

Ham Chatter



Volume 57 Issue 11

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

November 2023

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BARC and PARC Elections in November!

Looking for Volunteers and nominations this October for the 2024 Board positions. Please consider it, goes a year for most of them, you can go longer if you find you don't mind doing it.

**Need a Secretary and a VP at BARC.
Also need members to come out and vote!**

BARC General meeting Sept 12, 6:00pm in person and ZOOM All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

BARC meeting at The Oakwood School this November
in the Music Room. 4000 MacGregor Rd, Greenville, NC.

**November 14,
Elections of BARC Board members**

Speaker:
Daryl Shaw will talk about his POTA experience.

**November 9,
Elections of PARC Board members** at the VFW Post 6088 in Washington

December 11 (Monday)
BARC Christmas Party, 6:30pm
Immanuel Baptist Church

BARC Board Meeting - Dec 26, 2023. The meeting will be on ZOOM at 7:00 PM. All members invited. See Zoom information.

Dues due January 2024 for BARC



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>.
www.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 :

11-03	AF4QY	Bob
11-08	KD4NHZ	Walter
11-11	W4EJ	Dave
11-13	N8CQD	Bill
11-18	KN4LVD	Daniel

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:

Judy W3JUU and the lost of her home to a fire. <https://gofund.me/3a048969>

Congrats to Anna Grace KQ4KVB, past her Technician test. Only person with Down Syndrome known as a Licensed Ham.

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 W3JUU

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.

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BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB



Happy November my friends. I hope you made it through Halloween with all treats and no tricks.

So as we are looking at the Thanksgiving holiday later this month, I am reminded how grateful I am for all the help and encouragement that I have personally found in the ham community at large, and specifically within BARC. We are growing, and slowly adding more members and events. I love that some meeting ideas are coming in and that the breakfast get-togethers and monthly meetings are consistently well attended. I would love to have people step into the role of secretary, or vice president (who schedules meeting speakers primarily). The secretary position has been vacant all year and I'm happy for the helpers who have served as note-takers at the meetings, specifically Peter, N4PVH, and Susan, WA4AKB. Our board positions are not time or effort intensive, and we understand that you have other facets of your life to attend to as well. Many of our long-time members have already rotated through these offices, so I would love for some of our newish members to consider taking a turn with the board. Our election will be at the November meeting, there is still time to get on the ballot.

You all really are a great group of people. You have answered so many questions, loaned or given me books, solder, magazines, and other materials, shown up for meetings (despite the fact that you don't like to drive at night), donated to fundraisers, helped install antennas at our homes, scheduled guest speakers, elmered other new hams, climbed towers, and engaged in lots of story telling and memory sharing. You keep the club going with the Ham Chatter, keep the call signs active, keep the nets on the air, and keep our qsl cards going out. I'm thankful for you all, and wish you ten times the blessing you have been to me.

BARC Board Meeting on Zoom 10/24/23

Voting Board members: (need 4)

- President: Beth KN4FZB,
 - o V.Pres: Judy W3JUJ,
 - Secretary: Peter N4PVH,
 - Treasurer: Dave W4EJ,
 - Trustee #1: Bill W4SLC
- Trustee #2: Scott K9SPJ

Non Voting Committee Members:

- VE Liaison: Gerald, KN4CKL
 - Webmaster: PVH, N4PVH
 - Ham Chatter Editor: Mark Raysin, KG4GVJ
 - o Susan Jones, WA4AKB
- Dave Langley W4YDY (OM)
- o NOT PRESENT:
- o Public Relations/Historian: Sherry, KE4LZE
- QSL/Equipment: Richard, W4JNC

Items for discussion:

4 years of taxes paid by Terry.

Scott K9SPJ going to talk in January 9th 2024 about repeaters at the meeting as others have not confirmed. Thank you Scott.

Sky warn training is being scheduled, more details to be announced.

The Board would like to do evening and week end “hand on” kind of activities or visiting places like VOA. Please let Beth know of your ideas.

Dave suggested Batteries Plus speaker for next year.

Liability insurance is in effect Nov 1st.

Next membership meeting November 14 at 6:30 at OAKWOOD SCHOOL, Daryl Shaw will talk about his POTA experience.

Saturday Breakfast is 11/18/23 at 9:00am, Great Harvest.

The November Meeting is the Election meeting, please write in a candidate and volunteer to keep you club going.

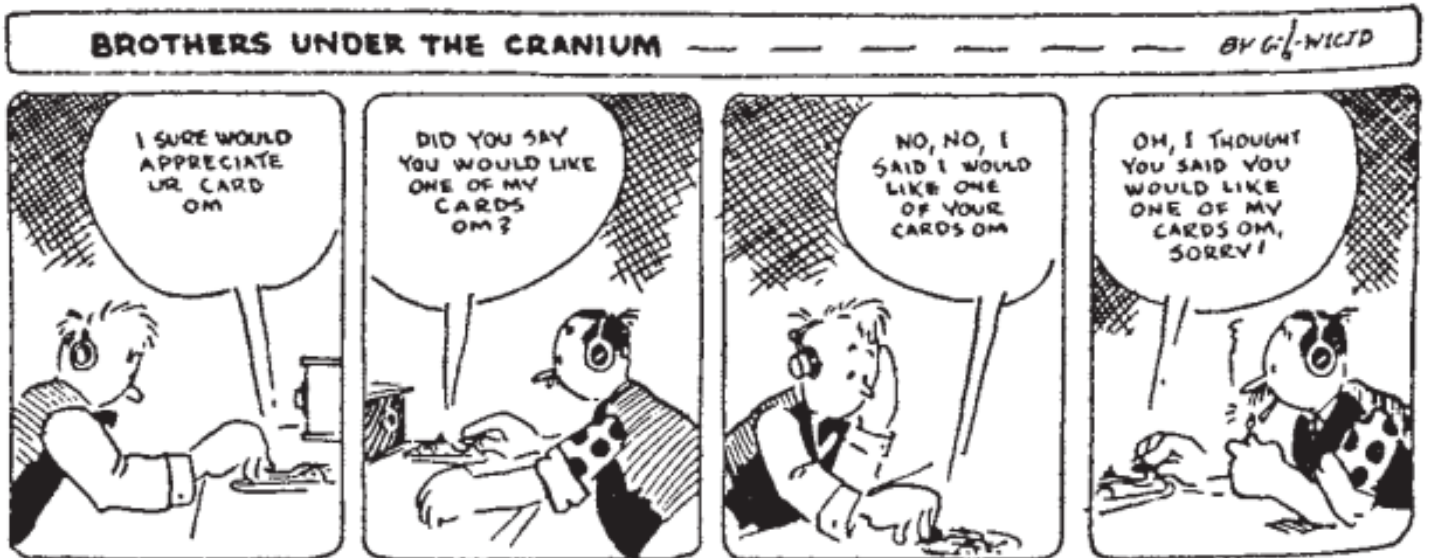
Current Slate of officers: (no write ins so far, please send suggestions and volunteers to info@w4amc.com)

President	Beth KN4FZB
VP	Judy W3JUJ
Secretary	open
Treasurer	Dave W4EJ
Trustee #1	Bill W4SLC
Trustee #2	Scott W4SLC

Christmas Party Meeting is December 11 at 6:30pm at Emanuel Baptist Church, 1101 South Elm St., Greenville. Pot Luck, bring a dish please.

73, N4PVH

(Thank you Peter for doing to Report)





Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner



Hello Ham Friends,

Well, as we wrap up the year in the next two months there are always a few things that need to be done to be ready for the coming year, in our case 2024. One is officer elections.

The Slate of Officer Nominees for 2024:

President: Gary Faust NG9T
Vice President: Scott Pollard K4WSP
Treasurer: Cheryl McGuire KX4EC
Secretary: Cheryl McGuire KX4EC

The officer nominees will be put to the members of PARC at the upcoming November 9th meeting. On the topic of the November 9th meeting, we will be at a different location:

VFW Post 6088
3375 River Rd
Washington, NC 27889

The meeting will start at 7:00pm or at the end of the VFW's November meeting, which starts at 6:30pm. Our December meeting will be a Christmas party, then in January we should be back at our normal meeting location, the Zion Episcopal Church in Washington.

The Christmas Party will be held at the home of PARC member Wayne Estabrooks on Dec 14. I will send out more information on the Christmas Party in an upcoming email.

Also coming up in November is the VE Exams on November 11. PARC gives exams on the 2nd Saturdays of the odd numbered Months, at 10am. Testees are asked to arrive no later than 9:30am. Exams are given by appointment only. Interested parties may contact the PARC VE coordinator Tom Kottke WT4TK at tkotke@centurylink.net

In closing, I want to wish all of the military veterans a very Happy Veterans Day on Nov 11.

73
Gary Faust NG9T
President, Pamlico Amateur Radio Club

Meet my New Friend, Echolink! By Lee Hemink, WD4JFR

For the past few years, I have wanted to make radio (HF/VHF) contacts back to the Chocowinity area when I am traveling, especially when we are at an established summer location in Northern Michigan. This past Spring, John, KE4TZN, helped me install at my Chocowinity home, a reliable method to do just that, without having to haul radios and equipment and associated antennas with me into the summer location's highly restricted (U.S. Historical Preservation) area, All I needed was my laptop and/or smart phone with the free, downloadable, EchoLink app and a reliable wi-fi internet capability. Voila! We just recently returned from a several week stay in Michigan, during which I was able to operate via ChromeBook (laptop) or Smartphone and made contact in/around Beaufort County (NC) with 17 different repeater users in 89 separate QSO's via Echolink through the Chocowinity Repeater (147.255/131.5). My wishin' and hopin' for the past few years finally came true. Thanks John, and all the locals within range of the repeater who maintained a loose QSO "schedule" with me in September and October.

I AM NO EchoLink EXPERT, SO.....GO TO: Echolink.com to read a detailed "How to" discussion of how to set up EL on Microsoft or Android or IOS systems, either a phone or desktop, using the appropriate App. This is if you just want to be able to talk with someone on a repeater equipped with the EL capability. To do this, there is no cost, but you MUST be a licensed HAM. If you want to install a way to contact a specific repeater (like I do with the Choco repeater) some additional equipment and lower level costs would need to be added. (This is what John helped me do). In our immediate VHF 2-meter analog usage area, Chocowinity and the Greenville (147.09) machines are EL-capable, the only ones that I am aware of (there may be others). So, for minimal or no cost, you can use the EL system closest to you if you have a fairly reliable RF signal. John (KE4TZN) and Scott (K9SPJ) have both been very helpful, technically, during my few months of successful EchoLink usage. Regular local users now include Scott (K4WSP), David (KQ4HEX) besides TZN and SPJ...others are beginning to use it more and more, which I find very satisfying.

From my somewhat limited research, EchoLink has been around the Ham community for many years. Like so much of our hobby is now, it is one of many growing aspects for us to use to communicate with each other. I liken it to an octopus, with tentacles reaching out in more and more directions to satisfy hobbyists' desires. True, it may not be PURE RF RADIO of the olden days, as it uses WiFi Internet connectivity in combination with the RF of the repeaters to achieve its results. I'd better STOP right here, because I am getting into the more technical aspects of my hobby. I like to turn on the radio, press PTT, and talk.

