoon on 7.060. All speeds and brands of rigs welcome. Net control: Rick, WO8L

Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

South Carolina/North Carolina National Traffic System CW Nets 3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20wpm) 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm),

Ten-Tec Legacy

The nets operate on: Ten-Tec Legacy SSB 3.927 MHz on Saturday morning from 6:00 am until 9:30 am

7.195 MHz on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm

Any radio type is welcome. Netlogger is the preferred check-in method but CQ calls are made for those that don't have access to Netlogger. More information can be found at www.groups.io (search for Ten-Tec Legacy nets).

Virginia EmComm (A Winlink practice group)

This is a Facebook Group that practices Winlink and other related modes every Wednesday. Many Hams

all over involved. All are invited to take part in it.

Ham Ads



Ham Ads will be run, free of charge in Ham Chatter for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue. Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835. Or Email the Ham Chatter.**

Used Radios and equipment for Sale or Buy:

Antennas for Sale

Little Tarheel II with mount. \$150

Hustler 6BTV Vertical Antenna \$100

offered by Kirk Blackmon N5NC in Washington, NC, Contact: n5nc@msn.com

Cushcraft R-7 vertical antenna,

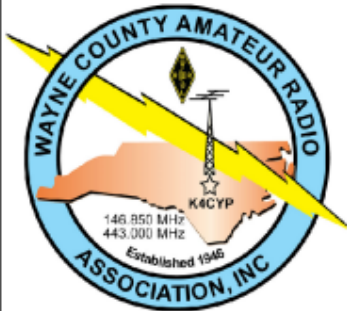
In very good condition, works very well, covers 10-40m.

I want to give it to a new ham who is working to get onto the HF bands. Will help install. Free to a good home.

Gary Faust NG9T in Blounts Creek.

gfaust1963@gmail.com

March 2023



The "Chris Keen Memorial UnFest," May 6th, 2023

Tailgating Extravaganza!

(1st PH Church, Goldsboro, NC)



Official ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

Talk-In 146.85 PL 88.5 / 443.00 PL 88.5

1100 The First Church Rd, Goldsboro, NC

The Wayne County Amateur Radio Association (WCARA) is sponsoring the 6th annual "Chris Keen Memorial Un-Fest". The Un-Fest is strictly a "Tailgating" event. There will be No Vendors and No Fee to enter or to sell. **Free Door Prizes!**



Date: May 6th, 2023

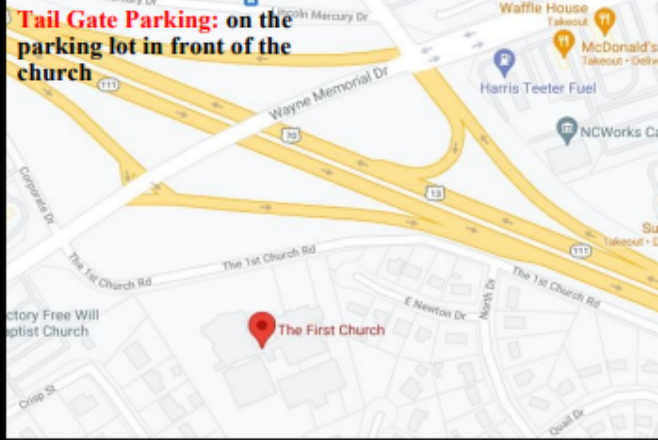
Time: 8 am - 12 Noon

Location: In front of the 1st PH Church

POC Pete (WA5T) pete@wene.net

UNFest Rules

1. Tailgate spaces are on a first-come, first-serve basis and not assigned.
2. Public Restroom available inside the 1st PH Church
3. This event is on Church grounds. No alcoholic beverages, firearms or pornographic material.
4. Radio, computer, electronic and emergency preparedness related items are preferred but open to all items of radio relate nature.
5. "Caveat Emptor" (Let the Buyer Beware!) - Tailgaters are responsible for quality and condition of the items they sell.
6. No security provided. WCARA/1st PH Church is not responsible for items that are lost or stolen. Take reasonable precautions to protect your property.
7. No outlets available to test equipment.
8. Pets must be on a leash and not allowed to run free
9. All fire lanes, access roads, entrances and exits to the "Un-fest" must be kept clear at all times.
10. No left-over's please. If you brought it, you take it home. No computers, monitors, televisions, circuit boards or other hazardous material is to be discarded or placed in any trash container! Clean up your area before you depart.



1st Ph Church, Goldsboro, NC

Directions Fom the West - take the old Hwy 70 By Pass to Wayne Memorial Dr. Turn Rt at the light. 500 feet turn left on 1st Ph Church Road.

Direction From the East - take the old Hwy 70 By Pass to Wayne Memorial Dr. Turn Lt at the light. 1000 feet turn left on 1st Ph Church Road.

Ham Ads

Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size
 \$10 per Month - \$100 per Year
 Send ads to: **Ham Chatter,**
PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835
 Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club.
Donations accepted!

No Charge for Ham's selling or looking for items.

