

Ham Chatter



Volume 58 Issue 3

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

March 2024

Editor, Mark, KG4GVJ

Email: hamchatter@w4amc.com

ATTENTION BARC MEMBERS

At the last board meeting I presented an idea that I feel could drive participation in our club. Currently we have separate board and general club meetings. As I understand in the past some club business was discussed at general meetings, but this has not been the case in a few years. This can leave some club members without the feeling that they have a stake in the club.

I'm proposing that we merge the meetings and, at the singular club meeting each month, discuss the club business after our presenter or meeting topic has concluded. More ideas can be shared and heard by all club members and we all can participate together in mapping the club's future.

Please share your thoughts at our next meeting, or to any of your board members.

Scott James, K9SPJ, Trustee
scott@k9spj.com

Walk MS: Raleigh, NC Saturday, March 23

Not as many folks needed compared to Bike MS: New Bern.
 But still needed for various positions., both walking and standing.

Ideas Wanted!

Ideas of what YOU want to do as a Club. Trips, Events, Contest, projects, car pools to/from? Give all of us a chance to say THAT'S IT!

New calendar towards the back of these.

BARC General meeting March 11, 6:30pm 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

BARC March 11, 2024

"Did you know that you could use a portable VHF radio - on analog - to talk around the world? How about using a repeater while visiting another state to catch up with your ham friends back home via their local repeater? No cell phone necessary!

At the next meeting I will give an overview of our local VHF and UHF repeaters and the capabilities they have. I'll also share information about the local linking systems and how to use them. We have a lot of underutilized capabilities that can make radio enjoyable no matter your license level."

Scott James, K9SPJ

PARC March 14, 2024

BARC April 9, 6pm Oakwood School.
 Daryl N4OHK
 POTA Prep, bring your setup.

BARC Board Meeting - March 26, 2024. ZOOM

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.

In This Issue

<i>Operating Tips</i>	16
Presidents Corner - KN4FZB	3
Presidents Corner—NG9T	5
E.N.C. Repeater	7
Greetings from High	9
Yabba and other Clubs	15
ARES/EmComm	20
NTS Letter	38
W1AW Operating	18
ARRL Emails, News and Radio in the News	26
License study and Test	17
Hurricane Resources	44
Nets:	45
Ham AD's	47
BARC & PARC Calendar of Events	49

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 * NON-COPY - RIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION * PRESIDENT - Beth, KN4FZB * 1ST VICE PRESIDENT - Judy, W3JUJ * 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - Vacant * SECRETARY - Dan, N4OHK * TREASURER - Dave W4EJ * VE LIAISON - Vacant * PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR - VACANT * W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE'S - BILL, WA4SLC and Scott, K9SPJ * HAM CHATTER EDITOR - MARK , KG4GVJ * WEBMASTER - PETER , N4PVH * EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE * EmComm—Judy, W3JUJ * QSL Manager—Rich., W4JNC * OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC * CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. .

BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB



March 2024

Happy March to you all! We are just a few weeks away from changing the clocks, a few more away from RARSFest and the eclipse. The springtime calendar is filling up. Isn't it ironic that we can pretty easily chart eclipses and other celestial events thousands of miles away, but we can't yet predict tornados or earthquakes. It would be great to plan for events that might knock out our electricity or inconvenience us, but we don't know when these events will happen. It could be a technological glitch that takes out our phones (Can you hear me now?), a car skidding into a transformer that knocks out our electricity, or storm surge from a minor hurricane that takes our water treatment plant offline. I expect that most of us have some items in our storage that can get us through a few hours or maybe days with diminished infrastructure. We have batteries, canned food, water, and fuel. But do you have a plan and are you practicing? Will you be stumbling around in with a dim headlamp trying to find the can opener, Rice-A-Roni, water, and the can of SPAM in your cabinet? Do you have a way to cook these items? A pot you can use on a camp stove or campfire? Do you have a way to serve and clean up? Are you actually doing a test run?

We have radios, connectors, wires, antennas, and solar panels, but do you have a plan? Who are you going to contact? Do you have a schedule? Have you tested antennas for local, intermediate, and long ranges? What is the plan for contacting non-ham friends and relatives? Actually, I'm really curious about this one since I don't have a plan for reaching my out-of-state relatives. Let me know what works with the people that you don't want to lose touch with.

Of course you have a car kit, are you swapping out the cold weather items for hot weather gear? What's the plan if a Hazmat train derails and your neighborhood is being evacuated? What if the dog and cat are at the house, the kids are at school or daycare, and you are at work? Do you work through these plans with the family? If you evacuate to a new area, can you find local repeaters? Can you program them by hand?

And of course, we are always reminded during the time changes to check the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Do you do fire drills in your house? Do you have a reunification point that everyone knows. Is it out of the way of emergency vehicles? Check in with your household and make sure that they know what to do.

And finally, if you are writing an article for your club's newsletter, make sure you save it fre-

quently (I'm using Libre Office and it doesn't save automatically). If you walk away overnight, your laptop might restart and you could lose all that you've written and have to start over.

So, take care, my friends. Trouble will come, but you can outwit it if you are prepared.





Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner



Hi Everyone!!

Well, here we are into another month already, I just returned from a trip to Minnesota and they are having a very mild winter, I was hoping to see some snow flakes but that was not to be. I suppose that the ground hog may have been correct on forecasting an early spring.

So, let's talk about some upcoming spring activities!

RARSFEST is always a sign of spring. This year RARSFEST is taking place on April 6, the Saturday following Easter weekend. PARC will have 3 tables this year with a lot of interesting items for sale including a lot of boat anchors. Look for our banners!

The Second Annual PARC-BRIGHTLEAF spring cookout is scheduled for April 27. This year we have invited the members of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club to join us. Each year I am hoping to add another club to our cookouts until one day we can have a "Eastern NC Ham Club Spring Cookout" that includes all hams in Eastern NC.

Time and Location:

Clarks Neck Fire Department Station 2

3797 Wharton Station Rd

Washington NC 27889

Meet at 11:00am for socializing and Eat at noon.

April 8 2024 Great North American Eclipse

On April 8 there will be a total solar eclipse that starts in Mexico and crosses the United States from Texas northeast across multiple states through Maine. There are many ways for Hams to be involved during the eclipse. HAMSCI.ORG has information for Ham involvement. Also the Case Amateur Radio Club W8EDU is asking for Ham input for a research project that they are conducting.

POTA - you all probably know by now that I enjoy anything related to Parks on the Air. I recently Realized that POTA Site K-8313 "Mountains to the Sea Trail" crosses a great deal of Eastern NC. When you look at the POTA Map the yellow dot for this site shows up at the trailhead in the mountains. But the trail crosses NC from the mountains to the outer banks. It follows rivers, roads, trails, ferries, and rough bush wacking areas not for the faint hearted. In Smithfield, the trail splits between road and the Neuse River. The Neuse River is a paddle section that follows the river from Smithfield to the Cherry Branch Ferry landing side of the Minnesott Cherry Branch ferry. From there it follows roads and trails until it blends with HWY 12 through Down East NC to Cedar Island on the ferry to Okracoke and then North up the Outer Banks to Nags Head. I found this information interesting because the trail can be activated anywhere along its length and it crosses multiple other POTA sites along its path.

73 Gary Faust NG9T, President, Pamlico Amateur Radio Club

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: May 9, please contact to reserve an exam spot.

E. N. C. Repeater Inc.

Eastern North Carolina Repeater Association

W4NBR Repeater 146.685 PL 88.5

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

Dues (cash or check made payable to E.N.C. Repeater Inc.) to any Club Officer, or mail to David Burt, 1425 Harris Ct., Cary, NC 27511 or email to enc@inner360.com

2023 Meeting Minutes:

ENC Repeater Association

Spring Meeting 03/26

26 March 2023 / 1:00 PM / Kings - Shipping Room

ATTENDEES

Dave Roy, Burnie Roy, David Burt, Byron Highland, Pete Wene, Ceia Wene, Gene Rybolt, Mac Garris, Gary Gladson, Mark McKenny, David Mull

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order at 1:13 PM

- Dave Roy - President & Trustee
- Bernie Roy read Minutes from the last meeting, Pete - Made a motion to approve minutes as read. Second by Mac Garris. Approved.

Treasury Report

• Bernie Roy, W1BMR - Current Bank Balance is \$ 2,710.90. Gene - Made a motion to accept the report. Second by Mac Garris. Approved.

Old Business

- Provided by Dave Roy
- - Update on RX Antenna provided by Dave Roy. Two people as options to replace the antenna. May use a smaller antenna than 4 bay. Will defer to the installer on which antenna to use. Elevator is currently not working.
 - New 100 watt repeater has been purchased. Danny has it. Danny paid for power supply and link radio.

New Business

- Bernie Roy
- - Update on membership roster. Members inactive since 2010 were dropped from the membership roster.
 - Insurance needs - New administrator of Insurance policy.
 - New Hampshire Ins. Co. / Association Member Benefits Advisors
 - Customer #: 9117763
 - Policy Number: EQP-8464254103
 - Policy Period: 04/06/2023 - 04/06/2024

- ● Dave Roy
 - Overview of Bylaws and how the election works.
 - Board of directors will consist of 9 members (including officers). 6 directors shall be elected at each annual meeting. Standing board members:
 - David Burt - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Gene Rybolt ● Mac Garris
 - Vote for six members
 - See notes
 - Vote for officers
 - Pete current officers, second gary. Carried.
 - Dave - President
 - David - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Byron - VP
 - Byron move to add
 - Ceia and David Mull, Gene did. Carried.
 - Elected to board
 - Dave Roy - Appointed Pete Wene as Trustee
 - Has all the best interest in org.
 - Pete accepted.
 - Ceia - Are we going to have a picnic?
 - Dave says we will plan one.
 - Gary - What does it cost to pay someone to climb the tower
 - \$700 per trip -
 - Murray Adams - Out of business
 - Tower Communications
 - Allen Pier - Possibility to climb tower provided by Gary.
 - Pete - Do we need a mount for the RX ANT. Dave doesn't know, but we will get someone to check when they climb.

