

Ham Chatter



Volume 58 Issue 2

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

February 2024

Editor, Mark, KG4GVJ

Email: hamchatter@w4amc.com

ARRL Board Approves Free Membership for Students, New Vice Presidents Elected
Story inside.

BARC General meeting Feb 13, 6:00pm in person and ZOOM *All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

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

Walk MS: Raleigh, NC Saturday, March 23

Not as many folks needed compared to Bike MS: New Bern.
But still needed for various positions.

BARC in Feb 13, 2024

Ham YouTuber TheSmokinApe will present a beginners intro to NanoVNA Analyzers. (Zoom details being worked on 1/25/24)

Ideas Wanted!

BARC March 11, 2024

Scott, about the repeaters

PARC Feb. 8, 2024

PARC March 14, 2024



BARC Board Meeting - Feb. 27, 2024. ZOOM

Dues was due January 2024 for BARC And PARC

Did you pay yet?

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 :

01-06 W4ESO Frank

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

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

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:

BARC member Vashti Forrest's (W4DXJ) mother, Gwen Phelps, 100, passed away last night (12-18) in Tarboro.

Hollis KC3X, went to the Hospital 12/4. Passed out and was feeling unwell.

Father of Billy Elks, KC4HHW Has passed away.

Presentation Ideas Needed

Please send ideas of new presentation topics and presenters to our VP Judy W3JUJ

Email: info@w4amc.com

BARC Needs YOU!

BARC needs to know where You think we should go as a Club.

Service the Community, Contesting, Teaching, Elmering, What? Give us your thoughts.

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BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB



Good February to you all!

Have you heard of The Gutenberg Project? It is a website that publishes links to books for which the copyright has expired and they are thus released to the public domain. This means that you can read them for FREE! Copyrights last for the life of the author plus 70 years, currently, so the books on this site are antiquated, but many are considered classics.

I had never thought to look up radio books at Gutenberg.org, but as I was scrolling it the other day, a new release related to radio caught my eye. It is a book called Jack Heaton Wireless Operator by A. Frederick Collins. Now, your ears might perk up at the name Collins, but you are probably thinking of equipment created by the Collins Radio Company. A Frederick Collins is not related to the CRC, but WAS an early pioneer in the radio field, and an author. He is probably most well known for his Radio Amateur's Handbook, which is also available at Gutenberg.org. Jack Heaton is a fictional work, seemingly along the lines of The Hardy Boys series. I only recently discovered it, and have not yet had a chance to read it, so the full book report will have to come later. The point of this is that I never thought to look up radio related books on the Gutenberg site. Of course, they will not have current information, but physics is physics so the basics should still stand. Thinking about how the early adopters worked without being able to google information or order parts with two day delivery from Amazon makes me admire them even more.

So check out <https://www.gutenberg.org/> and see what you can find. And, just for fun, here is a link to the Wikipedia page for A. Frederick [Collins https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie_Frederick_Collins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie_Frederick_Collins).



Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner



Hi Everyone!!

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year!! We are running through the year already, getting into January. PARC just participated in this year's Winter Field Day and it was very enjoyable and a success. We were happy to have some of our new members and new hams come out and sit down in front of the mike and make those first SSB QSOs. Break the curse of "mike fright" It is always good to have an experienced ham at your side to guide you along and that is what makes the hobby a fun and cool thing to do.

Sharing this great hobby of ours is a worthy goal. We are always looking for ways to let others know more about Ham Radio and also looking for ways to reach the young people who are the future Ham Radio operators that will keep the hobby alive. Let's all look for ways to reach others this year!

So, what's next? That's always the question I find looking at me after finishing up an event. What to do now that WFD is done? Cleaning off my desk was a chore, and putting the club gear away is never fun but I did get to reorganize it and get it into a smaller amount of containers. Saving space is important when you have an in home ham shack.

Maybe it's time to think about POTA? There are some new sites to work in Bath and a bunch of sites that are way out in the country if you travel over in the area of Lake Mattamuskeet. I think that I would enjoy seeing all the birds there. So that may be a future POTA trip.

Keep on thinking and keep on doing.

Thanks, and 73!!

Gary Faust, NG9T PARC President

2024 PARC Officers:

Gary Faust, NG9T President

Scott Pollard, K4WSP Vice President

Cheryl McGuire, KX4EC Secretary/Treasurer

PARC Club Dues:

Dues for 2024 are Due now. \$24.00 and only \$1 for immediate family members.

PARC Meetings:

2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at:

Zion Episcopal Church

7302 US-264 E

Washington, NC 27889

Note: GPS sometimes takes people to West side of Washington. The church is East of Washington, towards Bath. About 7 10ths of a mile past Hwy 32. Also: Meetings are Zoomed for those who cannot attend in person.

Wednesday Breakfast:

Every Wednesday morning at 8:30am at:

Shep's Grill

129 N. Market St

Washington, NC 27889

Note: Park in rear lot, use back door.

PARC Nets:

Tuesday Nights: 80m sideband Net, at 7:00pm

3,850mhz unless frequency is occupied, then we move to closest open frequency.

Thursday Nights:

2m repeater Net.

Currently on the Washington Repeater (Chocowinity)

147.255mhz +.6mhz PL 131.8

Alternate: Bath Repeater 146.955 -.6mhz PL 131.8

Note: We do not have the net on Meeting nights.

VE Exams:

Odd months (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) on the Second Saturday of the month at 10am.

By appointment, we do not have walk-in exams.

Contact: Tom Kottke WT4TK Tkottke@centurylink.net

Location:

Beaufort County EOC

1420 Highland Dr

Washington NC 27889

Upcoming Exam: March 9, please contact to reserve an exam spot.

Pamlico Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes January 11, 2024

Call to Order: President Gary NG9T called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm with 16 present and 3 via Zoom. 5 of those in attendance (in person and via Zoom) were guests.

Opening Prayer and Pledge Allegiance: Scott K4WSP led the prayer.

Meeting Minutes: George AG8AR 1st motion to accept meeting minutes Gary N9NT 2nd.

Treasurer's Report: Club assets total \$3,683.31. Annual Treasurer's report presented.

Repeaters: Al K4GOE out of town Wayne KB1WE out sick. Nothing to report.

VE Examinations: The next exam date is January 13, 2024 at EOC. Nine persons registered. Testing at EOC. Please Confirm with Tom WT4TK if you can act as VE for the exam.

Winter Field Day 2024: January 27 & 28 2:00 pm Saturday to 2:00 Sunday. @ VFW Hall 6088 on River Road. Please Contact Cheryl KX4EC if you can bring a dish. Meeting at 10:00am Saturday to put up antennas and set up equipment.

Business: Scott K4WSP suggested getting a trailer to house club property and use for events. It would probably run about 3K and might be funded by donation, grant, pancake breakfast, hamfest etc. Scott K4WSP made motion to pay SEA \$35 and club liability \$200 through ARRL. George AG8AR 2nd.

Announcement: Long time member and past President Dave Tabbutt W3DET is unwell. Please send thoughts and prayers.

Ham Fests & Contests: Please reference ARRL Contest Corral, also the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com

2m net: Every Thursday of the month 8:00 pm Tom WT4TK to call February **2m net is on Choco repeater now.**

80m net: Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm David KQ4HEX to call February.

Next Meeting: Will be held on February 8, 2024 7:00 pm @ Zion Episcopal

Next VE Session: Will be January 13, 2024 Test starts promptly at 10:00 am @ EOC

January Refreshments: Were provided by Marcian KC4TOI, Cheryl KX4EC

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

50/50: Starting this month, 50/50 will be done as a Raffle with a door prize. John W4JHN won the January Raffle. 13\$ of money taken in went back to the club, and \$15 went to Gary NG9T to purchase February door prize.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl KX4EC
PARC Secretary/Treasurer

GREETINGS FROM THE (COLD) HIGH COUNTRY**January 14, 2024**

This newsletter was written over several days (January 6 – January 14). This was a week of extreme weather, including high winds across the High Country, tornado activity in Catawba County, flooding, mudslides. In a few days the temperatures will get down to 9 degrees and who knows how cold the Chill Factor will be on Tuesday?

Winter Storm Finn may give us something to contend with on last Monday night –Tuesday, then came WS Gerri and now we are preparing for Winter Storm Heather which will dump, have bitter cold low temps and icy roads. Stay tuned. While finishing this newsletter NWS Blacksburg issued a Winter Storm Warning for Watauga County through Tuesday

KIDS AND HAM RADIO

On January 5, the Today Show carried a story about students at Harbor Creek High School (located Northeast of Erie) Pennsylvania participating in an ARISS contact with the International Space Station. Harry Smith from NBC's Today Show traveled with a crew to the high school and not only covered the contact between students and an Astronaut on the Space Station but Harry Smith also interviewed the students about their interest in ham radio but their work together to put together their station and antennas used in the contact.

Although parents and students typically are the ones who are present during the contact, coverage on a major network morning show was highly unique.

Take a few minutes and watch the Today show segment that can be found at <https://www.today.com/video/high-school-students-use-ham-radio-skills-to-contact-space-station-201408581756>.

Detailed information about the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program can be found at <https://www.ariss.org/> . Perhaps your club would like to work with a local school and apply to be selected for an ARISS contact. It is something the kids will never forget.