How to print a copy of your FCC License

by Jim, KV4SJ

To access an official copy of your license:

1. Go to: [HTTPS://wireless2.fcc.gov/UISEntry/licManager/login.jsp](https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UISEntry/licManager/login.jsp)
2. Log in with your FRN and password. (Also has links to find or get your FRN.)
3. Click on "Download Electronic Authorizations" in the links on the left hand side.
4. Select your call sign in the box labeled "My Authorizations" and click on the Add button to copy it into the "Authorizations to Download" box.
5. Click on the Download button to download an official copy of your license in PDF format.
 via *Forsyth ARC Newsletter, August 2020*

BARC on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/w4amc/>

Facebook and Group details

<http://www.w4amc.com/barcnews.html#BARC>

Pitt County Repeater Association

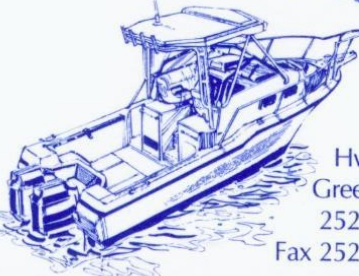
<http://www.pcra.us/>

Monday & Monday, CPA's, PA
 Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA
K4ZYD

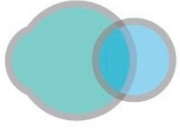
105-D East Victoria Ct. Phone (252) 321-6007
 Greenville, NC 27858 Fax (252) 321-2991

MARK'S MARINE, INC.



Mark Langley
 Mike Langley
KD4MTT

Hwy. 33 East
 Greenville, NC
 252 758-3309
 Fax 252 758-1396



East Carolina Retina
 CONSULTANTS

Peter Van Houten, M.D.
 2501a Stantonsburg Road
 Greenville, NC 27834
 252-758-2402
<https://ECRetina.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contest, Events and Meetings

2023 Starts Here: Just some of the MANY contests and Events

- May No ARRL events
 May 1 K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW)
 May 1 AGCW QRP/QRP Party (CW)
 May 1 OK1WC Memorial (MWC) (CW)
 May 2 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (phone)
 May 2 ARS Spartan Sprint (CW)
 May 3 CWops Test (CWT) (CW)
 May 3 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (digital)
 May 9 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 May 13 BARC Breakfast 9am
 May 18 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 May 30 BARC Board 7pm Zoom, Reports please for Chatter
 June 3-4 International Digital Contest
 June 10-12 June VHF Contest
 June 13 BARC Meeting 6:30pm, Field Day Prep
 June 15 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 June 17 BARC Breakfast 9am
 June 17 Kid's Day (June)
 June 24-25 ARRL **Field Day** (always 4th full weekend)
 June 27 BARC Board 7pm Zoom
 July 8-9 [IARU HF World Championship](#)
 July 11 BARC Meeting
 July 15 BARC Breakfast
 July 20 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 July 25 BARC Board 7pm Zoom
 Aug 5-6 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)
 Aug 8 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 Aug 12 BARC Breakfast 9am
 Aug 12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)
 Aug 17 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 Aug 19-20 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)
 Aug 20 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)
 Aug 29 BARC Board 7pm Zoom
 Sept 9-10 **Bike MS: New Bern**
 Sept 12 BARC **Picnic, Dave Woods** 6pm (Still to be confirmed)
 Sept 16 BARC Breakfast 9am
 Sept 21 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 Sept 26 BARC Board 7pm Zoom
 Oct 10 BARC Meeting 6:30pm, **Speaker:** Dale Burmester, About FT8 Digital mode.
 Oct 14 BARC Breakfast 9am
 Oct 19 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
 Oct 20 - 23 Scouting Jamboree on the Air
 Oct 31 BARC Board 7pm Zoom Reports please for the Chatter
 Nov 14 **BARC Meeting and Elections for Board, 6:30 pm**

Nov 16 **Pamlico** Meeting 7pm
Nov 18 BARC Breakfast 9am
Nov 28 BARC Board meeting 7pm
Dec ? BARC Christmas Party, TBA
Dec 26 BARC—No Board Meeting

2024 Starts Here:

Contest Calendar: For more Contest and all the rules:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, [Contest Calendar](#) website. The site now includes a [5-Week Calendar](#) .
There's more than I could post available.

BARC Meetings are open to all.

BARC Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 PM Live and Zoom

BARC Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM ZOOM Except in December.

Year-long -- [ARRL Volunteers On the Air \(VOTA\)](#). See also the State Activations Schedule for weekly [W1AW Portable Operations](#) including these:

April 26 - May 2 New Jersey W1AW/2

April 26 - May 2 New Hampshire W1AW/1

May 3 - May 10 Iowa W1AW/0

May 3 - May 10 Alaska W1AW/KL7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Section, State, Division Conventions and Hamfest

2023:

May 7 | [Warminster Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention, Bristol, Pennsylvania

May 13 | [ARRL Nebraska State Convention](#), Lincoln, Nebraska

May 19-21, Dayton Hamvention, Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center near Xenia Ohio, <https://hamvention.org/> (Or May 19-26 per ARRL newsletter)

June 2- 4, [SEA-PAC](#), hosting the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon

June 3, [Atlanta Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Georgia Section Convention, Marietta, Georgia

June 4, [BreezeShooters Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Prospect, Pennsylvania

June 17, [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention](#), hosting the ARRL Tennessee State Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone
Down East Hospital Net - 2nd Tuesday at noon - Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone N4HAJ
BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

W I V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S