I will end this general introduction to EchoLink with a short story that happened to me just this morning. As I usually do every day, M-F about 0700-1700, I was monitoring the Choco repeater (147.255/131.5) when Echolink was activated using the internet, i.e. someone far away from Chocowinity's normal coverage area. The electronic "voice" said: "HK1A connected". Whoa, my ears just about flew off my head! For those of you who do not remember him, HK1A is his original (Columbia) call for K1KK (David) who used to work in Greenville. I identified myself, "This is WD4JFR monitoring", and David said "Good Morning, Lee...from Madrid, Spain" just as clear as if he was sitting in a chair right next to me. My first International Echolink QSO, from the gentleman who was patient enough with me to teach me how to say my WD4JFR call in Spanish. A classic example of how easy it is to use Echolink to reach out to the rest of the world with Ham Radio. The smile on my face must still be there as I write this story this afternoon.

Many of you have had the pleasure of spending time with David Sourdis when he lived in the Beaufort County and Pitt County areas. His job in Greenville complete, he moved to Canada for another job working in his field of expertise, antennas. Again, having completed his project with his employer, it was time to move along again, and this time he went to be near family near Madrid, Spain. David is a self proclaimed "antenna nut" and I encourage you to read his QRZ page which is accessed through his American callsign, K1KK. David also holds the following ham licenses: EC5KXA in Aravaca, Madrid; HK1A and HK1KXA in Atlantico, Co-

lombia; VA3KKA in Pinedo London, Ontario You will understand just how busy David has been during his many years as a ham in many parts of the world when you read his QRZ page.

Please feel free to contact me via the Choco repeater or email (ldhemink44@gmail.com) if I might clarify more of the "operating technique" aspects rather than much of the "technical" parts of this summary. I recommend you read the Echolink.com website pages for a general overall view first. I did so a few times to really understand how simple it really is.

73's, Lee, WD4JFR, Chocowinity.

ECHOLINK report:

WD4JFR-R N Michigan (Petoskey, Michigan) NW Lower MI Peninsula to Chocowinity NC repeater 147.255/Node 134078 2 sessions/day on 22 days 0730 and 1630 each on-air day No Planned Weekends 17 different stations worked during 22 operating days From 9/11-10/20/23 3 mobile, rest were base station. 3 via telephone, rest on laptop. 89 total QSO's

Special thanks to John KE4TZN who set up my ECHOLINK Node and got it running smoothly. Thanks to all others who were able to check in and made it all worthwhile for me while traveling to stay in touch with the "home ham folks".

73s, Lee/WD4JFR (at home)

REQUEST FOR HELP FROM RICHMOND VA FOR THE ALLIANZ MARATHON

Personnel are needed to staff the communications support function at the Richmond VA Allianz Marathon on November 11. Comms Coordinator Jim Rubin (W4PKR) wrote: "I am still short of volunteers for the upcoming Richmond Marathon on Nov. 11th. Can you please send out a message to the membership about this?"

"I am the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the 2023 Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon. I still have positions available for the race and I need people to volunteer. Volunteering at events is fun, it's a great way for us to "give back" to our communities, a way to show the general public what hams are capable of and last but not least, it hones our communications skills for those of us that are interested in emergency communications in a way that a weekly net cannot do (we follow net protocols similar to an actual emergency net).

"If you are interested, please contact me, Jim Rubin, W4PKR at JIMRUBIN2010@GMAIL.COM. In the subject line of the email, please include "2023 Richmond Marathon" (which will help me to find it faster). In the body of the email, please tell me the following:

- 1) Your name and call sign
- 2) Your cell phone number
- 3) What experience you have, if any, operating at events or in emergency nets.
- 4) Your shirt size (we are given race shirts to wear during the event, as well as reflective vests which identify us as volunteers. We get to keep the shirts, but not the vests)
- 5) What portable and/or mobile radio equipment you have for deployment?

Thanks you for getting the word out about this opportunity to be of service and to practice your involvement in helping out in future public service events." 73, Jim W4PKR, 646-528-6280.

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY**Oct 12, 2023**

Fall is definitely here. Can Winter be far behind? Over the past weekend, we had low temperatures of 38 degrees on Saturday and Sunday before the Sun rose over the Eastern ridge and warmed up mountains. A considerable number of the leaves are changing color up here near 4000 feet amsl and the area around the Linn Cove Viaduct (near Grandfather Mountain) seems to be on each newscast. Some areas in the High Country experienced frost due to the low temperatures reached last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS**NC STATE FAIR**

Since we are experiencing Fall weather up here in the High Country, it is time for Fall festivities, including Apple Festivals and County Fairs. The biggest event will be the NC State Fair which runs from October 12 to October 22.

Amateur radio operators from the Raleigh area, helped by some operators from other locations across the state, will staff a tent at the State Fair and be talking to visitors about ham radio as well as being on air. If you hear them, give the group a call so that visitors can see how ham radio works.

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

Saturday will give a large number of people the opportunity to observe an Annular (partial) Solar eclipse. The path of the eclipse will pass from Eugene, Oregon and continue over the United States before exiting near Corpus Christi, Texas around 12:15 pm. CDT. North Carolina will be affected around 11:30 a.m. EDT on October 14.

During an Annular Solar Eclipse, the Moon passes in front of the Sun but does not completely block the Sun, giving rise to the description of the "Ring of Fire". The Sun will remain partially visible in a ring around the Moon.

The area up around Boone will experience a 40% blockage of the sun while the far southwestern portion of North Carolina (from Asheville to Murphy) will experience a 50% blockage of the sun.

Information about the 2023 Annular Eclipse can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscience.nasa.gov%2F%2Feclipses%2Ffuture-eclipses%2F%2Feclipse-2023%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z1B20OUTs2YMIIFcuAXmClnG5BLKOJ9KbYU0bbAsg4%3D&reserved=0> .

If you want to observe the eclipse, be sure to follow the advice from Ophthalmologists who specialize in eye diseases and eye damage

Don't look directly at the Sun, don't rely on ordinary sun glasses. Follow the advice found at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscience.nasa.gov%2F%2Feclipses%2F%2Fsafety%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z1B20OUTs2YMIIFcuAXmClnG5BLKOJ9KbYU0bbAsg4%3D&reserved=0>

[3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6mJJc2XTGK7f30BcYkwDbWb1zRKKNQk49n%2BsLAss5Ko%3D&reserved=0](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwinlink.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FShakeOutWinlinkExercise_cm6.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yefQAaBdIHurPbGH1PWYDRse99Q0tTg%2BPRzKlxA7DHY%3D&reserved=0)

DYFI - EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE

The Great Shakeout is an annual exercise organized by FEMA and the US Geological Survey to raise public awareness of the potential effects of earthquakes. This year the "Did You Feel It" exercise will be held on October 19. Amateur radio operators can practice sending reports about a simulated quake as suggested by the Winlink Development Group. Information on how to participate in the exercise by sending Winlink messages can be found at

https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwinlink.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FShakeOutWinlinkExercise_cm6.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yefQAaBdIHurPbGH1PWYDRse99Q0tTg%2BPRzKlxA7DHY%3D&reserved=0

THE RETURN TO STANDARD TIME

November 5 at 2:00 a.m. is the time that we will return to Standard Time which may require you to manually adjust some of your clocks. Remember, Spring Ahead, Fall Back so you when you go to sleep on the evening of November 4, you should change the settings on your clocks.

DUPONT RESCUE EXPERIENCE

For the 16th time, dedicated searchers and emergency managers will train for the special problems involved in mountain rescues which will be held at the DuPont State Forest, near Brevard. The dates are November 10-12 and information can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dupontrescue.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ecb%2B6fuj1h2wd7LFPDlqJgJROHey3W0lchkmI5M218%3D&reserved=0> and at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fterms.ncem.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001631024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=12IN50MrI7JVdFiGJH7UaUIGeb2E3qoVoiTV1WMQ64E%3D&reserved=0>. This exercise involves a full complement of skills training including search skills, ropes, incident command, logistics and communications. Between 150 and 200 people typically participate in the DuPont Rescue Experience.

JARSFEST

November 19 is the date for the Johnston Amateur Radio Society hamfest held in Benson at the American Legion Building. You will find excellent door prizes, great hamburgers, along with a great time to see your friends. Information can be found at

[https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jars.net%2Fjarsfest-2023%](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jars.net%2Fjarsfest-2023%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yefQAaBdIHurPbGH1PWYDRse99Q0tTg%2BPRzKlxA7DHY%3D&reserved=0)

[2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2WqdUD8QD0W5CzrDodtA3eKERblO2Bc32NOWd183tmo%3D&reserved=0](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fnews%2Fcomment-deadlines-set-on-proposed-60-meter-band-changes&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2WqdUD8QD0W5CzrDodtA3eKERblO2Bc32NOWd183tmo%3D&reserved=0)

ARRL

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS MAY COMMENT ON PROPOSED OPERATING RULES ON 60 METERS

The FCC has proposed changes in the rules for amateur operations on 60 meters where amateur radio is currently a secondary user (sharing the band with the US Government which has a primary allocation). The proposed changes would lower the allowed power output from 100 watts to 15 watts and to eliminate designated four channels and replace them with spectrum ranging from 5351.5 - 5366.5 MHz.

ARRL opposes the proposed changes and urges amateur radio operators to file comments with the FCC opposing the proposed changes in the amateur rules. Information on the issue and suggested points to be raised by individual operators can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fnews%2Fcomment-deadlines-set-on-proposed-60-meter-band-changes&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Nd64AW7vfKb4RHesoidSOvguuWpq%2BOmsdeeahL3twmc%3D&reserved=0>

ARRL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The ARRL Foundation is entertaining proposals for grants to clubs that will provide financial support to organizations that seek to expand amateur radio, particularly through youth activities. The Foundation accepts proposals three times each year and October 31 is the next deadline for submitting a proposal. Information can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farrl.org%2Fnews%2Farrl-foundation-accepting-applications-for-grants-in-october&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qdb9h8bJe9mO2mBKMWYSAA5Ii5FC0LXHue0xl4q8Q%3D&reserved=0>

More detailed information about the Foundation Grant program can be found at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Famateur-radio-grants&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=omHFPbzXUAhn17dh%2BUGDLFu0XXkhZR0GzZ3jC17u%2FGE%3D&reserved=0>. Support for the Foundation comes from generous donors who contribute funding to support

the goals of the Foundation.

ARISS INVITATION TO SCHOOLS

One of ARRL'S important activities involves its partnership with NASA to support the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) program. Each year, there are two six month periods when selected schools and their Science teachers are invited to work with students to learn about space and to prepare for the contact with the International Space Station.

Recently, three schools in North Carolina (two in Mitchell County and one in Wake County) were among the dozen or so schools selected to participate in the ARISS program each year.

November 10 is the upcoming application deadline for schools that wish to be considered for the July – December 2024 window for ARISS contacts. Information can be found at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farrl.org%2Fnews%2Fstudents-wanted-talk-to-an-astronaut-via-amateur-radio-in-2024&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v8zG3Wa3jJX2HIvfgt4KXUu0QL1c5SdrUkHmsXIivA%3D&reserved=0>

NTS NEWSLETTER

ARRL has released the first issue of its NTS Newsletter which is designed to increase interest in and operator skills in passing traffic through the National Traffic System. Fifty amateur operators have been part of a committee working on improving accuracy and delivery time for traffic as well as increasing understanding with the amateur radio community about the NTS. The improvement program has the overall title of NTS 2.0. The first issue of the NTS newsletter is publicized at a

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fnews%2Farrl-launches-the-nts-letter&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2rD1HQ6WZORAW4EfSGyo3qqbytpPsRNX7%2FTGF6ArP9I0%3D&reserved=0>.