NEW OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCED FOR SCHOOLS TO APPLY FOR SELECTION IN ARISS PROGRAM

January 8, 2024 --- The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member onboard the ISS. ARISS anticipates that the contacts would be held between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for

organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

The deadline to submit a proposal is February 29, 2024. Proposal information and more details such as expectations, proposal guidelines and the proposal form can be found at www.ariss.org. An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held January 17, 2024 at 7 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-qsrD0pGNLBvhR_2p5O9uTeRzO0u4Sw.

Crew members aboard the International Space Station will participate in scheduled ARISS amateur radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session.

An ARISS contact is a voice communication opportunity via amateur radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS. Students also will have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact.

Amateur radio organizations around the world with the support of NASA and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe present educational organizations with this opportunity. The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using amateur radio.

PERHAPS ONE OF THE 71 AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS IN NORTH CAROLINA CAN DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL AND WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP THE SCHOOL WITH TECHNICAL DETAILS ABOUT SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTACTING THE SPACE STATION.

Please direct any questions to education@ariss-usa.org.

KIDS IN TEXAS GET ON HAM RADIO

From the Athens Daily Review, Texas, Fri, December 29, 2023 at 3:57 PM EST · 1 min read

“Dec. 29—Nine students from the Introduction to Amateur Radio Service and Licensing class at TVCC {Trinity Valley Community College} passed their Technician Class license exam; the class celebrated this achievement on Dec. 11.

The Introduction to Amateur Radio Service and Licensing class is provided by TVCC Adult and Continuing Education with the help of Instructor David Deas. The course was created to provide individuals with an in-depth understanding of the Amateur Radio Service as a hobby and community service while equipping students with the knowledge to pass the Technician Class license test required of the Federal Communications Commission.”

SPECIAL EVENT STATION -- BATTLE OF COWPENS – K4C- JANUARY 16 -18

Coming up very soon is the anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens which occurred in 1781 and will be celebrated with a special event station.

Information about the Southern Campaign can be found at

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K4C> .

Historians agree that the victory at Cowpens over the exalted British troops was a crucial turning point in the Southern Campaign during the American Revolution. It ultimately led to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 18, 1781. Historical information about the Southern Campaign can be found at

<https://www.nps.gov/cowp/learn/historyculture/the-battle-of-cowpens.htm>.

There will be other Special Event stations celebrating other victories in the Southern Campaign.

K4B - The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge - February 27th-29th

K4G - The Battle of Guilford Courthouse - March 14th-16th

K4M - The Battle of Kings Mountain - October 1st-7th

K4Y - The Siege of Yorktown - October 17th-20th

E4B AIRCRAT AND EMP TESTING

Some readers, perhaps Veterans, will immediately recognize that the Boeing E-4B is a highly sophisticated communications aircraft which is forwarded deployed in combat zones to give commanders the ability to communicate anywhere in the world. There are several E-4 aircraft and one typically accompanies the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State and other high ranking officials when they travel to foreign lands. Information about the E-4B aircraft can be found at <https://allthatsinteresting.com/doomsday-plane>.

In addition to being refueled while airborne, one of the mission requirements of the E-4B is its resistance to damage by electromagnetic pulse energy such as would be encountered if a nuclear weapon were to be detonated nearby. E4B aircraft undergo testing for susceptibility to EMP at a special test facility at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico.

WINTER FIELD DAY – JANUARY 27-28, 2024

Sponsored by ICOM, Winter Field Day gives amateur operators an opportunity to participate in a communications exercise in January of each year. Details can be found at <https://winterfieldday.org/>.

NC TRAFFIC REPORT

Set out below is a report prepared Dave Roy, W4DNA, who is the Section Traffic Manager. Because of limitations in the ARRL email system, it is difficult to transfer Dave's report (in pdf) format and to get it to appear clearly in the ARRL txt file format. The entire report as prepared by Dave Roy can be found at ncarrl.org.

W4DNA - NC Section Net Report - DECEMBER 2023

NET	NMGR	QNI	LISTED	PASSED	TIME	SESSIONS	TFC %
SECTION NETS							
CN	AA4MP	336	133	128	658	62	96.24%
CSN	KI4KZS	145	25	23	640	31	92.00%
NCEN	WK4WC	378	205	168	549	31	81.95%
NCMN	W3OJO	300	193	180	450	31	93.2%
THEN	K4SEH	240	0	0	351	17	N/A
LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS							
CWTN	N4CNX	374	130	130	650	31	100.00%
ENCTN	W4DNA	102	11	11	159	24	100.0%
PCTN	W4TTO	257	63	63	304	31	100.0%
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NETS							
MNN	KI4FAQ	194	0	0	194	31	N/A
TOTAL		2326	760	703	3955	289	92.50%

NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY – FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Save the date! This is an annual contest which recognizes North Carolina operators who are successful in contacting stations in as many North Carolina counties as they can. Prizes are given to winners in particular operating categories. Details can be found at <https://ncqsoparty.org/>. (Feb25, 10am-8pm)

ARRL BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 19-20

Twice each year, in January and July, the ARRL Board of Directors meets in Connecticut.

The Board is comprised of fifteen Directors who represent geographic areas in the United States. There are also fifteen Vice Directors representing the same Divisions who do not have a vote on matters coming before the Board unless the Director for their particular Division is absent, or is otherwise not able to vote.

Board meetings are conducted by the ARRL President and there are also several Vice Presidents who do not vote on matters coming before the Board. The Board sets policies for the League finances, contest rules, EmComm , FCC filings and keeping amateur radio vital.

An agenda of the upcoming meeting is posted at

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Board%20Reports/Draft%20Agenda%20BOD%202024%20\(SH%20F\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Board%20Reports/Draft%20Agenda%20BOD%202024%20(SH%20F).pdf)

Section Managers have no role in formulating ARRL policy.

Your concerns about ARRL policy matters should be directed to your Director and/or Vice Director.

ROANOKE DIVISION TOWN HALL MEETING WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 28

If you missed the Town Hall and wish to watch the Division Director N2ZZ (Jim Boehner) and Vice Director N2COP (Bill Morine) along with the Section Managers for VA, WV, NC and SC, a recording of the Roanoke Division Town Hall can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pumL8f1KQTM>.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

March 8, Charlotte Hamfest, Concord Event Center, info at

<https://charlottehamfest.org/>

April 6, RARSFEST, JIM GRAHAM BLDG, STATE FAIRGROUNDS, info at

<https://www.rarsfest.org/>

THE HAM POPULATION

Data on Active Ham Licenses, January 11, 2024

ACTIVE LICENSES

	NOVICE	TECH	GENERAL	ADVANCED	EXTRA	TOTAL
NC	143	10,269	5,910	1,007	5,150	22,479
US	5,851	37,4820	186,929	32,215	155,221	755,136

ARRL MEMBERSHIP DATA Dec 31, 2023

Location	Total
NC	4,508
ROANOKE DIVISION	12,407
US	149,501

OUTREACH TO STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS ABOUT HOA RULES

The North Carolina General Assembly (our State Legislature in Raleigh)

is considering whether changes are needed in the laws that govern the powers and operation of Homeowner Associations, Property Owner Associations and/or Condominium Associations.

Stories have appeared in the news media that indicated that some of the HOA's, POA's, and COA's may have become abusive in the exercise of their power. For example, there are reports that a homeowner who has failed to pay their HOA dues a month past the normal deadline may result in the HOA being able to begin proceedings to sell the homeowners home. A Select Committee has been appointed by the NC House of Representatives to look into how HOA's work in North Carolina and whether new laws are needed in order to protect the rights of Homeowners.

Last week, on January 11, Chuck deCourt (W4WZN) and Max Hopper (K4BMN), both of whom serve as NC ARRL State Government Liaisons, as well as myself (WA4NC), NC Section Manager, appeared before the Select Committee to urge the Committee to give licensed amateur radio operators greater leeway in putting up radio antennas which are often severely limited by some Homeowner Associations.

The South Carolina State Legislature is considering a bill for South Carolina that would prohibit SC HOA's from imposing or enforcing any homeowner association from establish or enforcing rules that limit ham radio antennas by neighborhood associations.

NC ARRL will continue to monitor the activities of the House Select Committee on HOA's with the goal of getting a North Carolina law passed that would give amateur operators more fights to erect a radio antenna on their property. The Select Committee is to recommend HOA law changes in March 2024.

Do you know a state or federal House or Senate member? You may have gone to school with, or attend church with, or you may have contributed to the election campaign of a US Senator, a US House Member, a State Senator or a member of the NC House of Representatives.

I hope you will let me know if you have opportunities to interact with your government officials while they are home from Washington or Raleigh. This is an election year and the elected officials will be traveling home to visit with voters as we get closer to the election this Fall.

CLOSING COMMENT

The very real risks that law enforcement personnel face each day came to the forefront twice in the past two weeks. On December 31, an off-duty Greensboro Police Officer who had served for 22 years ,attempted to stop a theft at a Sheetz convenience store near Colfax, NC. Sergeant Philip Dale Nix was shot and killed by thieves who were attempting to steal several cases of beer.