Byron - Motion to adjourn, David B. Second. Carried.

2024 Meeting, March 24, 2024

Current agenda items so far:

- Officer Elections
- Equipment Insurance

Dues are due, payable at meeting.

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY**February 15, 2024**

This is the 90th NC Section Newsletter written and distributed since I became your Section Manager on April 1, 2020. I hope that many people find the newsletters interesting and informative. All previous newsletters can be found in an archive at ncarrl.org. If you are not getting the newsletters twice a month and wish to be added to the mailing list, drop me an email with your contact information and we will add you to the distribution list.

There has recently been a lot of variation in the weather up here. The storm that dumped the heavy snow in NJ, NY and New England gave us high winds (45 mph) and a dusting of snow but over a couple of days we had highs of 50 and lows of 28 degrees.

Skiers seem happy but no one I know is upset that each day brings up closer to the start of Springtime.

ARRL MATTERS

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, CT on January 18-20 and made a number of important decisions including:

- a. Offering students under 21 free ARRL memberships, including receiving a digital copy of QST.
- b. Affirming the Board's previous decision to decouple ARRL membership from receiving a printed, mailed copy of QST. A person whose membership might still have two years before the membership expires will no longer be receiving a mailed, printed copy of QST, effective January 1 2024.

Members who want to receive a mailed and printed copy of QST each month will pay \$24 per year which is in addition to the recent increase of ARRL dues increasing from \$49 per year up to \$59 per year. Members who want to continue to receive printed and mailed issues of QST may call ARRL HQ at 1-860-594-0200 to arrange payment for the mailing of QST. The ARRL Treasurer calculated that continuing to send a printed copy of QST to members (as compared to allowing them to pay the \$24 QST increase) would require another rate increase for all members, including those who choose not to get a printed copy of QST.

- c. Approving in concept the resumption of new ARRL Life Memberships which were suspended last Fall. ARRL has contracted with an actuarial firm to determine the life expectancy of new Life Members. Once that data is calculated ARRL will calculate how much to set aside from the newly established life membership fee to cover the actual costs for services provided to Life Members. No word has been released about the increased fee that new Life Members will have to pay but all indications are that it will be substantially higher than the previous Life Membership fee.

- d. Establishing a competition among students 21 years and younger who wish to engage in writing computer code for ARRL. Up to \$25,000 will be awarded by ARRL to the most successful student competitors solving computer coding problems for the ARRL.
- e. Changing the methods for handling election complaints as well as complaints coming before the Elections and Ethics Committee. The Board recognized that different members of the Election and Ethics Committee, over time, handled complaints differently since there was no uniform guidance as to how the rules should be applied. An independent, outside committee will be created and training will be strengthened for E&E members to insure more consistency in decisions reached over time.
- f. Re-electing ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and with 11 votes chose a new 1st Vice President, Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, who replaces former 1st VP Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, who received four votes.
- g. Approving the release of minutes of the Board meeting and posting the [minutes](#).
- h. Releasing and posting on the ARRL website many of the committee reports filed by the standing and special purpose committee that made recommendations to the ARRL Board of Directors. No report was posted from the Emergency Management and Field Services Committee. The available [committee reports](#).

ARRL is seeking applications for the next round of the ARRL Teacher Institute. The institute is a five day training session for teachers to learn about advanced robotics, computers and satellite communications so that their students receive highly effective and exciting training designed to increase their interest in and excitement for amateur radio.

Information about the [Teacher Institute](#), part of the ARRL Education and Technology Program. If you have a friend who is a teacher involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) instruction in your local school, pitch the idea and see if your teacher-friend would be interested in applying. The institute covers all expenses (travel, kits, etc) and provides top-notch instructors to help the teachers get the latest in the way of technology instruction.

ACTIVITIES ON THE AIR

- a. You can make on-the air contact with the USS Iowa and celebrate the [81st Anniversary](#) of its Commissioning which occurred on February 22, 1943. For details about the ship which is moored at the National Museum of the Surface Navy at San Pedro, California. The on-the-air event will be held from 1600 TO 2400 UTC using call sign NI6BB and legacy equipment.

Additional information about contacting the Iowa can be found at the [Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association website](#).

b. February 25, 2024 (10 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST), Sunday, will generate a lot of activity when this year's NC QSO party is held. Details about the [goals and how points are earned](#).

Congratulations to the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society will be working the QSO party as a club this year. Zach Thompson has posted the following information. "As you may already know, the WCARS club has decided to make this their first year participating in the NC QSO party as a club. Everyone is invited to attend! For those of you unfamiliar with the QSO party, the NC QSO party is an annual single-day contest in which the goal is to make contact with as many NC counties as possible. For more information on the NC QSO Party, consult the [official contest rules](#). The South Carolina QSO Party will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

c. The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency has successfully placed a station on the surface of the Moon. [Information](#). Listen up on 437.41 MHz for the station that uses a 1 W UHF transmitter and antenna with circular polarization. Perhaps you can receive the transmissions from the Moon!

d. A fifty member committee has been working for a year to develop updated operating principles for NTS 2.0 which will soon be released. Although NTS2.0 would be available to handle emergency traffic, the NTS2.0 project is creating additional traffic nets, releasing new Radiogram templates and implementing other enhancements for traffic and training messages. Information from [ARRL about NTS Modernization](#).

e. School Club Round up. Each year ARRL sponsors two periods of on-the-air activity for students in schools, community colleges and universities. [Information](#).

f. NC Section Traffic Report

Because of the cumbersome ARRL email system it is not possible to simply attach a spreadsheet within a text document emailed and sent out by ARRL.

Dave Roy, W4DNA's, complete traffic can be found at ncarrl.org.

W4DNA - NC Section Net Report - JANUARY 2024

NET	NMGR	QNI	LISTED	PASSED	TIME	SESSIONS	TFC %
SECTION NETS							
CN	AA4MP	300	140	136	581	62	97.14%
CSN	KI4KZS	123	19	19	575	31	100.00%
NCEN	WK4WC	374	107	98	433	31	91.59%
NCMN	W3OJO	301	122	115	450	31	94.26%
THEN	K4SEH	359	0	0	447	23	N/A
LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS							
CWTN	N4CNX	404	115	115	618	31	100.00%
ENCTN	W4DNA	107	7	7	179	27	100.00%
PCTN	W4TTO	233	47	47	256	31	100.00%
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NETS							
C-MNN	KI4FAQ	329	0	0	350	31	N/A
TOTAL		2530	557	537	3889	298	96.41%

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

a. Charlotte, March 8-9, sponsored by the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society and held at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4551 Old Airport Road, Concord, NC 28025. The hours are Friday, March 8, 2024: 3:00PM – 7:00PM; Saturday, March 9, 2024: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

The Mecklenburg Club is asking for volunteers to work two hours at the hamfest in exchange for receiving a yellow hamfest shirt and free admission to the hamfest.

To sign up to help, go to:

For [Friday sign-up](#),

For [Saturday sign-up](#),

[General information](#) about the hamfest.

b. RARSFest, April 6, sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and held in the Jim Graham Building at the NC State Fairgrounds. The hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. [General information](#) about RARSfest.

POLICY MATTERS

a. What about AM car radios?

A debate is underway in Washington as to whether there should be a requirement that new EV cars should or should not come with receivers capable of receiving conventional AM broadcast stations.

There are several sides to this controversy.

Automobile manufacturers indicate that the numerous microprocessors in new EV cars will require substantial rf noise reduction (and at considerable monetary cost) to prevent rf noise coming from the hundreds, if not thousands, of microprocessors in EV cars from interfering with AM broadcast reception.

On the other hand, a coalition of broadcast interests has joined together to resist dropping AM reception in new EV cars. Broadcasting and attracting audiences is how they have made their livelihood for decades. They do not want changes made in their business model.

Furthermore, some emergency management agencies are concerned that many drivers will be unable to receive various emergency alerts now carried over AM broadcast stations because the vehicle may not be able to pick up AM broadcast stations.

There is also debate over whether more emergency alerts will be heard over FM broadcast stations than over AM stations due to the program content each type station carries.

US House of Representatives member Josh Gottheimer is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to require carmakers who exclude AM radio to paste a safety warning in the window of any new EV car sold stating: "Warning: No AM Radio. Vehicle Unsafe in Certain Emergencies."

b. Please remember to have someone in your club to update information at ARRL about your local club. This will allow visitors to learn about your club and will allow prospective members to learn about your club and its goals. Information on how to update your [club information can be found](#).

CLOSING COMMENT

We are all getting older and unfortunately many of us are dying too soon.

One of the duties of a Section Manager is to follow up on information that comes in regarding hams who recently passed away, making sure their name and call appears in QST. It is rare that a week or two goes by without my receiving notice of a ham passing away somewhere in North Carolina. Most of the time the information comes in an unexpected email and sometimes I learn of a death from a club's newsletter.

