

Ham Chatter



Volume 55 Issue 5

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

May 2021

Editor, Mark Raysin, KG4GVJ

Email: hamchatter@w4amc.com

BARC in-person Meetings, Regular, Board and VE sessions cancelled until further notice.

**BARC's Next Meeting -
On ZOOM.
May 11, 2021, 7 PM**

The meeting will be on ZOOM. See front page article in the April, 2020 *Ham Chatter* for details on setting up and signing in. Contact Peter Van Houten, **N4PVH**, for details if you are having trouble setting up.

Program: *Gary Faust (N4PIR)* will present the "An Overview of Parks On The Air (POTA)" program and his experiences with this and going QRP with portable radios. See the [Blog Post here](#).

All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

Board Meeting - May 25, 2021
The meeting will be on ZOOM at 7:00 PM. All members invited.

BARC Emergency Communication Workgroup (BECW)
Zoom 7pm, May 18.

**New Used Items
now available in the
Ham Ads**

FT8 Accounts for Nearly Two-Thirds of HF Activity

Since zooming to prominence after its debut in mid-2017, the popular FT8 digital protocol has become the mode of choice for some 60% of HF operators, according to Club Log's latest [activity report](#) compiled by Michael Wells, G7VJR. FT8 is one of the protocols in the [WSJT-X](#) suite of free programs. Wells says FT8 activity level sits at nearly 85% on 6 meters. The dramatic FT8 upswing has come at the expense of phone, CW, RTTY, PSK, and other modes. Over the same period, the number of FT8 contacts logged each year per active call sign has continued to climb to about 60% between 2015 and 2021, with the most dramatic increase being nearly 29% in the past year. The use of all other modes has continued to flutter downward since the advent of FT8, which occupies vastly less spectrum than the

more traditional ham radio operating modes. (Click for larger image.)

Between 2015 and 2020, the number of contacts logged per day by Club Log users has trended steadily upward, regardless of mode. The report draws on data of more than 84,000 logs uploaded to the Club Log site -- some 730 million contacts in all.

Wells reported that in 2020, the "typical call sign" logged 620 CW contacts, 558 SSB contacts, and 372 data (digital) contacts. Five years later, the statistics were 500, 300, and 1,700, respectively.

ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) does not typically report this level of detail as far as mode usage is concerned, but the statistics available certainly confirm FT8's increasing popularity. The rocketing usage of FT8 over the past few years may be demonstrated most dramatically by a comparison in contacts-by-mode statistics between March 2017 and March

(Continued on page 6)

VE News

NEXT VE Testing session

Will be XXXXXXXX, 2021. Space is limited and reservations is required. Go to the ARRL website and lookup for testing in your neighborhood and lookup Gerald KN4CKL.

You can practice at "Ham Test Online"

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 in May:

05-09 KD4NGW Jack Cochran
05-20 W3LPR Louis Demko
05-26 N4PIR Gary Faust

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

Presentation Ideas Needed

Who do you want to see or hear giving a Presentation at the Meetings? Let Byron know. Email him at: bhighland@nc.rr.com

Missing out on seeing folks in person at the meetings?

Join us on ZOOM. We miss seeing you too. No camera on or for your computer? No problem. You can still be part of the experience without a camera. You can watch, listen and talk.

Login for BARC meeting on Zoom

Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, will be running Zoom for the meeting. To join, use his Zoom number, 699-723-8982. The password will be sent via email. If you have problems, call or email Peter or another club member.

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:



Please inform the Vice President and Ham Chatter of any changes.

Next VE Session

Regular SESSIONS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19?

Study material at:

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

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 is \$15.00 .
- ♦ • Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to
- ♦ FRN number is required. *
- ♦ A valid Email address will need to be provided.

Go to <<http://www.w4amc.com/barcinfo.html#VE>> for more information.

In This Issue

ARRL News	10
Next Meetings	1
Presidents Corner - N4PVH	3
Next VE Session - SEE ABOVE	3
Yabba-Dabba-Do from Mark	5
Other Club's News	5
ARES/AUXCOMM News	6
AUXCOMM Training	7
HAM ADS	27
NET's	10
County Hunting	19
AUXCOMM Matters	24
Board Minutes	
BARC Calendar of Events	28

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 * NON-COPY - RIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION * PRESIDENT - PETER VAN HOUTEN, N4PVH * 1ST VICE PRESIDENT - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY * 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - BYRON HIGHLAND, K4BMH * SECRETARY - BETH GONZALEZ, KN4FZB, * TREASURER - JIM LOWE, AC4JL, * BOARD MEMBER - DAVE WOOD, W4EJ * VE LIAISON - GARY CORIELL, KK4GC * PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR - VACANT * W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE, BILL DAWSON, WA4SLC * HAM CHATTER EDITOR - MARK RAYSIN, KG4GVJ * WEBMASTER - PETER VAN HOUTEN, N4PVH * EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE * OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC * CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. .

President's Corner, Peter Van Houten, N4PVH



.Dear Members:

Another month has passed and we are a little closer to freedom again. Of course, that would come a lot faster if everyone would get vaccinated all at once, that way the virus would not have time to mutate again. We may need a new vaccine if that happens.

The BARC Board and I have been talking about **FIELD DAY!** It is coming up soon and hopefully we will be in person rather than virtually like last year. We now have a courageous Field Day Chairperson: **Judy W3JUU**. I was thinking in my usual and unusual way and thought we should have an unusual Field Day to match the unusual year we have been having. So, I thought of "**Sadie Hawkins Day**" where the girls can ask the boys out and do not have to wait to be asked! I thought we should have our first "**Ladies Field Day**" where the Ladies of the club organize Field Day and the Gentlemen have to do what the Ladies want (within reason) and *make it so!* Let's all pitch in and have fun with this. I know that the Ladies are going to enjoy it for sure as at least 4 of them are already planning and plotting the event. I look forward to this event already.

We talked about a raffle of some kind to raise money for the club as we have done in the past. There is a new generator that we need for Field Day and other equipment that is needed. **Beth KN4FZB** has graciously volunteered to spearhead

this effort and will inform us of the items and how to purchase tickets to the raffle when it comes time.

We have two ailing generators that we have used in the past: one that is a big heavy and noisy one that probably still works but is a bear to move. The other one is the remaining Yamaha "suitcase" generator of about 2000 watts and it generates significant RF noise on the bands we like to use to communicate. It works fine for general purposes but we have finicky issues and need a quiet power generator that has no RF noise on our bands. It is not urgent but would be good to see if we could get a Honda 2000 watt generator to replace it possibly by Field Day.

Looking at EmComm, we are trying to figure out what digital modes should be included in the ARES trailer and what modes we should all get acquainted with so if the need arises, we are ready. It seems like the drawback with Winlink is the need for an expensive PACTOR3 modem (Editor's note: Winlink Express doesn't require a modem). This need has been supplanted by the software using "VARA" digital mode and using a sound card to do the modem functions. Winmore is another

President's Corner

Continued

er digital system based on the sound card but this seems to be going away replaced by VARA. Please check out the web and get more information on these systems at <http://Winlink.org>.

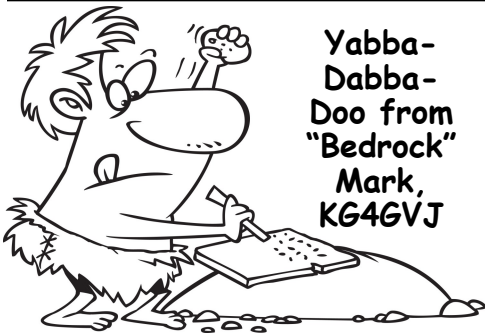
The other digital mode we need to check out as a group is AREDN Network which is like WiFi on steroids and is a mesh network of 2m, 70cm, 900MHz, 2.4/3.4/5.8 GHz RF network that can link computers together over a wide area. Let us all check this out and see if this is an advantage for us to have here. <https://www.arednmesh.org>

We looked at having a small portable repeater installed in the ARES trailer but have tabled the idea as other issues are more important. We would like to put a DMR radio in the trailer instead or other equipment. Please send comments and helpful ideas to info@w4amc.com .

