

Ham Chatter



Volume 58 Issue 5

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

May 2024

Editor, Mark, KG4GVJ

Email: hamchatter@w4amc.com



BARC General meeting April 9, 6:30pm in person and ZOOM *All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

BARC May 14, 2024, Library 6:30pm
Recent DXpedition experience

BARC June 11, 2024, Field Day prep at Oakwood School (Proposed TBA)

PARC May 9, 2024

WARNING! Print at your own risk of number of pages printed.
Yes, one member printed the April edition at home. WOW!

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 Board Meeting - May 28, 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 :

05-09	KD4NGW	Jack
05-20	W3LPR	Louis
05-26	N4PIR	Gary
06-11	WA4SLC	Bill
06-12	n/c	Lindalee
06-20	KN4VJR	David
06-27	W4JNC	Richard

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

Next VE Session

Please bring to the Test the following, required:

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

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

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

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

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

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

Presentation Ideas Needed

Please send ideas of new presentation topics and presenters to our VP Judy W3JUU
Email: info@w4amc.com

BARC Needs YOU!

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

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Gerry Clayton News



Dear BARC Members,
We received this message from Geoff Clayton, son of long-time member Gerry Clayton, who writes the following:

Dad's coming to the end of his time, perhaps even this week. He's in end of life care and I'm journeying there from the West Coast to join him. He's been a BARC member for at least forty years now (I remember Field Days with him in the Eighties when I was a teenager as he held down the CW part of the action), active as a member, an instructor, and many other things. Amateur radio has been one of his most joyful pursuits since he discovered crystal sets as a teenager in the Fifties. I know he looks on all his time spent doing things with and for the club with gladness. Will keep you posted as this journey moves ahead.

73 Beth, 4/18/2024

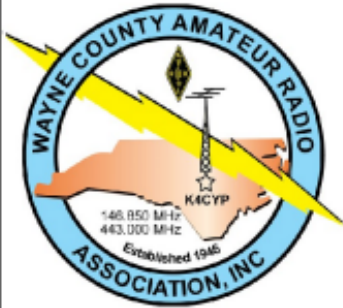
PS:
Gerry was my examiner for the CW portion of the General exam that I took years ago. He was kind and helpful in the way of encouragement and I passed the tests. I have always enjoyed his company at field day and many other BARC events. He will be sorely missed.
73 Peter, N4PVH

Very sorry to hear about Gerry, K4IDD. Always enjoyed his company and the VE sessions. He stopped going to the VE sessions when the FCC ended the Morse code requirements on February 23, 2007. Really missed seeing him there. He attended almost 100 sessions up to that time. Most of that time when BARC only had about 6 sessions a year. Gerry has been one of the outstanding members of BARC.

He was featured with a picture in the Meet the Member column in the May 2000 issue of Ham Chatter. A picture is attached. The article was written by Contributing Editor, Murray Merner, K4MHM, <<https://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hc/pdf/hc0005.pdf>>.

I hadn't read that issue in quite a while. My column on page 3 comments on the "Dear Abby" column that Morse Code had "gone the way of the automobile crank, the powdered wig and Emerson television sets." She got letters to the contrary. She wanted know how to say "I'm sorry" in Morse Code! Also on that page, there's an email to the editor from the ARRL that I had forgotten about. Maybe I should frame it!

73, Dave, W4YDY, 4/18/2024



The "Chris Keen Memorial UnFest," May 4th, 2024 Tailgating Extravaganza!

(1st PH Church, Goldsboro, NC)



Official ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

Talk-In 146.85 PL 88.5 / 443.00 PL 88.5

1100 The First Church Rd, Goldsboro, NC

The Wayne County Amateur Radio Association (WCARA) is sponsoring the 7th annual "Chris Keen Memorial Un-Fest". The Un-Fest is strictly a "Tailgating" event. There will be No Vendors and No Fee to enter or to sell. **Free Door Prizes!**



Date: May 4th, 2024

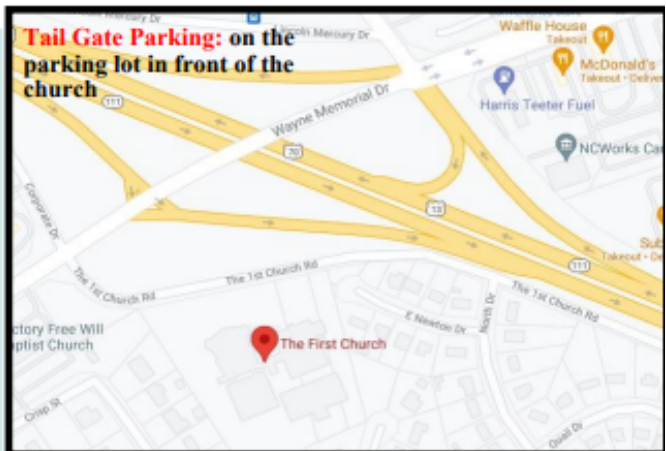
Time: 8 am - 12 Noon

Location: In front of the 1st PH Church

POC Pete (WA5T) pete@wene.net

UNFest Rules

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



1st Ph Church, Goldsboro, NC

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

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

BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB



Happy May to everyone.

The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, the weather is shaping up. We had great weather over the weekend for the second annual PARC-BARC spring cookout. I don't think we have come to have an official name for it yet, but that seems to cover the event. One of the original thoughts behind the event is to grow the ham community in the ENC region. To that end, Gary, NG9T, President of PARC and I wanted to invite a new club each year. This year, we invited the New Bern Amateur Radio Club and were pleased to have quite a few of them drive up to share a meal with us. We should have a sign-in sheet for next year, but my best count is that there were about 45 attendees. I don't have a club by club breakdown, and of course some of members of more than one club. I had some great conversations, but regret that there were some people that I didn't get to chat with. And of course the real star of the show is the delicious food. Many ideas were tossed around for next year, so keep an eye out for a bigger, better event for the spring of 2025. I send a special thanks to Gary, NG9T for sharing the enthusiasm for the event AND doing the grilling, and to Bill, WA4SLC for securing the fire hall. And I thank all who showed up for the fellowship and food.





2024 Tri-Club Cookout







Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner



Hi Everyone,

Well, we all had a great time yesterday at our 2nd annual PARC-Brightleaf Spring Cookout. Our guests from the New Bern Amateur Radio Club enjoyed themselves as well and we were glad to have them join us this year.

Thank you to all who participated, brought food, helped cook, and clean up. A special thank you to Bill Dawson for having the Clarks Neck Fire Department for us and to Brightleaf President Beth González for helping me coordinate the cookout.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday May 1 Breakfast at Shep's Grill on Market St downtown Washington. After breakfast we are planning to do an antenna takedown at Curtis Waters' QTH. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

7th Annual UNFEST Tailgate Ham Sale
May the 4th Be With You (Star Wars Day)
Saturday from 8:00am to noon
See attachment for details

PARC Meeting May 9 @ 7:00pm
Zion Episcopal Church
7302 Hwy 264 East
Washington NC 27889

Ham Radio Exams May 11 @ 10:00am
Beaufort County EOC
1420 Highland Dr
Washington NC 27889
Exams given by appointment only.
Contact Tom Kottke WT4TK_Tkottke@centurylink.net

Thanks everyone, and 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 11 @ 10:00am, please contact to reserve an exam spot.

HPSNC Public Service Net

7:30 p.m. on the RARS 146.64 repeater for the new HPSNC Public Service Net. The net will have a short instructional followed by a rag chew discussion. The net will conclude promptly before the 8:00 p.m. nightly net.

The net will meet on the last Wednesday of each month and will feature brief training on various topics relating to ham radio's contributions to and involvement in public service.

If you are available, please check in to the net (in and out check-ins are welcome too!).

Thanks for your support.

73,

Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX
HPSNC Volunteer Coordinator
919-523-9631
K2HJX@att.net

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

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in [PDF format](#) .

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, [submit a help request](#) or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

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

A few days ago, some readers might have suspected some of weather reports I give about the slow approach of Spring up here might be untrue. Three days ago I wondered when we would get to Springtime as we had snow flurries last week. The weather up here can be quite different from that occurring down off the mountain.

My home is located 3850 feet above sea level. I traveled to Hickory several times in the past month and I saw that some people down there had mowed their lawns a couple of times. Down off the mountain, flowers have bloomed and I have to admit that Spring is truly in bloom in the Piedmont .

Not so up here! Trees in the mountains have just started to have buds; looking at the woods, you will see a generally reddish tint to the trees. Now, after a warm day or two, the trees are taking on a brownish yellowish tint. No leaves have been seen at 3850 feet above sea level but things change fast up here. Down in Boone, leaves are green and mowing services are busy.

A few days ago, we had one last dusting of snow and the temps dropped down into the high 20's. Today the temp got up to 76 and it was a very nice day but the weather has been unsettled. On Saturday, Spectrum News reported that Grandfather Mountain weather station recorded a peak wind of 95 mph. My weather station recorded a peak wind of 51 mph at 1:15 am on April 12. On last Thursday the National Weather Service confirmed that an EF-1 tornado touched down in Wilkesboro while a number of buildings were damaged in Catawba County.