General information about NTS can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fchapter-one-national-traffic-system&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b%2F%2Fmda6YqJYEn5zHov04y8nyuChFu3vniWr1In%2BVjrU%3D&reserved=0>.

SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT

Dave Roy, W4DNA, compiles a report each month that reports on the activity over various traffic nets. The ARRL email system does not allow attachments which makes it difficult to include Excel or Word files so what is set out below is a truncated version of Dave's report. The full report can be found at ncarrl.org.

W4DNA - NC Section Net Report - SEPTEMBER 2023

NET	NMGR	QNI	LISTED	PASSED	TIME	SESSIONS	TFC %
SECTION NETS							
CN	AA4MP	279	94	91	464	60	96.81%
CSN	KI4KZS	104	22	22	511	30	100.00%
NCEN	WK4WC	425	77	75	395	30	97.40%
NCMN	W3OJO	308	206	203	521	30	98.54%
THEN	K4SEH	416	596	28			
LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS							
CWTN	N4CNX	376	76	76	486	30	100.00%
ENCTN	W4DNA	50	10	10	159	18	100.00%
PCTN	W4TTO	227	51	51	248	30	100.00%
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NETS							
MNN	KI4FAQ	230	0	0	239	30	
TOTAL		2415	536	528	3619	286	98.51%

AFFILIATED CLUB LISTING

ARRL HQ is particularly interested in reaching out to clubs. During the Covid quarantines, a number of clubs stopped meeting while some clubs did not embrace Zoom or other meeting platforms for their meetings. Although there was once a group of 71 ARRL –affiliated clubs, some apparently have gone silent.

You are urged to create or renew your listing as an ARRL affiliated club.

Check on the listing of clubs at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fclubs&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlIjoIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Q5NH%2BJJfvsXO%2FbOwpm1PaGLsW%2F9x1ftfZpD2BbwLNg%3D&reserved=0> .

Determine if your club is listed. If it is not listed, designate someone to get it listed. If the club is listed but the information is inaccurate, have someone update the information about officers, webpages, meeting sites, and how to contact the club. Information can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Faffiliated-club-resources&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlIjoIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UJtpRixu3Gv1nO0sP%2FvIPvPtqLQDK3%2F6jZW0kmXl2Hk%3D&reserved=0> .

OTHER MATTERS

October 14 at 11:30 a.m. will be the time that the Western Carolina University Amateur Radio Society launches a High Altitude Balloon from Cullowhee. The balloon can be tracked on aprs.fi and will have the callsign W4WCU-11. Congratulations go out to the Catamounts for their efforts in exposing students, faculty and neighbors to what amateur radio is all about.

ARDC GRANT TO YCARS

Big congratulations go out to the York County Amateur Radio Society, located in Rock Hill, South Carolina for securing a sizeable \$99,723 grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

ARDC is a not-for-profit organization that acquired and sold a large number of IP addresses when the internet was in its infancy and nobody thought the Internet would amount to much. ARDC Has used the proceeds to support amateur radio and using digital technology in amateur radio.

YCARS applied for a multi-phased project that involves building three Go-Kits, a remote operated club station and a program to train school teachers as to how to bring amateur radio into their classrooms. Information can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ardc.net%2Fapply%2Fgrants%2F2023-grants%2Fgrant-york-county-amateur-radio-society-yvars%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C06d7bc18d2154ba8aa6b08dbcb61c45a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638327393001786057%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JQubWsEdNphTTFb0TL%2BYVLBY0W2ObEBcOHVQtAHVn%2BQ%3D&reserved=0>

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS DOWNEAST

The Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts group used their Facebook page to invite interested amateur operators to sign up for one or more of the following events:

- Ironman NC Half Triathlon (70.3 miles)
October 21, 2023
Website: Ironman 70.3 NC
- Battleship NC Half Marathon (13.1 miles)
November 12, 2023
Website: Battleship NC Half Marathon
- Hampstead Kiwanis Turkey Trot (5 miles)
November 18, 2023
Website: Hampstead Kiwanis Turkey Trot

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, contact Jeremy K2HJX at K2HJX@att.net

SILENT KEYS

Please send me a note when a ham who is a family member, friend or club member passes away. Since becoming your Section Manager on April 1, 2020, I have sent 205 Silent Key reports to ARRL HQ. In the past week, I sent in six reports. Look at a couple recent issues of QST and you will see the list of Silent Keys is getting longer. ARRL is facing a difficult challenge in recruiting new members to replace the members who have passed away.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Fall will provide periods of mild weather which should be used to ready your antennas for Winter.

I have heard a number of friends comment on how quickly 2023 has been passing. Having been up here for nearly 50 years, I know It is not uncommon for the High Country to experience snow flurries around November 5. I recall three Halloween evenings in the recent years when there were snow flurries that led to canceling Trick or Treat activities up here.

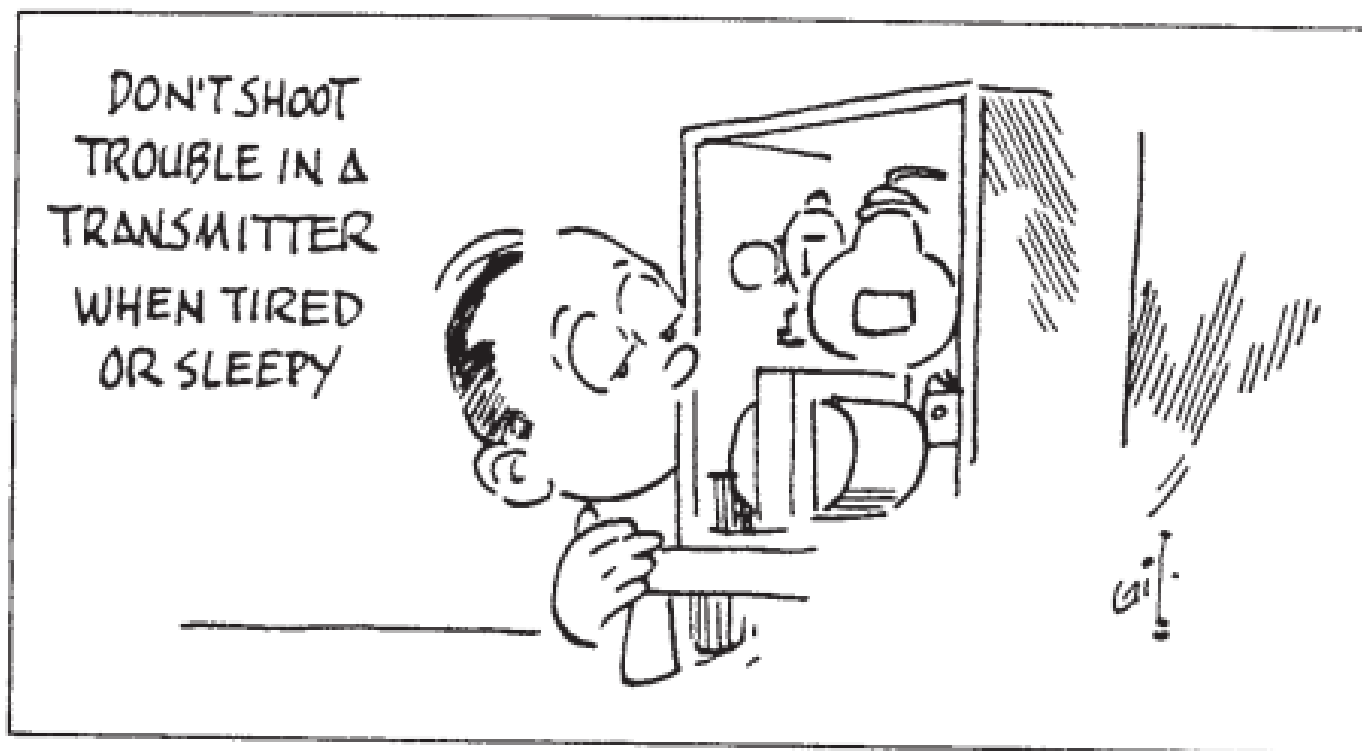
If you are working on antennas, be careful. Falling, contact made with power lines, and sadly for some there will be stresses that may aggravate heart and mobility issues. Be careful

Marv Hoffman, WA4NC

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Dr Marvin K Hoffman, WA4NC

wa4nc@arrl.org



GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY**Oct 31, 2023**

Up here at 3850 feet amsl it looks like most of the leaves are on the ground and the hills are increasingly turning from gold with some reds to brown as the remaining leaves continue to fall. Sunday afternoon was pleasant (68 degrees) but things will turn cool beginning on Monday evening and Tuesday. Halloween is expected to be cold, windy and wet. Trick or treaters will likely have a cool, dreary night and the kids may be hard to see as they walk along roads from house to house.

Fall is fleeting away. The overnight low on Tuesday is expected to be 21 and the Wednesday overnight low will be around 20 degrees. Chill temperatures down below 10 degrees are headed this way. Daylight Savings Time is about to end. Remember to reset your clocks on Sunday November 5, when Standard Time returns. The quick phrase, "Spring ahead, Fall back" may help you remember whether to move the clock ahead or backward.

HAMS BEING ACTIVE

Kudos go out to two NC groups for their activities in the very recent past.

First, credit goes out to the hams in the Raleigh area who were able to secure a spot at the State Fair to highlight amateur radio, distribute ARRL literature and answer questions from the public concerning getting an amateur radio license. Good job! They were able to staff the State Fair booth with three hams for two shifts most every day that the Fair was operating.

Next, congratulations go out to Zach Thompson (KM4BLG) and his team for putting together the NC Parks on the Air activities. No report yet on how many groups activated at various parks and historical sites but the project was a success!

FEDERAL MATTERS

ARRL indicates that the FCC has an item on the agenda for its November meeting that the Commission may change its rules to remove the 300 baud digital rate limit on hf amateur bands. Such a vote, once it is followed by appropriate rule making and comment notices, would permit the use of Pactor 4 and other digital modes that can be accommodated within the 2.8 KHz bandwidth occupied by conventional SSB voice signals. Information on this matter can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farrl.org%2Fnews%2Ffcc-to-vote-on-removing-symbol-rate-restrictions&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GmULnPf0SsxIYJ5xNAcn4K3etTc54Z26sUCNiBVJBtI%3D&reserved=0>.

The technical notice that was posted by the FCC on this topic can be found at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.fcc.gov%2Fpublic%2Fattachments%2FDOC-397992A1.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HVcSj7alq3jYg02rl%2Bj5BLOmHkLlhtNENkRI01xG57c%3D&reserved=0>.

You should not use Pactor 4 on amateur frequencies until and FCC and ARRL advise that the 300 baud rule has been eliminated. The process requires appropriate public notice and review of comments prior to final

action.

CONGRESS APPARENTLY LIKES AM RADIO

Congress is working on passing proposed legislation that would mandate that every new vehicle sold in the United States would contain an AM radio. You may be surprised to learn that seven automobile manufacturers had announced that most of their electric vehicles would not have AM radios and AM radios were targeted for elimination from new conventional vehicles as well.