As a club trying to be ready for the next emergency, we all need to do the free online ICS courses: 100,200,700,800. If we all had them under our belt, then we can be more useful and included in helping out in the next hurricane or other disaster. The board members have committed personally to getting this done by Field Day and would like all the members to do the same. "*Get your courses here!*" <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

The Monday night 2 Meter BARC Net needs Net Control station volunteers as recently Albert WA7FXB has had to resigned from doing the net reliably for many years. We thank him and Richard for their dedication and effort. Currently Richard W4JNC and Mark KG4GVJ are the only two who have volunteered so far. It is easy to do and the instructions (Net Preamble) is a downloadable PDF here: <https://w4amc.com/nets-repeaters/> There is also a BARC Net Log Work sheet that you can down load and print out to help track your contacts and run the net. It is a vital skill for any amateur to have and we all should try it out.

73 Peter, N4PVH



Welcome back folks to another new Month for all of us. I hope that the April Fools Story in last month's Newsletter had a few of you pausing a moment before realizing what it really was. I wanted to use some fake call signs, but someone most likely have them. Thank you Peter for going with it.

Well, lately I've been replacing older but still working radios with newer ones. So the used radios area is populated today. My wife is looking forward to them disappearing from the Guest Bedroom for some reason. So the next step after a short while will be Ebay.

I have a Dstar Radio from earlier and was curious about NC's supply of Dstar repeaters. Seems like they are mostly West of Raleigh, NC. When scanning from here, I think I only heard a repeater breaking squelch once. Well, Rats! I do I quick flip mthru the Repeater book, and it looks like there is more DMR in the state then Dstar.

Last Man Standing Event was a busy one. Very popular and the pileups were really something.



Help the Editor.

Do you have something to say or post? Want to right a article? Any ideas? Comments and notice's of help needed (Personal or club needs or activities. Can be BARC related or other club's). Have interesting photo's or articles? 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.

Other Club's Zoom Meetings and News

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) W4NC



Like us, FARC is also having to deal with the Virus these days. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month on ZOOM at 7:30 PM. The Log on is 294 418 122 with the Password being the club call in lower case.

ARES/Auxcomm training is on the 3rd Thursdays at 8:30 PM at 897-9792-5844.

Tech-Talk is on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM (informal) 549 621 524. Password is their Call sign.

From FARC website.

ARES/AUXCOMM News

Radio amateurs were invited to take part in a MARS exercise on 60 meters earlier this month in support of the US Department of Defense. 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 in-

teroperability exercises are conducted during the first full week of each month. More information [here](#). - ARRL News

Check out the [New England ARES Academy](#) channel on YouTube for a series of excellent training videos.

Comm Academy 2021 Live Event Held April 10-11 A Success -- Comm Academy 2021 has been archived and is available as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the [Comm Academy YouTube Channel](#). Subscribe to stay up to date on extra content, and future videos. In addition, all session slides and supporting material will be available shortly on the academy's [Archives Page](#). You can browse the archives of previous Comm Academy events there also. Continue the conversation year round in the [Cascadia Radio Shack](#). Organizers thanked attendees: "Thank you to all of our attendees! We

have had an amazing turnout and we couldn't be happier with how the event went."

[St. Vincent Radio Amateurs on Alert During Volcano Emergency](#). - ARRL News

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. Contact Peter or the Ham Chatter.

FT8 Continued

2018, when FT8 contact numbers in the hundreds shot to some 2.6 million contacts by the following year -- an increase of nearly 1 million percent.

From mid-2019 to mid-2020, FT8 usage appears to have slumped slightly to 50% before climbing back to 60%. FT8 usage peaked at just over 65% in late 2020 and has held steady at 60 - 65% since.

The same period saw SSB usage dip by 15%, CW activity by 10%, and RTTY by 29%. Introduced later, FT4, the contest mode of FT8, also showed an initial fast upward trajectory, before steadying at 5 - 8%.

Named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT, FT8 indicates the mode's eight-frequency shift-keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz.

From April 2021 ARRL Letter

Hawaiian Special Event

A June special event will commemorate Hawaii's King Kamehameha and the history of the 50th state. K6K will be on the air from 1600 UTC on June 11 until 0800 UTC the next day. Those working K6K are eligible to receive a full-color K6K: King Kamehameha Celebration certificate.



AUXCOMM Training

REQUIRED TRAINING

The State of North Carolina has mandated that all personnel performing any functions within any Emergency Operations Center, forward Command Post, or any Incident where Incident Command System (ICS) is used have completed basic ICS training. This training is available via the FEMA Learning Institute's on-line training system at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>. Training required is ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700 and ICS-800.

It is recommended taking the courses in the following order: ICS-700, ICS-800, ICS-100 and ICS-200. You will be asked to register for the courses and a certificate of training will be issued upon successful completion. Team members are requested to forward an electronic copy of their certificate's to the AuxComm - ARES EC at the email address below. Completion of these courses will permit AuxComm - ARES team members to perform Radio Operator at duties an EOC or other ICS Command location. Each course is self-paced and should take approximately 3 hours to complete on-line.

National Hurricane Conference Set for June 14 - 17

The [National Hurricane Conference](#) will take place June 14 - 17 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in the US, the Caribbean Basin, and the Pacific. The conference serves as a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

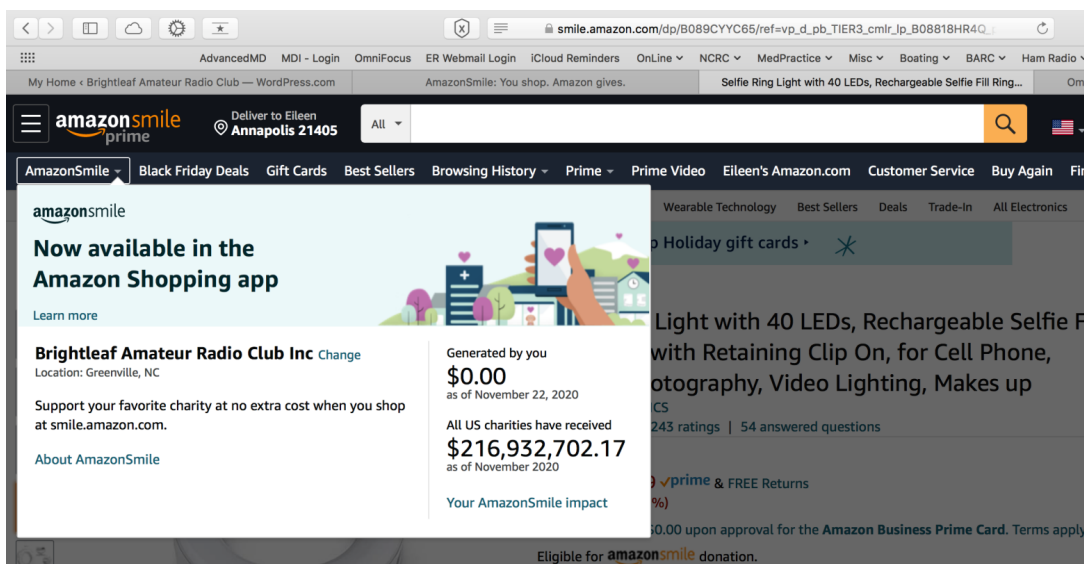
FEMA/Emergency Management Institute (EMI) training courses are offered, as well as workshops and training sessions on a wide range of topics for hurricane responders. General session speakers will include many of the nation's top experts in

hurricane-related issues. Radio amateurs involved in hurricane response are invited. [Register](#) online.

Amateur Radio Session Scheduled for Tuesday Afternoon

The traditional Amateur Radio Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 1:30 - 5 PM CDT and will be held virtually. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations, VoIP Hurricane Net, will moderate. The workshop will include Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Assistant Coordinator of the National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC.