So, up here on Tax Day, we all know that it is time to check out our lawn mowers and to sure that contracted lawn maintenance people are ready to go, probably later this week.

And, speaking of weather, the Hurricane researchers at Colorado State University have released their prediction that 2024 will have an extremely active hurricane season; they expect the hurricane season to include 23 named storms, 11 that will reach hurricane strength and five storms will be major hurricanes. [Information about the CSU predictions.](#)

INFO ABOUT THE ARRL

It is probably time to review various aspects of how ARRL is structured and how it operates. Several people have approached me at hamfests me and asked, "Who runs the ARRL and what is your job (as Section Manager?)" So here is a quick overview.

ARRL HEADQUARTERS

Located in Newington CT, HQ staff is comprised of about 100 paid

employees and a few contractors who produce four magazines (QST, QEX, National Contest Journal and On the Air) and a variety of technical books pertaining to amateur radio. ARRL has a few contracted staff who represent the interests of amateur radio before the FCC and certain international organizations. A large variety of operating awards are offered by the ARRL to reward members for their skill in contacting amateur stations around the world. ARRL also publishes technical evaluations of new amateur radio equipment and urges amateur operators to participate in public service events.

One of the largest activities of the ARRL is Field Day in June in which amateur operators and clubs are encouraged to operate away from home, using temporary antennas and emergency power. Points are awarded for the number of stations contacted in a 24 hour period. Information about [Field Day 2024](#).

The HQ staff is responsible to a Chief Executive Office who is chosen by the ARRL Board of Directors. The CEO is responsible for seeing that ARRL policy is implemented and that staff at HQ are performing at a high level.

ARRL is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors that represents geographical areas; the Board is elected by ARRL members for staggered three year terms. Five Directors are elected each year for terms that begin on January 1. Each Division also has a Vice Director who can stand-in for an absent Director and can vote during Director Absences or in conflict of interest situations. Vice Directors for the Divisions are elected at the same time as the Director for a particular Division.

The ARRL Board meets in person in Connecticut twice each year (January and July) and hears from ARRL Committees before establishing policy. Among the three major committees (Administration and Finance, Programs and Services and Emergency Communications and Field Services) the Administration and Finance Committee reviews budgetary matters and sets the ARRL budget. There is also an Executive Committee comprised of Directors and the ARRL President which makes policy decisions in behalf of the ARRL Board between the formal meetings of the entire Board.

[Information on the Divisions and the Directors and Vice Directors.](#)

SECTIONS

The North Carolina Section is one of 71 ARRL Sections in United States. Most Sections cover an entire state (like North Carolina) but a few of the more populous states have more than one Section (like New York, Florida, California, Massachusetts and others. A [listing of sections](#).

Each Section is led by an elected Section Manager who is responsible for keeping in touch with clubs, attending club meetings and hamfests and choosing personnel to fill various jobs within the Section. A

description of the various positions that assist the Section Manager and [filled by appointments](#).

Section Managers do not receive a salary but are reimbursed for expenses like mileage, meals and lodging incurred during activities that support ham radio in their section ; these activities include hamfests, Field Day, and club meetings. The North Carolina Section annual budget is \$4,044 which comes from the dues you pay.

Part of the Section Manager's job involves visits to Field Day sites. In 2021-2023 I traveled over 3,000 miles visiting Field Day sites the West, Piedmont and Central parts of the state. Let me know if your group plans to operate on Field Day in a park or other public site. I hope to travel down east this year.

As your Section Manager, I do my best to keep in touch with members and I welcome their inquiries.

One way of keeping in touch with members is through the NC Section Newsletter. This is edition number 102 and all the NC Section Newsletters are archived at ncarrl.org. Each newsletter issue has 1500-2000 words and the newsletters alert members to hamfests, interesting club projects as well as various special events and training sessions. Producing one of the NC Section Newsletters takes up the better part of a day that involves composing and posting a newsletter twice each month. ARRL sends the newsletter out by email to approximately 2,800 members in the North Carolina Section.

I participate in a Roanoke Division on-line meeting of the four Section Managers and Director and Vice Director each month. There is also an ARRL meeting to which all Section Managers are invited and expected to attend. . The Roanoke Division holds an on-line Town Hall to which ARRL members are invited each quarter.

NC Emergency Management's Communications Unit holds an on-line meeting every other week Approximately fifty persons from the cable companies, NC SHP, NCPBS, Verizon, AT&T and Auxcomm as well as other public safety and critical infrastructure groups participate in the biweekly COMMU meetings.

If you want a national perspective look at the ARRL Annual Report which highlights previous activities, membership numbers as well as the annual audit. The report also identifies major donors to the ARRL. Copies of [recent Annual Reports](#).

MEMBERS

There are approximately 146,000 ARRL members who are drawn from the 751,828 amateur license holders In the US. Approximately 4,400 ARRL members have home addresses in North Carolina. Estimates are that the average age of amateur operators in the United States is around 75 years

and each issue of QST lists about 150 hams who have recently passed away. Since becoming your Section Manager I have advised HQ of the names and calls signs of 206 hams whose passing I learned about in messages sent to me by friends and club leaders.

CLUBS

Clubs range in size from a dozen or so members all the way up to 500 or more members. There are 98 clubs in North Carolina which are listed with the ARRL but some of the clubs apparently disbanded during the COVID epidemic. To find [information about clubs](#).

General information about the ARRL and its programs can be found in the [ARRL Annual Report](#).

Additional information about the ARRL can be obtained by contact Director Jim Boehner (N2ZZ), Vice Director Bill Morine (N2COP) or your Section Manger (WA4NC). Each person listed can be reached via email by using their callsign followed by “@arrl.org”.

Person interested in seeking the Roanoke Director or Vice Director position should follow the election process which will be described in the July and August issues of QST. ARRL members in the Roanoke Division (NC, SC, VA and WV) will cast votes in the Fall among the nominees who meet the ARRL requirements as to eligibility after a review by the Elections and Ethics Committee (soon to be replaced by an outside committee). Votes will be counted in November and the election winners will take office on January 1, 2025.

DUES

The ARRL Board voted almost year ago to raise dues from \$49 to \$59 per year effective January 1, 2024. In addition the Board decided to separate the mailing of a printed copy of QST from ARRL dues and set an additional print copy fee at \$24 per year.

On April 5, 2024 ARRL announced that Life Membership costs will vary according to the age of the prospective life member. The following Life Membership rates have been set for new life members:

Age	Cost
70+	\$960
50-69	\$1,635
30-49	\$2,625
Under 30	\$3,333

In an effort to attract more young person in to the hobby, he ARRL Board also decided to waive membership dues for students under 21 years of age; these new members will be non-voting Associate Members and receive electronic copies of QST.

DATA ON HAM LICENSES - FCC March 29, 2024

AREA	NOVICE	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL	ADVANCED	EXTRA	TOTAL
NC	141	10,536	5,905	978	5,157	22,496
NC %	0.63%	45.85%	26.25%	4.35%	22.96%	100%
US	5,714	373,428	186,360	31,472	154,443	752,417
US%	0.76%	49.63%	24.77%	4.18%	29.66%	100%

UPCOMING EVENTS

ARRL Kids Day, June 15, 2024, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM at the Wendell Museum, 122 . Second St.

Wendell, NC 27591. Organized by the Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts.

The Wendell Museum opened in June of 2022 and featured Amateur Radio in their time line. Please contact Mark Gibson 919-6146822 to volunteer or to serve.

[FIELD DAY](#), June 22-23.

HAMFESTS

Goldsboro, 05/04/2024 – [UnFest](#) sponsored by the Wayne County Amateur Radio Association.

Salisbury, 07/13/2024 - [Firecracker Hamfest](#) sponsored by the Rowan County Amateur Radio Society.

Cary, 07/20/2024 - [51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest](#) sponsored by the Cary Amateur Radio Club.

Waynesville, 07/20/2024 - [WCARS Hamfest](#) sponsored by the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society.

W4DNA - NC Section Net Report - MARCH 2024

Each month Dave Roy (W4NA, Section Traffic Manager) compiles a report based on data submitted by the various net managers. The ARRL email system does not handle attachments very well so the data set out below is an abbreviated version of Dave's report. The entire STM report can be found at ncarrl.org in the format used by Dave.

W4DNA SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT – MARCH 2024

NET	NMGR	QNI	LISTED	PASSED	TIME IN MINUTES	SESSIONS	TFC %
SECTION NETS							
CN	AA4MP	296	108	106	504	62	98.15%
CSN	KI4KZS	154	24	24	697	31	100.00%
NCEN	WK4WC	335	109	105	383	31	96.33%
NCMN	W3OJO	270	111	110	396	31	99.10%
THEN	K4SEH	332	NA	NA	394	22	N/A

LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS

CWTN	N4CNX	411	105	105	538	31	100.00%
ENCTN	W4DNA	92	3	3	163	25	100.00%
PCTN	W4TTO	214	53	53	262	31	100.00%
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NETS							
C-MNN	KI4FAQ	322	NA	NA	1171	31	
TOTAL		2426	513	506	4508	295	98.64%

CLOSING COMMENT

The future of ham radio will rest on bringing in more young members. Too many hams apparently are losing interest as they get older, being nostalgic for what ham radio was when many of us started out several decades ago.