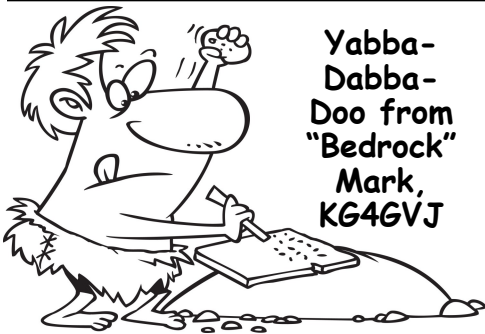
The law enforcement community in North Carolina, the citizens of Greensboro and Sergeant Nix's family mourn the loss of an officer who was doing his job and died while serving all of us.

Earlier this week, a police officer in Hillsborough (Orange County, NC) while attempting to stop someone who was fleeing from a convenience store with stolen items was dragged across the parking lot. Fortunately his injuries were minor but could have been severe.

Thanks and support goes out to the law enforcement, fire, rescue, ems and military personnel who put their lives on the line each day protecting us from persons who would do us harm.

Marv, WA4NC

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



Hi Folks,

Welcome to another edition of the Ham Chatter. No, that's not our teeth chattering. January has been a wet and cloudy month for us. Yes, some sunshine. Our Solar Electric could only do so much. My wife and I made a trip to Maryland for her mother's care, well I did it twice, transporting my wife. No cars spotted covered with antennas this time.

The January meeting for BARC was cancelled due to expected bad weather. Attendance for the BARC Monday net was sparse for Christmas Day and New Years Day, only 3 I believe both days.

For those who get's the ARRL Emails, yes, I do put a lot of it in here. Not every Ham out there is a ARRL member and this helps them learn what else is going on. I try to remove some stories or announcements that are going to be out of date and hold onto some a little longer due to being something happening at a future date. I'm getting more emails now so I can use some for the tips, etc that I can put in.

Contest and Event announcements may only be few posted, but too many available to be posting every month. I try to put some I hope will be of interest to others and have one or 2 sites listed in the Calendar of events for those who want to know of others that is coming up.

Working with Windows and it's products as they upgrade with time, can be frustrating at times. I use to be able to copy from many formats and keep the formats they were in and paste it onto this newsletter. Now I have to sometimes go thru the pasted article and redo the Hyperlinks, lines and paragraphs. That's even between Microsoft products. Could I be missing something?

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? 2024 New events up!

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

FARC

FARC Newsletter is available at <http://www.dwepe.com/FARCNewsletters/y2023m11.pdf>
They also have great articles and along with want ads.

U.S. KFF Park-County Database Listing For World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF)

<https://countyhunter.com/Toplist/KFF-County.htm>
Parks and state and counties they are in.

Word to the Wise

Big Gun and Little Pistol

There are no hard and fast definitions of either of these terms. Big Gun generally means that the station is capable of producing big signals and being able to maintain high run rates despite crowded band conditions. Big Gun also comes with the implication of tall towers, extensive antennas, amplifiers, and great radio locations. Little Pistols are stations that, despite missing one or many of the physical components of a Big Gun station, make up for what they don't have with strong operating skills and on-the-air "[chutzpah](#)."

Operating Tip

Benefits of Diversity on Receive

If you have two receivers in your radio, listening with two different antennas at the same time, one in each ear, can yield benefits. Being able to hear from different directions can separate the stations in the sound field, making easier to identify callers that may be worth more points. Sometimes the effects of ionospheric fading can be mitigated, since as a signal recedes on one antenna, it could be increasing on the other.

Technical Topics and Discussion

ADIF stands for "Amateur Data Interchange Format" and is useful when contact log information needs to be exchanged between different applications, or processed by websites. ADIF has had many revisions over the years; one can keep current on the current and past standards via the ADIF website: <https://www.adif.org.uk/>. Changes to the ADIF standard are reflective of what's in vogue for operating: recent changes have seen the addition of fields for Parks on the Air (POTA) information, altitude (useful for Summits on the Air, or SOTA contacts), and so on.

Using small Form Factor (SFF) PCs in the ham shack is a way to free up space for... more gear of course! Reconditioned SFF PCs end up on the usual online buying sites after they're tested and reinstalled with an operating system. They can represent a great value for a shack computer - for example, an HP Elitedesk

800 G3 with a 3.1GHz 4-core intel i5 processor, 16G of memory, 25GB SSD, 4k resolution DisplayPort output, keyboard, mouse, Microsoft Windows 10 Pro for... \$110.00, currently on Amazon.

Switching an inductive load as one might find with transformers, motors, and the like, can be tough on switch or relay contacts due to the back-EMF generated when the contacts are opened. [Elektor Magazine's article on switching inductive loads](#) discusses the theory behind switching at moments of zero-current, and provides a sample circuit for low power inductive loads.

Version 2 of [KiwiSDR hardware](#) is orderable via kiwisdr.nz. According to the website, this version will have a new RF front end with programmable attenuator and gas discharge tube for better input protection, a new GPS chip, and better reverse supply voltage protection. See the Sights and Sounds section, above, for a video from Steve, VE6WZ showing how to access other KiwiSDRs around the world.

LDMOS amplifier builders might find the surplus Eltek Flatpack2 series power supplies available on eBay to be useful. With 48-53.5v nominal outputs at 2kw to 3kw power levels, it's a straightforward way to power LDMOS pallets. Printed circuit boards that plug into the Elteks are also available on eBay - add a few components, and you're ready to get power in and out of these units and control them through their CANbus. Search github.com for "eltek Flatpack2" to get more information on these beefy power supplies, and example software to control them.

Conversation

Why Not Use Faster RTTY?

RTTY contests conventionally use 45.5 baud as the transmission speed. However, if you're using a computer to send/receive RTTY you're likely able to send and receive RTTY at 75 baud, nearly twice as fast! At the higher speed, contacts are quicker, and rates can be higher. Configuration instructions for N1MM Logger+ are at <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/manual-operating/digital-modes/> - using-mmtty-for-75-baud-rtty, and you can use your favorite search engine to find relevant information if your setup is different.

But where will you find others to work at these faster speeds? [BARTG's SPRINT75](#) contest in April is the

one place where 75 baud RTTY is the only mode in use. Higher RTTY speeds are allowed in the ARRL RTTY Contest, but because there are relative few people currently using 75 baud, everyone sticks with the slower speed.

PS: Bud Mortenson's, VA7ST, website can help with troubleshooting your 75 baud configuration, especially if you have an issue with switching back to slow speed RTTY when S&P mode is used.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest_update@arrl.org.

73, Brian, N9ADG (filling in temporarily for Paul, N1SFE)

KB6OVO's Emergency Story -- What Would You Do In This Case?



"I was a chaperone on a girl scout bike ride down the Santa Ana River trail in Huntington Beach, CA.

On the ride, one of the girls got weak and passed out. So here we are in an obscure location and need medical help immediately.

I got on my handheld and accessed an autopatch and called 911."

"After I finally convinced the dispatcher that I was not calling from an old folks home in another city (the repeater was atop an 8 story building there,) the Fire Department was dispatched to our location.

So, here comes fire trucks roaring down the riverbed to help us.

Thank goodness, the girl just had heat exhaustion and was okay with the paramedic's help."

--

Thanks to John KB6OVO for submitting this inspiring emergency story.. He handled this situation like a pro. (From BridgeCom Systems)



"Thank God my wife retires tomorrow. At the moment all the housework is left to me. 67UFF/M"

Operating Tip

We've traced the RFI! It's coming from inside the house! Have you checked your noise floor lately? RF interference can be horrific and negatively affect your contest scores. Performing a periodic noise audit can help you stay on top of things. Power a receiver from a noiseless source such as a battery and turn everything else off in your location at your circuit-breaker panel. Note the noise levels on each band, then turn everything on again. If you detect a difference, it could be time to do a thorough search for the offending radiator. Start by turning off each breaker again until the noise abates -- that's the circuit that has the device-making noise. Usually it's a switching power supply, but unusual sources have included arcing filaments inside incandescent or halogen bulbs, marginal or defective fluorescent bulbs or ballasts, arcing thermostats, space heaters, LED lights, wall dimmers, variable-frequency drives on furnace or A/C motors, damaged underground feeders to outbuildings, and marginal connections where arcing is occurring.

Technical Topics and Discussion

OM Power's new [OM2002W](#) is a water-cooled LDMOS amplifier for 2 meters. OM Power's website says it's rated at "1800 W CW, SSB, and 1600 W AM, FM, and digital modes, 50% duty cycle," though I doubt that means one day on, one day off. It's nice to see the application of water-cooling trickling down from computer applications. The OM Power website does not yet list details on US availability.

José Nunes, CT1BOH, tweeted an analysis of [propagation paths from Bouvet Island to various continents](#), based on the island's terrain-blocking just eight degrees above the horizon. The results are... not good for some directions, especially on higher bands. You can also [model your own location here](#).