Macedo has served as an Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator, and is currently Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section. He will focus on the National



Amazonsmile

Shop Amazon? Go to Amazonsmile and select "Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club" as your donation. Keep using this page and a percentage of your purchases will go toward your club.

Weather Service and the SKYWARN program and the relationship between Eastern Massachusetts ARES and the Massachusetts EMA and FEMA. Macedo has served as SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Boston/Norton since 1996.

National Hurricane Center's Annual WX4NHC Station Test is May 29

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](#)) in Miami will conduct its annual on-the-air test on Saturday, May 29, 1300 - 2100 UTC. The traditional exercise takes place each year ahead of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs June 1 - November 30. This hurricane season, WX4NHC operators plan to be working remotely again; the NHC will maintain all CDC pandemic protocols until the end of 2021. Only the chief meteorologist and staff may enter the building.

"Last year's season was an incredibly busy one, but the remote WX4NHC operations were successful, collecting many important reports via the Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, Winlink, the online hurricane report form, as well as many other means and modes," said WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9 - 15. Radio amateurs in hurricane-prone areas of the US should have an emergency plan in place before June 1. Now is the time, too, to harden and prepare your station for power outages. This means having multiple sources of back-up power, including batteries and, perhaps, a gas-powered generator. Test them now. Ensure your ability to take down and install antennas quickly and efficiently when storms threaten your area.

Hurricane Season 2021 nets to know include the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) on 14.325 and 7.268 MHz, the Caribbean Emergency Weather Net ([CEWN](#)) on 3.815 and 7.188 MHz, the Marine Maritime Services Net ([MMSN](#)) on 14.300 MHz, the [Intercontinental Net](#) on 14.300 MHz, and the Salvation Army

Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) on 14.260 MHz. -- Thanks to [The ARRL ARES Letter](#)

The Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net ([CEWN](#)) has been providing round-the-clock coverage during the La Soufriere volcanic eruption.

The island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and several neighboring islands are being affected by the disaster. When responding to disasters and emergencies such as this, the CEWN utilizes 3.815 MHz LSB and 7.188 MHz LSB. CEWN is requesting that radio amateurs not involved in the volcano response keep these frequencies clear. -- Thanks to *Ira Harris, VP2EIH*

ZCZC AG14
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 14 ARLB014
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 27, 2021
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB014 ARLB014 FCC Auto-Registration Feature for Exam Applicants to be Discontinued

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) amateur radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for all license transactions with the FCC.

Examinees must register in CORES and receive an FRN before exam day.

Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candidate's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled.

The CORES website can be accessed at:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do> .

MARS Announces Schedule of Dates for 60-Meter Interoperability

ZCZC AX02
QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 2 ARLX002
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 3, 2021
To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX002
ARLX002 MARS Announces Schedule of Dates for 60-Meter Interoperability

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) has announced dates in 2021 during which MARS members will operate on 60 meters for interoperability with the amateur radio community. Some dates coincide with quarterly Department of Defense Communications Exercises (COMEX).

All exercises will begin on channel 1 as the initial calling channel and move to other 60-meter working channels as may be appropriate.

"In addition to voice calls, I want to introduce passing ICS 213 messages in both voice and digital modes to enhance the overall interop experience," said US Army MARS Chief Paul English, WD8DBY.

English continues, "Our exercises will yield the frequencies to other scheduled exercises or mission activations, which may be called by other agencies for interop support (e.g., hurricane, wildfire, etc.). We regularly instruct MARS members to work cooperatively with the amateur radio community during the use of the 60-meter interop channels. We will continue to track our 60-meter usage and activities."

English said he plans to provide a quarterly usage report of 60-meter interoperability activities.

The interoperability schedule is as follows:

April 30 - May 6
Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-2



ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio



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.

May 7 - 8
Exercise: Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test
Location: CONUS

June 1 - 6
Exercise: Interop Outreach
Location CONUS

July 5 - 10
Exercise: Interop Outreach
Location CONUS

July 20 - 22
Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-3
Location: CONUS

August 2 - 8
Exercise: Interop Outreach
Location CONUS

September 1 - 6
Exercise: Interop Outreach
Location CONUS



FCC Not Yet Collecting \$35 Application Fee

The majority of the FCC's revised Part 97 rules (adopted in December 2020) establishing new application fees become effective on April 19, but the new amateur radio application fees will *not* become effective on April 19. The FCC announced on March 19 that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 filings, would not become effective until the "requisite notice has been provided to Congress, the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the effective date of such rules."

The \$35 fee, when it becomes effective, would apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications, as well as applications for a special temporary authority (STA) or a rule waiver. All fees will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing, email address, or name, are exempt.

It is expected that such fees will not become effective before summer 2021. The FCC has stated that amateurs will have advance warning of the actual effective date, because it will publish such date in the *Federal Register*.

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not have to collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the VE team as usual, and pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC via the [Fee Filer System](#) or [License Manager System](#). Somma said this information was provided in a [VE Newsletter](#) distributed this past week. "Further news and instructions will follow when we have them," she said.

From ARRL Letter 3/21/21

October 1 - 31
Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-4
Location: CONUS
NNNN

ARRL NEWS

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions. The schedule is subject to change.

Field Day 2021 Rules

ARRL announced that the special rules for Field Day 2020 will continue this year. There will be power limits on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations on Emergency Power). Class D Stations may work all other Field Day Station for points but both Class D and E stations are limited to 150 watts PEP output. Information about the rules for Field Day 2021 can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-extend-field-day-rule-waivers-from-2020-add-class-d-and-e-power-limit>.

Great Lakes Area Winlink Net Started

A new Great Lakes Winlink Net has been started 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 started on Wednesday, March 10, and each week on Wednesdays, 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)

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
Fountain 444.425 MHz, 88.5 Tone N4HAJ
- ◆Newport SkyWarn Tues. nights 2100E
Grifton-146.685-88.5 tone
- ◆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 146.685 MHz.
- ◆Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆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

HF

- Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.
- 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

BARC Email Addresses

- *Info@w4amc.com
to Peter Van Houten, N4PVH
- *Treasurer@w4amc.com
to Jim Lowe, AC4JL
- *Hamchatter@w4amc.com
to Mark Raysin, KG4GVJ
- *OSL-VE@w4amc.com
to Richard Campbell, W4JNC
- *Webmaster@w4amc.com
To Peter Van Houten, N4PVH



ARLX005 Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test Set for May 7 - 8

ZCZC AX05
QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 5 ARLX005
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 27, 2021
To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX005
ARLX005 Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test Set for May 7 - 8

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band Test, Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, in recognition of Armed Forces Day on May 15. The event is open to all radio amateurs. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this exercise, designed to include amateur radio and government radio operators alike.

The AFD Cross-Band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military and amateur radio stations, as authorized under FCC Part 97 rules. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise in which military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies being monitored.

The schedule of military/government stations taking part in the Armed Forces Day

Cross-Band Test and information on the AFD message is available on the MARS website at, <http://www.dodmars.org/home/armed-forces-day-2021>.

Complete the request form to obtain a QSL card at, <http://www.usarmymars.org/events>.

NNNN
/EX

Amateur Radio Credited with Rescue of Back-Country Hiker in Tennessee

A back-country hiker was rescued from Great Smoky Mountains National Park with assistance from amateur radio after she became exhausted on the trail and possibly dehydrated. A member of the hiking group on the park's Little River Trail, Tim Luttrell, KA9EBJ, put out a call on the evening of April 11 via the W4KEV linked VHF repeater in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, requesting assistance in extricating the injured member. No cell phone service was available at the location, and Luttrell's signal was spotty at times, owing to the mountainous terrain.

Responding was David Manuel, W5DJR, who obtained more information and called 911, which routed the call to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Emergency Medical Service (GSMNP EMS). The national park EMS relayed through Manuel a request for the group to continue down the trail as far as possible to shorten the rescue time.