The future always rests on motivating young people to become active.

Field Day operations from your homes limit the opportunities for the public to see passionate ham operators putting up temporary antennas and operating at parks and other public places using generators or solar power.

What are you doing to publicize Field Day and attracting young people? With an average age of hams now at 75, what will ham radio look like in ten years? How many of today's hams will have lost interest in ham radio a decade from now? How many of today's hams will have passed away in ten years?

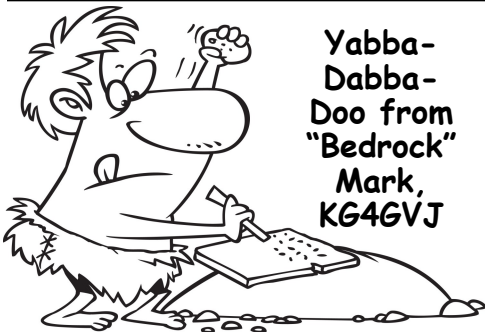
We need to do more.

Some ham clubs and groups in North Carolina go out of their way to publicize upcoming license exams but more efforts are needed by clubs to offer radio classes prior to offering license exams.

What is your club doing to reach out to the public schools to get kids interested in radio and electronics? Kids are likely to be less interested in contesting than many of our older members but the youngsters seem to be interested in satellites, radio direction finding and simple construction projects like a tape measure direction finding antenna. Some groups are launching High Altitude Balloons and showing students how to track the balloons with aprs as the balloon travels from one end of the state to other or even successfully traveling around the world.

Ham radios future rests with you.

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



Hi Folks,

If you missed the Cookout April 27, you missed a good time to talk and eat. Our thanks for those involved in organizing it, the Fire Station for allowing us to use their building and for the large grill used for cooking by another Ham. To all the cooks, Great food! Thank you for providing it. There was 2 tables of gear out for sell of old cameras and radio gear.

Here at home, I'm trying to remember to take care of the work needed weekly at home with the warmer weather. Our Solar Power system has been inspected after having a battery installed. SolarEdge (The equipment Manufacturer) had added more to the operating software to allow adjustments so their battery can be used in about 3 different ways. Unfortunately, not available in some areas and I think this is one of those areas. So the Battery can only be used for backup. I think I should have had 4-6 extra panels installed to help with the "On Demand" times and help with the non-demand times use. As the sun stay out longer and as we get more clear days, I'm starting to get credit for the non-demand times. Too bad it resets on the start anniversary, I need to see if I can have that changed to around now. The advantage of the battery is power if we lose Grid power, Battery and Solar will continue for some of the house. If you wish to consider Solar Power, start keeping track of your monthly usage. Also remember that you will not produce as much power in the winter and cloudy days.

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>

Word to the Wise

a. Local newspapers

b. Local television networks

c. Plan to have someone that can serve as a guide, answer questions, and direct pictures.

Operating Tip

Technical Topics and Discussion

3. Operator planning is essential. Create a schedule of operators.

a. Think about whether you will operate for the full 24 hours or not.

b. Invite new hams to learn by logging and operating.

c. Don't forget to think about having relief operators.

Conversation

Field Day Countdown

Field Day is just about 2.5 months away, and now is the time for your club to plan for the event. Many of the details of this event should not be left to the last minute. With hopes of pointing clubs in the right direction, here are a few tips that may help.

1. Plan your location with a few questions in mind.

a. Will you have public traffic around your site, and are the antennas you will be using mindful of safety?

b. Is your site on property that requires supplying an insurance certificate to the owners? Many public sites require this.

c. Are you planning to create signs telling the public what you are doing and inviting them to learn more?

d. Does the site have adequate parking and access? Remember, Field Day is a 24-hour operation. You don't want to get locked in or out of your location, especially once it's dark.

e. Have you reviewed the safety requirements for fueling and grounding your generator? Noise may be an issue if you are on a public site.

f. How do you plan to keep the site clean and uncluttered for pictures?

2. Contact the local media to invite them to your site.

4. Consider contacting your local served agencies to demonstrate the capabilities of hams in an emergency.

a. Local emergency management

b. American Red Cross

c. Local police, fire, and ambulance companies

d. Other local agencies that may be involved with shelter management

Field Day is what you want to make of it. Treat it like a contest and see how many contacts you can make, make it an emergency drill, use it for outreach to the public, or make it a social event for your club and include having fun on the radio. Field Day is all about having fun and showcasing the different aspects of amateur radio. Make your Field Day an event that the club will learn from, and, most importantly, have fun!

Find the complete list of Field Day resources at field-day.arrl.org.

Velocity FACTOR

Steve Ford, WB8IMY

There is something amazing about radio that many people, including hams, take for granted. Consider the fact that every time you command your radio to transmit, either by pressing a button, closing a telegraph key, or sending a digital instruction, you are engaging with one of the fundamental forces of nature. You are creating an electromagnetic signal and releasing it into the universe where it will travel at the speed of light: 186,282 miles per second.

As fast as the speed of light may be, it still takes time for a signal to get from one point to another. In space, the distances are so vast that a radio signal moving at the speed of light requires 4 years just to reach the nearest star.

Closer to home, there are amateurs who bounce radio signals off the surface of the moon. This facet of ham radio is known as *EME* (which stands for *earth-moon-earth*) or *moonbounce*. At the speed of light, it takes almost 3 seconds for transmissions to reach the moon and return.

Here on Earth, it is easy for us to shrug at the thought of signals moving at light speed because the distances we normally deal with are so tiny by comparison. Think of a signal sent from an amateur in New York City to her counterpart in Tokyo, Japan. The signal will streak across that distance in only about 30 milliseconds. That's more than three times faster than you can blink your eyes.

So, as a ham, is there any situation where the speed of a radio signal becomes important? It is certainly important to EME enthusiasts, but you might be surprised to learn that the speed of light can have a major role to play in something you encounter every day: your antenna system.

Light Speed and Transmission Lines

Imagine you're sending a signal through a transmission line, such as a coaxial cable. Amateurs will often use a mathematical ratio known as the *velocity factor* to calculate the speed of the signal in the cable, compared to how fast it would be in a vacuum. If the velocity factor was equal to 1, it would mean that the signal was moving at the same speed as light would move in, say, outer space.

However, in most cases, the velocity factor is less than 1. In coaxial cables, it's often around 0.66 to 0.95. It's less than 1 because the signal must contend with the properties of the transmission medium — in a cable, the signal must interact with the insulating material and the metal conductors. So, in a relative sense, it moves slower than the speed of light.

But why does any of this matter? If the signal makes it from your radio to your antenna, and vice versa, who cares how fast it moves through the cable?

In many cases, it doesn't matter. The signals go where they need to go, and they do so at such a fast speed that it might as well be instantaneous, as far as you are concerned.

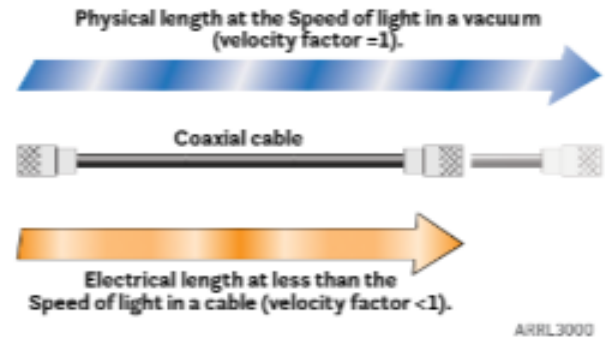
But there are times when the velocity factor matters a great deal. For example, imagine you're designing a system that effectively splits a transmitted signal between two separate antennas. You might do this because you're trying to create radiation patterns that enhance the energy going in specific directions, such as a stronger signal radiating northeast compared to other points on the compass. Hams often create this effect in so-called *phased array* antenna systems, where the signals are at different points in their fluctuating energy cycles at each antenna. This is a topic we'll take up in a future issue.

For now, suffice to say that for your hypothetical antenna system to work properly, you need to effectively "delay" the timing of the signal fluctuations at one antenna compared to the other. To achieve this delay in the cables, you'll need to trim them according to their *electrical* lengths rather than their physical lengths.

Physical Length vs. Electrical Length

If you have 50 feet of coaxial cable, you know that its physical length is, well, 50 feet. But as far as the signals within the cable are concerned, the length is different. How can this be? See Figure 1.

Remember that the signal carried by the coax is going to travel at some percentage less than the speed of light according to the velocity factor of the cable. Because of this, the signal covers less distance in the same amount of time, compared to if it were traveling through a vacuum. This difference makes the effective electrical length (the distance the signal "thinks" it has traveled) *shorter* than the physical length of the cable. As you probably see, cutting a cable to correspond to an electrical length can make a huge difference in how some antenna systems perform (such as phased arrays, and others).