Lobbying by broadcasters has led a growing number of Congressional leaders to support AM IN EVERY VEHICLE ACT which has been introduced in both the US House of Representatives and Senate.

Arguments in favor of keeping AM radio are based the rules which require that broadcast stations carry Emergency Alert warning while there is a potential for cell towers going quiet during power outages. Higher power AM stations cover wider areas that cell towers and may well remain on the air even though a closer cell tower may go off the go off the air. Broadcasters obviously have a vested interested in having car radios that receive their stations and the National Association of Broadcasters has lobbied Congress vigorously on this issue. Information can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.govtrack.us%2Fcongress%2Fbills%2F118%2Fhr3413%2Fsummary&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=erRKdVnyDI1lLncS20IQfqKvNhgxIpdXpBhpsbYyUSE%3D&reserved=0> .

On the other hand, automobile manufacturers claim that AM radios in cars could cause interference with complex vehicle control systems and AM reception in new vehicles could be adversely affected by interference produced by the growing number of microprocessors extensively used in the newest cars.

US CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE LESKO (AR-8) ANNOUNCES SHE WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Described as a friend of ham radio and married to a ham (W2SSH), Congresswoman Debbie Lesko has announced she will not seek re-election to the US House of Representatives in 2024. During a recent Congressional hearing, Ms. Lesko directly asked the FCC Chairman about the long-pending rule making proceedings filed by the ARRL over a decade ago. ARRL noted that Congresswoman Lesko ” introduced The Amateur Radio Communications Improvement Act (H.R. 3241) on May 11, 2023, to require that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) eliminate the obsolete HF digital symbol rate limit with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit.”

Information on the proposed FCC rule-making can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farrl.org%2Fnews%2Ffcc-to-vote-on-removing-symbol-rate-restrictions&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GmULnPf0SsxIYJ5xNAcn4K3etTc54Z26sUCNiBVJBtI%3D&reserved=0>.

Information about Congresswoman Lesko can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abc15.com%2Fnews%2Fstate%2Frep-debbie-lesko-not-seeking-reelection-for-azs-8th-congressional-district&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWJoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GmULnPf0SsxIYJ5xNAcn4K3etTc54Z26sUCNiBVJBtI%3D&reserved=0>

[7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iY7flj36cvTzq%2F4FGqPD%2FFJ47t%2B3N3oNQ%2Bv5%2F7TCr4s%3D&reserved=0](http://www.w4amc.com/7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iY7flj36cvTzq%2F4FGqPD%2FFJ47t%2B3N3oNQ%2Bv5%2F7TCr4s%3D&reserved=0)

FCC EXTENDS DEADLINE TO FILE COMMENTS CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES ON 60 METERS

On October 30, the FCC extended the deadline to November 28, 2023 for filing comments on the proposals to change amateur radio privileges in the 60 meter band.

According to an earlier notice, the FCC proposal is to lower permitted power from 100 watts ERP to 9.5 watts ERP for amateur transmissions and to remove amateur radio as a secondary user on four existing designated channels in the 60 meters band (but allowing amateur operation at reduced power within a 15 KHz slice of spectrum between two of the current 60 meter channels.

ARRL is asking amateurs to file comments that urge the FCC to retain the existing power level and to retain amateur operation as a permitted secondary user on 60 meters. Advice from ARRL on how to file comments with the FCC can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Farrl.org%2Fnews%2Farrl-urges-comments-to-fcc-on-60-meter-band&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gdO8NHZ%2FDPbJfVPHfzjXizT2yY%2BI7tHVOn26WryDH6c%3D&reserved=0> .

OTHER AMATEUR RADIO MATTERS

As part of its goal to increase the number of young people becoming amateur radio operators, the ARRL has taken steps to reduce the cost of test and licensing for youths under 18 years of age if when a young person completes the license exams through an ARRL VE Team. First off, the ARRL exam fee will be reduced to \$5 and the ARRL will reimburse the (under 18 years old) applicant for the \$35 FCC application fee once the ARRL receives completed documentation. Information on the youth

reimbursement program can be found at

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.arrl.org%2Fyouth-licensing-grant-program&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S4AmqLN9shnH5nJdx3d1p%2BK6Fa86cSrHnuZiRV5YVik%3D&reserved=0> .

PRN UPDATES

DMR radio using the TDMA modulation system continues to grow! According to data posted at radioid.net, there are 247,783 DMR radio id's that have been issued around the world. In the last 30 days, 1531 new DMR radio id's were issued by radioid.net.

Drilling down into the data, the radio id database shows 110,290 radio id's assigned in the United States, including 4530 of which have been issued to persons who have addresses in North Carolina. In considering these numbers, please remember that the entries are for a person or group but there may be several DMR radios associated with a single radio

id. For example, a single radio id might be show up on one or more portables, mobiles and even a hotspot.

Here is a short tutorial concerning the PRN DMR system which links 60 or so DMR repeaters in North and South Carolina. To help you understand the PRN system, look over the information posted at ncprn.net and scheart.us/digital for additional information about the PRN system.

- Only the talk groups that are listed at <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fncprn.net%2Frepeater%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C&sdata=Ra2XBRoRjc8sPW4AwYl6xS6i%2FQL8CRqi%2FmpXp9nkeeU%3D&reserved=0> may be used on the PRN system. Talkgroups listed on Brandmeister website as well as other hotspot-based networks will not work on the PRN system.

- When you program your radio with the PRN talk groups, remember to associate the talkgroup with the correct timeslot. For example, on the PRN system the local talk group is used on Timeslot and programming it to use timeslot 2 will cause the C-Bridge to reject the communication.

- There is no pathway to the PRN system using a hotspot. This policy was made to protect the PRN repeaters from overheating and failing due to being keyed up for hour after hour (4 a.m. to 2 am on the next day). If that is what you want to listen to a properly set up hotspot that is connected to the Brandmeister server will allow you to talk around the world with an inexpensive portable radio using Brandmeister talk group 91 which carries worldwide traffic.

- In North Carolina the PRN repeaters were bought and are owned by individuals or clubs while in South Carolina, the repeaters are owned by South Carolina Emergency Management and were purchased using Homeland Security Grant funds.

- In North Carolina, the PRN repeaters use a variety of ways to connect to the CBridge (DSL, cable) whereas the South Carolina PRN repeaters are connected to the SC CBridge by means of the state microwave system that is operated by SC Public Television. In North Carolina. Internet connectivity expenses for linking the PRN repeaters to the NC C-Bridge are paid by the repeater owner or by a supportive club or user group.

- Operationally, proper protocol on the PRN system is to take extended conversations that begin on PRN off to Chat 1 or Chat 2 so that all 60 repeaters do not have to be activated when two or three linked repeaters can link those who want to talk.

- Do not set up your radios to send aprs packets over the PRN system and do not send private text messages from one radio to another over the PRN system.

- Selecting the Echotest talkgroup and making a short test transmission over a PRN repeater will result in the repeater playing back your audio test. This can be helpful by letting you hear how your radio sounds.

- There are several parts of the PRN system in which a local talk group on one repeater is permanently connected to the local talk group on one or more repeaters to extend the coverage in that part of the state.

Those areas are as follows:

Boone Area includes Boone and Sugar Mountain

Charlotte Area includes Albemarle, Charlotte, Crowders and Wingate

Jackson local includes Cashiers, Cullowhee, Franklin and Sylva.

Raleigh area includes Cary, Raleigh, Hillsborough, Wilson

Triad Local includes Browns Summit, High Point and Sophia

Within the listed areas, talking over the local talk group on one repeater s carried on the local talk group of other repeaters in that listed area.

If managers in the Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition system, or the WNC DMR network, wish to have information posted about their systems. Please drop me a line with the information you would like to have distributed.

NCEM FULL SCALE EXERCISE BEING PLANNED FOR APRIL 4-8 2024

A Save The Date posting on Facebook a week or so ago advised that there will be a large exercise in April. Details are still being worked out and the event has not yet been listed in TERMS (<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fterms.ncem.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C8501e3b6c98947b4d91008dbda34d753%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638343692716651731%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8Hm0svrJ0OerIz1NwZSWUI86DSgpBYrcwzcb4Bnd5mM%3D&reserved=0>). Persons with open position task books for various COMU roles are advised to make note of this exercise. When more is known, you will be informed.

REQUEST FOR HELP FROM RICHMOND VA FOR THE ALLIANZ MARATHON

Personnel are needed to staff the communications support function at the Richmond VA Allianz Marathon on November 11. Comms Coordinator Jim Rubin (W4PKR) wrote to me, "I am still short of volunteers for the upcoming Richmond Marathon on Nov. 11th. Can you please send out a message to the membership about this?"

"I am the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the 2023 Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon. I still have positions available for the race and I need people to volunteer. Volunteering at events is fun, it's a great way for us to "give back" to our communities, a way to show the general public what hams are capable of and last but not least, it hones our communications skills for those of us that are interested in emergency communications in a way that a weekly net cannot do (we follow net protocols similar to an actual emergency net).

"If you are interested, please contact me, Jim Rubin, W4PKR at JIMRUBIN2010@GMAIL.COM. In the subject line of the email, please include "2023 Richmond Marathon" (which will help me to find it faster). In the body of the email, please tell me the following:

- 1) Your name and call sign
- 2) Your cell phone number
- 3) What experience you have, if any, operating at events or in emergency nets.
- 4) Your shirt size (we are given race shirts to wear during the event, as well as reflective vests which identify us as volunteers. We get to keep the shirts, but not the vests)
- 5) What portable and/or mobile radio equipment you have for deployment?

Thanks you for getting the word out about this opportunity to be of service and to practice your involvement in helping out in future public service events.” 73, Jim W4PKR, 646-528-6280.

HAM RADIO GETS THE ANSWER

A couple of weeks ago, I received a unique request from a fellow who wanted to ask the father of his girlfriend for the father’s approval to marry the girlfriend.

Since the would-be father-in-law was an avid ham operator, the guy who contacted me asked if I could dispatch a radiogram through the National Traffic System asking for the future father-in-law’s blessing so that wedding planning could begin. My friend, NC4WB, initiated the radiogram and put it on a traffic net. Two days later an answer in the affirmative came back.

CLOSING COMMENT

Most of the leaves that are going to fall have done so which results in an increased risk for wildfires.

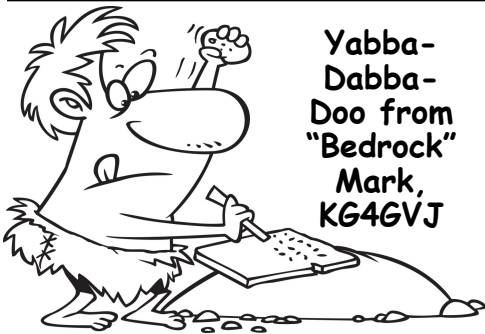
Some people will rake the leaves into piles and burn them and the fire sometimes gets away from whoever is in charge. Sometimes there is a carelessly discarded cigarette that starts the pile on fire. Winds and the unusually dry conditions may allow a leaf burning to get out of control. Sometime a fire starts with discarded ashes from fireplaces and grills.

Fire fighters know that the fuel is (leaves) is in place waiting for an ignition and if there is a breeze blowing we have the potential for a wildfire.

Please be careful with outside burning. Much of North Carolina is experiencing unusually dry conditions.