A medic with the Park Service search-and-rescue team subsequently reached Manuel by telephone, who served to relay questions to Luttrell. Manuel contacted members of the hiker's family after Luttrell provided contact numbers. Manuel was asked to relay information for the family to arrange to meet in Cherokee, North Carolina, and be prepared to transport the distressed hiker's vehicle to her home.

Manuel got a call from Luttrell indicating "all

clear" shortly after 2 AM.

The injured hiker was hospitalized and required surgery and rehabilitation. ARRL Tennessee Section Manager Dave Thomas, KM4NYI, told ARRL that he'd learned another hiker in the same group was close to hypothermia by the time they were rescued.

Thomas will recognize each of the radio amateurs involved in the rescue with a Certificate of Merit during the ARRL Tennessee State Convention in Knoxville on June 19. [Read an expanded version.](#)

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

HF Noise Mitigation -- ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO / Thursday, May 6, at 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

An educational seminar to help both new and experienced HF operators who find themselves plagued with noise. We'll learn what "noise" is, discuss the various noise sources, and talk about how to mitigate those noises using a variety of techniques.

W1AW Antenna Farm -- W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q / Tuesday, May 18, at 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

Experience a bird's-eye view and description of the antennas used by W1AW for the station's scheduled transmissions and visiting operator activity. All the antennas used at W1AW are single-band Yagis. Viewers will also see the 5 GHz sector antennas that are part of W1AW's AREDN system.

Ask the Lab: How ARRL's Technical Information Service Can Help You -- ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI / Tuesday, June 8, at 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

Learn all about the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) and the expert ARRL Laboratory staff who answer thousands of questions each year from members. Get tips about projects, suggestions to

address various station installations, and help for some of your most pressing ham radio questions. You'll discover how to search ARRL's extensive Periodicals Archive, find helpful articles, read test reports, access technical forums, and find answers to technical questions beyond the Lab.

These Learning Network presentations are sponsored by Icom.

ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded [Learning Network](#) webinars. ARRL-affiliated radio clubs may also use the recordings as presentations for club meetings, mentoring new and current hams, and discussing amateur radio topics.

The ARRL Learning Network schedule is subject to change.

Announcements

The inaugural QRP ARCI "[Virtual FDIM](#)" (Four Days In May) will be held on May 22, the traditional Hamvention weekend. The virtual event includes day and evening lectures, plus a PDF of the proceedings. Registration is \$10 and closes on May 15.

Bob Wilson, N6TV, has updated his presentation, [Everything You Need To Know About USB and Serial Interfaces](#). His presentation includes the history and evolution of serial ports, chipsets, software tools for troubleshooting, and how to best utilize the built-in USB to the serial functionality built into some modern rigs to support CAT, CW keying, and RTTY keying.

- Since April 18, Belgian radio amateurs have been using the OS prefix instead of the usual ON, as announced by the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT). The special prefix recognizes World Amateur Radio Day on April 18

and the first transatlantic radio transmission on December 12, 1901.

[ARRL Field Day](#) is June 26 - 27. [Field Day rule waivers that were in place in 2020](#) are in place for 2021, and Classes D and E have a limit of 150 W PEP output.

Check out the [New England ARES Academy](#) channel on YouTube for a series of excellent training videos.

- A special event using the call sign W1B will celebrate the 100th anniversary of affiliation for the Providence Radio Association (W1OP) June 25 - 30.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN[®]) Development Team announces the [availability](#) of a new stable production release of their software, version 3.21.4.0. This version supports new devices from the MikroTik, TP-Link, GL.iNET, and Ubiquiti.

Upcoming ARRL Section, State, and Division Conventions

Many conventions and hamfests have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Check the [calendar of canceled events](#) on the ARRL website.

May 15 - 16 -- [The International DX Convention](#) (online)

May 20 - 22 -- [Dayton Hamvention](#) (online)

June 5 -- [ARRL Northwestern Division Convention](#) (SEA-PAC; online)

August 13 - 15 -- [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) (online)

August 21 - 22 -- ARRL [Southeastern Division Convention](#) (Huntsville Hamfest), Huntsville, Alabama

Find conventions and hamfests [in your area](#).



May 1st is Lei day in Hawaii

Welcome to CE0YHF, Jorge Jana Lagos

Say hello folks to the Ham Chatter's first out of country Subscriber. I'd admit, getting 3 request to subscribe to the Chatter in one day on April 1st had me wondering "April Fool's joke?". He heard of us by Radio and lives on Easter Island. Thank you for joining us Jorge.



YOTA Announces New Three-Times-a-Year Contest

"Team YOTA" of Youngsters on the Air in IARU Region 1 has announced it will sponsor a new contest, the [YOTA Contest](#). Open to all radio amateurs, it takes place three times a year and runs for just 12 hours. YOTA said the aim is to boost on-the-air activity by younger radio amateurs and to support YOTA. The contest will take place on different 12-hour windows on three Saturdays.

The opening event will be on May 22, 0800 - 1959 UTC. The other two in 2021 will be July 17, 1000 - 2159 UTC, and December 30, 1200 - 2359 UTC.

YOTA has established eight different operating categories, which include sub-categories for operators age 25 and younger, but operators of all ages may participate. Covering 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, the allowable modes will be CW and SSB.

The contest exchange will be the age of the participating operator. Different ages serve as score multipliers during the contest. Stations may work the same station once per band mode.

Contacts between the station's own continent are worth 1 point, while working DX is worth 3 points. The most points will be achieved by working the youngest operators. "The younger the operator, the more points one will get for the QSO," YOTA said.

The IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group is working with Hungary's IARU member-society MRASZ, the Hungarian Amateur Radio Society. MRASZ is providing a contest log robot, among other things.

[Submit](#) Cabrillo logs only. Contest winners will be announced once logs received have been checked in the various categories. Winners will be awarded with a YOTA Contest plaque.

The contest committee consists of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group: Philipp, DK6SP, chair; Markus, DL8GM, vice chair, and members Csaba, HA6PX, and Tomi, HA8RT.

[Contact](#) the YOTA Contest Committee with any questions or further information.

BARC Website Blog page Titles**See you at QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo!****Around the world in a Balloon.****Contest University Propagation Seminar 2021.****Winter Field day.****Podcast/Videos/webpages.****Let's look ahead.****John McCoy, K4KBB, SK 11/29/20.****10kHz signal on 40M.****Everyone Join Amazon Smile and support BARC.****The "Bubba" Potatoe gun.****Brightleaf Emergency Communications Workgroup (BECW)****A Nice Winter POTA Day****Podcast's****ARRL DX CX Contest And others**

Feel free to view, comment and add.

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

2021 Membership Dues Are past Due (Some changes)

It's that time of the year once again. Membership dues for BARC was due January 1. 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 • Life Members \$0.00 • New Hams: Free first year

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://www.qsl.net/w4amc/barc-application.html>.

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 Jim Lowe, AC4JL, Treasurer@w4amc.com or (252) 320-6545.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

Camp for Young Radio Amateurs in the Americas is a Go for this Summer

The long-awaited inaugural Youth on the Air ([YOTA](#)) camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America will go forward this July. The camp, set for July 11 - 16, will take place at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio, north of Cincinnati. The camp had to be postponed in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The ARRL Foundation is a contributing donor for 2021 YOTA Camp.

"The camp will comply with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines as set by the state of Ohio and the Centers for Disease Control, such as requiring the use of masks, distancing, and sanitizing stations," said Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG. "Attendees may be asked to take a COVID-19 test and/or self-quarantine prior to arrival, depending on the guidelines in place in July. The entire staff of the camp are either fully vaccinated or will finish the vaccine series by the end of April. Most volunteers have also indicated that they are fully vaccinated." Rapp said some activities may need to be modified to work with the COVID-19 precautions.