Conversation

Out-of-Band Communications

Email spam. Text-message spam. Phone-call spam. We all get it to varying degrees, but how we handle it determines whether it gets the better of us. One

member of a group chat was recently considering removing their email address from a popular call sign lookup database after they started to get spam emails for a non-ham-related business. They suspected that their email was gleaned from that online listing. I was encouraging them not to remove their email address. Being reachable via email is worth the inconvenience of deleting some unwanted messages because:

- If you're active and do any type of DXing or contesting, operators can email you if there are any issues with QSLs, signal quality, or in response to a DX cluster spot.
- Members of DXing or contesting email groups may have to handle the communications for you, when everyone in the group gets a message like, "Anyone know how to contact N9ADG? He has no email listed on www.qrz.com..." Unfortunately, hundreds of people may have to read that message.

Furthermore, it was unlikely that the email address was actually gleaned from the ham-related database. It was more likely to have been released as part of a data breach (check to see if your email address has been part of a known breach at <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>).

Many email providers do a reasonable job at spam filtering (but yes, some do not). An example of such a provider is Google's Gmail, but there are others. I use a Gmail address for public group interactions and some ham contact databases, and [then use some techniques](#) to automatically direct email into different folders and track email address usage.

With this one simple trick, I keep the utility of email, and spam stays manageable.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related video links, stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org.

73 and Happy Holidays! Brian, N9ADG (filling in temporarily for Paul, N1SFE)

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

2023

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

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

The following testing dates and sites are from:

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

GREENSBORO NC**TESTING 2ND SATURDAYS**

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

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

HIGH POINT NC**TESTING LAST SATURDAYS**

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

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

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

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

SALISBURY NC

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

Bostian Heights Fire Dept. Community Room

[\(MAP\)](#)

8211 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146

For more information contact:

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

Last updated 1/26/22

THOMASVILLE NC

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

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

W1AW 2024 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 2045 UTC - (10 AM to 3:45 PM EST)

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 2045 UTC (10 AM to 3:45 PM EST). Be sure to bring a reference copy of your current FCC amateur radio license.

The weekly W1AW and monthly West Coast Qualifying Runs are sent on the normal CW frequencies used for both code practice and bulletin transmissions. West Coast Qualifying Run stations may also use 3590 kHz.

Please note a W1AW Qualifying Run replaces a regularly scheduled code practice transmission on any particular day and time.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 28 in the January 2024 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

Wreaths Across America via Ham Radio

As Christmas wreaths were placed upon thousands of veterans' graves at Arlington National Cemetery and other veteran cemeteries across the nation by Wreaths Across America (WAA) on December 16, Maine Ham Radio Society (MHRS) members were living up to the WAA motto -- Remember, Honor, and Teach -- during their special event on the HF bands.

MHRS is an ARRL Special Service Club and honors the staff and volunteers who provide this moving tribute to America's fallen soldiers each December. The club was issued the call sign W1A for the special event and made 348 contacts. MHRS Vice President Bob Ustruck, KF5CFU, took part in the event and said that the response on the air was overwhelming.

"I had a pileup pretty much the whole time that I operated as W1A, and everyone was grateful that we were supporting Wreaths Across America," said Ustruck.

Several hams who contacted W1A, including Don Kocsis, WA8TWM, in Painesville, Ohio, noted that they were also participating in wreath ceremonies at their local veterans' cemeteries. MHRS President Phil Duggan, N1EP, said one ham on the HF bands was looking forward to receiving the QSL card so he could give it to a Gold Star mother.

Maurry Mills, W1FWS, operated the event for the second year in a row. "Many of the operators I contacted were already aware of Wreaths Across America, and all were thankful for our special event operation," he said.

Brenda Duggan, N1ZPV, was thrilled to participate. Her late father, Harold West, served under General George S. Patton in WWII and was wounded during combat.

The majority of the contacts were made on 20-, 40-, and 80-meter bands, although club members called CQ on most of the non-WARC bands. The Maine Ham Radio Society plans to continue this annual tribute every December for the near future.

By Phil Duggan, N1EP

Texas Club Uses ARRL Grant to Work with Scouts

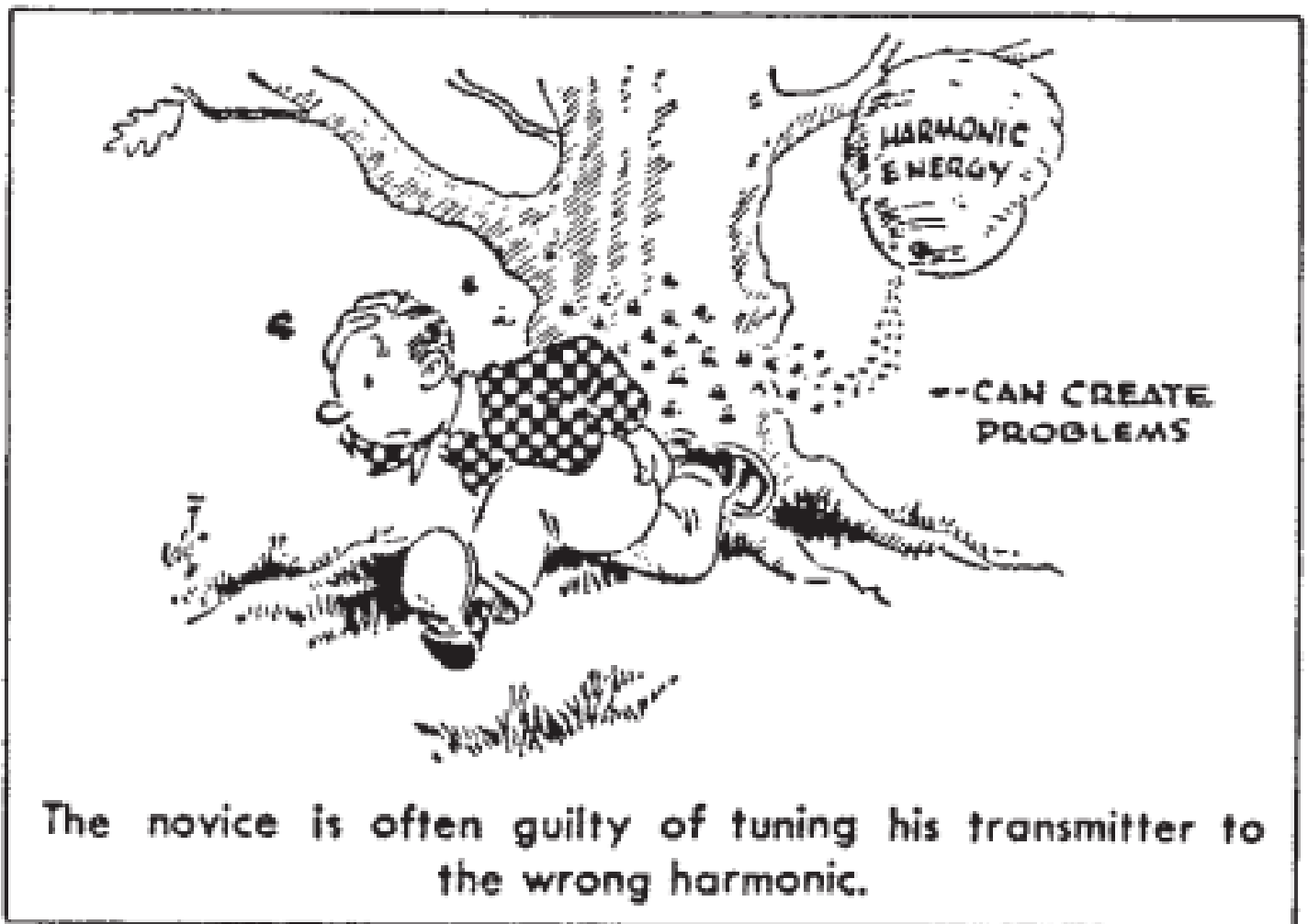
The Top of the Panhandle Amateur Radio Club received grants from the ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program in 2022, and they've caused a lot of excitement in the upper Texas Panhandle and Guymon, Oklahoma. The grants are being used for a program that focuses on partnering with the Boy Scouts of America troops in the area to help them fulfill several merit badge requirements and to help them pass their amateur radio license exams. There are activities planned for hidden transmitter hunts, communicating on the air, and learning skills for emergency management response.

Five Scouts and Scout Leaders have already gotten licensed and received their call signs: Justin Jett, KJ5DFY; Queston Crum, KJ5DWN; Gannon Crum, KJ5DPT; Eli Carthel, KJ5DTD, and Lisa Carthel, KJ5DRR. There are four families in the program.

Six out of 12 candidates passed their amateur radio license exams in Spearman Texas on December 29, 2023. Five are newly licensed Technicians, and one upgraded to their General-class license. The five Technicians are James Shockley, Queston Crum, Joseph Macias, Jaysen Macias, and Audrey House. They've been studying the

exam information for months and will receive their call signs soon. The mentors were: Jay Bradley, AG5OG; Bobette Doerrie, N5IS; Jerome Doerrie, K5IS; Brian Holloway, KC5TPU, and Tom House.

By Bobette Doerrie, N5IS



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

ARES® Briefs, Links

The [Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications](#) (DLARC) is now archiving issues of QST NFL, the newsletter of the Northern Florida ARRL Section. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive, the not-for-profit online library. DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#), a private foundation that exists to support amateur radio and digital communication science and technology. - ARRL QST NFL, January 2024 issue, Marty Brown, N4GL, editor [After more than eight years as editor, Brown is retiring with the gratitude of Northern Florida ARES and other amateur interest communities across the section and state. Well done, thank you and good luck, Marty. - Ed.]