Marv, WA4NC
Boone

ARRL North Carolina Section
Section Manager: Dr Marvin K Hoffman, WA4NC
wa4nc@arrl.org



Hi Folks,

Another month has ended and another is starting. What are you Thankful for? Me? A loving wife and kids (okay, now young adults), friends and neighbors and living relatives.

I received my first billing since my Solar Electric been activated, Greenville has me on a Tier 2 meter. That means we are billed for the On Peak times along with the Off Peak times. We have credit for the Off Peak times. It will be interesting to see what the second billing will be like. The Electric bill is lower, but the On Peak charges might be the expensive part.

I've been off the HF radio for a while and had to update my laptop I used for it, that took a while. 10 meters was open and I heard a Ham in Italy for a bit. They went off the air before I could confirm their call sign, I wanted to get that before trying to call them.

Saw a Ham who lives in Maryland when I was traveling to Maryland last month to pickup my wife. W3XAF was getting into his car at a rest stop in NC on Interstate 95 when I saw him. I think he's not planning on selling his car anytime soon. He had about 5 HF Mobil antennas mounted on his car and a 2M. All the coax went to a big hole in his roof with a lot of black caulking sealing it. I still had a few hours of driving ahead and a dog to walk, so I didn't stop to say high.

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:

November 9, 16, 30
Dec 7

Technician:

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 9:30 pm.

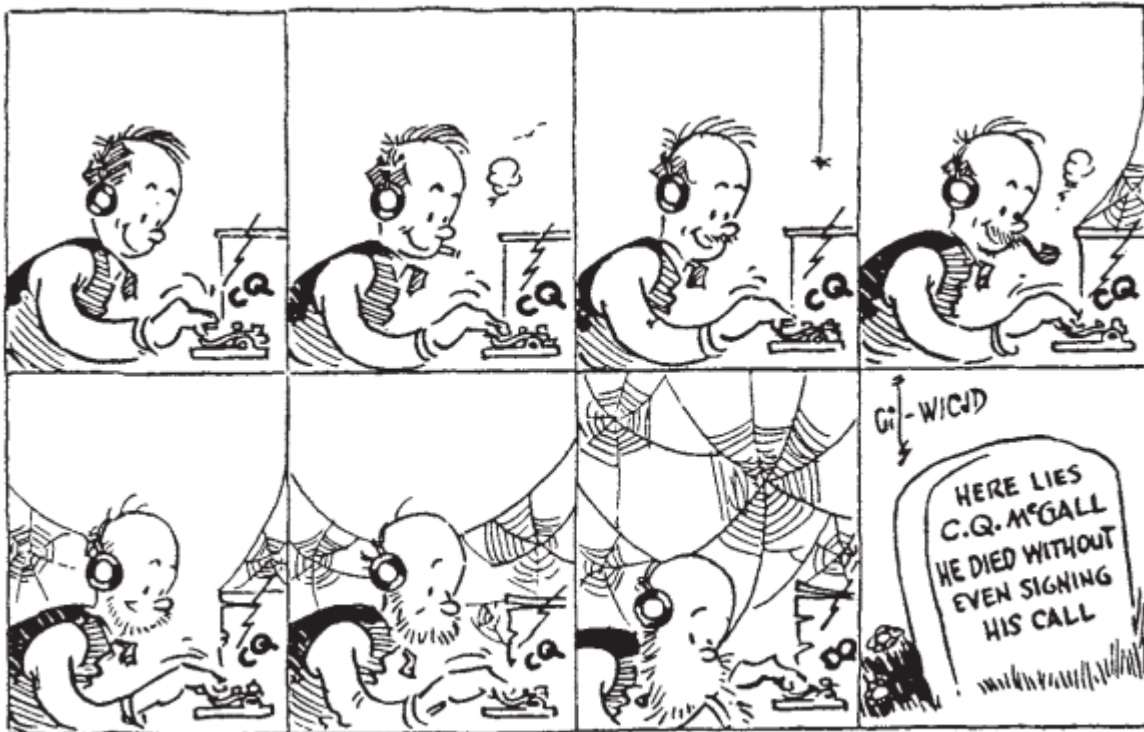
The Gordon West Technician class or General class license manual is recommended in conjunction with online hamstudy.org.

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



March, 1938

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:fred@wb4qoc.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](#)

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

participate in the Great ShakeOut DYFI exercise, please visit <https://winlink.org/content/shakeout> or use the following link that has specific "how-to" information [ShakeOutWinlinkExercise_cm6.pdf](#).

Comment Deadlines Set on Proposed 60-Meter Band Changes

A public period is open until October 30, 2023 for radio amateurs to comment on proposed changes to the 60-meter band. ARRL is asking all radio amateurs to join it in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the band. ARRL is encouraging expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 watt ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 watts EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels. An opportunity to reply to comments ends on November 28.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have use of five discrete channels on a secondary basis, on which they are permitted an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 watts. In the NPRM the Commission solicits comment on reducing the secondary allocation to 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz with a power limit of 15 watts EIRP (equivalent to 9.1 watts ERP). The lesser spectrum and reduced power limit was adopted by the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the federal government's spectrum regulator, has argued that the WRC-15 proposals should be implemented as written. Doing so would result in amateurs losing four of the discrete channels they have been using on a secondary basis and having the maximum permissible power reduced by more than 10 dB, from 100 watts ERP to 9.1 watts ERP.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned the FCC to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels -- one would be within the new band -- as well as the current limit of 100 watts ERP. "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 [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season," ARRL said in its petition.

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels demonstrated that amateurs coexist well with the primary users at 5 MHz. "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," ARRL said in its 2017 petition.

ARRL will continue to advocate to maintain the 100 watt limit for 60 meters, continued authorization for the four channels outside the WRC allocation that are being used today, and adoption of the new 15 kHz allocation with the same 100 watt power limit.

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada adopted rules equivalent to those proposed by the ARRL. "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested," the Commission wrote.

The FCC seeks comment on the proposed 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum, but also on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis, and whether the maximum power limitations should be reduced from 100 to 9.1 watts ERP. The FCC also requested comments on whether the power limitation should be expressed as EIRP as the WRC-15 recommends, or as ERP as in the current rules.

Healthcare Coalition Conducts Interoperable Auxiliary Communications Test

The Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC) in conjunction with the North Carolina Auxiliary Communications Eastern Region (AUXCOMM) conducted an interoperable Communication Exercise (COMMEX) on May 4, 2023. This is the fourth modified Functional Exercise conducted to better improve communication and information sharing across the region.

This exercise was opened to all statewide partners along with federal agencies located in North Carolina. The exercise was later opened to all FEMA Region 3 and 4 Auxiliary Communications and SHARES stations. The sole goal of this exercise was to ensure preparedness for the 2023 hurricane season.

Overview

EHPC conducts monthly VIPER - Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders -- radio checks with all of its regional hospitals and State Medical Assistance III Teams (SMAT III). While North Carolina is a leader in tactical communications, gaps still exist between various disciplines with radio and information sharing platforms. EHPC leadership wanted to take regional communication testing a step further with functional exercises.

The EHPC COMMEX is designed as an all hazards exercise, but is particularly focused on healthcare across the region. Various exercise play lanes were developed to challenge players with real life examples of problems encountered in their fields.

The EHPC COMMEX was conducted as a hybrid exercise. Players were allowed to remain at their home base in a virtual format while exercise control duties occurred at key locations. Facilitators were virtual in nature and exercise play was advanced by participant interaction.

The event included 308 total participants from 47 agencies in North Carolina. 192 stations from 16 states outside North Carolina sent HF Situation Reports.

Key Findings

Key findings conveyed baselines of interoperable communication challenges, provided recommendations, and can help North Carolina improve communications interoperability. With this knowledge, agencies can also develop priorities and focus their efforts on achieving and improving communication interoperability.

Several interoperable communication successes:

- The North Carolina VIPER radio system continues to be the model for interoperable radio communications in North Carolina with public safety agencies.
- Information sharing platforms along with field operation guides (FOGs) are becoming more widely known.
- Agencies were offered examples and developed internal PACE plans for voice and data in their agency.

The use of Winlink continues to be a reliable method of resiliency for local, state and national

agencies/stations.

EHPC also identified several opportunities for improving the knowledge and preparedness of regional and statewide partners.

Conclusion

The [EHPC COMMEX \(004\)](#) was an essential step toward increasing and improving communications interoperability throughout North Carolina in preparation for future catastrophic incidents. The success of this exercise was based on the knowledge shared and lessons learned during the exercise and associated discussions. The AAR/IP will be published in the coming weeks. The improvement plan will focus on recommendations to substantively further interoperable emergency communications capabilities. [More information here](#). - *Thanks, Duane Mariotti, WB9RER, Kaiser Permanente Amateur Radio Network, Orange, California*

Major Minnesota Marathon Canceled -- Amateur Radio Team was Ready

The [Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon 2023](#), scheduled for earlier this month (October 10) was canceled just before the start due to forecasted record heat and humidity creating dangerous running conditions. However, the amateur radio team - one of the leading public event communications groups in the country -- was ready to roll. Here's a summary of what they had planned based on their extensive experience and education.

Amateur radio -- the Medical Communications Department -- again played several key roles in the Type 3, Unified Command event:

- 66 volunteers, mostly hams in yellow shirts, were stationed every half mile on the course to report runners down, entering/leaving aid stations and other situations. That data goes in our cloud database at each of four Net Control sites, and can be queried by our team in Family Medical Information to re-unite runners and loved ones. It is also presented to event leadership as a dashboard, which is queried in Race Operations and by mobile users. The plan was to allow EMS leadership to use the system. There are perhaps 500 radios in use - 350 rented, 63 ham, and at least 60 public safety officials.

Taking a page from the [CERT manual](#), the 200+ member volunteer Medical Team provides first aid, triage, and care to protect the EMS system and 33 area hospitals from an overwhelming surge of "green" or sports medicine type cases/calls that could be handled by volunteers, and provide early hands-on assessments to ensure serious cases were transported and care was provided quickly - we support them.

- We represented Event Medical at the Interagency Working Group - a table with our Regional EMS leader, an Incident Dispatcher from Hennepin County and St Paul EMS leader. The idea was, using software, to "deconflict" and coordinate event requests for EMS services.
- We were tasked in 2023 with providing SAG Bus "navigators" - to report runner location data and supervise the lightly injured or extra tired passengers aboard nine school buses. We insisted on a meeting with the SAG Bus Leader - who reported the data requested was not scheduled bus location, but individual runner/rider status in real time. A ten member Strike Team from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary - they have a radio club, W8WRR, that we partner with very closely -- was assigned here.

We were asked to help track and dashboard missing persons cases. We chose [osTicket](#) in the

The ARES Letter

ARES[®] Briefs, Links

Alachua County (Florida) ARES - one of the leading groups in the country -- has [approved its After-Action Report/Improvement Plan](#) (AAR/IP) for its Hurricane Idalia response. A spokesman for the group said: "We write these up for almost every significant event or exercise. The improvement plans have steadily made us grow. This 25-page report in standard HSEEP format has 25 problems identified, each with improvement plans. Nine of those are already 'completed.' Putting our problems in writing so we can track our solutions has been key for us."

FEMA Publishes Unmanned Aircraft Systems Resource Typing Documents -- These updates integrate the latest best practices into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) resource typing definitions library.