Rapp said that if the COVID-19 situation unexpectedly degrades in extreme fashion or the state declares that the camp is not safe to operate, the event will have to be postponed until 2022. "Due to the volatility of the public COVID-19 response, attendees are highly encouraged to avoid non-

refundable tickets for transportation to Cincinnati," he advised.

Twenty-eight campers from the US, Canada, Mexico, and Iceland have already signed up for the 30 available positions, but Youth on the Air will continue to accept [applications](#) through June 1.

It costs nothing to apply. The camp's fee of \$100 is not due until the applicant has been accepted. Should a potential camper not be able to afford the \$100 fee, he or she may apply for a scholarship. The Youth on the Air website has [camp details](#).

This would mark the first camp ever for young radio amateurs in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2. For additional information, [contact Rapp](#). [Read an expanded version](#).

Last Man Standing Certificates now available

Radio Amateur Helps Rescuers to Locate Lost Hiker

The keen and practiced eye of ARRL member Ben Kuo, AI6YR, helped to guide rescuers to a hiker stranded on a mountainside on April 12. Hiker Rene Compean, 45, had spent the night in a remote region of the Angeles National Forest after getting in a tough spot. After a concerned friend reported Compean missing on Monday, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department dispatched search-and-rescue (SAR) teams. Although amateur radio played no direct role in the rescue, Kuo cited his enthusiasm for technology and ham

LMS Special Event - March 2021

STAGE

KA6LMS/0

KA6LMS/1

KA6LMS/2

KA6LMS/3

KA6LMS/4

KA6LMS/5

KA6LMS/6

KA6LMS/7

KA6LMS/8

KA6LMS/9

K6L

K6M

K6S

W6L

W6M

W6S

DSTAR

DMR

FUSION

MOON

KA6LMS/VE3

KA6LMS/VE7

CONFIRMING QSO WITH KG4GVJ

SATELLITE

MULTI MODE

BOUNCE

radio satellites and for Summits on the Air (SOTA) for helping him to develop the skills he needed to guide searchers to the most appropriate area.

"This is actually very applicable to being a SOTA activator -- map, navigation skills," Kuo told ARRL. "Also, understanding RF propagation was key to this. The SAR teams were searching the other side of the mountain, where there is no cell signal." Kuo knew that from having hiked there before. As Kuo described it, Compean was found between four SOTA peaks.

SAR teams were deployed in the Mount Waterman area of the San Gabriel Mountains to find the hiker. According to the LA Sheriff's Department, a low-flying helicopter team spotted him Tuesday afternoon between Triplet Rocks and the east bump of Twin Peaks in the San Gabriel Mountains, and he was airlifted to safety with no serious injuries. Kuo pointed the rescuers to the likely search area by matching satellite images Compean had transmitted over Twitter.

Kuo [told](#) the *Los Angeles Times* that he has an odd hobby of looking at photos and determining where they had been taken. He was able to employ his skill to determine the hiker's likely location using a tiny photo the hiker posted on Twitter that shows his legs and the valley below. As the newspaper reported on April 15, "When [Kuo] saw the photo posted by the Sheriff's Department, he set to work pulling publicly available satellite images and matching them to the vegetation and terrain below the hiker's legs."

Kuo's eye was good. He sent authorities the GPS coordinates of the most likely area, and the rescue team found Compean less than a mile from that location.

As the *LA Times* reported, the area where Compean was located on steep slopes and very difficult to access, requiring advanced climbing skills. The Sheriff's Department credited Kuo with saving them hours of fruitless searching. Kuo said this was the first time he'd been involved in a rescue like this one.

COUNTY HUNTING INFORMATION

WARNING; County hunting is addictive. Many of the county hunters have been at it for many years. There are now many web sites with information to help with the journey.

CQ MAGAZINE

The first award is by CQ Magazine and they require confirmation of the counties with cards and/or eQSL. Rules can be found at <https://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_usa_ca_awards/cq_usa_ca_awards.html>.

MARAC

The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) is at <<http://www.marac.org/>>. They have over 50 possible awards that can be earned. Just because one has worked all 3077 counties once, there are many other awards so it really a never ending process. There are awards for SSB, CW, Digital and many activities. The rules for the awards are at <<http://www.marac.org/Award-rules.pdf>>. Some club members have written a special logging program, Logger, makes it easy to track your awards and a simple way to apply for the awards. The program costs \$20 and you get free updates very often as long as you are a member of MARAC. Dues are \$10 per year. MARAC uses the honor system for confirmation so cards or eQSL is not required

Former BARC member, Hollis, KC3X, Snow Hill, has 63 awards listed on the MARC database. <<http://marac.org/database/default.asp>> He only needs one more county to finish working them all for the 12th time, any mode. Someone is going to South Dakota in May to get it for him. He only needs 2 counties to finish working all for the 5th time on CW and received CW **County Hunter of the Year** award for 2020 voted on by the members. He has put out 449 last counties for others to name a few of his awards. He has been at it for a few years! As you can see, there are more counties to work after the CQ Magazine award.

SPOTTING

There is a web page just for spotting active mobiles when they are in a county. Sometimes fixed stations may be spotted in rare counties. Many State QSO party mobiles and fixed stations are spotted. The main county spotting web site is at <<https://ch.w6rk.com/>>. The nets are no longer active so check this page to see which mobiles are running a county. They mostly run on the old net frequencies.

COUNTY HUNTER WEB

The County Hunter Web is at <<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/index.php>>. Their valuable three special pages are used every day. First is the *Forum* that is very simple to navigate. Awards and trips are announced, and most anything else that county hunters are interested in. The Forum is at <<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayForum.php>>.

The *Special Needs* page at <<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayNeeds.php>> is where county hunters list their needed counties for many awards. A mobile will look over this page and plan their county hunting trip to help as many a possible to get the needed counties. Many times, a county hunter will see that a trip can be made to help someone to get that last county in a state or for the WBOW, #3077 to finish an award. That's **Whole Ball Of Wax!** The mobile may receive a plaque from the one they helped for their effort. The first time I put out a last county, I saw on the Special Needs page that a station in Canada needed Beaufort County, NC for the WBOW. Heard him on the air a couple of days later and got it for him,

The *Edit Your Needs* page <<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/EditNeeds.php>> is where you can list your needed counties for the different awards. You will have to get a password from the webmaster, K3IMC, to enter your needs. Also, the same password works to add comments in the Forum. The other pages are open to view.

The *Trips* page, <http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayTrips.php> is where the mobiles list the counties they plan to run. Also many mobiles that run State QSO parties list the counties they plan to run. It's a great source to find counties you may need.

COUNTY HUNTER DOT COM

Another great source for county hunters is *County Hunter Dot Com*. <http://www.countyhunter.com/> by Dennis Hall, KK7X. It is another excellent site with great info and links. For those that like to chase National and State parks, he has a link with the KFF number and the counties the parks are in. It is listed by KFF number. It's a great source even if you are just doing parks. It's at <http://countyhunter.com/Toplist/KFF-County.htm>.

WY7LL VIDEO

A very entertaining 20 minute video by Leo, WY7LL (SK), from Wyoming, is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcR1i9hj2ho>. It shows visually some of the web pages that I have listed above. Some of the links in the 2010 video are not correct because they have been changed. The correct ones are in this discussion. Also, CQ Magazine does not have the USACA records book now. It's easier to keep records on a computer with logging programs. Some of the screen shots shown have changed also. At the 1 minute 40 second mark, he displays the large 14x20 certificate for 25 seconds belonging to W4YDY. It was a surprise to see it come up the first time. He said, "I'll bet it was a surprise to you" the next time we talked. Sadly, Leo passed away in 2013 during the MARAC National Convention at Deadwood, SD, where he and his wife, WY7ML, were convention chairpersons.

COUNTY HUNTER NEWSLETTERS

Members of MARAC receive a monthly club newsletter, *The County Line Roadrunner*. They can be found at <http://www.marac.org/roadrunner.htm>.