[Orlando HamCation®](#) -- the ARRL Florida State Convention -- is next month, February 9 - 11, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. There are a number of forums and meetings of interest to ARES and other emergency communicators: Disaster Response Communications and Auxcomm Florida; Training for Net Operations; SARNET; ARES Forum; New Directions in MARS; and What is SATERN. These forums are conducted by nationally-recognized leaders and practitioners. See you at HamCation!

Letters: USGS Thanks Winlink Amateur Volunteers for Shakeout Service

"We at the USGS really appreciate the work of the Winlink amateur volunteers who contributed to the recent ShakeOut earthquake scenario exercise as well as contributing to the USGS Did You Feel It? (DYFI) system since 2020. Winlink volunteers have sent in more than 6,000 responses for exercises and actual events. We anticipate that your contributions will help us provide critical situational awareness in the minutes and hours after a significant earthquake. You have a rather unique capacity to communicate after a damaging earthquake. Hence, the connection between amateur radio operators and the USGS' post-earthquake information tools is a natural yet impressive handoff.

"I've been really impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of all the amateur radio operators we've worked with over the past few years who have been ready and willing to develop the interface to connect directly to USGS via the DYFI system and to the many operators who have sent in felt reports. Fantastic!

"Lastly, I also want to thank Vince Quitoriano (USGS contractor) for making all the connections between Winlink and USGS work so smoothly." -- David Wald, PhD, Supervisory Research Geophysicist, U.S. Geological Survey

National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC SKYWARN Recognition Day Operations Successful

On December 2, 2023, Amateur Radio station WX4NHC operators at the National Hurricane Center were on-the-air on HF (40 and 20 meters) for the SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) event from 9 AM to 6 PM EST. WX4NHC was also on the VoIP Hurricane Net on EchoLink WX_TALK Conference (Node 7203)/IRLP 9219 from 4 PM until 6 PM EST. WX4NHC has participated in this annual event since its inception more than 20 years ago.

This event is sponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and is excellent practice for ham radio operators as well as NWS staff to become familiar with the unique radio communications available during times of severe weather. The event was open to all stations in the US and worldwide.

WX4NHC total SRD contacts: 144

NWS Stations contacted: 19

Farthest stations contacted: Brazil (PY3BI)

Coldest Temperature reported: 15°F, AG9G, Wisconsin

Hottest Temperature reported: 88°F, 6Y5WW, Jamaica

WX4NHC station weather (in Miami, Florida): 77°F - 81°F and partly sunny

Radio amateurs who made contacts with the NHC station can receive a QSL card documenting the radio contact. (Please send SASE to WD4R (QRZ address is OK). - Thanks, Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Assistant Manager, WX4NHC station at the National Hurricane Center

FEMA: Results of 2023 National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness.

Since 2013, FEMA has conducted the National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness. This survey of people from across the United States gauges the nation's disaster preparedness actions, attitudes, and motivations. The 2023 survey conducted from February 1 through March 14, 2023 included over 7,600 responses. Results from the 2023 survey indicate that slightly more than half (51%) of Americans believe they are prepared for a disaster and 57% took three or more actions to prepare for a disaster within the last year. The most common actions people took to prepare for a disaster were assembling or updating disaster supplies (48%) and making a plan (37%); the least common actions were planning with neighbors (12%) and getting involved in their community (14%). To review the survey results, [download the summary presentation](#).

Key Findings and Opportunities from the 2023 Survey

- **There were big shifts in the way people prepared for disasters in 2023** compared to the year before. There was a large increase in the percentage of people who assembled or updated supplies (from 33% in 2022 to 48% in 2023), but there was a large decrease in the percentage of people who signed up for alerts and warnings (from 46% in 2022 to 36% in 2023). Emergency managers should remind people that there is more to preparedness than just assembling supplies. When meeting with your community, help people sign up for alerts and warnings right in the moment. Walk them through the process of signing up to receive local alerts while you have their direct attention, so they don't have to remember to do it themselves later on.
- **Only 50% of people believed that taking steps to prepare for a disaster would help them in getting through a disaster and were confident in their ability to take those steps to prepare.** To increase preparedness efficacy, trusted local and community messengers should provide outcome testimonials to demonstrate the value of preparing for a disaster, especially for groups with lower rates of preparedness efficacy.
- **There was a strong association between having awareness of how to prepare for disasters and taking action to prepare.** 89% of people had read, seen or heard information in the last year about how to get better prepared for a disaster. People who had received information about how to prepare were five times as likely to take at least three preparedness actions compared to people who had not received preparedness information. Emergency managers should focus their preparedness outreach efforts on communities with lower awareness of preparedness information because the payoff could be big. Provide tips and strategies for preparing based on a community's specific needs, challenges, and environment. Leverage FEMA's preparedness resources from Ready.gov.
- **There was a disconnect between the 60+ community's perceived preparedness and their prepared-**

ness actions. People who were 60 years old and older were about as likely as people between the ages of 18 and 59 to feel prepared for a disaster (52% and 51% respectively). However, people ages 60 and older were less likely to have taken many preparedness actions compared to people between the ages of 18 and 59. To increase the preparedness of the 60+ community, emergency managers should develop preparedness programming and materials that take into consideration the unique challenges facing older adults and empower them to prepare.

- **Cost barriers may prevent people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged from taking important preparedness actions.** They were less likely than those who are not socioeconomically disadvantaged to have taken higher-cost preparedness actions but were about as likely to have taken low- or no-cost preparedness actions. Emergency managers should leverage community resources to help those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged overcome the cost barriers to close the gap in taking higher-cost preparedness actions.
- **People living in areas at higher risk of flood and wildfire impacts had lower levels of risk perception** for those hazards. Only 43% of people reported that riverine flooding was 'likely' or 'very likely' to impact them, despite living in areas that are at higher risk of experiencing the impacts of riverine flooding. For higher risk wildfire areas, only 49% perceived their risk of being impacted by wildfires. However, hurricane risk perception (96%) was much higher for people at higher risk of experiencing hurricane impacts. Emergency managers should apply the tools and messaging techniques that effectively communicate risk for hurricanes to build a similar culture of risk perception for floods and wildfires in communities at greatest risk.

Ham Radio Comms Trailer Decisions

After studying the idea of a radio/video uplink trailer for some time in early 2020, Doug Reed, N0NAS and I discussed at great length the use case for such a rig. It would be for events where we needed an indoor, all weather operating space for a day or longer. In COVID, a large, multi-operator space (i.e., motorhome) was problematic.

On impulse I found a good deal in mid 2020 on a 15' Palomino hybrid camper. The u-shaped dinette area was ideal for one or two operators. I drilled a one inch hole under the dinette seat and put in a hinged cover. The cables went in and out easily via the access door under the dinette seats. It had a kitchen area, sink and a built in 12V and 120V power system. It worked well at Field Day 2021.

Disadvantages were: It was big. Lots of drag/wind area. High fuel consumption. My 300 HP tow vehicle was at times unhappy. It was wide: 8 feet. And tall: ten feet. And all the systems needed to be winterized. I worried about the sun-worn rubber roof. It took up lots of driveway space. These are three-season campers, really. The fold out tent beds are useless in winter. You cannot sleep and operate in the same trailer. An ideal camper for ham radio - the Casita- 15' + fiberglass and similar brands - seems good but rare and pricey.

Prices on new enclosed cargo trailers are crazy. I wanted a 5'x7' with extra height to be driveway friendly. New these are \$4000. Doug was arguing for 6'x10' or so. A local club got a 28' - no. Locally I found a 5'x7' at auction but it was very rusty. It did have a side door; 6" of extra ceiling height; and about 5 feet inside height, which seemed good.

I put in a forward laminated counter in the pointed nose. And one in the rear. These are easily made from 1x3 pine lumber, 2x2 pine legs and laminated 3' wide lumber yard shelving. We added an RV style translucent roof vent and 20' Harbor Freight aluminum flagpole. It now has a Group 31 marine deep cycle battery (~100AH) and 20 amp marine shore power supply and inlet. And a 100W solar panel and the smallest "SUV" awning we could find. And some 12V LED lighting and a microwave oven. It worked well at Hams in the Park 12/21 and numerous events since. It was towed out on the ski course by a tracked ATV for the Loppet

Winter Festival.

For event/recovery deployment, it will travel with a pair of the 30' diesel tower trailers. This brings three towers, fully redundant 6KW 120/240 power and 120 hours of onboard diesel. - Erik Westgard, NY9D, St. Paul, Minnesota [Westgard is a regular contributor to the ARRL ARES Letter].

Florida Pair Travel to Serve New York City Marathon

1. Gordon "Gordie" Beattie, Jr., W2TTT, and Nancy Beattie, N2FWI, ARES members of rural northern Florida, traveled to New York City to help with race coordination for the New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 5th. This is a marquee training opportunity wrapped up in a live event where 55,000 elite runners traverse the City of New York. Nancy and Gordon are part of an Amateur Radio team that comes from ten states to volunteer for this event.