Remote Pilot-In-Command: Operates an unmanned aircraft platform in a safe and secure manner according to all local, state, and Federal regulations.

Technical Specialist - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Provides technical support to the UAS Team, including managing data recording equipment and software, managing communications systems and frequencies, and maintaining documentation in the appropriate chain of custody.

Small Unmanned Aircraft System Team: An aircraft operations team without a human pilot on board, also known as a drone. The pilot on the ground has an FAA or military license to collect data for improved situational awareness through remote sensing. The UAS Team operates under the Air Operations Branch, as established by the requestor.

These resource typing documents enhance the interoperability and effectiveness of mutual aid by establishing baseline qualifications. This facilitates sharing deployable resources at all jurisdictional levels. -*FEMA NIMS Alert October 17, 2023*

Great ShakeOut Exercise is Tomorrow!

From the October 1-15 2023 issue of the *FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications News Clippings and Topics of Interest* newsletter: "The Great ShakeOut is the world's largest annual earthquake drill and will occur nationwide on October 19, 2023, at 10:19 AM local time. To highlight the significance of accurate ground truth in the early stages of a disaster event, Winlink and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) are collaborating to provide radio operators an opportunity to participate and train on process and procedure for information reporting in the 'Did You Feel It' (DYFI) exercise; subsequently, this drill will also underscore how the proficiency of Winlink facilitates this sharing of information. USGS will use the Winlink 'Did You Feel It' ground truth data to contribute to the calculations of their earthquake intensity assessments when modeling the Modified Mercalli (MMIS) Intensity Scale, a standard index used for earthquake severity. Data will be leveraged to improve event response products, including Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response (PAGER), a system that provides fatality and economic loss impact estimates following significant earthquakes. The secondary purpose of this event is to illustrate to emergency management officials the ability of the Winlink system to provide situational awareness information they may not otherwise be able to obtain in the initial phases of disaster response." For more detailed instructions on how to

cloud, as our Race Operations Center has metal tinted windows -- our mesh network could not reach the room.

- We again shared our homemade Med Comms dashboard on the big screens and HSIN - the Homeland Security Information Network -- in an instance that was spun up by Emergency Management for the race. This is common and allows government and private sector cooperation and sharing of event data.
 - Peter Corbett, KD8GBL, upgraded our current SAG bus reports to reflect each bus separately. A few days before the race a request came in to use the returning SAG buses for urgent course aid station resupply -- we decided this would be via text and tracked on osTicket. There were concerns on radio repeater capacity: we already had seven repeaters signed out and we added two more. There was a request again for non-[HIPAA](#) dropped out runner location queries at the Event Info Tent - this was to be provided to race volunteers by our software over our Part 15 mesh network.
 - Hams recruited a new volunteer EMS leader for the Finish Area who would get us back up to 100 student EMTs who were to provide a key resource in the sprawling State Capitol Complex -- a ham on our rented radios was the net control.
- If you have volunteers embedded at all leadership levels, hard questions can be asked by people without paychecks, careers, or pensions at stake. This might be a pro tip for police departments who need community involvement upgrades.

Generally, except on two of our ham led Med Comms nets, public safety radios are not used by event volunteers. And public safety does not use our event radios. This is deliberate -- the chains of command are not mixed or confused. The idea, under stress, the departments use their established procedures and there is not a change. We meet at the top, under Unified Command. For our race, we are event/volunteer led; our government partners have two large cities to run, and if we need them, we politely ask. (Some marathons are government led, which is a different model). -- *Erik Westgard, NY9D, Med Comms Lead, Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon*

K1CE for a Final: Personal Hurricane Idalia Notes

After 40 years of working hurricane response as a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff and then providing mostly administrative and communications support as a volunteer following my retirement, I experienced the real thing firsthand with Hurricane Idalia. We were in its path. I never made it to my ARES assignment at a town shelter, instead hunkering down with my wife and five dogs at home. That morning was truly terrifying - no hyperbole here. Our two vehicles were crushed and ultimately declared total losses.

For the first time in over 40 years of association with the WX4NHC station at the National Hurricane Center, and the venerable Hurricane Watch Net, I found myself checking in to the net and filing a report on conditions. Net and station operators - thank you.

After writing about hurricane preparedness and emergency communications for decades, I found that I violated many of my own recommendations. I discovered firsthand the psychological challenges that work against doing the right things.

I'll stop here, but watch for a QST Public Service column on my personal experience - and failings - soon. It will be an unflinching self-assessment that might help you in a future disaster situation. -- *Rick Palm, K1CE, Fort White, Columbia County ARES, Florida*



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 Audio News is distributed through [Blubrry.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 Blubrry. Each week, the current edition is available at [ARRL Audio News](#).

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

On the Air Sponsored by [Icom](#)

The Solar Eclipse QSO Party: When Operating is Science

Gary Mikitin's, AF8A, article, "The Solar Eclipse QSO Party: A Fun Way Support Radio Science" in the September/October 2023 issue of *On the Air* details how hams can contribute data to a study on how the ionosphere reflects radio signals during the eclipse via an easygoing on-air event called the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Gary, who is the Amateur Radio Community Co-

ordinator of HamSCI, joins us on the October episode of the On the Air podcast, to talk about just how easy it is to participate.

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](#)

Amateur Radio in the News

"[Ham radio more than a hobby for Hoosier Energy employees](#)" / Hoosier Energy (Indiana) August 7, 2023 -- Hoosier Energy amateur radio operators.

"[How to get started with a ham radio license](#)" / Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (Missouri) October 5, 2023 -- Missouri School of Journalism.

"[Amateur Radio club tunes in to chess tournament](#)" / The MSU Exponent (Montana) October 5, 2023 -- Montana State University Amateur Radio Club Radio Club, W7YB.

"[Local ham radio group trains to support hospital system during cyber attack](#)" / Point/Plover Metro Wire (Wisconsin) October 8, 2023 -- Portage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

"[Fruitful Partnerships are Paying](#)

["Off" / East Texas News \(Texas\) October 5, 2023](#)
-- Upper Alke Livingston Wireless Association
ARES®.

["Man Stands Outside with a Strange Antenna and Repeats This Phrase - Minutes Later He Gets a Call Nobody Expected"](#) / The Western Journal (Arizona) October 11, 2023 -- KB8M makes contact with the International Space Station.

["10-4 Boy Scouts: Local amateur radio club helps scouts participate in event"](#) / Daily Journal (Minnesota) October 12, 2023 -- *The Lake Region Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["How Ham Radio Operators Do Eclipse Science"](#) / Science Friday (New York) October 13, 2023 -- The University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club, W3USR.

["Stafford radio operators plan park event"](#) / The Free Lance Star (Virginia) October 15, 2023 -- *The Stafford Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Covenant Christian Academy students speak with International Space Station through Ham Radio"](#) / The Salem News (Massachusetts) October 16, 2023 -- Covenant Christian Academy.

["County amateur radio now a FEMA-certified communications team"](#) / Wiscasset Newspaper (Maine) October 18, 2023 -- *The Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency amateur radio team.*

["From Baton Rouge to Belize, local ham radio operators talk around the globe"](#) / The Advocate (Louisiana) October 23, 2023 -- *The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Lookout Mountain Wildfire Also Affected Ham Radio Operators; Fire Said To Be Contained"](#) / Chattanooga.com (Tennessee) October 23, 2023 - *The Tri-States Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

Announcements

The Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (the Colombia Amateur Radio League, LCRA) will host a worldwide special call sign activation for their 90th anniversary. The event will begin at 17:00 UTC on Saturday, November 18, and will conclude at 23:59 UTC on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Female hams will activate 11 official stations with the following special call signs: 5K0LR, 5K1LR, 5K2LR, 5K3LR, 5K4LR, 5K5LR, 5K6LR, 5K7LR, 5K8LR, 5K9LR, and 5J3L. QSL card information and more information on the bands, frequencies, and modes can be found at Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados - LCRA - Alma mater of Colombian amateur radio since 1933.

AMI Jamboree Scheduled for November

The 2023 [Amplitude Modulation International \(AMI\) Jamboree](#) will be held over the Thanksgiving weekend, starting at dusk on November 24 and ending at dawn on November 27.

AMI Executive Director John C. McGrath, N9AMI, said the jamboree is not a contest but rather an AM-only operating event. "Everyone is welcome to participate, and there is a certificate available for those who contact 25 stations and submit a log," said McGrath. "Each class winner will receive a certificate, and a short biography will be posted on the AMI website. While the age of the equipment doesn't matter, there must be an AM mode selection on the radio," he added.

The preferred AM bands for operation are:

- 160 meters: 1.885, 1.900, 1.945, 1.985
- 80 meters: 3.870 to 3.890
- 40 meters: 7.175, 7.290, 7.293, 7.295

20 meters: 14.286 and the upper end of 20 meters

According to the club's history, AMI was formed in 1993. The name was taken from a west coast amateur radio club that was no longer in operation. AMI is now dedicated to the enjoyment, promotion, and preservation of AM. Club memberships include numbered membership certificates, an organization of 10 regions with directors, annual operating events, local club support, and the monitoring of activities that affect AM operations. While the FCC reduced the peak-envelope power measurement for AM, they also issued a statement in support of continuing the mode's important place in amateur radio.

More information is available on the [AMI](#) website.

Comment Deadlines Set on Proposed 60 - Meter Band Changes

(Comment time EXTENDED to Nov. 30, 2023 Editor)

A public period is open until October 30, 2023 for radio amateurs to comment on proposed changes to the 60 Meter band. [ARRL](#) is asking all radio amateurs to join it in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the band. ARRL is encouraging expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 watt ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 watts EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels. An opportunity to reply to comments ends on November 28, 2023. Comments should be submitted in FCC Docket No. [WT 23-120](#).

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have use of five discrete channels on a secondary basis on which they are permitted an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 watts ERP. In [the Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) the FCC solicits comment on reducing the secondary allocation to 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz with a power limit of 15 watts EIRP (equivalent to 9.1 watts ERP). The lesser spectrum and reduced power limit was adopted by the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The National Telecommunica-

tions and Information Administration (NTIA), the federal government's spectrum regulator, has argued that the WRC-15 proposals should be implemented as written. Doing so would result in amateurs losing four of the discrete channels they have been using on a secondary basis and having the maximum permissible power reduced by more than 10 dB, from 100 watts ERP to 9.1 watts ERP.

In 2017, [ARRL petitioned the FCC](#) to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels -- one would be within the new band -- as well as the current limit of 100 watts ERP. "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 [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season ...," ARRL said in its petition.

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels demonstrated that amateurs coexist well with the primary users at 5 MHz. "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," ARRL said in its 2017 petition.

ARRL will continue to advocate to maintain the 100-watt limit for 60 meters, continued authorization for the four channels outside the WRC allocation that are being used today, and adoption of the new 15 kHz allocation with the same 100-watt power limit.

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada adopted rules equivalent to those proposed by the ARRL. "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested," the Commission wrote.

The FCC seeks comment on the proposed 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum, but also on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis, and whether the maximum power limitations should be re-

duced from 100 to 9.1 watts ERP. The FCC also requested comments on whether the power limitation should be expressed as EIRP as the WRC-15 recommends or as ERP as in the current rules. [Click here to see the full graphic explaining what's at stake.](#)

ARRL Launches *The NTS Letter*

There's a new newsletter in the ARRL repertoire as of this week. The first issue of [The NTS Letter](#) was published on October 3, 2023. *The NTS Letter* is a monthly digest of all things related to the ARRL National Traffic System®. It is edited by Marcia Forde, KW1U, who is a veteran traffic handler and serves as the Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Eastern and Western Massachusetts and Rhode Island Sections.