ARRL3000

Figure 1: The speed of light in a vacuum is 186,282 miles per second, but in a transmission line, such as this piece of coaxial cable, the relative speed can be significantly less, based on the velocity factor of the cable. This causes the signal to cover less distance in the same amount of time compared to if it were traveling through a vacuum. This difference is why the electrical length of the cable in this example is *shorter* than the physical length.

How do you determine the velocity factor of a cable? There are pieces of test equipment that will provide the answer, but the good news is that nearly all cable manufacturers specify the velocity factors of their products, often with the abbreviation VF.

Once again, the velocity factor is something you can safely ignore in most situations you are likely to encounter. Still, it is a bit of knowledge you can add to your mental toolbox, and it may prove to be very handy someday!

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

2023

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

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

The following testing dates and sites are from:

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

GREENSBORO NC**TESTING 2ND SATURDAYS**

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

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

HIGH POINT NC**TESTING LAST SATURDAYS**

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

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

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

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

SALISBURY NC

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

Bostian Heights Fire Dept. Community Room

[\(MAP\)](#)

8211 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146

For more information contact:

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

Last updated 1/26/22

THOMASVILLE NC

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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

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

[From the FARC Newsletter](#)

ARES/AUXCOMM News

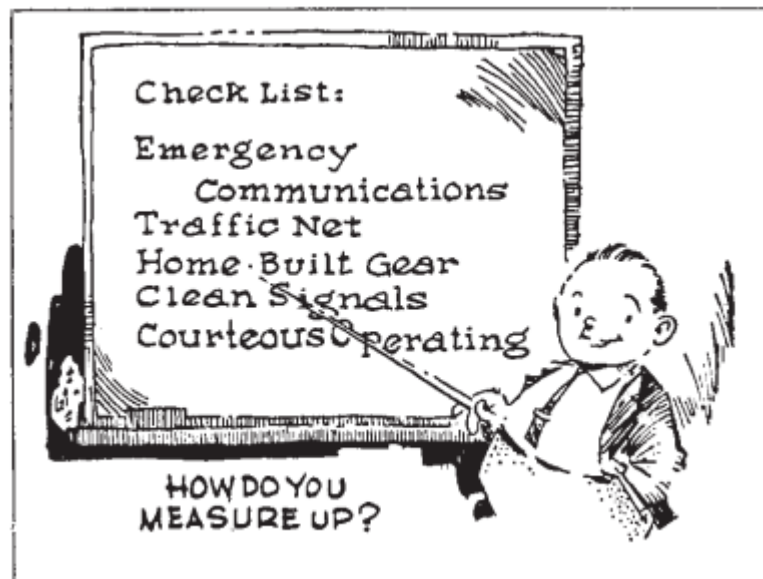


The five USB channelized 60-meter frequencies are available for interoperability (communication between services). By convention, Channel 1 is designated the calling channel. This convention is established to train the amateur radio community to reach out on Channel 1 in times of national emergency, 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

American Red Cross Nebraska-Iowa Region Winlink Exercise Develops Skills

The American Red Cross Nebraska-Iowa Region is working to develop capabilities for Red Cross amateur radio operators and other interested amateur radio organizations to support disasters that may occur in the region. As all amateur operators know, an ability to communicate in the absence of internet and cell phone service could be critical in the early stages of a disaster response.

For a localized event, voice communications might be adequate, but for a larger event the ability to deliver formatted email using Winlink Global Radio Email would be extremely valuable.

Amateur radio operators can send and receive Winlink messages using HF or VHF radio depending on their location, license class, and equipment.

An exercise using Winlink messaging was conducted Saturday, March 23, 2024. The exercise was controlled from the W0EQU station located at the Omaha Red Cross headquarters. Participation was invited from Amateur Radio Emergency Service® organizations within the region as well as from amateurs with some Red Cross affiliation from across the country. Operators were invited to submit Winlink Check In forms via radio (if equipped) via the Winlink system to the W0EQU station. If the operator had the ability to use multiple radio paths (modes or frequency bands) to submit check-ins, that was invited.

Results:

W0EQU received 81 successful check-ins with the following characteristics:

- 62 distinct amateur radio operators checked in at least once.
- Check-ins came from 14 different states, the most distant being Alaska.
- 28 of the messages were originated over a VHF radio connection (relatively short range between the transmitting station and the Winlink Gateway station).
- 30 were originated over an HF radio connection (up to hundreds of miles from the transmitter to the Gateway).
- 20 were originated over the internet (not via radio).
- ALL messages were received at W0EQU and all outgoing traffic sent over a VHF link to a local Gateway.

A map detailing all messages is available at the [Exercise Participant Map](#).

Additional Activities

W0EQU also activated no-notice VHF FM voice networks on three of the local FM repeaters to evaluate the ability of the Red Cross station to act as net controller using those repeaters. The repeaters activated include the K0USA repeater in North Omaha, the W0WYV repeater in Bellevue, and the N0WKF repeater in Glenwood, Iowa. Local operators checked in to all three of the nets.

A special test was conducted with Jerry Davis, KA4QVH, in Cleveland, Georgia, using VARA HF Peer-to-Peer. This mode allows passing Winlink traffic directly from one station to another over HF radio, with no internet anywhere in the picture. This would be used in the event of a widespread internet outage. The operators were successful passing messages directly to each other over a distance of 808 miles.

Next Steps

The American Red Cross Nebraska Iowa Region hopes to conduct more exercises like this and to build up connections with amateur radio organizations and operators across the two states. For more information or to discuss involvement with the Red Cross contact the [NEIA Region Amateur Radio coordinator for the Red Cross, Marty Malley, WK0E](#).

Amateur Radio Hurricane Networks Featured at the National Hurricane Conference

The [National Hurricane Conference](#) was held March 25 - 28, 2024, in Orlando, Florida. A series of workshops were held that focused on amateur radio's involvement in hurricane tracking, coverage, and recovery.

Among the presenters was the Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator of [WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center](#) (NHC) Julio Ripoll, WD4R. Ripoll gave a history of amateur radio's involvement in NHC, including the use of tube radios in the 1980s and the Yaesu FTDX-1200 used today. WX4NHC is also equipped with VHF/UHF radios to access the Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet), as well as digital equipment to communicate with the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#), IRLP, and Winlink to receive emails via amateur radio.

"We were the only means of communication between the National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service Field Office in Slidell, Louisiana, during Hurricane Katrina," Ripoll said. He went on to highlight other instances of reports given by ham radio that provided mission-critical information that had a major impact on the way NHC handled a storm.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, gave a presentation to the crowd of hurricane experts, meteorologists, and emergency managers about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). He spoke of ARRL's role on the board of SAFECOM, a program managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) that sets the standards of interoperability procedures. Being a part of the group solidifies the Amateur Radio Service as a robust resource before and during times of crisis.

Johnston shared that in 2023, ARES volunteers contributed at least \$21.8 million in volunteer hours to their local communities. "Is amateur radio still relevant? Absolutely! Are we still involved in the places that are doing things the right way? Amateur radio absolutely is," he said.

Johnston highlighted [the relationship between ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#), as well as ARRL's position as a net control station within the [SHARed RESources High Frequency Radio Program \(SHARES\)](#) managed by CISA.

Among other presenters was ARRL's The ARES Letter Editor Rick Palm, K1CE, who shared a harrowing tale of his family experiencing a direct hit from Hurricane Idalia in August 2023. The damage and impact he felt gave him a new perspective on emergency communications, as he went from a volunteer communicator to a storm victim. Read more about his experience in the "Public Service" column in the January 2024 issue of QST.

Watch a [video of the amateur radio workshops](#) at the 2024 National Hurricane Conference on YouTube, courtesy of Jim Palmer, KB1KQW. See photos and discussion in the [ARRL Letter for March 29, 2024](#). See also Hurricane Watch Net manager Bobby Graves', KB5HAV, [recordings of the proceedings](#).

Spring Severe Weather Preparations Begin

The severe weather season (March through May) is here, and the National Weather Service (NWS) offices across the country are prepared. Warning Coordination Meteorologist Brandon Peloquin at the Wilmington, Ohio, NWS office said many of the NWS offices across the country meet with partner organizations in the spring to make plans for the weather ahead. "Amateur radio operators and weather spotters are extremely im-

portant, and we could not do what we do without them," he said. "In fact, many of the watches and warnings issued are made because weather spotters provided critical information."

Peloquin said that Doppler radar is a great tool for tracking storms, but weather spotters have a different vantage point and can see things that radar can't.

Severe Weather Awareness Weeks are scheduled by each state and usually occur during March to remind and educate communities about severe weather seasonal threats and how to avoid them. The NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program is a volunteer program with almost 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. Spotter training is available at the state level and is offered several times each year. Every December, NWS and ARRL hold SKYWARN Recognition Day to honor all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions during severe weather. -- [February 29, 2024 issue of The ARRL Letter](#).