Years ago the first Amateur Radio Communications Director, Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF/W2ML (SK) started to exchange talent with other Marathon teams from around the country as a way to develop improved best practices for communications support. While most of the volunteer hams are local to metro New York/New Jersey, there are many who fly or drive in days before the event to participate. They also participate and lead various key planning roles remotely in the months leading up to the Marathon. It is an amazingly complex event with a diverse social landscape, great people and awesome experiences for anyone interested in contributing and honing their skills. A few have participated since the 1970s, but most since the 1990s or early 2000s.

Each year there are new volunteers, so the team has depth, and is infused with new ideas that keep it at the top of the game. The primary mission for the hundreds of volunteer Amateur Radio operators along the twenty-six mile course is the timely delivery of vital information to the Race Control Center in Central Park via the attached Amateur Radio Communications Center. They also provide backup should other systems go down. The NYPD has required the integration of Amateur Radio volunteers for over forty years and with the New York City Roadrunners engages the Amateur Radio community for this and other events throughout the year as part of a layered strategy for "observe and report" and backup communications functions.

The nets covering the course are hierarchical and layered for reliability and capacity. There are separate DMR Talk Groups and sometimes repeaters for the Start, Finish, VIP, Medical, Lower and Middle Course and Central Park areas and functions as well as FM analog repeaters for backup and overflow. Additionally, each Mile Captain has a Simplex Net that is usually FM but may also be DMR. Traffic is tactical in format and includes everything from position reports to logistics requests, spot reports of runners with unauthorized equipment or other gear, medical issues, runner drop outs, course disruptions due to fire or EMS activity in a community, protests and the presence of suspicious items or people near the course - the essence of the "See Something, Say Something" protocol.

Nancy is a net control for one of the many nets including the very early DMR VIP Net starting a little before 5 AM and then she shifts over to one of the FM nets until about 8 PM. She, along with others, have a long day. Gordon manages the AREDN Mesh-based network and cameras. All the cameras are supported by a Windows-based Blue Iris video server sitting in New Jersey supported by two separate broadband providers. From there, remote viewers can access all the cameras in the network. The video feeds come from key points of interest and are fed into the Race Control Center and to hams who are assigned to NYPD's Operations Center in downtown Manhattan at One Police Plaza. An additional local instance of Blue Iris is also monitored by Gordon and others in the Amateur Radio Communications Center In Central Park. Because cellular network overloading along the race course can cause video stream dropouts, an ARES® team from Connecticut deployed a Starlink Terminal to backhaul their AREDN Mesh-based video traffic from the 59th Street Bridge area into the Internet.

Using APRS, Gordon tracks and displays the whereabouts of the Race Precursor, Lead Female and Male Runner, press vehicles and the Runner Drop-Out buses. These are all equipped with APRS trackers built by Dave Henninger, N3UXK. Additional trackers built by individuals are also on the course and help to refine our overall operational picture from Central Park. Further, some of our ham volunteers run the APRS.FI application on their phones or other devices. We have specified a message format for both RF and cellular trackers and use the logs to determine coverage gaps in both the APRS and cellular networks. Our beacon message format indicates Amateur Radio RF or which cellular carrier is in use which enhances our post-event analytics. -- J. Gordon "Gordie" Beattie, Jr., W2TTT, QST NFL, January 2024 issue

K1CE For a Final: Subscribe to The NTS Newsletter

The ARRL National Traffic System has a long, proud history (75 years) of serving the public by originating, relaying and delivering formal written messages via a formal network of trained operators across the country. Recently, energetic working groups of experts have been updating and invigorating the League's traffic handling program - the NTS 2.0 project -- which dovetails with the equally historic and important Amateur Radio Emergency Service® with an emphasis on moving routine, priority and emergency messages to their destination recipients. NTS 2.0 will not supplant the existing National Traffic System. Rather, it seeks to improve and expand upon the ways in which we deliver and originate radiogram messages. It also seeks to restate its purpose to the general public and served agencies. NTS 2.0 will devise tools and methods to allow our network to expand its current capabilities to provide wide-area message communications services for ARES, SKYWARN, RACES, and other served agencies.

For example, in an article in the new The ARRL NTS Letter, Jonathon Taylor, K1RFD, writes about a project called The Radiogram Portal, a website that introduces Radiograms to the public and provides an easy way for members of the public to submit messages to be entered, relayed, and delivered by the NTS traffic handlers. This introduces a means of communicating in a disaster situation for the public, and generates messages to exercise the system and improve the skill sets of its operators for competent service. More information can be found in the current issue of The ARRL NTS Letter, which contains a wealth of news and information on the National Traffic System.

You can find archived editions of the new newsletter [here](#). The NTS Letter is published monthly and is free of charge to ARRL members. Subscribe: arrl.org/opt-in-out Veteran traffic handler [Marcia Forde, KW1U](#), Section Traffic Manager of Eastern Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island - is the editor. Sign up, and get the newsletter.

Orlando HamCation® (the second largest ham radio convention in the world) - I hope to meet and greet many ARES Letter readers at this spectacular event! See you there! - Rick, K1CE



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](#)

Maintaining a "junk box" -- a collection of odds and ends that can be used in future projects and repairs -- is a time-honored practice among hams. Every ham radio junk box has to start somewhere, though, and the cover story of the January/February 2024 issue of On the Air, "A Fine Mess: Starting Your Junk Box," by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, offers advice about how to do just that. The January 2024 episode of the On the Air podcast digs deeper by going on

location to the workshop of W1AW, ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, welcomes us into this working space to show us some real-life junk boxes and discuss how they come in handy.

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

"[Nine TVCC Students Receive their Radio Technician License](#)" / Athens Daily Review (Texas) December 29, 2023 -Trinity Valley Community College.

"[Teen Radio Program on Amateur Radio \(Spanish\)](#)" / WIPR-AM (Puerto Rico) January 2, 2024.

"[Local organizations host nationwide Kids Day on the air radio event](#)" / KETV (Nebraska) January 6, 2024 -- The Bellevue Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[Radio club holds annual dinner meeting](#)" / The Times-Gazette (Ohio) January 2, 2024 --The High-

land Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Radio pioneers: the enduring role of 'amateurs' in radio astronomy"](#) / Physics World (United Kingdom) January 23, 2024 -- Podcast with astrophysicist [Emma Chapman](#) about the history of radio astronomy.

Announcements

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 registration information and special event pricing at local hotels, visit the event website at <https://www.ariss.org/>, and choose the drop-down menu tab labeled 40th Anniversary. ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN), the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](#), and AMSAT.

The New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool has been released and is effective July 1, 2024.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new [Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028](#). The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The

10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats. Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of The ARRL Extra Class License Manual or the 5th edition of ARRL's Extra Q & A are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024. Read more on ARRL News.

WRC-23 Reaches Acceptable Conclusion on 23-centimeter Issue
The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) continues through December 15, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)'s primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radionavigation satellite service (RNSS) systems in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band.

IARU's work that began 4 years ago with a preparatory study in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to address this agenda item has finally come to a close. Our concerted engagement in the ITU-R working parties, study groups, and WRC preparatory meetings ensured that the amateur services were properly represented during the development of two published ITU-R reports: M.2513 and M.2532. An ITU-R Recommendation, M.2164, followed these, which formed the basis for the discussions at WRC-23.

During the WRC-23 deliberations, strong positions were expressed by all parties involved.

The result is a well-supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 -1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Administrations are the bodies that govern amateur radio in their respective countries, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States.

The Conference Plenary compromise was formally adopted on December 8 and is not subject to further consideration during the final week of WRC-23. The IARU team continues its work on other WRC issues, including developing agendas for future conferences.

IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, noted, "This is a very good result for the amateur services. The decision reached at WRC-23 on this agenda item makes no change to the table of allocations nor incorporates by reference M.2164 into the Radio Regulations. The addition of a footnote that provides guidance to administrations in the event of interference to the RNSS is a good regulatory outcome for amateurs and the primary users of this band."

The WRC also agreed to suppress Resolution 774, which closes the issue and satisfies the agenda item. Read more in ARRL News.

Youth on the Air (YOTA) Summer Camp

in the Americas will be held July 7 - 12, 2024, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, at Mount Saint Vincent University. Online applications for licensed amateur radio operators aged 15 - 25 in North, Central, and South America are now being accepted at YouthOnTheAir.org. The goal of the 2024 camp is to enrich the campers' amateur radio experience. They can refine their skills; participate in unique experiences with radio-related technologies, including kit builds, contesting, satellite operations, and a special event station, and meet other young hams through workshops and social events. The 2024 YOTA Americas Camp is hosted by [Radio Amateurs of Canada](http://RadioAmateursofCanada.com).

Teenage Hams on TODAY Show

Tomorrow morning, January 5, 2024, a story about the Harbor Creek High School students making [amateur radio contact with astronauts on](#)

[the International Space Station](#) is expected to air on NBC's TODAY, according to a promotion for the segment that aired on Thursday's broadcast.

Journalist Harry Smith and a crew from the top-rated national morning show traveled to Harborcreek, Pennsylvania for the December 11, 2023 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact. As ARRL News [reported at the time](#), the program at the school is a success story of the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#).