Bob Voss, N4CD, Plano, TX, writes a monthly newsletter, *County Hunter Newsletter*, that covers county hunting and parks. He is the only Amateur Radio operator to travel to and transmit from all 3077 counties **TWO** times. Seventeen others have done it once. He is the top Activator for KFF parks in the USA. Bob's newsletters are from about 70 pages to a little over 100 pages long. He reports on his travels to counties and parks and some other reports that are sent to him by other mobile stations. He writes about other subjects such as his experience at hamfests and band conditions. County hunting is his main topic. Just email Bob at telegraphy@verizon.net and he will be happy to add you to his list. Also the newsletters are archived at <http://chnewsonline.com/> going back to January 2006. He has many contributors from county hunters, park activators, State party mobiles and fixed stations.

eQSL

Recently some have received the USACA award from CQ Magazine using eQSL for the confirmations. It's not very hard now to get the award with 500 counties using digital modes along with SSB and CW. FT8 has become the most active mode recently and eQSL is a great source because of the high rate of confirmations on eQSL and the fact that CQ Magazine accepts them. In my case, I have about 3900 eQSL confirmations that include USA and DX. My log shows I have 916 counties confirmed on FT8 on eQSL and eQSL shows 1162 confirmed using all modes, SSB, CW and digital. Don't need them since I already have the award. I don't expect anyone will be able to use eQSL for all 3077 counties. Several counties don't have anyone that use eQSL or many hams. Checked one county in South Dakota and there were 3 hams listed. Two had expired license and the one left was a Technician! Some county hunter mobiles use digital but none use eQSL since it is a big chore to upload them the way the system is set up now. At present, an upload would be required for each county and it would be very time consuming to load 3077 files to each eQSL and LoTW. I did it but I didn't run many counties, less the 15, at a session.

COUNTY HUNTER AWARD #1

The first Amateur Radio operator to work all counties and receive #1 in 1965 was Cliff Corne, Jr., K9EAB, (SK) from Peoria, IL. He did it from an iron lung. I contacted him on May 23, 1960 in a round table that lasted 50 minutes with 5 of us located in NE, MS, MI, IL and NC on 20 meters. I was living in Raleigh at that time. So I guess Cliff used my QSL card for Wake County. I still have his card in my collection.

MOBILE OPERATION WITH GPS

If you want to put out counties on a trip through several counties with your HF mobile station, you will probably want to use a GPS. But I haven't seen a GPS with county lines from the companies. I have a Garmin Nuvi. I found a web site that had add-ons for the Nuvi that included county lines. It was complicated to set up and I messed around off and on for several weeks trying to make it work. Finally I hit it and made a file that is less than 2 KB. Unzip it to a card and insert it in the Nuvi and the county lines appear. I put the info on my web site at <<https://www.qsl.net/w4ydy/hamlinks.html#County>>. Many county hunters have downloaded it and told me that it has saved them a lot of time. N4CD has put the link in his newsletter many times. Several county hunters have told me that it has saved them finding county lines many times. Many back roads don't have a county line sign.

WORKING THE MOBILES

When a mobile announces his county or it is spotted, you may hear many stations calling. Many times you can wait a little and call and have more luck if you are having trouble. It's hard for the mobile to pick out a station from the pileups. On SSB, it's easier for the mobile to pick out call signs if you only use your call sign without phonetics. It's also faster. Phonetics take up air time and cause more QRM. If the mobile has trouble with your call, he will ask for phonetics. Also, only put out your call sign one time on CW or SSB each time the mobile stands by for calls.

SOME ADVANTAGES OF WORKING COUNTIES

The biggest advantage of County Hunting is the hundreds of friends made over the years not only in the USA but in several countries. It's always a pleasure to help others get that needed county if you are mobile or a relay station.

Fixed stations can help with announcing and relaying for the weak mobile stations. When relaying, the helper gets the fixed station to send a signal report and if the mobile hears him, the mobile will send a report. If both hear the correct report, then it is a good contact. If a net starts up, a fixed station can be net control.

Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave, W4YDY



County hunters have fun! Leo, WY7LL (SK) was the editor of the introduction video. He is missed.



Kent, KL1V, Valdez, AK, was met in Pitt County by W4YDY. Kent was passing through in 2009 on his quest to transmit from all 3077 counties. He received the Ran All USA Award #11 in 2010.



Hollis, KC3X, 2020 CW County Hunter of the Year.

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

(ARRL Newsletter March 2021)

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

HF Noise Mitigation -- ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO, on Thursday, May 6 at 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

An educational seminar to help both new and experienced HF operators who find themselves plagued with noise. We'll learn what "noise" is, discuss the various noise sources, and talk about how to mitigate those noises using a variety of techniques.

W1AW Antenna Farm -- W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; Date To Be Determined

Experience a bird's-eye view and description of the antennas used by W1AW for the station's scheduled transmissions and visiting operator activity. All the antennas used at W1AW are single-band Yagis. Viewers will also see the 5 GHz sector antennas that are part of W1AW's AREDN system.

These Learning Network presentations are sponsored by Icom.

The [ARRL Learning Network](#) schedule is subject to change.

Spring Red Cross Emergency Communications Drill Set

The spring 2021 Red Cross Nationwide Emergency Communications Winlink Drill will be held on May 8, which is [World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2021](#). [Details and instructions](#) are available. [Sign up for email updates](#). Ahead of the May nationwide exercise, the American Red Cross (ARC) Emergency Communications training group will continue its Winlink Thursdays training sessions on March 11 and April 8.

FCC MATTERS

For many years, the FCC has established RF exposure limits for transmitting devices under the Commission's jurisdiction. As a practical matter, relatively few stations are required to exclude humans from close proximity to high power transmitters. TV and FM radio

stations may have to reduce their transmit power while tower crews are fixing strobe lights or making antenna repairs. Sometimes the RF field is so strong that the stations have to go off the air for the tower crews. I have seen video of a man climbing the mast atop the Empire State Building at 3 a.m. in order to minimize revenue loss when five tv stations and six FM stations have to be shut down because the RF exposure levels are exceeded.

Last week, the Commission announced that updated rules will go into effect on May 3, 2021. According to the ARRL, the new rules do not set new standards but no longer categorically exempt amateur radio licensees from calculating the RF exposure associated with their antennas. No later than May 3, 2023, licensees should have completed the needed calculations. Because amateur transmitters generally do not operate at very high power levels, and because humans are not typically in close proximity to antennas while radiating a signal, it is unlikely that the typical ham will have to create an exclusion zone near their antennas while transmitting.

The FCC has prepared guidance documents which implement the rules.

ARRL's RF Safety Committee is also developing instructions to help amateur operators complete the required assessment.

Note that although the assessments for existing transmitters must be completed by May 3, 2023, any new station or a station that is modified in a way that affects exposure limits must come into compliance beginning on May 3, 2021. Information on this topic can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/updated-radio-frequency-exposure-rules-become-effective-on-may-3>

From ARRL April newsletter

RF Exposure and You is available in PDF format for free download from ARRL at, <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/28RFSafety.pdf>

ARRL also has an RF Safety page on its website at, <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>.

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

MARS is a Not Always an Obvious Resource in Emergencies



The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a US Department of Defense adjunct comprised of radio amateurs that's not always the first resource that comes to mind in an emergency, even within the military. In a [recent article](#) in *SIGNAL*, US Marine Corps Major Brian Kerg exhorts the brass to more fully exploit amateur radio in general, and MARS in particular, for use in times of distress.

"As future threats continue to evolve, day-to-day communications architectures will become more unreliable in times of crisis," Kerg concludes. "It is imperative that joint communications planners turn to amateurs to remain experts. By building awareness of how to employ MARS and training military radio operators in ham radio technique, leaders will ensure their planners are proactively leveraging the organic amateur communications networks that abound across the globe."