So it was an unusually solemn set of emails I have sent out since January 15th advising ARRL that twelve hams in North Carolina had

recently passed away and should be listed as Silent Keys in upcoming issues of QST.

As much as members are missed when they pass away, their death also has a revenue impact on the ARRL.

A member of the ARRL Revenue Enhancement Committee opined that it appears that the Board failed to take into adequate account the combined effects of deaths of members, the aging of members who apparently are no longer interested in amateur radio and did not renew their membership. There are also members who have not renewed as a protest over the dues increase.

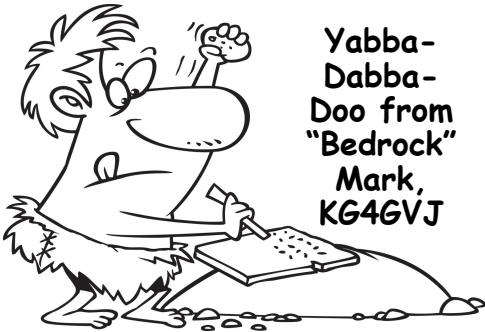
How important each of these factors is cannot be estimated at this time.

The data mentioned here about the unusually high silent keys may be atypical but data for January over a three year period may be informative about the changing demographics of the membership.

ARRL members, January 2022	158,520
ARRL members, January 2023	150,918
ARRL members, January 2024	148,669

Best wishes to each of you and your families.
Marv, WA4NC

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



Hi Folks,

WOW! Another month has passed away already. Recently adopted another dog here, and been trying to get her adjusted. Also I'm trying to be more active. Trying to get the Chatter out doesn't help, but it does need to be done. Interesting that the updates on software sometimes creates problems of their own.

Personally, a lot of action expected in the future for me and my wife. Trips to Maryland to help her mother, Cataract surgery for my wife, Getting some work finished on my Solar Power system, looking for part-time work that can be flexible with all that is happening, Some radio work, clean my Den-Storage-Radio room again, go thru my dad's old stuff again, etc. Oh ya, and VOTE this Tuesday. Just a little bit to keep us active along with other projects in and around the house.

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.

Contest University Course Outline and Professor Bios Announced

Tim Duffy, K3LR, has announced that the 2024 course outline and professor biographies are now posted on the Contest University website at <https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/>. Contest University will be held on Thursday, May 16 from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at the Hope Hotel in Dayton, Ohio.

Word to the Wise

Operating Tip

Technical Topics and Discussion

Conversation

With the ARRL International DX SSB Contest coming up this weekend, I'd like to remind participants to be mindful of band edges. If you're operating near the upper or lower edges of the band, or of your operating privileges, be aware that your signal's bandwidth may extend beyond what the frequency display on your radio is reading. For example, when operating lower sideband phone, if your radio dial reads 7.125 MHz, your signal extends outside of the phone privileges for US amateurs and into the CW portion of the 40-meter band.

The ARRL website has a handy, printable US Amateur Radio Allocations Chart for those who wish to have one for quick reference.

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 March 2024

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

SALISBURY NC

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

Bostian Heights Fire Dept. Community Room

[\(MAP\)](#)

8211 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146

For more information contact:

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

Last updated 1/26/22

THOMASVILLE NC

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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

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

[From the FARC Newsletter](#)

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>.

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 Amateur Radio Workshop for the [2024 National Hurricane Conference](#) in Orlando, Florida, will be conducted on Tuesday, March 26, 1:30 - 5:00 PM, at the conference venue, the Rosen Centre Hotel. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.

The perennial Amateur Radio Workshop has been included in the conference breakout sessions for over 25 years. It is always well attended, with a panel of hurricane communications veteran experts and leaders from the community, including the National Hurricane Center's Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC volunteers, led by Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the station's assistant coordinator, representatives from the Hurricane Watch Net, the VoIP Hurricane Net, and other luminaries. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, of the VoIP Hurricane Net and ARRL Field Organization, is one of the masters of ceremonies. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will present on ARRL HQ's support for the field during hurricane disaster situations. Your ARES Letter editor Rick Palm, K1CE, will speak on his personal Hurricane Idalia experience, lessons learned, and solutions implemented since that devastating storm. Hope to meet and greet readers there!

The [2023 Great ShakeOut Multi-Agency Exercise After-Action Report](#) is now available. Since 2020, Winlink Global Radio Email® has supported and participated with the US Geological Survey (USGS) in the world's largest earthquake exercise. Past participation had been primarily concentrated within California. The 2023 Great ShakeOut exercise Winlink participation included an expanded effort by FEMA and their stakeholders, designed to highlight the utility of the Winlink system for emergency management. With Winlink, participants can provide accurate, timely situational awareness -- or "ground truth" -- in the early stages of any casualty event. Thus, the USGS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups (FEMA RECCWG), and stakeholders collaborated with the Winlink team to provide both agency and volunteer radio operators an opportunity to participate and train on the procedures of information reporting and delivery with the option of not having to depend on conventional communications.

The [APCO 2024 90th Annual Conference and Expo](#) is August 4-7, in Orlando. An ARRL partner entity, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, Inc., and ARRL have had a memorandum of understanding for decades, sharing the common bond of communications in the public interest. APCO International is made up of Emergency Medical, Law Enforcement, Fire, and other Public Safety Communications personnel whose primary responsibility is the management, design, maintenance, and operation of communications facilities in the public domain.

The [ARRL Foundation is now accepting grant applications](#) from amateur radio organizations for eligible amateur radio-related projects and initiatives.

[Echolink now has a web interface](#). The service appears to be a welcome addition for users. As always, after setup, users are encouraged to connect to 9999 -- the Echotest server -- to adjust their transmit and receive audio before connecting to other users. - Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, FEMA Reservist, Retired Emergency Manager, All-hazards disaster planning, response, mitigation, and recovery; Incident Command System Trainer [Colston's service has included the Joint Information Center at the Utah Olympics, and Fire Management Assistance for the Grant fire response, among many others. - Ed.]

Takeaways from the 2024 Orlando HamCation® Forums

The 2024 Orlando HamCation®, held February 9-11 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, served as the ARRL

Florida State Convention this year. It's the world's second-largest ham radio event, and is sponsored and conducted by Florida's oldest amateur radio club, the Orlando Amateur Radio Club. I attended the event. Here are a few key takeaways.

First, I was amazed at the sheer volume of attendees: the fairgrounds were packed with vendors, the forums were well-attended (some with standing room only), and the flea market was being picked clean of a wide variety of new, old, and vintage items that evoked memories of ham radio in the 1950s and later. It was so much fun. But the main takeaway was the evidence that amateur radio remains a cosmically popular avocation and widely embraced venue for public service, especially emergency communications.

AUXCOMM Forum SRO

I attended the AuxComm Florida forum on Friday morning, conducted by Roger Lord, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), Florida Department of Emergency Management; Justin Waters, Functional Manager, Planning and Training, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, US Department of Homeland Security; and Dave Byrum, KA4EBX, DHS/OEC COML Instructor, Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications. Byrum is a veteran AUXCOMM instructor out of St. Petersburg, Florida.

It is now official: the state of Florida has adopted AUXCOMM. Just prior to the convention, 20 students were taught by the panel of three instructors in the AUXCOMM training course at a local public safety facility. All 20 passed this rigorous, demanding program.

This was the third year in a row that the AUXCOMM forum was conducted at the convention, which has grown along with the vitality of AUXCOMM itself in the state. The panelists discussed two deployments during 2023: Hurricane Idalia, and a spate of tornadoes, when the radio room at the State EOC in Tallahassee was stood up by vetted/trained radio amateurs.

Over the course of the year, six AUXCOMM candidates had their AUXCOMM Position Task Books signed off on. (There are now four instructors in the state). The state EOC is the primary served entity. Primary communications systems include SARNET (a dedicated 70-centimeter FM repeater network that links all counties in the entire state); the SHAKES - the ShakeAlert System; and Winlink.

Waters reported on his agency's efforts to update the COML (Communications Unit Leader) and AUXCOMM courses. He also told the crowd that Florida has the strongest AUXCOMM program in the country. For deployment to other states, Florida AUXCOMM operators will be required to have passed the course and have their AUXCOMM task books signed off on by the Florida Statewide Interoperability Coordinator.

The question-and-answer session followed, with the panelists answering a wide range of questions. Roger Lord explained the FDEM's [SERT TRAC](#) program - the State Emergency Response Team Training Resources and Activity Center. Created primarily as a calendar and registration tool, many additional needs were identified and added, such as tracking attendance and completion of courses; issuance, uploading, and archiving of course completion certificates, career path tools; and other features. For example, radio amateurs wishing to be deployed must have registered their primary, required FEMA independent study (IS) courses, the now ubiquitous IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 courses, online at the SERT TRAC repository.

I asked about the status of the "AUXC" position - the Auxiliary Communicator. Lord essentially said that the state conveys the title to those who have completed the 20-hour AUXCOMM Course and the AUXC Position Task Book (PTB). The PTB is checked off by leadership at the local served agency such as a COML, or other ICS head, or by a State of Florida SWIC-approved exercise evaluator who must be the applicant's incident supervisor.

Florida's SWIC must approve in advance any exercises at which PTB tasks are being evaluated for signoff. Once completed, the packet and application go to Florida AUXCOMM Coordinator David Byrum, KA4EBX, for review. It then is reviewed and approved at FDEM by the SWIC.