ARRL has worked with NBC producers to provide additional footage to support the story.

HamSCI 2024 Workshop

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) will hold its sixth annual workshop on March 22 - 23, 2024, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The event is meant to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists.

The 2024 workshop's theme will be "Alignments" - specifically those between the Sun, Moon, and Earth; collegiate amateur radio recreation and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curricula; data collection and analysis, and professional and citizen science. Workshop participants will prepare for the solar eclipse taking place on April 8, 2024, which will be seen in totality from Cleveland.

HamSCI's main interest is using amateur radio for the characterization and study of ionospheric phenomena like traveling ionospheric disturbances, sporadic E, solar flares, geomagnetic storms, the 2024 total solar eclipse, and other space weather events. To facilitate this science, continued development of the [HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station](#) and discussion about integrating amateur radio into the collegiate curriculum will also take place during the workshop.

Registration is now open, and the deadline is March 1, 2024. HamSCI is also accepting presentations relating to amateur radio and sci-

ence -- particularly space and atmospheric science, space weather, and radio astronomy -- that analyze the ionosphere, propose ideas for the Personal Space Weather Station, and discuss the 2024 eclipse.

Presentations should be the form of talks, posters, lightning talks, and demonstrations. The Science Program Committee will be accepting abstracts and presentations.

If you would like to present, please submit your abstract by February 10, 2024. Presenters will be notified about their acceptance by March 1, 2024. Questions about abstracts should be emailed to Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, at ham-sci@hamsci.org.

For registration and additional information about the event, visit [HamSCI Workshop 2024](#) | HamSCI.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced the schools/host organizations selected for scheduled contacts with International Space Station (ISS) crew from July to December 2024.

The primary goals of the ARISS program are to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) activities and to raise their awareness of space communications, radio communications, space exploration, and related areas of study and career possibilities. ARISS anticipates NASA will be able to provide scheduling opportunities for the six host organizations as they complete equipment plans that allow them to execute ham radio contacts. Once their equipment plans are approved by ARISS, the ISS contacts will be scheduled as availability allows.

The selected schools and host organizations are:

- Coastal Community School in Satellite Beach, Florida
- The Computer Museum of America in Roswell, Georgia

- The Kopernik Observatory & Science Center in Vestal, New York
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Wayne, New Jersey
- The Magnet Innovation Center in Inlet Beach, Florida
- Midlands STEM Charter School in Winnsboro, South Carolina

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN), the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, ARRL, and AMSAT. For more information, visit <http://www.ariss.org>.

A YouTube telethon fundraiser held on December 22, 2023, and hosted by several popular ham radio YouTubers from the Ham Radio Tube channel helped raise money for the ARRL Teachers Institute (TI) on Wireless Technology.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, was featured on the telethon. "We streamed for over 5 hours on Mike's, K8MRD, YouTube channel," said Goodgame. "The total amount raised was over \$18,000. The YouTube community has rallied behind the TI and expressed interest in doing similar events on a recurring basis." The TI is entirely donor-funded and has seen many recent successes. In 2023, 65 educators attended, and 95% of them are now licensed hams; 20 of them received their licenses during the TI and 12 more upgraded their license class. Graduates of the program leave with equipment and instructional material to take into the classroom, allowing them to incorporate amateur radio into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. A replay of the event can be watched at [ARRL Teachers Institute Fundraiser With Steve K5ATA](#) (youtube.com). To directly support the TI, visit www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

A special 6-month event designed to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first official transmission of Radio Luxembourg Broadcasting has concluded. The event gave amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners around the world the opportunity to work or hear special event call sign LX90RTL. Overall, 27,922 contacts were made with LX90RTL, 13.4% of participating stations were from the US, 11.3% were from Germany, and 214 were from DXCC entities, and they included all 40 CQ zones and all 50 US states. More details are available [at https://www.qrz.com/db/LX90RTL](https://www.qrz.com/db/LX90RTL)) and RadioLuxembourg.

ARRL Responds to FCC Proposals

ARRL [responded](#) (PDF) to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands.

The FCC's action follows their 2023 decision to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the 160- to 10-meter amateur bands. Those limits were replaced with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit, a move ARRL had long advocated for.

The FCC's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comments on updating the other amateur bands on which its symbol (baud) rate limits continue to throttle faster data rates. The subject bands are the LF bands (2200 and 630 meters) and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. In its comments, ARRL strongly agreed with the FCC's proposal to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the remaining bands.

[Read more about ARRL's comments on ARRL News.](#)

2024 Orlando HamCation Awards

The HamCation® Awards committee has announced the 2024 Orlando HamCation recipients of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year and the Gordon West Ambassador of the Year awards. Both awards will be presented at the [2024 Orlan-](#)

[do HamCation](#), which is hosting this year's ARRL Florida State Convention, on February 9 - 11, 2024.

Lewis Malchick, N2RQ, is the recipient of this year's Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. Malchick holds an Amateur Extra-class license and is co-founder of the [ARRL School Club Roundup](#), of which he's been active with for more than 25 years. He formerly taught chemistry at the Brooklyn Tech High School, where he's an advisor to the school's Amateur Radio and Wireless Tech Club, W2CXN. Malchick is the trustee for the Stuyvesant High School Amateur Radio Club, W2CLE, the chairperson of the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) Education Committee and has participated in five ARISS contacts. He's spent his lifetime educating children and adults about amateur radio.

The Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award was first awarded at the 2019 HamCation to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator and teaching students about ham radio. It is given annually to individuals who've made outstanding contributions to educating and advancing youth in amateur radio.

The 2024 Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award winners are Fred, AB1OC, and Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB. The Kemmerer's hold Amateur Extra-class licenses and are active in the [Nashua Area Radio Society](#) promoting amateur radio instruction, youth outreach, and STEM education. Together, they've created and helped grow [Ham Bootcamp](#), a program encouraging more than 900 hams to learn new skills. They're active in the club's training and licensing events, along with Tech Night, which complements club meetings. Their participation in STEM activities includes high-altitude balloon launches, fox-hunts, and ARISS contacts for many schools.

Fred Kemmerer is the ARRL New England Division Director, and he chairs and contributes to several subcommittees. Anita Kemmerer serves the Division as an Assistant Director for mentor-

ing and new ham development.

The Gordon West Ambassador of the Award was first awarded the 2023 HamCation, in honor of West's contributions and inspiration to the amateur radio community. It's given to individuals who represent and inspire others and who embody the amateur radio spirit by making outstanding contributions to the amateur radio community.

HamCation has been sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, W4PLB, since 1946, and is held annually on the second weekend of February.

ARRL Kids Day a Success in Nebraska

The [Bellevue Amateur Radio Club](#) and the Science Club at [Yates Illuminates](#) teamed up to offer the youth in Omaha, Nebraska, with an opportunity to get on the air for ARRL Kids Day.



The event occurred on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Yates Illuminates, a former elementary school that is now a culture and community center. Amateur radio operators Dudley Allen, KD0NMD; Terry Gampper, N0BXQ; Frank Jozwiak, KB0EOR, and Mike Terneus, WB0BEE, served as volunteer operators and were extremely patient coaches who nurtured the kids' curiosities of talking on the radio. Dozens of youths as young as 4, as well as young-at-heart Bob Hutton, 91, used the event call sign to talk to amateur radio operators across the country and around the world.



Parents were impressed with Kids Day. One parent said, "The

event organized by the Yates Illuminates Science Club was a perfect blend of education, technology, and community spirit. My kids were thrilled to delve into the world of amateur radio, thanks to the expert guidance of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club. They learned about radio technology and how to contact other young radio enthusiasts across the country. This hands-on experience in communication technology was not only fun but also incredibly educational."

The final highlight of the day came as each child received their certificate of completion. Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America were all represented as the country of birth or the original nationality of the youth participants, and they talked with amateurs as far away as England and Canada.

ARRL Kids Day is already planned for next year, and the Yates Illuminates Science Club will continue to help youth learn the basics of electrical circuits, electronics, and radio propagation, as well as how to make homebrew antennas. Foxhunts, the integration of a course in radio, and other applied scientific learning opportunities (such as wildlife tracking and rescuing, aviation and space research, and communications) are also planned.



All photos courtesy Bellevue Amateur Radio Club.

More stories and photos of ARRL Kids Day can be found on the [ARRL Contest Soapbox](#).

"Marty on the Mountain" Engstrom, N1ARY (SK)

Avid radio amateur, Marty Engstrom, N1ARY, of Fryeburg, Maine, has become a Silent Key. He died on January 4. [Generations of New England television viewers](#) may know him as Marty on the Mountain from his weather reports on camera for WMTW-TV from the station's transmitter site on Mount Washington in Gorham, New Hampshire.

Engstrom was known to quip that he was not intentionally in the weather business: "I'm a TV engineer, not a meteorologist!," he would say. Engstrom served the viewers of New England for 38 years.

He began at the station in the mid-1960s, after a career in the United States Air Force, according to a [memorial on the WMTW website](#). He retired in 2002.

In 2003, Engstrom released his autobiography, [Marty on the Mountain: 38 Years on Mt. Washington](#), in which he discussed his passion for amateur radio.