NWS Melbourne, Florida 2023 SKYWARN Recognition Day

After a 4-year hiatus, onsite operations returned to the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne, Florida, to support SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). The Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS) contributed the equipment needed to run an HF station at the office and also staffed this station, making contacts and exchanging weather information during much of the event. SRD is held during the first Saturday in December, and for 2023 ran from 7 AM (EST) Friday, December 1 through 7 PM Saturday, December 2. This event is co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and ARRL. Local amateur radio operators and their family members also attended a SKYWARN Open House from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, December 2, for tours of event operations and of the National Weather Service office.

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN volunteers, including those in the amateur radio community, provide to assist in the National Weather Service's mission to protect life and property. During major weather events, amateur radio operators provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency management, in the event standard services fail or become overloaded. Additionally, all SKYWARN weather spotters, provide valuable information during hazardous weather situations. Often, these spotter reports allow NWS meteorologists to issue severe weather warnings with greater advance notice and confidence than would otherwise be possible.

During the 24-hour event, amateur radio operators throughout the country visited their local NWS office, set up portable radio stations to simulate emergency conditions, and worked in teams to exchange weather reports with other amateur radio operators across the nation and the globe. All spotters were also encouraged to check in on the SKYWARN Spotter Check-In Map on the [official SRD website](#).

Winter Field Day in Florida

The Alachua County, Florida (Gainesville area) ARES organization's (NF4AC) Winter Field Day effort in January was a big learning event for all of us. **We especially noted difficulties making simplex connections to ARES operators and other hams in the area.** As a result, an Improvement Plan item was to ask the ARES Net Manager to schedule eight simplex net sessions throughout the remainder of the year in order to better train for disaster situations where repeaters have (for whatever reason) become unavailable. This was approved by the ARES group, and the Net Manager scheduled the first such simplex net for April 11, separate from other commendable efforts to work on simplex communications.

HF nets, even those involving non-hams, routinely handle simplex nets on HF by volunteers who "relay" when they detect that Net Control has not heard from a station that they do hear. David Huckstep, W4JIR, who will be net control, expects to read the "preliminaries" on the main 146.820 MHz repeater, and then switch to 146.550 simplex for the roll call, giving a little extra time for each call sign for potential volunteer relays. He then plans to go back to the 146.820 repeater to pick up anyone who couldn't get in via simplex. - *Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, Alachua county ARES, Florida, NF4AC*



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](#)

Served Agencies: Who They Are and How We Serve Them

We often hear about served agencies when hams talk about disaster response and emergency communications. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins the podcast this month to discuss exactly what and who served agencies are, and where the Amateur Radio Service fits into their responses.

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

["Monitoring the Moon when it happens: Ham radio scientists to monitor eclipse"](#) / WEWS (Ohio) April 1, 2024 -- The Case Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Amateur operators of ham radios chase storms, offer service"](#) / Tahlequah Daily Press (Oklahoma) April 1, 2024 -- The Pottawatomie County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Local amateur radio club to represent Ohio in national event"](#) / The Highland County Press (Ohio) April 3, 2024 -- The Highland Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["South Students watch eclipse: High Schoolers viewing the eclipse with help from Amateur radio operators"](#) / The Marietta Times (Ohio) April 9, 2024 -- The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Utah students use ham radio to connect with astronaut during eclipse"](#) / Desert News (Utah) April 9, 2024 -- The Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[Amateur radio operators gather at the Expo](#)" / The Claremore Daily Progress (Oklahoma) April 13, 2024 -- The Green Country Hamfest.

"[Going the extra mile: the radio operators who connect all 26.2 miles of the Boston Marathon](#)" / The Huntington News (Massachusetts) April 15, 2024 -- The Northeastern Wireless Club.

"[World Amateur Radio Day is April 18](#)" / The Monroe News (Michigan) April 16, 2024 -- The Monroe County Radio Communications Association.

"[A Stroudsburg teens' passion for radio](#)" / WBRE (Pennsylvania) April 16, 2024 -- The Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association.

"[Amateur radio club collaborates to help during emergencies](#)" / Clark Fork Valley Press (Montana) April 17, 2024 -- The Clark Fork Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club site agreement ends, and an urgent search for a new location is underway](#)" / KEYT-TV (California) April 18, 2024 -- The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"[South Carolina middle school makes contact with International Space Station](#)" / WCNC -TV (North Carolina) April 23, 2024 -- The York County Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Announcements

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed one General-class license question.

The QPC of the NCVEC has deleted question G1E09 from the General-class pool because they have determined the question is defective and must be withdrawn. They discovered that, as worded, the question is showing the wrong correct answer. Question G1E09 must be withdrawn from the pool effective immediately and should be removed from examinations as soon as possible. Updated question pool files, includ-

ing the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General-class question pool web page at <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

Register Now for the 2024 ARRL Youth Rally!

As part of the fun at Dayton Hamvention®, youth attendees are invited to participate in the 2024 ARRL Youth Rally on Saturday, May 18. The day will include a special agenda of activities and presentations intended to engage and inspire young hams and young newcomers to amateur radio.



Member-volunteer Cyndi Goodgame, K5CYN, with student member Liam Gazeley, KI5JXQ, at the 2023 ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, SEA-PAC.

The Youth Rally is intended for students who are 11 to 21 years of age. While Hamvention offers free tickets for junior high and high school students, advance registration for the Youth Rally is recommended. A preliminary Youth Rally agenda and registration instructions are on the ARRL website, at www.arrl.org/expo. The Youth Rally registration fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt (to wear on Saturday), a badge, a lanyard, and a reusable tote bag.

The Youth Rally promises a full day of activities, discovery, sharing, and fun. Rally day begins at 9:15 AM on Saturday with the annual Dayton



Young people working on a kit.

The forum includes presentations from young hams covering a variety of amateur radio activities, topics, and technology.



Students with a homemade antenna.

After lunch (on your own), Youth Rally registrants will gather in Forum Room 3 to get to know each other and explore a variety of amateur radio interests and activities. Learn about satellite communications, participate in a short sprint contest, contact a parachute mobile station, and partici-

participate in other fun! Bring a 2-meter handheld if you have one. The afternoon activities will be led by ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and will include other guests representing well-known amateur radio youth programs.

The Youth Rally will wrap up on Saturday with a forum for the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP).

The 2024 ARRL Youth Rally is just part of the fun planned for the 2024 ARRL National Convention at Hamvention. Visit www.arrl.org/expo, where you can find the full listing of ARRL-sponsored forums, exhibits, and activities. Hamvention is May 17 - 19, 2024, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, in Xenia, Ohio; hamvention.org.

ARRL Resumes Accepting Life Membership Applications.

ARRL is again accepting new applications for Life Membership. Applications for Life Membership were paused last year, pending the approval of an adjusted, revenue-neutral program. Life Membership rates have now been established based on the current term dues amount and the applicant's age (requires verification). Payment can be made in full, or paid in 24 - monthly installments by credit card. ARRL Life Membership includes the benefits of membership for life. Print magazine subscriptions are sold separately. Visit the ARRL website for a complete list of [dues rates](#). Life Membership can be purchased at www.arrl.org/join (current members should login to the ARRL website first).

The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event organizers are looking for amateur radio volunteers.

The event honors the 13 original British colonies that rebelled against Great Britain and founded the United States of America in July 1776. The event will use all amateur radio frequencies and modes, and it runs from July 1 to 7, 2024. During this time, there will be special event stations on the air corresponding to each of the 13 colonies, in addition to two bonus stations with 1 x 1 call signs. Volunteers will need to be available to work for several hours on each of the seven days, and they will need to maintain a log using a computer. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 1, 2024. All applications should be emailed to Larry Krainson, W1AST, at wb1dby@gmail.com. Anyone participating in the event can receive a certificate by working any of the 13 colony stations, and a clean sweep certificate will be available for those who work all 15 stations. In 2023, the Massachusetts station, K2H, made 19,209 contacts. For more information, visit the [13 Colonies](#) Special Event website.

Ham Radio Active During Eclipse

Millions of people across the United States got to see a rare solar eclipse on Monday, April 8,

2024.

The path of totality -- the line of darkness where the moon fully occluded the sun -- stretched through the South Pacific, Mexico, central Texas, the Ozarks, the Midwest, the Rust Belt area, and to New England through the Maritimes. In all, 14 ARRL Sections were impacted directly and several more were on the fringes of the solar umbra.

Radio Serves

Amateur radio was active throughout the areas of impact. Most ARRL Sections in the path had been developing a plan with their served agencies for months or years beforehand. *Bob Buck, K5HRB, monitors traffic on Highway 16 in Medina, Texas.*



Traffic was expected to be significant, with up to 3.7 million people forecast to travel to areas within the path of totality.



Bill Townsend, KJ5ABG; Jeff Laughlin, KJ5DNA, and Dr. Randy Holland, N5DDS, at the Lamar County EOC in Paris, Texas. [Steven Lott Smith,

KG5VK, photo]

Radio amateurs were activated in many locations.

In Paris, Texas, hams split shifts at the Lamar County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Teams of two operators volunteered for 4-hour shifts. The activation doubled as a training opportunity and an equipment test.