Florida AUXC regional coordinators have the best awareness of events and exercise opportunities to complete official recognition, and are also a good resource for mentoring, other opportunities, and questions. The State of Florida recognizes the national Department of Homeland Security (DHS) PTB document -- other organizations' PTBs cannot be accepted for recognition.

The most current version of the AUXC PTB can be downloaded [here](#). AUXC task books now take about a year to complete - there should be multiple events/incidents participation with multiple signoffs, and multiple checkoffs by different evaluators. Completed and signed off task books give the volunteer "credibility," said Lord. Incident Personnel Performance Rating (ICS 225) forms may also be required. He also said that the applicant should have an agency behind the applicant, with signoffs by agency officials.

Lord also mentioned that even professional emergency management communicators are now taking the AUXCOMM course.

In the ICS structure, the Communications Unit is now under the ICT Branch of the Logistics section. A change consolidates ICT services within one branch in the Logistics Section while designating the delivery of services as either interoperable communications, IT or cybersecurity services. This organization streamlines incident communications and IT requirements within the Logistics Section. There are potentially three units within the ICT Branch: the Communications Unit oversees the delivery of interoperable communications, including the management of radio and telephone equipment. The IT Service Unit delivers data services, including by managing the Unified Help Desk and securing data network systems. And, the Cybersecurity Unit identifies cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities and assesses threats to the ICT infrastructure and the incident management organization.

In other updates, the 2024 Florida Field Operations Guide (FOG) has just been published. The national-level AUXFOG and NIFOG books are other valuable resources, available online.

Byrum reported that another AUXCOMM course will be offered later this year, in the southern part of the state.

All Florida Sections Forum

Hosting ARRL Northern Florida Section Manager Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, Section Emergency Coordinator Arc Thames, W4CPD, and other ARRL leadership officials reported on activity across Florida for 2023. There was one official Statewide activation over the course of the year. Thames reported that the ARRL Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) is in the process of updating, with the new edition to dovetail with the ARRL ARES Position Task Book. He also reported on the "best relationship with the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) in years." A priority with Thames' ARES program was to test his volunteers' ability to communicate with the State EOC. ECs can now upload their county's activity reports.

Dave Rockwell, W4PXE, the West Central Florida Section Traffic Manager, said that one of his priorities is to assist Assistant Section Managers in identifying and recruiting active appointees. He spoke about AUXCOMM, and the need for appointees to submit reports for the ARRL Public Service Honor Roll each month. And on the topic of reports, Rockwell said his section leadership officials need a better percentage of activity reports filed from section and local appointees.

Roberts emphasized that all clubs must be engaged to recruit more ARES operators - more outreach is required. And at a more basic level, all hams should have a 30-40 second "elevator speech" prepared where in a short period of time, interest in ham radio can be generated among the general public to get more interest and licensees.

There were seven ECs in the room as well as three Assistant ECs (AECs). The need for "amazing" AECs is great. AECs can serve as training officers and logistics/planners.

Darrell Davis, KT4WX, of the West Central Florida Section, spoke about his Section's communications support for the Bike MS Suncoast Challenge bike ride scheduled for April 20.

In conclusion, it was great to observe the level of vitality in the ARRL Field Organization across the state - and other states, too.

New Space Coast ARES Van Exhibited

A big draw in front of the main convention hall was the new mobile communications van owned and operated by a major county ARES program on the central east coast of the Florida peninsula. Amateur Radio Emergency Services of Brevard, Inc, aka the Brevard County ARES® Team (BCAT) is dedicated to serving Brevard County communities by working hand in hand with local and state entities and served agencies. BCAT provides FEMA- and ARRL-trained volunteers, and the communication equipment needed, in order to deliver professional-grade auxiliary communications utilizing amateur radio in times of emergency; and, to provide communications support for community events when requested.



The Brevard County ARES Team's new mobile communications van.

Tips for Writing an Effective Emergency Drill

Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ, started in firefighting many years ago and has been the team leader for 14 years on one of four State of Florida Disaster Emergency Teams. He worked on many incidents as the Incident Commander in Florida and across the country. This article discusses his experience in choosing and executing drills and simulated emergency tests (SETs). As a training officer, he has developed insights that would be valuable guidelines for anyone designing or overseeing a drill.

Here are a few of his tips:

- Evaluate students, their perception of the training, and fit tasks to their needs, always giving them a way to grow and be successful - but with a challenge. If the drill is not a challenge, it's not worth doing. If it is over the students' heads, it will only be frustrating. Carefully consider the needs of your team members.
- Make your drill or exercise pertinent to current conditions; things change, communities change, and needs change. Emergency radio 30 years ago as compared to the needs and requirements of communities today has changed. Consider updating/upgrading to produce a better outcome for your area.
- Historical knowledge is vital. What really happens in your area? Meteorological and hydrological data reveal what disasters are likely to occur. Build a weather scenario patterned on actual weather conditions in your area.

Johnston learned from others and from experience. He uses multiple techniques to reach ever-higher goals and

enjoys producing realistic drills and exercises that train rookies for the real thing. Being a wise instructor, Johnston is cognizant that reality can distort everything and has experienced team members at the ready to gently lend a hand when things became confusing or overwhelming to one of his rookies. Making everyone feel needed and productive is vital to a successful exercise.

Johnston carried these principles into a two-part drill that became reality during Hurricane Ian. High and Dry I and II covered the first and second operational periods of a flooding disaster. Weeks of preparation were required for each three-hour drill. Besides creating a book showing all the contacts that would be needed, along with detailed information on the rivers and roads present in their locale, drill team members developed a complete communication system that would function well in rural areas.

After much experimentation, they chose one of the new digital modes - NXDN. They used tactical calls for critical locations and included repeater failures and other possible technological incidents as injects. They never ceased to improve: each drill gave them a new way to refine the procedures.

By the time Ian caused a levy break with extensive flooding, they had already mapped out escape routes, emergency shelters, personnel, and a great communication system to keep everyone, including police and fire rescue, up to date and on the same page. Johnston and his team saved lives that night and helped others to do the same. I am very proud of him and his hard work. He is a teacher and motivator. If readers have questions, he is willing to discuss your plans with you. Many thanks to Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ, for his hard work, effective training skills, and willingness to share ideas with the rest of us. -

Christine Duez, K4KJN, Assistant Section Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio

Emails



ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur

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

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

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

ARRL Podcasts

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



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

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

On the Air
Sponsored by [Icom](#)

The Joys of Being a General

The January/February 2024 issue of On the Air featured a story from Brian McSpadden Gardner, KE8JVX, about "The First -Year Experiences of a General-Class Ham," in which Brian detailed how he got his feet wet as a General, and how he put together his first station for HF. Brian joins this episode of the podcast to tell us a little more about his first year as a General,

as well as what he's done since then.

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

"[Amateur radio club hosts annual field day](#)" / The Kerrville Daily Times (Texas), January 26, 2024 -- Hill Country Amateur Radio Club.

"[Go 'off grid' with the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association this weekend](#)" / KGET (California), January 27, 2024 -- The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[Ham radio 'Field Day' signals importance of emergency preparedness](#)" / WTAP-TV (West Virginia), January 28, 2024 -- The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club takes part in Winter Field Day](#)" / WALA (Alabama), January 28, 2024 -- The Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Ham Radio Winter Field Day in Lackawanna County"](#) / WNEP (Pennsylvania), January 29, 2024 --The Windmill Amateur Radio Group is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["If the grid goes down, amateur \(ham\) radio works when all else fails"](#) / The Citizen (Georgia), January 29, 2024 -- The Fayette County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["ASCTE hosts radio conversation with astronaut on the International Space Station"](#) / WAFF (Alabama) February 1, 2024

["Capital City HamFest 2024"](#) / WLBT (Mississippi) February 2, 2024 -- The Jackson Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["New amateur radio group established in Upshur County"](#) / My BUCKHANNON (West Virginia) February 5, 2024

["Amateur radio club members are pros at broadcasting"](#) / Patriot News (Pennsylvania) February 10, 2024 -- Perry County Amateur Radio Club.

["FBCS dials in for radio competition"](#) / Bonner County Daily Bee (Idaho) February 13, 2024 -- Bonner County Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio Emergency Services® of Bonner County. The Bonner County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club

["Free amateur radio instruction offered in Stillwater"](#) / Twin Cities Pioneer Press (Minnesota) February 15, 2024 -- The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Special Service Club.

["Amateur radio is still on the airwaves in Utica, across New York and the U.S."](#) / Utica Observer-Dispatch (New York) February 16, 2024 -- The Utica Amateur Radio Club.

["The Athens County Amateur Radio Association finds that young people are still drawn to old-school communication"](#) / WOUB (Ohio) February 16, 2024 --The Athens County Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["A different world:' Ham radio points East Elementary students to STEM concepts"](#) / The Herald Bulletin (Indiana) February 16, 2024 --The Madison County Amateur Radio Club.

["Amateur radio club starts up in Upshur County"](#) / WBOY (West Virginia) February 21, 2024

Announcements

The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

Heil Sound Donates Equipment to W1AW

The [Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW](#), at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, has received a generous donation of equipment from the [Heil Ham Radio division of Heil Sound](#).

The company's founder, Bob Heil, K9EID, is a pioneering audio engineer and avid radio amateur. At his direction, the company donated four Heil Pro Set Elite HC-6 headsets, three Heil Pro Set 3 stereo headphones, two Heil FS-3 press-to-talk foot switches, one Heil iCM microphone, one Heil PR 30 microphone, and various adapters. The equipment has been placed into service at the station for use by [visiting operators](#), and for the [voice bulletins](#) transmitted each weekday evening by W1AW.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says the gear is going to be of great use. "We are fortunate to host many visiting operators each year, but all that use takes a toll on the gear," he said. "The generosity of Heil Ham Radio to help us keep the equipment fresh is greatly appreciated."