In his article, Kerg -- who does not appear to be a radio amateur -- attempts to raise the amateur radio consciousness level of military planners who are deciding how to address an emergency. He characterizes ham radio as a robust and readily available communications resource when things go south.

"And they are often every bit the expert as professional military communicators and signalmen. The term 'amateur' refers not to their technical acumen but to the private, nonbusiness use of allocated radio bands by those possessing amateur radio licenses," Kerg points out. He notes that while voice communication may be the most common ham radio mode, operators are skilled at sending and receiving text, images, and data.

With MARS, the Defense Department has a mechanism employing amateur radio operators who can actively support military operations. "Notably, military aircrews remain capable of using MARS phone patches through high-frequency radios when satellite communications are unavailable," he writes.

Kerg says the downside is that the use of MARS "remains a largely unknown or niche capability, one that is usually stumbled upon by planners in the moment of crisis and then poorly implemented." He said awareness of MARS was not helped when the Navy and Marine Corps MARS were shuttered in 2015, leaving only Army and Air Force MARS.

Military planners should focus on raising awareness of MARS and of amateur radio by making it available through training and other activities, Kerg said. Contesting could be a component. "The wide variety of annual amateur radio competitions can further incentivize military operators to improve their amateur radio skills while inevitably improving proficiency in their mission-essential tasks," he wrote.

Kerg currently serves as the fleet amphibious communications officer, US Fleet Forces Command.

ARRL Newsletter

INTERESTING MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

a. A group of Down East hams (in Pamlico County) launched a balloon on Monday, April 12. At 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning, the balloon had travelled about 20% of the distance across the Atlantic Ocean, headed east toward Europe or Africa, wherever the winds aloft take it. The balloon, NC4ES-2, is now out over the Atlantic Ocean at 43,000 feet.

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, it appeared to be about midway between Ocracoke and Portugal. The balloon can be tracked at <https://aprs.fi/#!mt=roadmap&z=11&call=a%2FNC4ES-2&timerange=3600&tail=3600>.

Congrats go out to Matt (WU2V) and Lor (W3QA) for drawing attention to amateur radio, ballooning and APRS with this venture.

b. This past weekend I spent a lot of time watching the Comm Academy 2021 which has put on annually by a group in the Pacific Northwest.

This year, the event was held virtually. There were several very interesting presentations that are worth your time.

i. Bonding and Grounding, done by Ward Silver, was very interest focused on best practices for bonding HF radio equipment, towers, antennas and related equipment in your shack and car. An hour spent watching the video could save you weeks of headaches due to a nearby lightning strike or damage to vehicle computers. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCrHJdzY3B4&t=75s>.

ii. The Holiday Farm Fire caused a wide area loss of internet and phone service when fire burned over 23 miles of fiber optic cable and a telephone central

office. This session covered how a group of ham IT geeks improvised a solution using Ubiquiti microwave links to bring internet into the isolated community where all normal communications were destroyed.

This was a very interesting video which should get some of us thinking about how we could devise solutions on the fly to problems we never expected to encounter. Cell sites on Wheels (COWS) were often overloaded due to limited satellite bandwidth. Burner phones sometimes would not work with one or other Cellco portable towers. What does a community do when the telco central office is destroyed and cannot be replaced for six months? Even when temporary facilities were put in service, they were frequently overloaded as people wanted to return to their normal habits and connect to Netflix.

There are a number of lessons to be learned here. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYKutRRrr8Y&t=129s>

iii. Scott Currie, NS7C, gave an interesting discussion on how Winlink, DMR and other digital modes are being used in the Pacific Northwest when the Internet fails. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmUSwVsFFkQ>

There were several other presentations as well that focused on a common question which is, "how do we recover when normal communications are disrupted?"

Taken as a group, the video sessions were eye-opening. Several dealt with situations which were so large and devastating that even Tech Giants like ATT and Verizon were hard pressed to provide or restore service in a couple of days.

EmComm experts will be well advised to consider some of the challenges that had to be overcome. And, things invariably went better for groups that had already been working together and were trusted partners with the Emergency Management community.

I continue to be surprised in talking to SM's and SEC's across the country who have no idea of who their state emergency

management leaders and complain that EM fails to include them in their plans. Mike Harris, Deputy SWIC in Tennessee, said, "during bad times, we work with folks we work with in good times." Too often hams fail to develop relationships with EM and then wonder why they are not called upon in emergencies.

From Marv, WA4NC
Boone
Wa4nc@arrl.net
(Newsletter April 2021)

Dayton Hamvention® has information about online activities over Hamvention weekend, May 20 - 22. Visit the [Hamvention website](#) for details.

[Kanga Kits](#) has closed, as its owners are retiring and putting the business up for sale.

2021 is the centennial of the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL).

The special anniversary call sign OH100SRAL is being used throughout the year. Working at least 100 Finnish stations during 2021 qualifies the operator for an award.

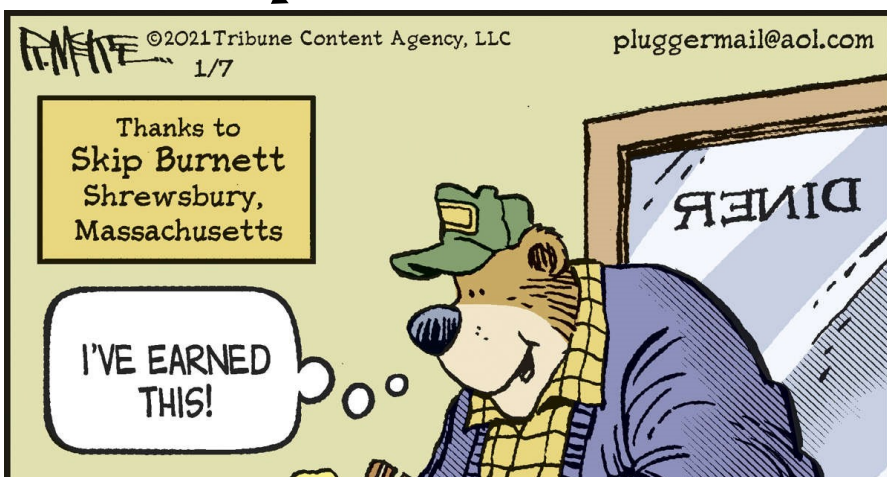
Announcements

The RadFXSat-2 Fox 1-E satellite beacon on 435.750 MHz has not been heard, and AMSAT asks the worldwide amateur satellite community to listen for the BPSK telemetry. Visit [AMSAT](#) for more information. RadFXSat-2 was launched on January 17. Randy Payne, K4EZM, of Sebring, Florida, has been named the [2020 White Award](#) recipient. Established in 2016 in honor of retired, long-time ARRL Headquarters staffer and current Florida resident Ellen White, W1YL, the White Award is given to the radio amateur who has made the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

- During the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY Contest, members of the Contest Group Du Quebec will be operating XM2X as a "multi-multi-distributed station." QSL via LoTW.

Japanese Antarctica Research Expedition (JARL) station 8J1RL will be active from February 2021 to January 2022 with Takumi, JG3PLH, at the helm. 8J1RL is located at the Japanese Syowa Station on East Ongul Island in eastern Antarctica. Activity will be on SSB, CW, and FT8, 7 - 28 MHz.

Chuckle, Me and new Radio



VERY IMPORTANT CORONA VIRUS INFORMATION

WEAR ANY MASK while outside in public AT ALL TIMES (N95, surgical mask or bandanna in that order of effectiveness) as they all reduce the spread of the virus. The data shows that there is a 98% reduction in transmission of the virus if you wash your hands at least 4x a day and wear a mask. Lets ALL DO THIS for the sake of the country!!!"

AUXCOMM MATTERS

Greg Hauser, W3FIE, North Carolina Statewide Interoperability Coordinator with NCEM, pointed out to hams in a meeting held Saturday that there are many ways in which hams can help Emergency Management.