The ARRL Indiana Section was in full force with their Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) member-volunteers providing radio coverage on HF, VHF, and UHF amateur bands and utilizing GMRS. Using a mobile command center dubbed "Big Blue," the ARES team in Lake County set up on an overpass above Interstate 65 and was staffed in part by father and son volunteer team Chris Lattimer, N9MMR, and Tavas Lattimer, KD9NSC. The Section also utilized Winlink VARA HF to establish a digital connection with the incident command system.



Chris Lattimer, N9MMR, operating inside "Big Blue", the Lake County Indiana Communications Trailer. The vehicle was positioned on an overpass of Interstate 65.

In Hamilton County, Indiana, ARES members volunteered with the county emergency manage-



ment teams. They fanned out across EOCs, parks, and other locations. One ARES member, who is also active in the Civil Air Patrol, monitored traffic and crowds from an airplane.

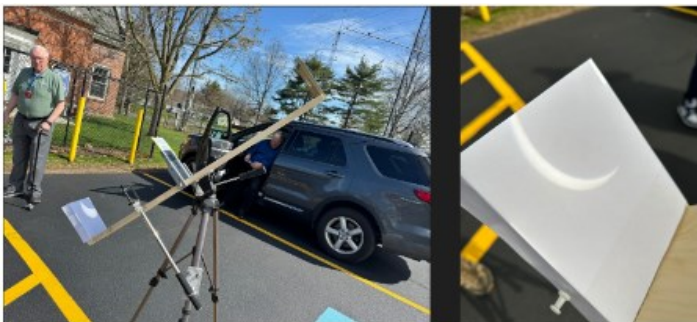
Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Maine Section Keith Anoe, KE4UCW, held hourly check-ins via radio with the Maine Emergency Management Agency and other served agencies in case one of them needed to activate the Maine Emergency Communication Net.

Social media posts throughout the amateur radio space hold anecdotes of 146.52 MHz being extremely active during the post-eclipse traffic jam. *Traffic on Interstate 91 in Northern Vermont was at a near standstill after the eclipse. Many reports say that 146.52 MHz was active all over the country with amateurs reporting the latest traffic conditions. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]*

Radio Gathers

In Vermont, several ARRL members, who also happen to be pilots, gathered at the Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Newport to watch the eclipse.

Outside ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, staff members and headquarters volunteers took the opportunity to observe the 92% visible eclipse using a solar viewer built by W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q.



Left: A solar viewer setup outside of W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

Right: The output view of the viewer. [Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, photos]

Radio Studies

Across the world, radio amateurs participated in

the HamSCI Solar Eclipse QSO Party. It involved operating before, during, and after the eclipse to gather log data. Those logs will be studied by researchers in the coming years to further investigate the sun's impact on the ionosphere.

HamSCI's program leader Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, was active from The University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club station. "I'm happy to report that we had an excellent day at W3USR in Scranton and believe that we both had fun and collected good data," he wrote in a message to the HamSCI team.

The organizers request that those who operated in the event upload their logs. If you used N1MM+ or N3FJP loggers, there's a setting called Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Participants can also submit a Cabrillo or ADIF file of their activity. All logs should go to <https://seqp.contesting.com/seqpsubmitlog.php>.

Amateur Radio Saves Family in Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park is in a remote desert in southern California, where mobile phone networks are spotty at best. On Saturday, April 6, a radio amateur and his family were enjoying the park when their vehicle became stuck in mud in a dangerous area. Without access to a cell network, the ham called for help on the 10-meter band.

According to a news release from the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club, Caleb Gustwiller, KD8TGB, jumped into action.

Gustwiller was monitoring from Ohio when he picked up the distress call. He was able to hear the call sign and the general location of the ham in distress. He lost the signal to the noise, so he wrote a post in the Parks on the Air® Facebook group asking for other hams to listen for the calls.

Several hams contacted emergency officials in southern California, which led to the ham and

their family being rescued within a few hours by park rangers. The club stated in their Facebook post: "Without Caleb hearing this distress call, it could have quickly become a very deadly situation for the operator and his family."

The Nashua Area Radio Society will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST. Ham Bootcamp is a program that helps new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information they need to get on the air. The program is open to any interested amateur radio operator, or prospective operator, in the US and Canada. There is no charge to attend the online event. Information can be found at n1fd.org/bootcamp. You must register in order to receive the link to join the web conference. If you have any questions, contact HamBootcamp.

Start Your Field Day Planning

The 2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 and 23 and is always one of the biggest operating events of the year. Many clubs across the country say that Field Day is their most popular event for a variety of reasons. Some clubs treat it as a contest (even though no one wins Field Day). It is a great chance to see what contesting is like with much less pressure. Some clubs make it a training event for emergency operations by setting up in a different location and trying to communicate with antennas using power that is temporary. Other clubs hold a family gathering for members and guests to get together and have fun around the radios. It is also a fantastic opportunity to show off the capabilities of ham radio to the public. Invite the mayor, the fire chief, the police chief, or other local agencies to come by. Get them on the air to make a contact or two. And do not forget the GO-TA station. Give new or shy hams the chance to operate HF.

ARRL resources are available online at field-day.arrl.org. Do not forget to check out the ARRL Store for Field Day swag to help make the weekend fun. Get a t-shirt, a hat, or other merchandise to commemorate the event. Also, make sure to put your club's Field Day site on the Field Day

Station Locator at [Field Day Station Locator \(arrl.org\)](http://Field Day Station Locator (arrl.org)).

Field Day is something different to all hams, but the important part is that you have fun and "Be Radio Active." Be sure to read the "Club Station" column in the June issue of QST (the digital edition is available May 3) for some tips on how clubs can make Field Day their own.

NY Hams Provide Pumpkin Patrol



The Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association (FHARA), in cooperation with the New York State Police (NYSP), completed a two-night operation on October 30 and 31, 2023, to provide visual observations of overpasses on the New York State Thruway within Herkimer County. This was the 33rd year that FHARA has participated. In the past, objects have been thrown off the overpasses onto unsuspecting vehicles. For many years, Citizens Band radio operators (who started this event) became the eyes of the NYSP. Soon after, ham radio groups began running the event. In 2023, FHARA staffed 14 locations and set up our disaster action response trailer at the Indian Castle Travel Plaza. Here, we distributed literature and explained to patrons the reason for and importance of us being there. We also informed them that there was a large group of ham operators watching out for them across the state. Thankfully, there were no reported incidents.

By FHARA President Don Peterson, KD2ILO

2024 ARRL National Convention

at Dayton Hamvention -- Program and App Available

The 2024 ARRL National Convention, hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, is just a month away, and the convention program guide is now available at www.arrl.org/expo. The ARRL Events app is also ready to use, encouraging everyone planning to attend to preview all of the Hamvention exhibits, forums, and related activities.

Download the free [ARRL Events app](#), or access the content from an internet [browser](#). The app is offered in partnership with Hamvention, and it contains Hamvention's full program and live updates, so attendees can browse and schedule forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. During the event, attendees can use many of the app's other features to follow the hourly prize drawings organized by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee and browse building and site maps.

The MyProfile icon in the app allows users to add their name, call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other Hamvention attendees. Additionally, the MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon to instantly share contact information with other hams at the event. The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices. You can also access the web browser version, which is optimized for nearly any browser or mobile device.

Use the app to preview many of the informative presentations planned by Hamvention and ARRL that cover a variety of topics and interests to help grow your skills as a radio amateur -- no matter where you are in your journey.

Young hams and young newcomers to amateur radio are reminded to register for the 2024 ARRL Youth Rally, which will be held on Satur-

day during the convention. While Hamvention offers free tickets for youths aged 12 through high school, advance registration for the Youth Rally (\$20) includes a tee shirt to wear on Saturday, a badge, a lanyard, and a reusable tote bag. [Register](#) for the Youth Rally now (11 to 21 years of age).

Hamvention and the 2024 ARRL National Convention is May 17 - 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, in Xenia, Ohio. In the lead-up to the convention, the venue has finished making improvements to the flea market area. The walking paths have been topped with gravel and rolled to make the paths smooth and safe.

Complete information about this year's event can be found on the [Hamvention](#) website, [Facebook](#) page, and at www.arrl.org/expo.

Amateur Radio Provides Communications Support for Boston Marathon

On Monday, April 15, 2024, ham radio operators provided communications for the 128th running of the Boston Marathon. More than 280 radio amateurs participated in the event.

The marathon is one of the largest events for which hams provide communications support.



Sisay Lemma wins the 128th Boston Marathon with a time of 2:16:17. Hundreds of radio amateurs volunteered to provide communications

for the historic race. [BAA Courtesy Photo]

It drew volunteers from many different places. "Operators are volunteering across Start, Course, Finish, Transportation, and various op-

erations centers, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Unified Command Center (UCC) and the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Race Operations Center (ROC) in Boston. They are performing communications duties that include logistics support as a primary function, and backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race as needed," wrote District Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Rob Macedo, KD1CY.