The NTS is network that allows for rapid movement of messages, referred to as "traffic," from origin to destination, and for training amateur operators to handle written traffic and to participate in directed nets. The network consists of the layering and sequencing of both voice and CW traffic nets, as well as a digital system that operates 24/7. This nationwide system operates 365 days a year, generally relaying routine message traffic for training purposes and for maintaining readiness if called upon in an emergency. If called upon, these operators stand ready to assist emergency communications personnel and served-agency partners in relaying welfare and other messages. It is the modern continuation of the historic "radio relay" from ARRL's founding in 1914.

Director of the ARRL New England Division, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, said the NTS is a great way to get involved in emergency communications. "Newly licensed and experienced amateurs alike who participate in NTS find satisfaction and enjoyment in learning the skills of sending and receiving concise written voice and CW traffic in an organized, on-air network. It's a natural complement to the skills and training one needs to become an effective emergency communicator and Amateur Radio Emergency Service® volunteer. Plus, it's an opportunity to meet

new friends, and it's fun!" said Kemmerer.

[The NTS Letter](#) is published monthly and is free of charge to ARRL members. Members can subscribe at arri.org/opt-in-out by selecting "edit" to view all of their subscription preferences (members need to be logged in to their ARRL website account to do this).

WestFest STEM Event Offers Hands-On Experience

Amateur radio was represented at the seventh annual WestFest event at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, September 30, 2023. WestFest is a public engagement event that highlights science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research, sustainability initiatives, and outreach programs at The Ohio State University. The event featured three behind-the-scenes tours and 39 activity booths.

The Amateur Radio and RF Club at The Ohio State University, [W8LT](#),

and the [All Things Amateur Radio Association](#), W8ATR, provided information and hands-on STEM experiences for nearly 400 attendees. The W8ATR Mobile



Members from W8LT and W8ATR outside the ATARA STEM trailer. [John Ross, KD8IDJ, photo.]

STEM Trailer, funded by a grant from the ARRL Foundation, included a CW oscillator, a display about the history of Morse code, and signage explaining the history of wireless technology and radios. Three Snap Circuits® stations were set up for visitors to build an FM radio, and there was a working replica of a spark-gap transmitter. The trailer also featured a complete amateur

station with a telescoping mast and a quarter-wave vertical ground-plane antenna.

"It's important to have amateur radio [be] a part of the STEM experience," said

Lawrence L. Feth, PhD, Professor Emeritus and Faculty Advisor to W8LT.

ATARA Activities Director Diane Warner, KE8HLD, said throughout the day the STEM trailer hosted 52 adults and 80 children. "Watching the children's faces as they experience the sounds and sights of amateur radio technology is always rewarding," she said.

Additional information about WestFest is available at [The Ohio State University](#) website.

Local Amateur Community Rallies to Support Collegiate Club for QSO Party

By Todd Emmert, W9TWE

[Indiana State University](#) Amateur Radio Club, W9ISU, had a successful [ARRL Collegiate QSO Party](#), held October 7 - 8, thanks to the support of local hams.



Griffin, Eve, and Celeste try out some hands-on STEM activities at the ATARA

The club has faced challenges in recent months, including being displaced due to campus renovations and having minimal student involvement; they

didn't even have a multimode, multiband transceiver. In an effort to boost interest and attention to amateur radio, Faculty Advisor Dr. Robert Girod, N9RNV, offered 10% extra credit to students who earned their Technician-class amateur radio license. That incentive, along with efforts from student leader and W9ISU President Rowan Eggert, WO1P, helped turn things around. The club received a grant from the school that allowed them to purchase three stations, Icom IC-7300s with Heil Pro 7 headsets, foot switches, and antennas. The gear made it possible for them to set a goal of having everything up and running for the 48 hours of the ARRL Collegiate QSO Party.

Eggert listed the event on the local radio club's social media pages to get the word out to any alumni that would be interested in helping or getting on the air.

She also got with the local Boy Scouts and set up a public demonstration during the QSO party for them. Eggert also invited other faculty to stop by and see what W9ISU was all about.

There was hurdle after hurdle during the week leading up to the event. After finding out the newly ordered antennas were not shipped, and there weren't any solid answers on when they would ship, Rowan went into crisis management mode and reached out to local hams and clubs - the amateur community rallied. Local radio am-



Seth Byas, KI5QHD, prepares his amateur radio demonstration for a group of Boy Scouts during the ARRL Collegiate QSO Party. [Todd Emmert, W9TWE, photo.]

ateurs provided use of a Yagi for satellite contacts, and three multiband, portable verticals and coax for the HF stations.

Friday night, as the operating event neared, Egert; Seth Byas, KI5QHD, and Dr. Girod were unable to get the SWR correct on the antennas, so they reached out on a local repeater for assistance.

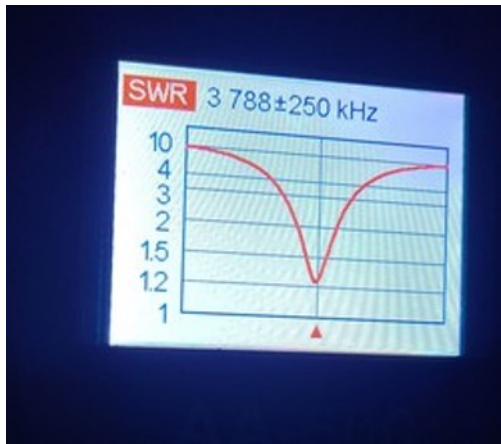
It just so happened that one of their supporting clubs and ARRL Affiliated Club, Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association

(WVARA),

W9UUU, was having a dinner and meeting a few

blocks away. After WVARA tended to their own club business, a calvary of hams showed up with an antenna analyzer and over a century of cumulative expertise to help get all three W9ISU stations on the air in less than 45 minutes. (They complied with the event rules, which stated operating only one transmitter at a time.)

The W9ISU club went on to stay up day and night making contacts, eating food, talking radio, and hosting guests and alumni for the next 46 hours.



The screen of an antenna analyzer after getting an 80-meter antenna adjusted properly. [Todd Emmert, W9TWE, photo.]

Faculty Advisor David Barber, KB9YDX, brought technical expertise and donuts on Saturday and Sunday.



Indiana State University Amateur Radio Club member Seth Byas, KI5QHD, takes a selfie while operating as W9ISU in the 2023 ARRL Collegiate QSO Party.

The club members were anxious to get the logs compiled and see how they ranked in points. Regardless, they learned a lot and felt the support of their amateur community.

ARRL has resources for collegiate amateur radio clubs. The ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP) was established to support and promote Amateur Radio among students and ham radio clubs at colleges and universities. More information can be found at www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio.

The [York County Amateur Radio Society](http://www.ycars.org) (YCARS) in Rock Hill, South Carolina, has received a \$100,000 grant for **Project Target, which encompasses several initiatives to help serve York County through education and public service.** Scott Putnam, KG9V, YCARS Secretary and Manager for Project Target, said the grant will be a game changer for the entire York County community, and it will help in three specific areas. "First, it will provide funding to help educators and students in local educational institutions with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. The grant will fund equipment, study materials, and training to introduce students to the principles of wireless and radio communications, as well as their application in the real world," Putnam said. He added that the grant will also "[fund] new communication assets that will allow YCARS to expand its auxiliary communication services to local and state emergency management and

local first responders, and [will] provide radio communications to local charities for public service events." The grant will also help fund the construction of a remotely operated radio station at the YCARS facility. This station will be accessible to two local school amateur radio clubs and scouting troops, as well as licensed amateur radio operators who reside in assisted living facilities, or who live in an area with antenna restrictions. The grant was awarded by [ARDC](#).

The Allianz Partners Richmond (Virginia) Marathon needs experienced amateur radio operators to help at this year's event on November 11. Operators who have experience providing ham radio assistance at public events, with being a part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), or with using the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) protocol are requested to volunteer. Two volunteer operators are needed at both of the event's medical tents, as well as at the starting line. Each of the four support and gear (SAG) vehicles will need one operator who will have their own handheld digital mobile radio and a magnetic mount antenna to ensure reliable communications throughout the course. Two ham volunteers are needed as floaters, who will use their own vehicles to help the on-course operators as needed. Floaters will need their own mobile radios (with antennas). Amateur radio operators who are interested in volunteering should email Jim Rubin, W4PKR, at w4pkr@arrl.net with their full name and call sign; cell phone number; shirt and reflective vest size; experience operating at events, including any EmComm work, and portable and mobile equipment they have. The email subject line should include 2023 Richmond Marathon. For more information, visit [Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon](#).

Using Amateur Radio to Play Chess

Playing chess using amateur radio? The concept may have begun in 1912 when a group of

college students from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) wanted to challenge chess players at The Ohio State University (OSU). Though the official origin is still debated, clippings from a 1912 issue of *The Case Tech*, one of CWRU's former student newspapers, reveal that the challenge was made when the CWRU Wireless Club procured a Morse code transceiver.

Faculty Advisor to the Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU, David Kazdan, AD8Y, said there are no official records of the match, so the challenge was re-proposed this year by the [Case Amateur Radio Club](#). With the help of [OSU's Amateur Radio and RF Club](#), W8LT, the game was on. It started on September 26 as a round-robin tournament with other schools and is now moving into an elimination phase. The setup is the same as any chess game except the players are in different locations.

Chess moves are relayed over the air either by voice or Morse code.

CWRU started the tournament strong with a win against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), but they lost the long-anticipated game against OSU.



Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU members and Case Western Reserve University Chess Club members (left to right) Jonah Barnett, KO6BGI; Duncan Lu; Andrew Stappenbeck; Zach Baldwin, KE8ZDJ and Tobias Heller KE2BWU playing HAMCHESS. [Adam Goodman, W7OKE, photo.]

W8LT President Arvcuken Noquisi, KE8MXF, said the tournament is a series of test games to determine the best way to incorporate amateur radio into what is now referred to as HAMCHESS.

"Now we are using EchoLink through a Cleveland, Ohio, repeater with algebraic chess notation relayed by voice," said Noquisi. "In the future, each chess team will determine what method works best for them based on skill level and participation."

Noquisi added that blending the school's chess and amateur radio clubs makes for a great campus experience and opportunity for community involvement.

W8EDU President Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said collegiate amateur clubs are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and HAM-CHESS is a great way to reenergize amateur radio clubs and involve other college organizations.

In 1945, the United States and the USSR squared off in a radio chess tournament using CW. In the 1980s, Chess and Amateur Radio International, a club with more than 200 members, used 20-meter SSB in a match between five US players and five players in Oceania, a geographical region spanning the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

Today, more than a dozen college amateur radio and chess clubs are participating in HAM-CHESS events. College and university radio clubs, including those participating in the chess tournament, regularly network with each other through the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#).

2023 Chicago Marathon Supported by Amateur Radio

On October 8, 2023, more than 140 amateur radio operators from five Midwest states assisted 2,000 volunteer medical personnel at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. This is the 15th consecutive year that amateur radio operators have helped coordinate medical responses and arrange for medical resupplies at the Chicago Marathon. About 49,000 runners entered this year's event.