Winter Field Day a Success for Ohio Club

The Delaware Amateur Radio Association (DELARA) in Delaware, Ohio, was one of many clubs who participated in this year's Winter Field Day (WFD).



Shelter house wrapped and ready for DELARA's WFD activities. [Photo courtesy of Joe Papworth, K8MP]

This was the second year DELARA worked WFD. Club member Joe Papworth, K8MP, and three event station captains -- Ed Brady, AE8Q; Guy Merrill, KD8KWH, and Tom Foy, N4HAI -- provided support and helped set up for the event.

"We had 16 participants this year and over 1,100 contacts," said Papworth. "At least 200 more contacts than last year, and operators were on most modes and bands."

DELARA members wrapped a shelter house at Delaware State Park with plastic sheets to protect them from the winter weather, and the Elm Valley Joint Fire District loaned them a generator to provide power for the transceivers, as well as a few portable heaters. Three antennas and stations were set up inside.

"WFD is a great experience and a chance to get on the air," added Papworth. "We're planning on participating next year and looking forward to [the] 2024 ARRL Field Day on June 22 - 23"

Winter Field Day (WFD), sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association, is open to participants worldwide. It's held on the last full weekend in January and is a communications exercise designed to help preparedness for disasters.



Guy Merrill, KD8KWH, makes contacts from inside the wrapped shelter house for the DELARA Winter Field Day event. [Photo courtesy for Joe Papworth, K8MP]

Errata to the 2024 - 2028 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has released errata for the new [2024 - 2028 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool](#), which goes into effect on July 1. The errata includes minor question changes, the removal of one question, and one modified graphic. These updates are reflected in the new downloadable files, dated January 31, 2024. The [ARRL VEC](#) advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <https://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools. [Submit](#) feedback or questions to the Question Pool Committee.

California Storms: Amateur Radio is Ready

Southern California continues to feel the effects of a significant rain event that began last week, bringing record rainfall, landslides, and hurricane-strength winds. The heavy rain is the result of two atmospheric rivers, referred to as "Pineapple Expresses" because of their origins near Hawaii. Nearly half a year's worth of rain has fallen in two days. Since Sunday, February 4, areas in Los Angeles County have seen nearly one foot of rain, which has now moved east into western

Arizona, southern Nevada, and southwestern Utah, raising the risk of flash flooding in those areas.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, has been in contact with Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) leadership from throughout the affected area. "ARES member-volunteers are ready to be pressed into service when called upon by one of their local served agencies," he said.

The situation continues to evolve, Johnston has received several situation updates from ARES leaders.

ARRL San Joaquin Valley (SVJ) Section Emergency Coordinator Dan Sohn, WL7COO, wrote:

The SVJ Section is experiencing electrical power outages caused by high winds affecting tens of thousands of homes and businesses mostly in the westernmost, lower-elevation Central Valley counties and elevations at or above about 3,500 feet above sea level... The incoming atmospheric river appears to be moving more to the north than the last two storms, so we'll see what that brings the SVJ counties that are already saturated... and [we] hope that it lessens the life-threatening, ongoing damage throughout southern California.

Johnston also received this update from ARRL Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator John Abrott, KD7NHC:

Here in northern Nevada, a varying amount of snow was received. I received reports from Carson City of 10 - 11, inches, and reports of 10 - 13 inches in Carson Valley and parts of Reno. There are several feet of snow at higher elevations. I have not received any reports of ARES members being activated. Several counties were requested to be ready in the event that their services were needed. Major roads are clear, but residential streets still have snow.

ARES teams are ready when needed and will continue monitor the situations in California and affected neighboring states. Check [ARRL News](#)

for the latest updates.

Amateur Radio Goes to High School in New York City

Staten Island Technical High School is the first New York City school to include amateur radio in its curriculum.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said ARRL is working with the school in several ways. "We are working with them to build and equip an amateur radio station, to test and license students, and to put [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)] kits in the classroom thanks to a grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#)."

Goodgame visited the school several weeks ago to help administer amateur radio license tests, and with the help of the school's engineering and technology teacher, Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, there are now 32 juniors and seniors who are newly licensed amateur radio operators. Henriques attended the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) last year, and he intends to return to the program in 2024 for additional preparation and training.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology.

As part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, students at Lilburn Elementary School in Lilburn, Georgia, were able to contact the International Space Station (ISS) on February 7 and talk to astronaut Jamin Moghbeli, KI5WSL. The contact took place with help from Daryl Young, K4RGK, ARISS representative and member of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL). Students were able to ask 15 questions, ranging from "What is the grossest thing about living in space?" to "Have you read the Dog Man books?" Astronaut Moghbeli said that collecting and loading the trash into a special waste vehicle is the grossest job on the

ISS. As for the Dog Man books, she has not read them -- yet -- but would be interested in trying them. She also talked about growing tomatoes in space, and how her most important job on the ISS is brushing her teeth every morning. You can view [a recording of the contact on YouTube](#).

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 (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, ARRL, and AMSAT.

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA), in conjunction with Icom® America, Inc., has announced a DX Mentor Recognition Program to recognize and reward amateur radio operators who have helped others achieve [DXCC](#). An application form is now available for those who wish to nominate their DX mentor. Amateurs who have received mentoring from a nominee must be under 30 years of age during the calendar year of the award; targeting this age group is meant to keep such amateurs engaged in the hobby after they achieve DXCC. The judging committee will comprise SWODXA representatives and a representative from both the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and the International DX Association (INDEXA). The awards will be presented at the DX Dinner, held annually in conjunction with [Dayton Hamvention®](#). More information and the entry form can be found at www.swodxa.org/DX-Mentor-Program or by emailing thedxmentor@gmail.com.

Senators Roger Wicker and Richard Blumenthal Introduce S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced [S.3690](#), the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, [introduced last June](#). Both bills reflect the Con-

gressional campaign efforts by [ARRL](#) to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications."

In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

[Read more on ARRL News](#)

Amateur Radio as Educational Tool Represented to Policymakers in Washington DC

ARRL and Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) represented Amateur Radio at a symposium in Washington on February 1 at which the top domestic spectrum policymakers from across the federal government considered implementation of the [National Spectrum Strategy](#) (NSS) [PDF].

Phil Karn, KA9Q, right, represented amateur radio in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration spectrum symposium. [BOC Engineering - YouTube, photo]

ARRL ensures that Amateur Radio is represented at sessions such as this so that decisionmakers understand amateur radio's roles when spectrum decisions are made, including its substantial contributions to student interest and education in STEM subjects at schools throughout the country and its role during emergencies and natural disasters.

In the NSS, released by the White House in November, national policymakers identified some 2,790 megahertz of spectrum to be considered for future commercial needs. No new amateur spectrum was included, with only the ongoing reallocation studies related to 3.1 - 3.45 GHz being addressed.

The NSS was prepared for the President by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NTIA considered input from Federal Executive Branch agencies that use spectrum as well as from other spectrum users, including amateur radio operators. As the NSS was being formulated during 2023, ARRL's Washington Counsel presented information on amateur radio to the policymakers at an NTIA listening session. This was followed with a [written submission about](#)

[amateur radio spectrum concerns](#), and later with a one-on-one meeting with NTIA's Senior Spectrum Advisor in overall charge of formulating the NSS.

The February symposium followed release of the NSS in November and was in support of finalizing implementation plans for the strategy that are expected to be announced by the White House in mid-March.

For the symposium, ARRL Life Member Phil Karn KA9Q, a director and past-president of ARDC, participated as a panelist and reinforced amateur radio's important national role in workforce development with personal testimony based on his own career.

Karn's recruitment by Qualcomm in its early days was due directly to his pioneering amateur radio accomplishments with digital wireless projects that included many firsts. Karn retired from Qualcomm as Vice President for Technology in 2011. He shared with policymakers the value of amateur radio to interest and recruit youth into STEM areas and into wireless specifically. Karn's life experience lent special weight to his remarks about amateur radio's role in attracting youth to STEM projects.

"I see [amateur radio] - having been involved in it for 52 years now - as fundamental as an educational system... It is a type of hands-on intuitive learning that is almost impossible to get any other way," said Karn. [Watch a video of the panel on YouTube](#).

Highlights from 2024 Orlando HamCation

Warm weather greeted the crowds of radio amateurs who attended the 2024 Orlando HamCation® from February 9 - 11. The convention hosted the ARRL Florida State Convention, but drew attendees from across the country, and some from even farther, renewing HamCation's place as the second largest US ham radio convention.

[HamCation is sponsored](#) by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC). The convention was sprawled out across the Central Florida Fairgrounds, including a huge outdoor tailgate and buildings filled with exhibitors and swap tables. The convention enjoys significant participation from amateur radio manufacturers, dealers, clubs, and organizations. In the months leading up to this year's convention, HamCation International Relations Co-Chairs, Lidy Meijers, KJ4LMM, and Peter Meijers, AI4KM, traveled to ham radio conventions across Europe to cast a spotlight on the convention. Their work paid off, garnering an attendance of amateurs from many other countries, and even attracting other international societies to exhibit, including the Radio Society of Great Britain, and the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (Germany).

"It was very successful and very busy," said OARC President John Knott, N4JTK. "The vendors reported traffic at their booths was high and both the trunk fest and the flea market were busy." Knott also said that reservations filled 200 RV spaces.