Amateur radio operators serving in the Unified Command Center (UCC) for the 128th running of the Boston Marathon. [Section Manager of the ARRL Rhode Island Section Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, photo]

Amateur radio operator volunteers supported the BAA, the American Red Cross, and other agencies surrounding the event, according to Macedo.

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test May 11, 2024

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 11, 2024. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise

between hobbyist and government radio stations. The event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111.

These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All scheduled times will be in Zulu (Z), and all scheduled frequencies will be upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.

Information on frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at [DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day](#). Information for QSL cards and contact information is available at [Armed Forces Day QSL request form](#).

AFD is classified as an observance -- not a federal holiday. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and it will be a time of honor. The establishment of AFD was first announced on August 31, 1949, by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. It was meant to replace the separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. All branches were combined to create the US Department of Defense. The first Armed Forces Day was held on May 20, 1950. The day is celebrated with special events, tributes, observances, and parades.

To celebrate the 155th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike, a ceremony that celebrated the completion of the transcontinental railroad, the [Ogden Amateur Radio Club](#) (OARC) will operate special event station W7G on May 10 - 11, 2024. Operating hours for both days will be 1500Z - 2300Z (09:00 - 17:00 MDT) on single sideband on 7.235 MHz, 14.255 MHz, 21.330 MHz, and 28.385 MHz. There may be CW operation on 7.040 MHz and 14.040 MHz. The special event station will be located at the Golden Spike National Historical Park in Promontory Summit, Utah. During last

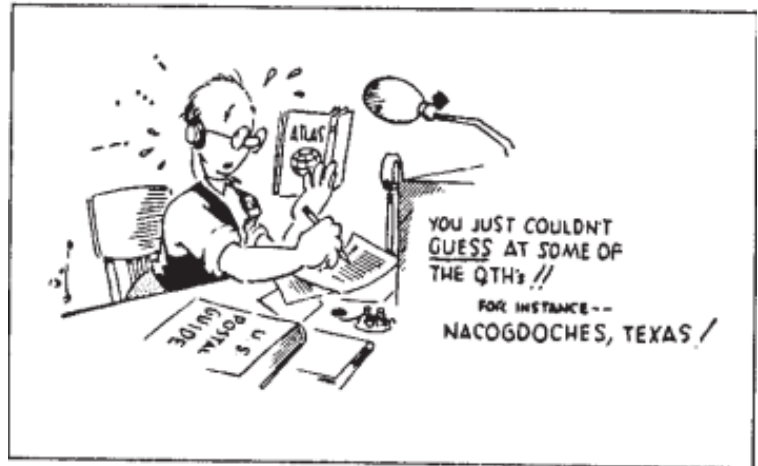
year's 2-day celebration, OARC made approximately 300 contacts. QSL information is available at the OARC website.

[The National Voice of America \(VOA\) Museum of Broadcasting](#) in West Chester, Ohio, will be open with special hours during Dayton Hamvention weekend from May 16 - 19, 2024.

The museum is about an hour away from the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Museum Executive Director Jack Dominic said they will be open May 16 and 17 from 1:00 - 9:00 PM, May 18 from 12:00 - 9:00 PM, and May 19 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Admission is \$10. A map from the Hamvention to the museum, as well as additional information is available [here](#). The [West Chester Amateur Radio Association's](#) (WCARA), WC8VOA, ham shack is located in the museum building and includes exhibits like a collection of R. L. Drake radios and the recently restored WLWO (W8XAL) transmitter.

[The National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, will activate WW1USA from Friday, May 24 until Monday, May 27, 2024.](#)

Amateur radio operators are invited to participate in this special event and contact stations around the world. Amateurs are also welcome to serve as guest operators of WW1USA at any time and receive a special amateur radio operator certificate. QSL with WW1USA will be available by mail with a SASE or other postage provided, or via an eQSL. After the event, information will be provided regarding how to request a commemorative certificate. WW1USA operation dates often coincide with other events held at the museum and memorial, highlighting lessons from the first worldwide war. The station helps to raise awareness of the Great War and how it continues to affect the world today. Learn more about the National WW1 Museum and Memorial at [WW1USA Amateur Radio Station \(May 2024\)](#) | [National WWI Museum and Memorial \(theworldwar.org\)](#).



The NTS™ Letter

National Traffic System®



New Features on the NTS 2.0 Website

To promote awareness of NTS, we have added a new page at <https://nts2.arrl.org/promo/> where you can find materials to help introduce NTS to hams, new and old alike, as well as to the public. The page includes an archive of all issues of The NTS Letter including a list of the content in each issue. There is also a flyer that can be customized for your use, printed out, and distributed at club meetings, VE sessions, hamfests, etc. You can also find suggestions for promoting NTS at ARRL Field Day, including helping your group get the extra points for traffic handling and distributing information about NTS message handling to visitors at your Field Day site. We expect more content will be added to this site in the near future.

The site also features a series of brief training videos along with downloadable PowerPoint presentations created by WNY Assistant Section Traffic Manager Andy Harmon-Kimball, W2ZXN. The three-part series covers an introduction to NTS, Radiograms, and Sending Traffic. It is hoped folks will find these documents useful not only for themselves but also for presentations to clubs and other gatherings.

The videos can also be found at <https://nts2.arrl.org/training/>, along with an Introduction to the Radiogram Web Portal, How to Send an NTS Radiogram with APRS, and Agency Traffic Handling Procedures and Forms.

Our goal is to create a library of content to make training and promotion better and easier. Do you have ideas for promoting NTS? Let us know.

Treasure Hunt News

Hello, treasure hunters! Twenty stations participated in the March NTS Treasure Hunt. The following stations successfully completed all three rounds:

03/07/24	2355Z	KE4RS	Stan
03/08/24	1557Z	KY2D	Jim
03/08/24	1502Z	KC3QVF	Chris
03/13/24	1447Z	W2QMI	Suzan
03/14/24	2250Z	WB8RGE	Al
03/16/24	1447Z	W2OOD	Carl
03/18/24	1431Z	KE8HKA	Matthew
03/19/24	2023Z	N1CVO	Shawn
03/22/24	1414Z	W4BZM	Michael
03/22/24	1440Z	AB3WG	David

The first three Treasure Hunt finishers in the inaugural NTS 2.0 Treasure Hunt were awarded a specially designed mug courtesy of the NTS 2.0 planning committee. This month's and future first place winners will be awarded one of these mugs. Second and third place finishers will receive a certificate.

If you missed the official Treasure Hunt announcement in the December 2023 issue of The NTS Letter, here is a recap: 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.

The Treasure Hunt will be taking a break for the month of April and be back in May, so check the May issue of The NTS Letter for the next question.

We had quite a few responses to our survey, and we will be trying to address those.

Thanks for the feedback. Please fill out our survey [here](#) to let us know how we are doing. Good luck!

Radiogram Portal Update

Efforts to implement and promote the NTS 2.0 Radiogram Portal are under way.

The brainchild of EchoLink inventor Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, the Radiogram Portal is a web-based tool designed to collect third-party messages for injection into the National Traffic System via the public internet.

There are currently 25 volunteers, called "Radiogrammers," who have the ability to log in and perform this task. Radiogrammers access a special area of the Portal and accept texts deposited by third parties in their respective regions for message origination by voice, CW, or digital modes. The third-party identities are authenticated via email to eliminate spam, and the message texts themselves are always screened by a licensed amateur prior to message origination.

Thus far, the system has not experienced a lot of traffic, but it's anticipated that this situation will change with the arrival of warmer weather, when amateurs will set up message tables at fairs and other public events.

The NTS 2.0 Advanced Access & Delivery working group is working on several key modifications to the Portal, such as adding email notification to Radiogrammers when traffic in their region is present on the Portal for pickup. The Access & Delivery working group, in conjunction with the Recruitment, Training, and Online Presence working group are continuing work on how to better promote and educate traffic handlers on the Portal.

If you'd like to learn more about this exciting new tool, visit the [Radiogram Portal Quick Start](#)

History of NTS by Bud Hippisley, W2RU

About the time you receive this issue of The NTS Letter you'll be able to find a history of NTS on our website. The history began a few years ago as a collaboration between Old Old Timers Club (OOTC) Executive Secretary Pip Sager, WB4FDT, and Bud Hippisley, W2RU, as a brief overview of more than a century of amateur radio traffic handling, written for the OOTC newsletter. Bud has expanded the history to include additional detail related to the creation and subsequent growth of NTS over the years. You can find the article at <https://nts2.arrl.org/nts-history/>

Becoming a Portal Radiogrammer

A Radiogrammer is a licensed Amateur in the US or Canada who is familiar with formal traffic-handling procedures and who would like to regularly check in to the Portal to pick up third-party messages for origination.

To be added to the Radiogrammer roster, please complete the application form at [this link](#). Once your application has been reviewed, a login username will be created for you, and you should soon receive an automated email from WordPress with a link that lets you set your permanent password.