As a well-known radio amateur in his area and beyond, Engstrom's voice was easily recognizable. According to Bill Mann, W1KX, "You could recognize his heavy Maine accent before he even identified."

According to those who knew him, Engstrom frequently served his community through amateur radio. After a major ice storm in 1998, hams in Oxford County, Maine, banded together to form an emergency communications group. "Marty's low-key approach to various situations, even the more stressful ones, helped the group stay focused. His wealth of knowledge of transmitters and antennas certainly was a tremendous benefit to the less experienced hams," said Wayne Strout, N1YIS. "Marty actively worked as a member of our

group with drills and training for both CERT and ARES."

Engstrom served for some time as the treasurer of the Yankee Amateur Radio Club and had been a longtime ARRL member at the time of his passing. He was 86 years old.

The River City Amateur Radio Communications Society (RCARCS) and Sacramento, California, Girl Scout Troop 1089 have been working hard to plan a contact with the International Space Station (ISS).

In March of 2023, the application submitted by Scout Leader Amanda Banks was approved by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. RCARCS hams and Girl Scout troop leaders have jointly engaged in a variety of activities to prepare for the contact. The scouts have learned about space, communication modes, how radio waves work, frequency and amplitude, circuits, web-based software-defined radio (SDR), telemetry signals from terrestrial and orbiting sources, creating QSL cards, and designing t-shirts for contact day. Jennifer Garland, K11TTY, led practice sessions with local clubs on the N6NA repeater via voice and SSTV. The ARISS contact is expected to occur in mid-February, when the Space Station tracks over California, and will be live streamed from the Girl Scouts' Sacramento headquarters on YouTube and Facebook.

ARRL Board Approves Free Membership for Students, New Vice Presidents Elected

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, on January 19 - 20, 2024, for its Annual Meeting.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presided over the meeting, and the Board welcomed Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division Roy Hook, W8REH, as a newly elected member to the Board.

The Board authorized a new, free ARRL mem-

bership for students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger.

The Board re-elected ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to a fifth 2-year term.

The Board also elected Director of the ARRL Pacific Division Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, to be First Vice President, succeeding Michael Raisbeck, K1TWF.

Director of the ARRL Northwestern Division Mike Ritz, W7VO, was elected Second Vice President, succeeding Bob Vallio, W6RGG. ARRL Vice President of International Affairs Rod Stafford, W6ROD, was re-elected.

The elections of McIntyre and Ritz to the Vice President positions mean that incumbent Vice Directors Anthony Marcin, W7XM (Pacific Division), and Mark Tharp, KB7HDX (Northwestern Division), will succeed as Division Directors, creating vacancies for Vice Director in those Divisions, which will be filled by appointment.

The complete minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRL website. Read more about the Board's actions in the [ARRL Member Bulletin](#).

The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for July 19 - 20, 2024.

ARRL is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.

YLISSB Celebrates 61 Years On the Air

February 8, 2024, marks the 61st anniversary of the YL System, now known as the [YL International Single Side-band System \(YLISSB\)](#), founded by Vera Mayree Tallman, K4ICA (SK),

in 1963.

Tallman received her first license in 1956 and later earned her General-class license. Though the system's name includes "YL," the amateur radio term for "young lady," membership is open to both women and men. YLISSB is a community of radio amateurs who provide support, service, and fellowship to one another and to the rest of the amateur radio community. YLISSB also encourages amateur radio skill development through both personal and system-wide support programs.

The YLISSB operates on 14.332 MHz every day of the year. On February 8 - 11, from 1323Z to 1323Z, special event station K4ICA will operate on 14.240 - 14.340 MHz and 7.230 - 7.260 MHz to commemorate the system's 61st anniversary.

To receive a QSL card, send a letter via self-addressed stamped envelope to John Ellis, W5PDW, at 26231 Huffsmith Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX 77354.

Amateur radio operators will have a unique opportunity this February to participate in the 75th anniversary of the US being gifted [40 & 8 Merci Train](#) boxcars, one of which is located near Las Vegas, Nevada.

At the end of World War II, the Merci Train was sent from France as a way of saying thank you (Merci) for help and supplies that the US sent them during the war. A total of 49 boxcars, each filled with gifts, arrived in the US in 1949. The boxcars were then distributed to each state, including Nevada; the Nevada boxcar arrived in Carson City on February 23, 1949. The 49th boxcar was shared by Washington D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. On February 10 - 29, 2024, special event station NV7AL will operate from American Legion Paradise Post 149 to raise awareness of the gift and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the delivery. For each day of the event, operating times will be from 0000Z - 0000Z on FT8 on 7.074 and 7.250 MHz, and on SSB on 14.074 and 14.250 MHz. On February 24 - 25, NV7AL may operate from the current location of the boxcar in Boulder City, Nevada. Information about QSL cards is available at [NV7AL](#).

**BARC Website, some Blog
page Titles**

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

[Hex Beam in the Air!](#)

Even more than this on the
website.

Feel free to view, comment and
add.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

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

HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

Hurricane Watch Net
hwn.org

VOIP Hurricane Net
voipwx.net

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

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

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

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

Nets to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

SKYWARN

To learn how to become a trained NOAA storm spotter visit [Spotter Training \(weather.gov\)](#).

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.

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 147.255+ PL Tone 131.8 Thursday at 2000 hours Except day of meeting

HF

- Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.
- PARC Tuesday net 3.807Mhz SSB 1900 hours(EST)
- PARC Tuesday 7pm, 3807mHz or closes open freq.
- 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

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:

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](https://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

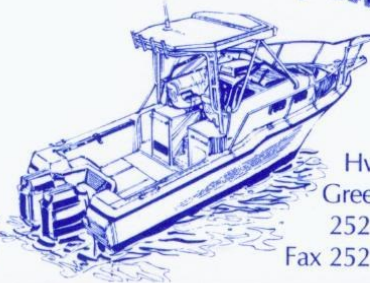
Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA
K4ZYD

105-D East Victoria Ct.
 Greenville, NC 27858

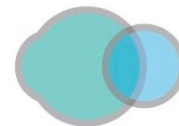
Phone (252) 321-6007
 Fax (252) 321-2991

MARK'S MARINE, INC.



Mark Langley
 Mike Langley
KD4MTT

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



East Carolina Retina CONSULTANTS

Peter Van Houten, M.D.

2501a Stantonsburg Road
 Greenville, NC 27834

252-758-2402

<https://ECRetina.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contest, Events and Meetings

2024 Starts Here:

Feb 1 NRAU 10m Activity (CW, phone, digital)
 Feb 1 SKCC Sprint Europe (CW)
 Feb 1-2 Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
 Feb 8 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 Feb 1-29 40&8 Merci Train 75th Anniversary, FT8 and SSB
 Feb 13 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 Feb 25 NC QSO Party 10 am-8 pm <http://ncqsoparty.org/>
 Feb 27 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 March 12 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 March 14 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 March 23 **Walk MS: Raleigh**, help needed
 March 26 BARC Board meeting 7pm, Zoom
 April 6 RARSfest
 April 8 Solar Eclipse, Anyone to go see the FULL Eclipse?
 April 9 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 April 11 PARC Meeting 7pm
 April 30 BARC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom
 May 9 PARC Meeting 7pm
 May 14 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 May 28 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 June 11 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 June 13 PARC Meeting 7pm
 June 22-23 **ARRL Field Day**
 June 25 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 July 9 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 July 11 PARC Meeting 7pm
 July 30 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 Aug 8 PARC Meeting 7pm
 Aug 13 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 Aug 27 BARC Board meeting 7pm

Contest Calendar: For more Contest and all the rules:

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

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

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

BARC Meetings are open to all.

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

BARC Breakfast - Saturday after General meeting

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

Pamlico Meetings - 2nd Thursday @ 7pm

Club Activities, Events, Ideas and Dates to do together.

1. Get a list from folks of what they want to do.
2. Dayton trip, car pool and Hotel?
3. April 8, Solar Eclipse, Car pool to where full eclipse is expected.
4. RARSfest
5. GET MORE IDEAS!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Section, State, Division Conventions and Hamfest

2024:

February 2 - 3 [Capital City Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Mississippi State Convention, Jackson, Mississippi

February 9 - 11 [Orlando HamCation](#), hosting the ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando, Florida

February 24 [Central Dakota Amateur Radio Club](#), hosting the ARRL North Dakota State Convention, Bismarck, North Dakota

February 24 [HAM-CON](#), hosting the ARRL Vermont State Convention, Colchester, Vermont

March 1 - 2 [Greater Houston HamFest](#), sponsoring the ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Rosenberg, Texas

March 8-9 Charlotte Hamfest, Cabarrus County Arena and Event Center, Concord, NC <https://charlottehamfest.org/>

March 8 - 9 [Acadiana DX Association Hamfest & Swapmeet](#), sponsoring the ARRL Louisiana State Convention, Rayne, Louisiana

March 16 [49th Annual Stuart Hamfest](#), sponsoring the ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention, Stuart, Florida

March 16 [St. Patrick's Day Hamfest](#), sponsoring the ARRL West Texas Section Convention, Midland, Texas

April 6 RARSfest, Jim Graham Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Saturday, April 6, 2024, sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. Info can be found at <https://www.rarsfest.org/>.