Auxcomm is not just a state-level program and NC Auxcomm is increasingly being integrated into local emergency operations plans, sometimes supporting Red Cross, sometimes playing a role in the Community Emergency Response Program and sometimes supporting local public service activities. How amateur radio is used by local emergency management is dependent upon the relationship that hams have built with local EM.

You should know that key to becoming part of becoming a part of the local emergency response organization is getting trained so that you understand how the Incident Command System works and the role of amateur radio in an ICS structure.

Although it is not yet clear when the Auxcomm training will once resume, (possibly in July), everyone who wants to take the Auxcomm course needs to complete the current version of the on-line FEMA courses which are prerequisites to the Auxcomm course. Each of the online courses (100, 200, 700 and 800) takes about an hour to complete. Use a rainy afternoon to get a head start on completing the prerequisites. The courses can be completed by going to <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

Approximately 80 people who have already completed the Auxcomm course are currently working on the Position Task Book which is required if you want to become a state-credentialed Auxcomm operator. Tom Brown, Auxcomm Leader, reports that it is likely that twenty persons will submit their PTB's for review and potential approval at the next quarterly meeting of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee.

North Carolina is divided into three areas that match the NCEM Branches:

East, Central and West. Contact the Deputy State Coordinator for your Branch and learn about training opportunities, ways in which you can help in your home county, your region or the state and opportunities to move forward on your PTB.

East- Ed Wafford, W4EDW, edwafford@protonmail.com

Central -Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, nc4va@nc.rr.com

West -Bob Rodgers, KC4TVO, RRODGERS@oakcreekcorp.com

From: March 28 NC Newsletter, Marv, WA4NC
NC Section Manager

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9-15, 2021

Be ready for hurricane season. Determine your personal hurricane risk, find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, and review/update insurance policies. Make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and plan how you will prepare your home. If you live in hurricane-prone areas, you are encouraged to complete these [simple preparations](#) before hurricane season begins on June 1. Adjust any preparedness actions based on the latest [health and safety guidelines from the CDC](#) and local health officials.

Now is the time to harden and prepare your station for power outages: have multiple sources of backup power including batteries and gas-powered generators. Test them now. Ensure your ability to take down and put back up antennas quickly and efficiently when storms threaten your area.

Hurricane Season 2021: 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. Disseminates 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*

May 8 is World Red Cross Day: Participate in Nationwide Spring Drill

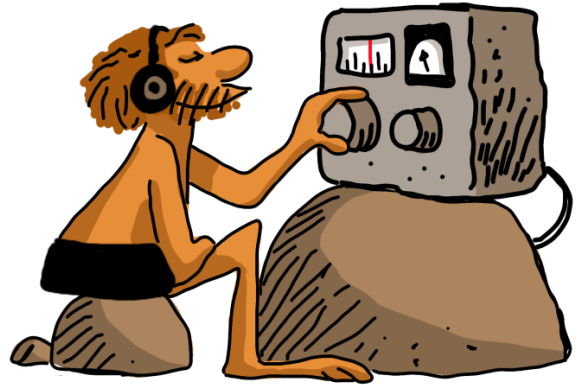
The [Red Cross Emergency Communication Training Group](#) is holding its nationwide Spring Drill on World Red Cross Day, May 8. Individuals are invited to participate.

In February 2020, an organizing phone call was held with a dozen Red Cross-affiliated radio amateurs to consider creating a nationwide radio drill. By May, the group had more than 100 people on the team calls, and more than 1,000 participated in that first Spring Drill. Synthesizing lessons-learned from the first event, the managing group simplified and narrowed the focus for a Fall Drill last November, choosing to concentrate on Winlink involvement.

Red Cross forms are built in as templates in Winlink Express, and hams using Winlink can also send messages to non-hams. The group's goal for the Fall Drill was to attract as many hams as possible using Winlink at a basic level. Over 1700 participated from over 40 states and a few foreign countries.

For next month's Spring '21 Drill, the goal is the same, but now the bar will be raised in [Winlink Proficiency](#), and, being World Red Cross Day, more international participation will be solicited. The group has been holding regular Winlink training sessions, with the last one occurring April 8. [Winlink Thursdays](#) have been attracting over 500 participants. - *ARC Emergency Communications Training Group*

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:

Icom IC-706 with Manual, HF+2Mtr, no Microphone. \$250

Yaesu FT-817ND, no Microphone, with Nifty Guide, Programming software, Signalink, LDG Z-817 Tuner, LnRPrecision Antenna EF-10/20/40 MK2, Power supply/charger. \$550

Icom 2100H, 2mtr Mobil, microphone, Programming software. \$150.00

Kenwood TM-D700A, 2 band 2m 40cm APRS radio with microphone, USB to serial cord, Manuals and programming software. \$250

MFJ-906 6mtr Tuner \$80.

Heathkit HW-8 Radio (CW) with Manual \$100.

Shipping if needed, not included in prices.

Contact: Mark, KG4GVJ, Cell: 252-814-3557, Email: Mark-driedgrape@Gmail.com

Tytera MD 380 UHF DMR & Analog HT, includes one battery, and charger, and box.
Programmed, but buyer will need to get an DMR ID, and change the ID in the HT
Asking \$75.00

Bernard Nobles WA4MOK
wa4mok@embarqmail.com

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.**

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!**

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/lieManager/login.jsp](https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/lieManager/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 MEMBERS

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices, please send an email to hamchatter@w4amc.com so I can get your email address. I know some have said they do not receive them but haven't sent me their address. You may miss some important BARC notices. - *KG4GVJ and W4YDY*

BARC on FACEBOOK

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

Facebook and Group details

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

Pitt County Repeater Association

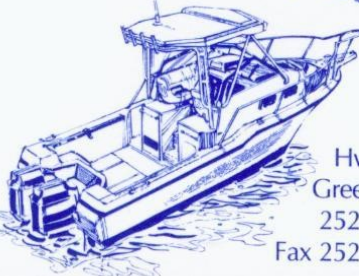
<http://www.pcra.us/>

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>

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 Above 902 Microwave Spring Sprint (CW, phone)
 FISTS Saturday Sprint (CW)
 AGCW QRP/QRP Party (CW)

May 1/2 Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest (CW, phone)
 10-10 International Spring Contest, CW
 ARI International DX Contest (CW, phone)
 7th Call Area QSO Party (CW, phone)
 Indiana QSO Party (CW, phone)
 Delaware QSO Party (CW, phone, digital)
 F9AA Cup (digital)
 New England QSO Party (CW, phone, digital)

May 1-3 K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW, 20 WPM max)

May 3 OK1WC Memorial (CW)

May 4 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

May 9 [Mothers day](#)

May 11 **Regular Meeting-7PM**

May 18 **BARC Emergency (BECW)**

May 25 **Board Meeting - 7PM**

May 29 Ham Chatter **Deadline**

June 8 **Regular Meeting - 7PM**

June 11/13 **June VHF Contest**

June 15 **BARC Emergency (BECW)**

June 25/26 **Field Day 2021**

June 29 **Board Meeting - 7PM**

July 3 Ham Chatter **Deadline**

July 10/11 **IARU HF World Championship**

July 13 **Regular Meeting - 7PM**

July 20 **BARC Emergency (BECW)**

July 27 **Regular Board Meeting—7PM**

July 31 Ham Chatter **Deadline**

Sept. 11-12 **New Bern MS Bike 2021 Rough date**

Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

BARC Emergency Communication Workgroup -
 3rd Tuesday @ 7pm

Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

Contest Calendar: All the rules:

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

Other events:

- May 4 -- ARS Spartan Sprint (CW)

- May 4 -- RTTYops Weeksprint

- May 4 - 5 -- MIE 33 Contest (CW, phone)

- May 5 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW)

- May 5 -- VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest

- May 5 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW)

- May 5 -- RSGB FT4 Contest Series

- May 6 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW)

- May 6 -- RTTYops Weeksprint

- May 6 -- NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest (CW, phone)

- May 6 -- SKCC Sprint Europe (CW)

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

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