Using the Portal

Once you're signed up, you can log into the Portal at any time at [this URL](#):

<https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram-messages/>

After you've signed in, you will see the Submitted Radiograms page, similar to the view below:

Message ID	Origin	Region	Submitted	Region	Status	Originate	Number	Action
2023-11-28-10:00:00	W4BFD/CT	1	US-ARIZONA-01	1	Submitted	View		View
2023-11-28-10:00:00	W4BFD/CT	1	US-ARIZONA-01	1	Submitted	View		View
2023-11-28-10:00:00	W4BFD/CT	1	US-ARIZONA-01	1	Submitted	View		View
2023-11-28-10:00:00	W4BFD/CT	1	US-ARIZONA-01	1	Submitted	View		View
2023-11-28-10:00:00	W4BFD/CT	1	US-ARIZONA-01	1	Submitted	View		View

By default, this list shows messages which have been submitted to the system (typically by non-hams), ready to be picked up for origination as formal traffic. Your task, as a Radiogrammer, is to check this list periodically for messages within your own NTS origin Region, pick them up, and originate them over Amateur Radio in the usual way as formal traffic, using voice, digital, or CW.

Best Practices: Traffic Deliveries and Numbered Radiograms

A fellow amateur recently recounted their experience of sending a radiogram to a friend. This radiogram included one of the ARRL numbered texts. The delivering ham read the message word for word as if he was sending it on a net, including the ARL number, the Xray and the Break (BT). You have probably heard of other such instances. Most of us are familiar with these numbered radiograms, which are generally designed to shorten radiogram content and therefore transmission time. They can be found [here](#), and can be downloaded as a handy reference. (Note: This version replaces the old list of numbered radiograms found in the FSD 3 form on the ARRL.org website.) This delivering ham was likely new and had not considered the recipient's understanding of the message. While he may have been taught how to format and send a radiogram, perhaps he had not been instructed in proper delivery. Make sure your training program includes delivery techniques, which are an important aspect of traffic handling. After all, we want to make a good impression on those we serve.

From the E-Mailbox

Inviting New Amateurs to Traffic Handling Via Radiogram

"Bulk traffic" is a phrase that makes some traffic handlers cringe. But what if we look at that phrase from the perspective of outreach? Don't we need a deeper traffic handling base in nearly every sector of the NTS? Don't we need a renewable resource to keep the NTS relevant and viable? What better way than to get a radiogram in the hands of an amateur while their license is fresh, and they are looking to see what role in the hobby suits them.

The Southwest Florida Traffic Net (SWFTN) has long enjoyed a close relationship with the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC), and consequently with the local Volunteer Examiners. For the last several years, we have been generating radiograms on the net using the FMARC club call and signature to new and upgraded amateurs. The radiogram is congratulatory (ARL FIFTY SIX) and asks them to join the SWFTN. Since we are a local VHF net on a wide area repeater, amateurs of any license class have a reasonably easy time of joining in. The object is to get them familiar with a radiogram, get them on the air and on an NTS net, and make them aware of the local club.

It has taken some time to pay dividends, but this year has seen results. The SWFTN has seen a noticeable uptick in new amateur call sign check-ins (think KO4s and KQ4s). Some of these are even taking the plunge and handling a radiogram or two. I would encourage net managers, especially on the local level, to forge a close relationship with your local clubs and VEs. Get a list of those newly minted amateurs, regardless of license class, and get a radiogram to them. Hopefully you can add a few new traffic handlers to our ranks in 2024.

A final thought: send a monthly net report as a QNC radiogram on your local net. The SWFTN also does this, and it gives everyone present on the first of each month an opportunity to copy at least one piece of traffic a month. This can also be a great tool for breaking the ice with a new amateur/traffic handler. It allows them to copy traffic without necessarily being in the spotlight. - SFL Section Traffic Manager Dave Sheppard, W2PAX

The Hit and Bounce CW Nets

Are you looking for some practice in message handling while also increasing your code speed? Do antenna restrictions prevent you from participating on the evening nets on 80 meters? Do you have traffic from the night before that you wish to get on its way before work or other commitments? Check out one of the Hit and Bounce traffic nets that meet every morning on 40 meters.

The Hit and Bounce Net (HBN) is one of the oldest CW traffic nets still in existence. It was formed in the 1930s on the premise that CW operators would like a morning CW net if they could quickly be in and out to continue their usual business. The net meets daily at 8:30 AM Eastern Time on 7112 kHz. While it is an independent net, participants generally clear traffic on various NTS nets. Regulars come primarily from the eastern seaboard from Florida to Maine and from as far west as Oklahoma and Texas. We have even seen stations from the west coast when propagation permitted.

If you are looking for a slower speed net to build your code speed and increase your confidence in CW traffic handling, HBN might be just what you're looking for. It meets daily at 7:30 AM, also on 7112 Khz. The earlier time might also work well for those who need to clear their traffic before heading off to work or getting on with their day. If you would like more information about these nets contact HBN manager Tom, W4KX, or Hit and Bounce Slow Net manager Bill, W1KX.

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

Even more than this on the
website.

Feel free to view, comment and
add.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

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

HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

Hurricane Watch Net
hwn.org

VOIP Hurricane Net
voipwx.net

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

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

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

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

Nets to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Simplex in case of Repeater failure.

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

NETS

VHF/UHF

- ◆**BARC Net**, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆**Down East Hospital Net**, 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon
Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone
N4HAJ, Traffic Net 2030 local
Fountain 444.425 MHz, 88.5 Tone
N4HAJ
- ◆Newport-145.450..... IRLP 8561 links to Columbia
- ◆Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone
- ◆Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone
- ◆444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone
- ◆Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone
- ◆Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.
- ◆Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 444.725-91.5 tone.
- ◆Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 444.725MHz, 91.5 tone
- ◆Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz, tone 100
- ◆Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ 220 Net, Wednesday 2000hrs, 224.840 MHz -1.6, PL 91.5
- ◆ PARC 147.255+ PL Tone 131.8 Thursday at 2000 hours Except day of meeting

HF

- Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.
- PARC Tuesday net 3.807Mhz SSB 1900 hours(EST)
- PARC Tuesday 7pm, 3807mHz or closes open freq.
- NTS CW Nets**
- ◆3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20wpm)
- ◆3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina
- National Traffic System**
- Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (ENCTN)
146.685 (146.085 in) MHz (PL 88.5)
2030E

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:

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Don Flowers of Lucama, former VP of the now-defunct Wilson Amateur Radio Association. One of our members, Derek Bonshor, KE4EGM, became a silent key about 2 1/2 years ago. He had a large collection of radio gear, and his widow needs to liquidate it asap. She's in an assisted care facility and has enlisted a family friend and myself to help find new homes for Derek's equipment.

If anyone in your club would be interested, I would be happy to send a list and arrange appointments to visit the collection.

Thanks for your consideration!

73,
Don Flowers
W4XTC
donflowers4nc@gmail.com

Posted May 2024

Ham Ads

Commercial Ad Rates

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

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

How to print a copy of your FCC License

by Jim, KV4SJ

To access an official copy of your license:

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

BARC on FACEBOOK

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

Facebook and Group details

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

Pitt County Repeater Association

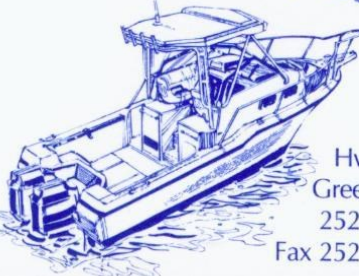
<http://www.pcra.us/>

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

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA
K4ZYD

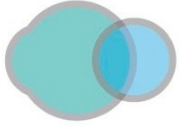
105-D East Victoria Ct. Phone (252) 321-6007
 Greenville, NC 27858 Fax (252) 321-2991

MARK'S MARINE, INC.



Mark Langley
 Mike Langley
KD4MTT

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



East Carolina Retina
 CONSULTANTS

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:

May 4-5 [7th Call Area QSO Party](#)
 May 4-5 [Indiana QSO Party](#)
 May 4-5 [Delaware QSO Party](#)
 May 4-5 [New England QSO Party](#)
 May 9 PARC Meeting 7pm
 May 10-11 [Golden Spike Event](#) Special Event Station 1500Z-2300Z
 May 11 VE exams at Beaufort County EOC, Contact Tom Kottke for appointment
 May 11 [Armed Forces Crossband Test](#)
 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
 Sept. 7-8 **Bike MS New Bern**

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:

May 4 Goldsboro NC, [UnFest](#) by the Wayne County Amateur Radio Association

May 11 [ARRL Nebraska State Convention](#), Lincoln, Nebraska

May 17 - 19 [Dayton Hamvention](#), hosting the ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio

May 31 - June 2 [SEA-PAC](#), hosting the ARRL North-western Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon

June 1 [Atlanta Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Georgia Section Convention, Marietta, Georgia

June 9 [BreezeShooters Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Butler, Pennsylvania

June 15 [ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest](#), Augusta, Maine

June 15 [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention](#), sponsoring the ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

July 13 Salisbury NC, [Firecracker Hamfest](#) sponsored by the Rowan County Amateur Radio Society

July 20 [51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest](#) sponsored by the Cary Amateur Radio Club

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