The East-West Hall included a row of booths organized by ARRL.

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, presented an update on the organization's happenings at the membership forum held at 2024 Orlando HamCation. Among the topics he covered was a new, free ARRL membership offer that will soon be introduced for students 21 and younger.

In addition to supporting renewing members and those who joined ARRL for the first time, attendees also had the opportunity to meet ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. Baker also moderated the ARRL membership forum on Saturday afternoon. Together, Baker, Roderick, and Minster covered several key areas of membership interest. Roderick, who asked attendees to consider what they've done for amateur radio lately urged members to find opportunities to support

new licensees and strengthen radio clubs.

Minster spoke about a new, free ARRL membership offering for students 21 and younger that will be introduced soon. He also described ways that ARRL is increasing amateur radio's role in education through teachers, students, and schools. "ARRL knows that amateur radio is an effective tool in developing student experiences in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines," said Minster. "Our efforts to increase our outreach in education and other areas is playing a prominent role with the development of the new ARRL strategic plan."

Also participating at HamCation was ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. Goodgame presented a forum covering recent efforts and success stories to develop pathways for more teachers and students to use amateur radio in their classrooms. His wife and member-volunteer Cyndi Goodgame, K5CYN, who is also an educator, engaged dozens of young and prospective hams by collecting their experiences and interests for ARRL's ongoing work to increase outreach to students.

A familiar face to many was ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA. In January, ARRL announced that it had become Gordon West's new publisher of his popular license preparation books. "There was a steady stream of visitors that included recent licensees and instructors who enjoyed an eyeball with Gordo," said Goodgame. HamCation attendees were also drawn to the ARRL booths to meet West. He was introduced as ARRL National Instructor at the membership forum. On Saturday night, HamCation recognized Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, and his wife Anita, AB1QB, awarding them with the [2024 Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award](#).

The ARRL team also included Great Lakes Division Vice Director Roy Hook, W8REH; Northern Florida Section Manager Scott Roberts, KK4ECR and Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc J. Thames, W4CPD; West Central Florida Section Manager Mike Douglas, W4MDD; Collegiate Amateur Radio Program Advisor Andy Milluzzi, KK4LWR; Maxim Society Member Holly Roderick; Honorary Vice President Frank Butler, W4RH; Assistant Member Services Manager Kim McNeill, KM1IPA; Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and many DXCC card checkers, including: N2MFT, K3GO, K4SV, AG4W, KS4WA, KX4TT, K6ND, WA6POZ, W8BLA. ARRL also recognized member-volunteers Sloan Davis, N3UPS, and Tom Gaines, KB5FHK, for their help organizing satellite operating demonstrations.

Visit the [ARRL Facebook page](#) to see a photo album from the convention.

Veteran DXpedition Leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, SK

Prolific DXpedition leader, ARRL Maxim Society member, and former Chair of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee, Robert C. "Bob" Allphin, Jr., K4UEE, has become a Silent Key.

Allphin passed on February 10 at the age of 79. His early life as the son of a United States Air Force (USAF) officer sent him to many corners of the globe. That set the tenor for a life in amateur radio spent operating from far-flung places.

Allphin was first licensed at the age of 14 and graduated high school in Okinawa, Japan. He served a career in the USAF, serving as an instructor in electronic warfare during the Vietnam conflict. After an honorable discharge with the rank of captain, Allphin entered the financial services world, retiring after 28 years to focus on his passion of DXpeditions.



Bob Allphin, K4UEE, listens carefully to CW calls while operating as K1N from Navassa Island in 2015.

Allphin was a natural leader. "Bob was always optimistic and hopeful in DXpedition planning. He encouraged and coaxed his fellow team members to bring out the best in everyone.



Bob Allphin, K4UEE (left) shakes hands with long time friend Ralph Fedor, K0IR (right) on King George Island in 2006 on the way to Peter I Island for the 3Y0X DXpedition. [Photo courtesy of Ralph Fedor, K0IR]

If there were disappointments, he turned them into humor and diplomatically mitigated conflicts. He excelled in DXpedition PR and financing," said Ralph Fedor, K0IR, who frequently co-led DXpeditions with Allphin.

"Bob was very good at organizing and motivating people to participate," said Dr. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, who co-led several DXpeditions with Allphin. Allphin always found a way to make the best out of challenging operating conditions. "He was always thinking outside the box. His concern was to put on the 'best show' possible and work the hard-to-reach areas," said Johnson.

In early 2000, Johnson was preparing to travel to a medical assignment in Bhutan, which was #2 on the DXCC Most Wanted List at the time. He had applied to operate while in the country but was initially denied a license. Then, in April, Johnson got a call from the Bhutan Ministry of Information and Communication asking if he can bring a team on the first of May. Immediately, he involved Allphin. "I called Bob, and within 2 weeks we had a team assembled and equipment shipped over. A52A was a very successful DXpedition and still holds records," said Johnson.

Iconic activations were Allphin's specialty. According to his [QRZ page](#), Allphin participated in, led, or co-led numerous DXpeditions including: Baker and Howland islands, Heard Island, Bhutan, South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia Island, Peter I Island, Lakshadweep, Desecheo Island, Saba/Sint Eustatius, Amsterdam Island, and Navassa Island. In all, he participated in 38 contest DXpeditions.

"From the mid-80s through the early 2000s, Bob set five single operator/single band world records and was a competitor in two World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) events in 1996 and 2000. Bob is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, Board of Directors of [The International DX Association] INDEXA, current President of The KP1-5 Project. He is a member of the Voodoo Contest Group, FOC (First Class Operator Club), A-1 Operators Club, [and] the Southeastern DX Club Hall of Fame. He has visited 131 DXCC entities and been QRV from 85," according to his QRZ page.

In addition to planning and leading trips, Allphin also excelled at videography to tell their stories. [A documentary filmed by Allphin about the 2015 K1N Navassa DXpedition](#) is available on YouTube.

Allphin was a dedicated amateur radio mentor who wanted to help others succeed. Craig Thompson, K9CT, was one of many Allphin helped along the way. "As an aspiring DXpeditioner, Bob was so approachable and helpful. We had many common friends, and because of those relationships, it was an honor to be asked to join any of his DXpeditions. At Amsterdam Island, he was my roommate, and I enjoyed his sincere joy of leading our team. He loved 160 and CW but mostly the challenge of doing something really hard, like going where they said he couldn't go. That is why he was on so many top-ten DXpeditions! What an honor to know him," said Thompson.

Beyond his prowess as an operator, Allphin leaves a legacy of kindness among those who knew him well. "He was a gentleman's gentleman, always cordial, friendly, and jovial," said Johnson.

Allphin was a generous donor to ARRL through the years, being honored as part of the President

Class of the Maxim Society and was a member of the Diamond Club. He was a major gift donor to the 2014 ARRL Second Century Campaign. "Bob leaves amateur radio with a legacy of accomplishments. Above all, he strove to do



things well, do things right, and do things fairly," said Fedor.

Information about memorial services, as well as more details about Allphin's many non-radio ac-

complishments, may be found in his [online obituary](#). A [photo memorial has been assembled](#) by photographer Tom Roscoe, K8CX, at www.hamgallery.com.

[Read more about Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on ARRL News](#)

Donate the ARRL Library Book Set

ARRL Affiliated Clubs and members who wish to gift or donate books to a local library, school, or classroom, can do so with ease via ARRL's Library Book Set. For a special price of \$250 (including US ground shipping), the set includes the most popular ARRL publications, such as ARRL license manuals, The ARRL Handbook, and The ARRL Antenna Book for Radio Communications, among others. These publications and resources will encourage potential new am-

ateur radio operators from among students, youth, and the wider community, while also providing support to current licensees who are library users.

A complete description of the program, including the books and details for ordering, is available at [Library Book Set](#).

Be sure to read the "Club Station" column in the April 2024 issue of QST (coming soon), in which a Florida club shares how they donated books to their local library.

Anacapa Island Dual Activation a Success

On September 17, three members of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club in Thousand Oaks, California, had a successful expedition to Anacapa Island to conduct a dual activation of the Channel Islands National Park for Parks on the Air (POTA) and Islands on the Air (IOTA.) Club members Bill Willcox, KF6JQO; Martin Hickey, AJ6CL, and Andy Ludlum, K6AGL, traveled by boat to the small volcanic island located about 11 miles off the coast of Port Hueneme in Ventura County, California.

Anacapa Island is made up of three islets (appropriately named East, Middle, and West Anacapa Islands) and are only accessible by boat. The activation was held on East Anacapa Island. Thousands of birds use the islets as nesting areas because of the lack of predators. Anacapa is home to the largest breeding colony of western gulls, as well as the endangered California brown pelicans, in the world.

The team leader, Bill Willcox, KF6JQO, conducted extensive planning with park rangers to ensure the team and its equipment would not disturb native plants or animals. Park sites, especially those with over 10,000 years of human history, have strict prohibitions against any ground disturbances. The chief ranger noted that disturbing the ground is one of the easiest ways to accidentally commit a felony in a national park.



AnThe antenna was carefully placed to avoid disturbing sensitive vegetation. [Photo courtesy of Andy Ludlum, K6AGL]

antenna location was chosen on a mostly bare spot on the ground near a picnic area. With the environmental considerations in mind, staking the ground to secure the antenna was out of the question. The team chose a lightweight vertical antenna supported on a tripod. The tripod sat on an aluminum window screen that rested on the ground and served as a ground plane. The screen was stabilized by four half-liter water bottles, one on each corner. The thin antenna was (mostly) stable in the windy island environment.

The equipment had to be light enough to be comfortably carried up 157 steps from the boat landing. Using a battery-powered 100 W multi-mode transceiver, the team was most successful on 20 meters, but also operated on 10 and 40 meters. Most of the contacts were made using

SSB, although Martin Hickey, AJ6CL, ended the 3-hour activation with a flurry of CW contacts on 10 meters.

The team was pleased with the results. A total of 72 contacts were made. The most impressive results were on 20 meters, where contacts were made with stations in California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Hawaii, Indiana, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, Missouri, Michigan, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Band conditions on 10 and 40 meters allowed for mostly local contacts, with the exception of a 10-meter contact with the Australian state of Queensland.

For more information, visit us at <http://www.cvarc.org/>.

By Andy Ludlum, K6AGL

Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

The [Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU](#), the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.

"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse," added Goodman. "Anyone with a [KiwiSDR](#) or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as [Fldigi](#) is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and

there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.

All of the participation details are on the club's website at <https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/>.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#) community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The [2024 solar eclipse](#) will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

[American Legion Post 104 in Sevierville, Tennessee, will celebrate the 105th anniversary](#) of the American Legion with a special event station on March 8 - 9, 2024. K4L will be active from 1500Z - 0300Z on 7.250 and 14.250 MHz with operators from the [American Legion Amateur Radio Club](#), AL4US, an ARRL Affiliated Club. Everyone who contacts the station can request a digital certificate by providing a valid email address. On Saturday there will be an American Legion Birthday Party at the post from 11:00AM - 4:00 PM EST and the public is invited to attend. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. The Legion evolved into an organization with a focus on service to veterans, service members, and communities. Membership is now at nearly 2 million, and there are 12,000 American Legion posts worldwide.

For World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18, 2024, the [International Amateur Radio Union](#) (IARU) has chosen the theme, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community and Advocacy." WARD is the day when IARU Member-Societies show their capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other amateurs worldwide. The IARU was founded in Paris, France, in 1925, and it has worked to promote innovation in amateur radio and to encourage the growth of the Service in communities throughout the world. The IARU will celebrate its centenary in 2025.

IARU has represented [amateur services at international and regional regulatory bodies](#) by relying on volunteers from many countries and communities. IARU has been a sector-member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) since 1932, and the work of their volunteers has successfully continued since that date. [ARRL](#) is a member of IARU Regions 3 and 2 because it represents the radio amateurs of Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, which are located in Region 3. The administration of the IARU is performed by ARRL, which serves as the International Secretariat.

The NTS™ Letter

National Traffic System®



Update on NTS 2.0 -- One Year Later

We promised to keep the traffic handling community updated on the progress of the NTS 2.0 subcommittee, which currently oversees the efforts of several teams or "working groups" of traffic handlers. It has been one year since the working groups began meeting weekly. The groups have focused on:

- Digital Networks
- Emergency Communications and Agency Engagement
- Recruitment and Training
- Updated Access and Delivery
- Performance Standards and Activity Reporting

In addition, several of the working groups are beginning to focus on recruiting new traffic handlers through outreach and mentoring of new and inactive licensees. A few of the accomplishments include:

- **NTS 2.0 website** -- A new website, <https://nts2.arrl.org>, has been created as a source for documentation, training, tools, and information that have been created as part of the NTS 2.0 effort.
- **The NTS Letter** -- in collaboration with ARRL HQ, we have created a monthly e-newsletter, The NTS Letter, which features progress on the NTS 2.0 project and spotlights people and activities that represent the great work being done by traffic handlers across the US.
- **ARRL Net Directory 2.0** -- A specification document for a new, more maintainable net directory tool has been created, was reviewed with the ARRL HQ team, and is in the process of being implemented. This tool, when complete, will serve as a source of information about nets of all types, including traffic nets.
- **Web-based tool to enable public origination of traffic** -- A web-based tool, the NTS 2.0 Radiogram Portal, has been created to enable members of the public and amateur radio operators who are not traffic handlers to originate traffic to be handled by NTS.
- **Plan to update and modernize recognition for traffic handlers** -- A specification that seeks to update and decentralize recognitions for work done by traffic handlers has been created and is in the process of being reviewed and revised by ARRL HQ. Consistent with other recognition programs, the approach proposed relies on members of the ARRL Field Organization to administer the updated recognition vehicles.
- **Tools and procedures to originate traffic via the APRS system** -- An NTS gateway for originating traffic has been created and deployed. Documentation and video training have also been created for this tool.
- **Article about NTS in QST magazine** - The article, "The National Traffic System - A History and ARRL's Path Forward," appeared in the July 2023 issue, and won the QST Cover Plaque Award for that issue, due to receiving the highest number of ARRL member votes.
- **Articles in On the Air magazine** - The July/August 2023 issue featured "Talking About Traffic," and "ARRL Section Traffic Volunteering."

There are many other activities in progress as well. The ongoing work is focused on areas such as improving ties between NTS operators and other amateur radio emergency services, expanding and modernizing digital

traffic handling, tools to enable nationwide traffic system tests and performance assessments, and updated and modernizing training and documentation. The NTS 2.0 team is looking forward to another productive year in 2024.

Treasure Hunt -- Let the Hunt Begin!

It's time to begin the NTS Treasure Hunt, as described in the December 2023 issue of The NTS Letter <<https://www.arrl.org/nts-letter?issue=2023-12-05#toc05>>. This is a fun, on-air, multi-step competition in which you will respond to a "judge" with your answer to an initial clue or question via radiogram. The judge will reply via radiogram with the identity of the next judge, along with the next question or clue in the hunt.

Are you ready? Here's your first question:

Where and when was Hiram Percy Maxim born?

Send your answer via NTS radiogram to Ray Webb, KB8GUN, Laurelville, OH 43135.

The text of the radiogram should consist of the words "TREASURE HUNT ROUND 1," followed by HPM's place and date of birth. Be sure to form the NTS message properly, with the message number, the station of origin, and the correct check.

You will receive a confirmation radiogram back with the next clue or question and addressee; or a message explaining that your answer is incorrect and to please try again.

Good luck!

"Radiogrammers" Needed for Web-based Radiogram Portal

Here is a great opportunity to create third-party radiograms, add message traffic to our traffic nets, and introduce NTS message handling capabilities to other amateurs and the public! Last month we reported on a new web-based radiogram portal that introduces radiograms to the public and provides an easy way for the public to submit messages that can be originated as formal traffic. As creator Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, reported, "This portal has two goals...First, to explain what amateur radio messaging is all about, to an audience that might not be familiar with Radiograms -- or for that matter, amateur radio in general. And second, to provide a quick and easy way to boost the volume of true third-party traffic into NTS." This portal has been tested and is about to go live. However, we are now in need of traffic handlers to volunteer to check this portal on a regular basis, similar to checking into a traffic net or DTN hub. The January 2024 issue of The NTS Letter explained how this portal works, and the NTS 2.0 folks are preparing a training document. If you would like to be able to generate more traffic while performing a public service, send an email to ntsletter@arrl.org. You will be given further instructions.

Traffic Tips: Best Practices

We all need reminders from time to time about best practices in message handling. A couple of topics have recently been brought to my attention.

Servicing undeliverable radiograms. We all know that a message that cannot be delivered requires a service message regarding the status of that message, but to whom and where do we send it?

It is important first to distinguish between a message Originator and a Station of Origin, and second, to under-

stand what location goes into the Place of Origin field in the header. For example, John wishes to send a message via amateur radio. If John is a licensed ham and familiar with radiogram format, he formats that message into a radiogram with his call sign and location in the header. However, if Bill, who is not a ham or is a ham not familiar with how NTS works, asks John to send a message for him, John formats that message, adding an appropriate header with his own call sign as the Station of Origin, even though the message is really from Bill, whose signature will be at the end of the message. Therefore, it is Bill's location that should appear as the Place of Origin.

Bill, however, does not know anything about radiogram format. If you, the delivering station, send a service message to him, it will likely be confusing. It is more appropriate to send that service message to John, and he can notify Bill of the message status.

Remember, however, that the Place of Origin in the header is not John's location, it is Bill's location. Because John is a licensed amateur operator, his call sign and address will be listed in an online database such as QRZ.com, and there you will find where to send that service message.

Note that we have been talking about "service messages" and not "replies." If the message recipient wants to send a reply (ie. "thanks for the greeting") to Bill, it would, of course, be sent directly to Bill.

Delivering radiograms containing ARRL numbered message texts. This is something most of us understand, but some new to traffic handling may not. Imagine being Patsy Public and receiving a phone call (or email) from a ham radio operator who reads, "ARL FIFTY ARL FORTY SIX." You might hang up the phone or delete the email, thinking this is some kind of scam.

If you're going to deliver one of these ARRL numbered radiograms, please keep in mind that most licensed amateurs don't know anything about them, and won't have a clue as to what you are talking about. Before trying to deliver such a radiogram, look up <https://nts2.arrl.org/numbered-texts/> on the ARRL website and be prepared to "translate" that number into a complete phrase that the recipient will understand.

Notes on Training

As a Section Traffic Manager, I can say it is important and helpful to have the support of one's Section Manager, so I wanted to share these comments from Western Massachusetts Section Manager Ray Lajoie, AA1SE. Ray is also a member of the NTS 2.0 Steering Committee and facilitates the Recruitment and Training working group:

Your net is a valuable resource for new hams who are interested in emergency communication and traffic handling. Providing education and training during a net is a great resource for newer traffic handlers. There are many opportunities for instruction, and the few extra minutes can lead to new traffic handlers, net control stations, and even ORS appointments.

If your net already provides education before, during, or after the net, congratulations! Keep at it. For those that are experiencing declining participation, consider adding instruction to your format. It could be as simple as asking if anyone has any questions about NTS.

Sure, there is lots of material on the web, but that doesn't replace the hands-on experience that an actual net can provide. Here are some suggestions:

- Spend a few minutes in a Q&A session. Offer to send a training message and explain message structure
- Write a short tutorial on sending and radiogram traffic and how a message is relayed across the country

Conduct small discussions after the net to discuss topics in greater detail

Give a presentation at your local radio club meeting. Don't forget to provide times and frequencies of nets that they can listen and check in to.

The possibilities are endless. Stick with it. There will be dry spells. Don't let it discourage you from trying.

Over time you may find a greater level of participation on your net. You might even find more willing volunteers to take net control and liaison assignments.

If your group has interesting stories and examples about how you train future traffic handlers, we would love to hear from you.

Spotlight -- "Bud" Hippisley, W2RU

Bud Hippisley, W2RU, was about to enter 10th grade and had been General-class licensee K2KIR for a few months when he was introduced to traffic handling.

During a ragchew on 40-meter CW one summer afternoon, he was asked to receive and deliver a radiogram addressed to someone in his upstate NY community. Bud did so, and the "bug" bit. From his local radio club mentor, he learned of both the New York State CW Net (NYS) and the Empire Slow Speed Net (ESS). After a trip to the local radio and television repair store to buy the necessary crystals, Bud became a regular member of both nets and within a year or so was named manager of ESS -- a post he held until heading off to college.

Soon Bud was an enthusiastic proponent of ARRL's nascent National Traffic System, with new assignments taking him to the Second Region Net (2RN) and Eastern Area Net (EAN). Later, he added Transcontinental Corps (TCC) skeds to the mix and earned a public service award for relaying emergency traffic between Alaska and Washington State following the Great Alaskan Earthquake of March 27, 1964, when poor HF propagation often made direct contact between those two regions impossible.

In high school and college, Bud occasionally served as a backup EAN net control station (NCS). On January 2, 1963, he became the regular Wednesday evening NCS, a position he held until the beginning of 2017, some 54 years later! Bud notes that for the first 12 years and 2 months he did not miss a single Wednesday evening assignment despite a variety of obstacles, both laughable and serious, along the way. And in 1964, he became manager of EAN, a position he also held until the beginning of 2017 -- a 53-year tenure.

Looking back over the decades, Bud can boast many contributions to NTS: Early on, he successfully lobbied ARRL HQ for expansion of the System from five evenings a week to seven. In the 1960s and '70s he convinced organizers of ARRL Division and national conventions to include programs about NTS structure, traffic handling, and net controlling techniques. While chair of the Eastern Area Staff (EAS), he was instrumental in bringing an independent confederacy of daytime traffic nets into the NTS fold, and he was the originator of the scalable four-cycle System schedule that integrates and connects daytime and evening nets and TCC functions and provides expansion modes when traffic overloads so dictate. In the '80s, during a second "tour" as EAS chair, he arranged a meeting between early proponents of digital HF message handling and the Staff to demonstrate concepts and explore paths forward.

In 2010 Bud was honored to receive the George Hart Distinguished Service Award "for at least 15 years of distinguished and exemplary service to the League's field organization," primarily as a result of his work with NTS. As Roanoke Division Director between 2019 and 2021 he co-authored the Board motion that created its new Emergency Communications & Field Services Committee.

Bud recently collaborated with Phil Sager, WB4FDT, to compile a history of amateur traffic handling, with Bud detailing the origins of NTS based on post-World War II correspondence between ARRL HQ and leading traffic handlers. This article will soon be available at the NTS 2.0 web page, nts2.arrl.org.

Currently, Bud holds a weekly assignment as NCS and 4RN rep for Virginia's CW Section Net (VN). He is a member of the NTS 2.0 Steering Committee and coordinator for the project's EmComm team. He and his wife Linda, KA2WIN, live in south central Virginia, where both are active in community service organizations. These days, the two of them number among their closest friends some of Bud's fellow NTSers from way back when, including Daniel Clark, N2DC (ex-W2ZRC), now 90, who was 2RN Manager and NCS the first time Bud checked in!

NTS Resources

The National Traffic System® (NTS) is a network of amateur radio operators who move information during disasters and other emergencies. General messages offering well wishes also move through the NTS to help test the system and to help amateur radio operators build traffic handling skills. While the NTS is primarily set up to serve the United States and Canada, it is possible to move traffic internationally through the NTS through various local, regional, area, and international network connections.

- [NTS 2.0](#)
 - [NTS Manual](#)
 - [NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines Table of Contents](#)
 - [Handling Instructions](#)
 - [Numbered Texts](#)
 - [Form Encoding Rules for Form](#)
-

Sign up to Receive The NTS Letter

The NTS Letter is published monthly and is free of charge to ARRL members. Subscribe: arrl.org/opt-in-out

Editor: [Marcia Forde, KW1U](#), Section Traffic Manager -- Eastern Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island

ARRL Director of Emergency Management: Josh Johnston, KE5MHV

**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 \(weather.gov\)](#).

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 Simples 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

More Nets:

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

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

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

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

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

Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

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

Ten-Tec Legacy

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

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

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

Virginia EmComm (A Winlink practice group)

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

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

Ham Ads



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

Used Radios and equipment for Sale, Buy or Find:

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

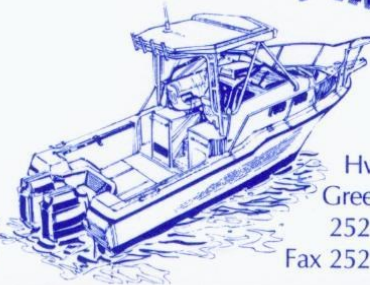
Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA
K4ZYD

105-D East Victoria Ct.
 Greenville, NC 27858

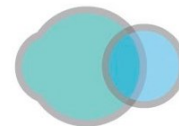
Phone (252) 321-6007
 Fax (252) 321-2991

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:

March 1

[NCCC FT4 Sprint](#)
[Weekly RTTY Test](#)
[QRP Fox Hunt](#)
[NCCC Sprint Ladder](#)
[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)

March 2

[ARRL International DX Contest, SSB](#)
[Novice Rig Roundup](#)
[Wake-Up! QRP Sprint](#)

March 3

[UBA Spring Contest, CW](#)
[NSARA Contest](#)
[SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emergency Contest](#)
[WAB 3.5 MHz Phone](#)

March 4

[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)
[OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#)
[RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data](#)

March 5

[Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
[ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)
[AGCW YL-CW Party](#)

March 6

[QRP Fox Hunt](#)
[Phone Weekly Test](#)
[A1Club AWT](#)
[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
[VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest](#)
[Mini-Test 40](#)
[Mini-Test 80](#)
[UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

March 7

[Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest](#)
[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
[NRAU 10m Activity Contest](#)
[SKCC Sprint Europe](#)

March 8

[NCCC FT4 Sprint](#)
[Weekly RTTY Test](#)
[QRP Fox Hunt](#)
[NCCC Sprint](#)
[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)

March 9

[YB DX RTTY Contest](#)
[SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest](#)
[SARL Field Day Contest](#)
[RSGB Commonwealth \(BERU\) Contest](#)
[SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)
[EA PSK63 Contest](#)
[South America 10 Meter Contest](#)
[DIG QSO Party, SSB](#)
[AGCW QRP Contest](#)
[Stew Perry Topband Challenge](#)
[Oklahoma QSO Party](#)
[TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest](#)
[Idaho QSO Party](#)

March 10

[North American Sprint, RTTY](#)
[UBA Spring Contest, 2m](#)
[FIRAC HF Contest](#)
[YOTA Contest](#)
[Wisconsin QSO Party](#)

March 11

[4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#)
[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)
[WC MemoriOK1al \(MWC\)](#)

March 12

[Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)

March 13[QRP Fox Hunt](#)[Phone Weekly Test](#)[A1Club AWT](#)[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)[VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest](#)[Mini-Test 40](#)[Mini-Test 80](#)[RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#)[AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest](#)

March 8-9 [American Legion Post 104](#) Special Event station, 7.250 and 14.250 MHz
 March 12 BARC Meeting 6:30pm
 March 14 Pamlico Meeting 7pm
 March 23 **Walk MS: Raleigh**, help needed
 March 24 E.N.C. Repeater meeting, Noon
 March 26 BARC Board meeting 7pm, Zoom
 April 6 RARSfest <https://www.rarsfest.org/>
 April 8 Solar Eclipse, Anyone to go see the FULL Eclipse?
 April 9 BARC Meeting 6:00pm Oakwood School POTA Prep, bring your setup
 April 11 PARC Meeting 7pm
 April 27 Picnic with BARC and PARC, 11am greet, noon lunch
 April 30 BARC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom
 May 9 PARC Meeting 7pm
 May 14 BARC Meeting 6:30pm Murray Adams, Recent Dxpedition Experience
 May 28 BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
 June 11 BARC Meeting 6:30pm FIELD Day Prep
 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:

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/> .

April 12 - 13 [Green Country Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma State Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma

April 20 [Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Delaware State Convention, Georgetown, Delaware