The city-wide marathon uses six main repeater channels and deploys four temporary repeaters. New this year was official use of the

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) after organizers trialed it at their other events, including the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle and the Chicago 13.1. APRS radios were deployed to amateur communication teams in Chicago's Grant Park after the race was finished.



A total of 30 radio operators worked in various capacities before and after the race. Also, there were 100 ham radio operators sta-



tioned at each of the 20 [Rob Orr, K9RST, photo.]

course medical tents and the medical hub. In Forward Command, 10 amateur radio operators served as net controls, traffic handlers, logging specialists, and expeditors.

Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications has been nationally recognized for its ability to fully integrate all available resources, and amateur radio operators have been publicly recognized by Federal Emergency Management Agency observers for their performance during the event.

President of Ham Radio Chicago and former president of the North Shore Radio Club Rob Orr, K9RST, said that amateur radio has an important seat at the communications table. "Amateur radio is important to the event. However, it is just one small component [of] a very complex event that requires more than 10,000 volunteers to be successful. Amateur radio has a unique role and works alongside the other many specialty service groups required to support an event of this magnitude," he said. "This event has shown that amateur radio is very much alive and doing well."

A POTA Book for Park Activators and Hunters!

ARRL has a new book to help radio amateurs enjoy one of the fastest growing communities within the hobby.

Participants in Parks on the Air® are the most vibrant on-air temporary ham radio.

Park hunters combine operating from the lawns, mansions, stoops and patios, meadows, rocky mountaintops, and just about any scenic spot in the country -- and many



[The Parks on the Air Book](#) is a comprehensive guide to the setups and processes of 14 operators from a variety of skill levels and backgrounds and offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to a park. Each chapter includes a detailed gear list so you can see exactly what your fellow operators are using, whether they're leaders of the pack like Kerri Wright, KB3WAV, and Clint Spratt, W9AV, or folks just getting started with Parks on the Air. Setups cover satellite operating, QRP, urban backpack portable, activating tailgate-style, wire antennas for POTA, and more.

Whether you want to plan a multistate rove, toss

a wire into a tree at a nearby park, or hunt activators from the comfort of your home station, *The Parks on the Air Book* provides insight and expertise in a beautiful, full-color format, brimming with photos that celebrate ham radio and the wonderful, shared resource of our state and national parks.

[The Parks on the Air Book](#), ARRL Item No. 1748, ISBN: 878-1-62595-174-8, \$22.95 retail; special ARRL Member price \$19.95.

The U.S. Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will be celebrating 75 years of service this November.

There will be a special event starting at 0001Z on November 5, 2023, and it will run through 2359Z on Veterans Day. The event will challenge amateur radio operators to contact as many of the ten Communications Wings as they can. More than 700 MARS stations will be calling CQ in the Technician and General portion of the 160 - 6-meter bands using SSB, CW, and digital modes. Special event call signs will be W1A through W1K, and bonus stations call signs will be K4AF and KE6UEU. QSL cards will not be issued, but a certificate will be available for every contact. Additional information can found at the U.S. Air Force [MARS](#) website. U.S. Air Force MARS provides contingency communications support on behalf of all personnel at the U.S. Department of Defense and other government branches to support national security missions whenever, however, and wherever assistance is required. Air Force MARS Public Information Officer Kenneth Holloway, KA5KEN, said MARS operators have been providing a critical service for decades. "This event symbolizes our respect for the many operators who have worked hard for MARS for many decades," said Holloway. He added that MARS now provides a worldwide 24/7/365 telephone service to US military aircraft via HF radio. More information is available at [MARS RADIO](#).

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers has named Winona County Emergency Management Director Bernard Klinger, KE0TNM, the Minnesota Emergency Management Director of the Year for 2023.

Klinger has been the Emergency Management Director for Winona County since 2018. He was cited for his work during the high-profile disappearance of Madeline Kingsbury in March 2023. Kingsbury, a 26-year-old clinical researcher at the Mayo Clinic, had been reported missing after dropping her children off at a local daycare center on the morning of March 31. Her body was found six weeks later, after a search involving hundreds of volunteers over a three-county area of 2,100 square miles. Klinger was nominated for the award by Winona Police Officer Tom Williams, who was the lead officer on the case, for his work as an organizer and point of contact during the search. Klinger was also recognized for organizing multi-layered efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a member of the Winona County Jail staff as well as a volunteer police officer, firefighter, and EMT for the city of Goodview, Minnesota.

FCC to Vote on Removing Symbol Rate Restrictions

[ARRL](#) welcomes news of a scheduled vote by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to [consider removing symbol rate restrictions](#) that restrict digital modes, foster inefficient spectrum use, and dampen incentives for innovation. In the draft Commission decision, the FCC would replace the current HF restrictions with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit. The Commission also announced that it will consider a Further Notice in which it will propose eliminating similar restrictions where they apply in other bands and consider relying on signal bandwidth limits. If both actions are adopted by the Commission, there will be a period for public comment on the Further Notice issues.

In announcing the proposed Commission actions, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel

said that "We're bolstering amateur radio. We will vote on a proposal to incentivize innovation and experimentation in the amateur radio bands by removing outdated restrictions and providing licensees with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions."

ARRL requested and strongly supports replacing the symbol rate limits on the HF bands with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit. ARRL also supports eliminating the symbol rate limits in favor of the already-existing bandwidth limits where they apply on the VHF and UHF bands and eliminating the similar limits 2200 and 630-meter bands.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, said the changes will result in a tremendous time savings during disasters, when every second counts. "We will be very pleased to have the FCC remove the restrictions on symbol rate for the amateur bands. This will eliminate the need for temporary waivers during an event and provide the ability to train and exercise using the higher symbol rate, allowing increased data capability to our served agencies and partners."

[Congresswoman Debbie Lesko \(AZ-08\) introduced The Amateur Radio Communications Improvement Act \(H.R. 3241\) on May 11, 2023](#), to require that the FCC eliminate the obsolete HF digital symbol rate limit with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit.

The Congresswoman subsequently addressed the issue with Chairwoman Rosenworcel in a Congressional oversight hearing. The changes are supported by many state emergency management officials.

ARRL will continue to engage on this matter.

Video: Amateur Radio STEM Education Takes Center Stage at Pacific

ARRL Education and Learning Manager, and IARU Region 2 Youth Coordinator, Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, gave the keynote address at the 2023 ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Conven-

tion, also known as Pacificon.

Goodgame was a public-school teacher for 21 years. He carries his experience of bringing ham radio into the classroom into his role at ARRL. "It is safe to say I've learned a thing or two about reaching youth along the way," he quipped.

His presentation, to a packed audience, was a highlight of the convention. Goodgame's passion and vision for promoting youth involvement in the hobby shined in his speech as he discussed STEM education and the importance of inspiring youth and teachers to engage in amateur radio and wireless technology.

Watch "A Vision of the Future of Amateur Radio" on the ARRLHQ YouTube Channel https://youtu.be/fTi8LDz4dS4?si=GQfSd3k2BS_ERMy to learn how to grow the next generation of radio amateurs from one of the leaders in the space.

[The Nashua Area Radio Society](#) (NARS) will host their Ham Bootcamp program on November 11, 2023, from 10 AM to 6 PM ET. This program includes a series of online demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician-, General-, and Extra-class license holders get on the air. It's available to all licensed and prospective amateur radio operators. Visit NARS's [Ham Bootcamp](#) program web page to register and for additional information.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is planning their 40th anniversary celebration conference for February 22 - 24, 2024. The Positive Impact of Amateur Radio on Human Spaceflight: 40th Anniversary Conference will be held at the Center for Space Education: Astronauts Memorial Foundation, located adjacent to the NASA Kennedy Space Center Visitors Center in Florida. Organizers hope to gather volunteer teams, astronauts, space agency officials, educators, and space and amateur radio enthusiasts to attend the event. For regis-



All right! Who's been monkeying around with the radios?

**BARC Website, some Blog
page Titles**[Hex Beam in the Air!](#)

Even more than this on the
website.

Feel free to view, comment and
add.

***** Membership Dues*****

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

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*

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

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, Buy or Find:

Looking for tower sections

Ham looking for a tower or pieces of Rohn 25 tower. If you have something to sell or to get rid of, please email:

Scott Pollard K4SWP at deputyscoot@gmail.com.

Aug 2023

HF AMPLIFIERS FOR SALE I have just taken several pieces of Estate gear under my wing. Might you have any interest in the following Amps: Drake L-4 w/PS, Heath SB-220, Henry 3A Floor, Henry 2K-3 Floor, Chuck, W4HF k4hf95 (at)yahoo (dot)com

Sept 2023

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/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp](http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/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

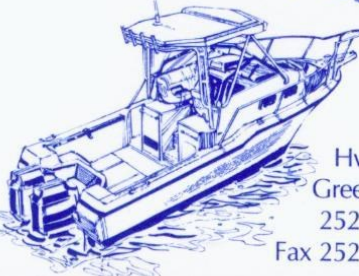
<http://www.pcra.us/>

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

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA
K4ZYD

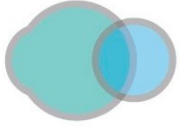
105-D East Victoria Ct. Phone (252) 321-6007
 Greenville, NC 27858 Fax (252) 321-2991

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

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 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

- Nov 4-6 Nov. [Sweepstakes \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org) - CW
 Nov 14 **BARC Meeting and Elections for Board, 6:30 pm Please show up.**
 Nov. 18-20 Nov. [Sweepstakes \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org) - Phone
 Nov 9 **Pamlico Meeting 7pm**
 Nov 11 2023 Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon ***See Request Page 8***
 Nov 18-19 Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (the Colombia Amateur Radio League, LCRA) will host a worldwide special call sign activation for their 90th anniversary.
 Nov 18 BARC Breakfast 9am
 Nov 24—27 2023 [Amplitude Modulation International \(AMI\) Jamboree](http://arrl.org)
 Nov 25-26 [10 GHz & Up \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org) - round 2
 Nov 28 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 Dec 1-3 [160 Meter \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)
 Dec 9-10 [10 Meter \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org)
 Dec 11 BARC **Christmas Party, 6 pm**, Emmanuel Baptist Church **MONDAY**
 Dec 14 **Pamlico Meeting 7pm See Email**
 Dec 17 [Rookie Roundup \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org) CW
 Dec 26 BARC—No Board Meeting

2024 Starts Here:

- Jan 9 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 Jan 11 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 Jan 30 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 Feb 8 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 Feb 13 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 Feb 27 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 March 12 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 March 14 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 March 26 BARC Board meeting 7pm, Zoom

Contest Calendar: For more Contest and all the rules:

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

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](http://arrl.org) for more events and information.

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, [Contest Calendar](http://contestcalendar.com) website. The site now includes a [5-Week Calendar](http://contestcalendar.com). 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.

Pamlico Meetings—2nd Thursday @ 7pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Section, State, Division Conventions and Hamfest

2023:

November 4 - 5, [Stone Mountain Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Georgia State Convention, Lawrenceville, Georgia

November 4, [Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference 2023](#), hosting the ARRL Wisconsin Section Convention, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

November 18 - 19, [Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Central Division Convention, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

December 8 - 9, [Tampa Bay Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention, Plant City, Florida

2024: