

# Ham Chatter



Volume 38 Issue 3

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

March 2004

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## Service Comes in 'Waves' for ECU's Bill Dawson

*(Editor's note: Thanks to "Pieces of Eight", the newspaper for faculty and staff of East Carolina University, Editor, Joy Holster, for permission to reprint this article. - W4YDY)*

By Judy Currin

As part of a Pieces of Eight series honoring exceptional ECU volunteers, the Recognition and Rewards Committee of the ECU Chancellor's Staff Senate recognizes Bill Dawson.

While Bill Dawson's neighbors head to the supermarket when severe weather threatens, he is on the way to the emergency communications center in Kinston.

Dawson, an ECU electronics technician, is also a licensed amateur radio operator. Called in by the North Caro-

*(Continued on page 7)*



Bill Dawson, WA4SLC

## The Special Olympics of North Carolina Need OUR Help

The Special Olympics of North Carolina (SONC) is bringing a basketball tournament to Greenville March 19-21, 2004. Local hams have the unique opportunity to provide support to this exciting event during the games on Saturday and Sunday. Event organizers have asked ham radio to provide primary communications for the competitions, and we need YOUR help.

A Games Management Team Meeting was held Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> at Boyd Lee Park in Greenville. Doug Ferris, K4ROK, Dave Pulver, KG4CZW, Byron Highland, K4BMH, and Mike Langley, KD4MTT represented Pitt County ARES and BARC.

There will be 10 venues in and around Greenville. Competitions will be held at JH Rose High, CM Eppes Middle, E B Aycock Middle, D H Conley High, South Central High and Wellcome Middle schools; Minges Coliseum; Pitt Community College; Eppes Recreation Center and the H. Boyd Lee Park. The Special Olympics committee will be headquartered at the Hilton.

Volunteers are needed to relay information between the venues and headquarters and about three mobile operators will be needed to shadow event staff. Most sites can be operated with just an HT, but plans are being made to operate cross-band repeat in the fringe areas if necessary. Refreshments and lunch will be provided for volunteers at each site and SONC will provide tee shirts for communicators for ease of identification.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Next Meeting March 9

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next regular meeting on March 9 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 at 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Tom Parsons, W4TEP, will have a program about the Red Cross. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting is set for March 30 at 7:30. The meeting is open to all members.*

## Annual Dues are Due!

**BARC dues were due on January 1, 2004.**

On page 5 of the January *Ham Chatter*, there is an application for membership. Please fill it out and turn it in with your dues. BARC needs it to keep records up to date. For those on the Internet, go to the BARC web site and look in the *CONTENTS* and click on "BARC Application Form" for the HTML version or "PDF" for the PDF version. Print, complete and turn it in with your dues.

If you are not sure you owe dues for this year, contact John McCoy, K4KBB, for the information. Some joined very late in the year and will not be required to pay again for 2004.

Those that have not paid by the last weekend in March will be dropped from the roster to be printed in April. Also, *Ham Chatter* will be discontinued and email notifications will cease.

**If there is a RED DOT on your mailing label, check to be sure you have paid.**

# President's Corner - Mike, KD4MTT

What's the old adage, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb? Well, this March is starting like a lamb with temps in the 70's and only slight chances of rain. It kind of reminds me of 1984. That March went out with most of eastern North Carolina strewn with tornado debris. KEEP AN EYE TO THE SKY!

Things are beginning to get busy for BARC members. We just participated in the NCQSO party using the VOA site C antennas. The club raffle is getting underway. ARES activity includes the Special Olympics on the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Basic SKY-WARN training is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. And we are in the planning stages for the Teddy Bear walk, Dogwood Festival, spring camporee and, of course, Field Day. For these activities to be a success it will

take the support and participation of many club members. Can we count on you?

I know that everyone is busy, but please take some time to think about the club. What activities are you interested in? What changes would you like to make in the way we do things? How can we improve the club and attract more people to participate in the club and ham radio? While we have "officers" to lead the club, it belongs to all of us. Share your ideas with us at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at the VFW on Mumford Road. Look forward to seeing you there.

## HAM RADIO - TALK IT UP!

*Mike, KD4MTT*

# The Special Olympics of North Carolina Need OUR Help

*(Continued from page 1)*

Mobile operators will provide support for event staff. SONC has asked for radio-equipped vehicles with hams that know the area to drive staff between the venues and other local points. Fuel will be provided by SONC.

**How can you help?** A minimum of one ham is needed for each venue and the Hilton. If enough people volunteer, two operators may be assigned to each location for better coverage and relief.

Would like to meet some great athletes and watch them give their all, while honing your communication skills? Volunteer for one or both days of the tournament. If you don't have an HT but would like to help, you can be paired with another operator with one.

Get your name on the list by sending an email to or . Don't have email? Call 758-3309 during the workday and ask for Mike. Signup sheets will also be available at the BARC meetings. Let's have some fun and hone our skills while supporting a great organization. A child with a smile What greater reward is there? - KD4MTT



Above Byron, K4BMH, and Richard, KG4SNE, operate in the NCQSO party at VOA Site C. Right is Peter, KG4WEZ, Dave, KV4CN, and Mike, KD4MTT. Below them is a pretty sunset at Site C. Photos by Dan Drake, KG4ISO



Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **March**.

- 7 W3OHF Winfred Crockett
- 9 WB4RQG Leland Tucker
- 9 NW4S Jeff Wainwright
- 14 KD4MTR James Hoover
- 17 KG4CZV David Pulver
- 20 K4MHM Murray Merner

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - W4YDY

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

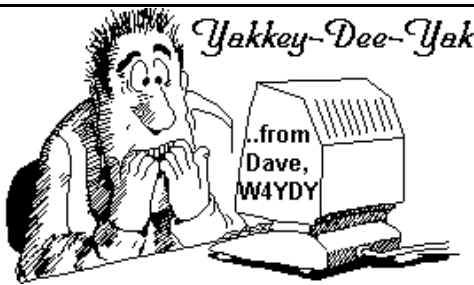
Gail Manning, wife of Mac Manning, KD4AFL

Bernice Turnage, WA4SLD



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## Down East Hamfest - March 21, 2004

The 14th annual Down East Hamfest (an ARRL sanctioned hamfest) will be held Sunday March 21, 2004 at the Lenoir County Fairgrounds located on NC 11 south of Kinston, NC (Follow the signs from US 70 East). The doors open at 8 AM Talk in is on 146.085 / 146.685 repeater.

Advance Tickets are \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Tickets at the door are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$12.00.

Walk-ins ONLY - FCC Exams begin at 11 AM. Bring the original and a copy of your license or certificate (if applicable).

Tables are \$10.00 each Electrical Outlets are \$5.00 each

VENDOR INQUIRIES WELCOME!

Information, Pre-Registration Tickets, Tables and Electrical Outlet requests should be mailed with a SASE to:

Down East Hamfest, Inc., P. O. Box 1778, Kinston, NC 28503  
MUST be received by March 13, 2004.

Include NAME, CALL SIGN, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, AREA CODE and TELEPHONE NUMBER.

**\*\*These requests MUST be received by March 13, 2004\*\*** Tables are Pre-Registration and are on a First Come-First Serve basis. Locations are assigned by the Hamfest.

NEW: Check out our website at [www.downeasthamfest.org](http://www.downeasthamfest.org)

The building is heated. Tailgating is permitted inside the fence with a TWO (2) TABLE MAXIMUM.

Prize List: 1st; HF Transceiver; 2nd; VHF/UHF Mobile; 3rd; VHF/UHF Handheld. Pre-Registration; VHF/UHF Handheld. You do not have to be present to win the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Pre-Registration prizes.

Hourly Prizes - You MUST be present to win.

Questions: Jean Dupree KB4OHX (252) 523-2703 or Byron Highland, K4BMH (252) 753-2895

Pre-Registration tickets also available from Hamfest Association Members.

In addition to the above address, I will be happy to assist anyone with tickets. Please send your request with a check or money order made payable to Down East Hamfest Association with SASE to:

Byron Highland K4BMH  
3753 Thorne Drive  
Farmville, NC 27828-9314

There are a lot of activities coming in the next few weeks and months for the BARC members to become involved. Many will be needed for the Special Olympics of North Carolina (SONC) activities on March 19 to March 21. It is a great opportunity for BARC and Amateur Radio to show the community that our communications are effective for public service and emergencies. Please contact Doug Ferris, K4ROK, or Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

On April 17, the International Festival in Greenville will convene and BARC usually has a station set up for operation that day. The following week, the Dogwood Festival in Farmville starts April 23 and last 3 days. On Sunday, April 25, the Holland Grill will be raffled and the winning ticket will be picked at the Dogwood Festival.

As usual on the last weekend in June, ARRL Field Day will be in full swing. It has the largest participation of club members. Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, BARC Field Day chairman, already has plans underway. He will be asking for your help and he will have some reports of plans so far starting at the next club meeting. - W4YDY

### NCS HELP NEEDED!

Byron Highland, K4BMH, is asking for your help with the BARC and AREC nets on Monday nights. He needs more volunteers for Net Control Stations (NCS). If you can help, please let him know. The formats can be found on the BARC web site home page.

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# Family Disaster Planning

Last month we asked you to start thinking about preparing a Family Disaster Plan. As a refresher let's cover the four major steps:

1. Understanding what could happen
2. Creating an Emergency/Disaster Plan
3. The preparedness checklist: What you need to know
4. Maintaining your plan

Did you take the time to ponder the question **what types of disasters are likely to occur in your area?** I feel certain that everyone did, but just in case we missed someone let's review the basics.

To "Understand What Could Happen" we must first consider where we live. Even short time residents of Eastern North Carolina are familiar with its penchant for hurricanes. Jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean farther than our southern neighbors seems to draw a bullseye for them. Isabel, the most recent, did significant damage to communities east of Greenville. While hurricanes get most of the press, they are just one type of disaster we need to plan for.

Imagine leaving for church on Sunday morning and not being allowed to return home. In 1979 there was an explosion at the Coastal Chemical Co. on Evans Street extension in Greenville. On an otherwise quiet Sunday many residents found themselves either being evacuated from their homes or unable to return to

them because of the cloud of toxic smoke covering the area. Almost every emergency agency in the county was involved. Luckily, most were allowed to return home in a short time.

March 28, 1984 brought us a different threat. As darkness approached, and many televisions were focused on political debates, a band of tornadoes focused its power on North Carolina's southern, central and coastal plains. I left home to visit my brother's house across town. On the way home we drove into one of the tornadoes. After a few frantic minutes it passed leaving my family bruised and dazed, but alive and uninjured. The tornado that affected our vehicle had just rendered our home unusable. From Scotland county at the South Carolina line to Perquimans county at the Virginia line, 13 tornadoes cut a path of devastation that left 42 dead, hundreds injured and millions of dollars in property loss and damages.

In 1999, following hurricane Floyd, the East found itself in the "flood of the century." While many were prepared for the hurricane, few of us were prepared for the widespread long-term evacuations, extended loss of power, telephone and water, or the isolation caused by bridges and highways being impassable for days. Hundreds survived in shelters or with friends and family. People who had to evacuate with the water rising around them had no more than the clothes

on their backs. An afternoon ride around the east will show you that many are still recovering.

In addition to these major events, the area has seen numerous forest and structure fires, missing persons- both young and old, airplane crashes and multiple vehicle accidents that closed highways. Our broad area is ringed by interstates 95, 64, 17 and 40, and is the home of numerous industries and military bases, which use them to move their supplies and equipment into and out of the area.

As chemical, pharmaceutical, and other high tech industries replace tobacco and textiles, the hazards that may befall us will change. We need to be ever vigilant to our changing surroundings and the new preparations they will require.

What warning signals are available to us? There are no nuclear facilities in the Pitt County area, so we don't see the pole mounted claxon horns that are visible in those areas like Wilmington. NOAA weather radio and the broadcast stations keep us abreast of weather warnings. Our active Skywarn program on the Trenton repeater (145.210) provides us an opportunity to get weather conditions to and from the weather service. Are there others in your immediate area? Remember to keep a radio and supply of fresh batteries handy.

Does your workplace have a dis-

(Continued on page 9)

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **April 16**. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Tom Parsons, W4TEP, 355-2815. [w4tep@arrl.net](mailto:w4tep@arrl.net). Please bring the following:


- ◆ Photo ID (drivers license)
- ◆ Original Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Copy of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Original CSCE's
- ◆ Copy of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$12.00
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.

## Email addresses

Please send me your new addresses so I can update my records. I need the correct addresses to notify members when the latest *Ham Chatter* goes online, important notifications and update the email roster on the web site. - W4YDY

K4KBB

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# FCC proposes rules for BPL systems!



The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems.

The 38-page NPRM--in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37--proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Ama-

teur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems--in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL--"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density

areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc)> or as an Adobe PDF file <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf)>.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>. - via *ARRL Letter Online* 2/27/04

## Raffle



The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club is holding a raffle for the second year for the "Companion" Holland Grill. Tickets will be one dollar each and club members are asked to help out with the selling of the tickets. The winner will be selected at the Dogwood Festival in Farmville on April 25. Tickets will also be sold at the Downeast Hamfest in Kinston and the RARSfest in Raleigh. More info will be provided at the BARC club meetings.

# Have we made it look too hard?

*The following is a reprint from October 1992 issue of Worldradio.*

William G. Pierpont, N0HFF

Old timers, now Silent Keys, told us that in 1921 the essential requirement for joining our local Amateur Radio club was to demonstrate before the members the ability to send and receive Morse code at 10 wpm, at least. That achievement plus an intense interest fully qualified the prospect. It was considered necessary because it was "hard," and a skill highly prized.

Most older methods of teaching and learning did make things harder than they needed to be. But more recent research has shown that learning the Morse code and gaining skill doesn't have to be tough and fraught with discouragement. By beginning in the right way and practicing intelligently, the investment of 20 to 30 hours can give a good working knowledge of speeds of 13 to 20 wpm or more. The very elimination of the idea

that learning it is "hard" helps tremendously, for psychological factors greatly affect skill learning. A "can do it" attitude accelerates learning.

To compare learning Morse code with learning a new language is a false comparison. We don't have to master a whole new dictionary full of words or labor over strange grammatical rules. It is more like learning to read and write a language we already know. All we have to do is to learn to "hear" the letters instead of seeing them. We read by ear instead of by eye, with the patterns of sound instead of visual patterns.

The flaw with the older methods was trying to mix them. The teacher would give the student a printed chart with dots and dashes for the letters and have the student memorize them. It was fairly easy to learn to send them, but receiving them was something else! He would hear the dits and dahs forming each letter, translate them into mental pictures of dots and dashes, and finally try to match them up to his mental table.

No wonder progress was slow and he got discouraged. Recognition - when he could make it - took so much time that he often missed the next letter or two. And he would tend to get stuck at around 7 to 10 wpm.

Effective modern methods bypass all this translation completely. From the first the student hear the sound pattern as a whole, as one unit of sound - a rhythm - and identifies this with the printed letter. He hears it at a formation speed fast enough to keep it unanalyzed. (Many old-timers learners always counted the number of dits and dahs to analyze the longer characters.) He learns in a one-step conversion, forward or backward. Nothing "hard" about it, just sensible, systematic learning.

From this foundation it is but a matter of exposure and practice until we can hear words without having to consciously spell them out. It begins with recognition of the most common word. Communication with Morse code is fun! Let's not make it hard.

## FCC keeps up pressure on alleged unlicensed 10 meter operations

The FCC is continuing efforts to stem alleged unlicensed operation--primarily by long-haul truckers--on the 10-meter amateur band. Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, this month wrote FedEx Corporation CEO Frederick W. Smith enclosing a complaint asserting that some FedEx drivers have used "Amateur Radio transmitters to communicate on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band without a license," Hollingsworth said. The complaint focused on alleged operations in Tennessee.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth told Smith. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on Amateur Radio frequencies must possess both a station and operator license, for which an examination is required." He pointed out that some truckers have been known to use uncertificated dual-purpose CB radios that also can transmit on 10 meters. CB gear must be FCC certificated,

formerly known as type acceptance, but ham radio gear does not need to be. So-called dual-use ham/CB transceivers may not be sold or marketed under FCC rules.

Two additional trucking firms this month were the target of FCC warning notices involving complaints of unlicensed operation on 10 meters. Hollingsworth wrote Carl Leonard Ross of CLR Transport in Saluda, North Carolina, citing allegations that a CLR Transport vehicle traveling on I-85 in North Carolina "was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band on July 14, 2003." Cassidy's Express of Bristol, Pennsylvania, heard from the FCC regarding reports that one of its vehicles was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions while under way in Pennsylvania last October 9.

Hollingsworth asked Smith to advise FedEx drivers that such operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of federal law and

could subject violators to stiff fines and even jail time as well as seizure of equipment. Pointing out the same penalties for violators, Hollingsworth asked the other two trucking firms to contact him to discuss the allegations.

Earlier this year, the FCC sent warning notices to two shipping companies in the wake of reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may have been illegally transmitting on 10 meters. At least one of the companies, UPS, offered its full cooperation and promised to investigate. - *via ARRL Letter Online 2/27/04*

### Skywarn Class March 27

**There will be a Skywarn class on March 27 at the Belk Building. For more information, contact Dave LeMoine, KV4CN.**

## Service Comes in 'Waves' for ECU's Bill Dawson

*(Continued from page 1)*

lina Department of Emergency Management when regular communications channels fail, Dawson reports to a fully equipped radio room located in the Global Trans Park Training Center.

Six radios tuned to different frequencies allow the licensed volunteers to relay messages for police and other public service organizations during emergencies.

"There is always a lot of anticipation in the air. The volunteers are ready to put their training to use," Dawson said.

In an adjoining room in the training center, a team from emergency management armed with computers, fax machines and satellite telephones combines its communication efforts with representatives from the N.C. Highway Patrol, the Departments of Forestry, Ferry, Transportation and the American Red Cross.

"I'm always amazed at how problems can be solved when all those good people utilize every resource available to them," Dawson said.

When Hurricane Isabel's winds began lashing the Carolina coast on Sept. 18, Dawson was atypically absent from his post at the emergency center.

"I was at home when Isabel made landfall. My wife was recovering from back surgery and I just did not feel comfortable leaving her alone," he said. Thanks to his hand-held radio, he stayed in touch with the on-site volunteers.

He did report in the next day and was called in to assist Washington County on Saturday and Sunday to help them in their emergency operations center.

"I was there overnight for Hurricane Floyd and several others," Dawson said. "It is hard to leave your family when a hurricane is coming, but I've done it. You do what you have to do."

Dawson was recently appointed district emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Service. Beaufort, Pitt, Martin, Hyde, Washington and Tyrrell counties fall under his jurisdiction. His responsibilities include coordinating volunteer activity in those areas as well as recommending the appointments of

county emergency coordinators.

Dawson is also a member and volunteer instructor for the Greenville Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club. The club provides training for individuals interested in earning their license. Dawson said sharing his knowledge and 28 years of experience with others is one of the things he enjoys most.

These decades of experience began when Dawson was a teenager and member of the Washington High School band.

"We had two buses and an equipment van we used for road trips, all equipped with citizen band radios," he said. "It fascinated me that we could communicate with each other while traveling in separate vehicles."

"Also, my grandmother had an old radio with short-wave radio bands on it. I remember listening to the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Moscow. Sometimes I could hear ham radio operators talking to each other," Dawson said.

According to the American Radio Relay League website, it is unknown when amateur radio operators were first called "hams," but they do know that amateur radio is as old as the history of radio itself. In 1912, Congress passed the first laws regulating radio transmissions in the U.S. By 1914, amateur experimenters were communicating nationwide, and setting up a system to relay messages from coast to coast.

In addition to his service as an amateur radio operator and his 40-hour workweek at ECU, Dawson finds time to expand his volunteer efforts.

He is a 28-year veteran and board member of the Clark's Neck Volunteer Fire Department. The department maintains a station in Pitt County and a substation on Wharton Station Road in Beaufort County. The 32 active members, including Dawson, are all certified in fire fighting operations. A minimum of 36 hours of training is required each year for each member to stay active.

Back on campus, Dawson is a past chair for District 65 (ECU) of the State Employees Association of N.C. (SEANC). He now serves as an Em-

ployee Political Action Council representative.

"We try to have some function, often a breakfast, on Saturday morning before the Legislature goes into session. State employees are invited to come and talk with the representatives. At this point it is non-political because the representatives have already been elected," Dawson said, "but it gives us the opportunity to impress upon them the importance of state employee issues."

An equally important issue to Dawson, who owns four pure-bred cats, is raising money to support feline leukemia research.

"The Marley Fund was started about two years ago by Joy Eubanks, who lost her pet to feline leukemia," Dawson said. "She was devastated. Creating the fund for research helped make something good come from her own loss."

Dawson and his wife coordinate fund-raising efforts for the Marley Fund in Beaufort County.

Dawson is active at Riverview Baptist Church, where he serves as a discipleship training director. For the past five years, he was brotherhood director.

Bill Dawson acknowledges he's a busy man. Maybe the best way to reach him is by radio -- call sign WA4SLC.

*From Pieces of Eight, Jan. 23, 2004 (Complete issue is archived at <http://www.news.ecu.edu/poe/104/arch104.htm>.)*

### February VE Session Results

Four applicants took Amateur Radio exams at the February BARC VE Session. Andrew Young, KI4EFH, from Chocowinity and Joseph Griffin, KI4EFI, from Williamston passed the Technician written exams and were assigned their new call signs on 2/24/04. Jesse Lee, KI4DLN, Greenville, passed the code to earn Technician with code privileges. Champion Cox, K2IUN, Hertford, passed the Amateur Extra Class exam.

Tom Parsons, W4TEP, VE liaison, was assisted by Murray Merner, K4MHM, Byron Highland, K4BMH, Bob Moore, N4USB, Gerry Clayton, K4IDD, Bob Hanrahan, AF4QY, and Dave Langley, W4YDY.

## BARC Monthly Minutes - February 2004

BARC Monthly Minutes – February 2004  
 BARC Monthly Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, February 10, 2004  
 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Post Home 7032

**PRESIDENT:** Mike Langley, KD4MTT called the meeting to order by asking everyone to introduce themselves by announcing their call letters, their name and their city. He then asked for staff reports.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM, announced that it was time for the annual renewal for the Food Lion Rebate program. This can be done on their web site.

**TREASURER REPORT:** John McCoy, K4KBB, announced the income items, and expenditures during 2003 plus the new budget for 2004. The final 2004 budget was voted on and approved.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Byron Highland, K4BMH, reported on several members or family members that were ailing.

**EQUIPMENT:** Mike talked about creat-

ing an inventory of all equipment belonging to the club. He asked all members to fill out an inventory card on all club equipment that they have at home.

**HAM CHATTER:** Dave Langley, W4YDY, mentioned that club 2004 dues are now due to remain a current member.

**VE SESSION:** It was announced that the next VE session would be on February 20th at St. Peters Church.

**ARES:** Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, announced that the ARES meeting for areas 1, 2, 3 will be held in Columbia, NC on February 14th at 10:30 a.m. The talk-in frequency will be 146.835. The statewide ARES meeting will be on April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Doug Ferris, K4ROK, went over some of the preliminary plans for the upcoming Special Olympics Basketball.

**NEW BUSINESS:** It was announced that the NCQSO party workday would be on February 21st, and we would man the radios at VOA Site C on February 28th. The Down East Ham Fest in Kinston will be on March 21st. The raffle of the Hol-

land Grill will be held in Kinston, Raleigh, and the Farmville Dogwood Festival. The International Festival will be held on April 17th, and it was announced that we need more information for this Special Event Station. The Dogwood Festival will be on April 24th and 25, and we will need to start setting up on Friday the 23rd. The Skywarn Class will be held at the ECU Belk Building on Saturday, March 27th from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**CLUB BIRTHDAY:** We took a break to enjoy cake and ice cream thanks to Bonnie, KG4CZW, and Dave, KG4CZV.

**PROGRAM:** John, KE4TZN, talked to us about several methods of Ham Radio that he is using. He talked about Rig Blasters, Echo Stations and Echolink. Thanks, John for a very good and educational program.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Byron Highland, K4BMH, was asking members to sign up to handle nets on Monday nights. He also mentioned that the scripts for the nets could be printed out from the BARC web page.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## BARC Board Minutes - February 2004

BARC Board Meeting 02-24-04, 7:30 p.m.  
 Mark's Marine Hwy #33 East

**PRESIDENT:** Mike Langley, KD4MTT, asked for staff reports.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** Taylor Millar reported that we will get a wholesale price on the new Holland Grill for the club raffle. Arrangements were made for He and John McCoy to make that purchase this week.

**TREASURER REPORT:** John McCoy, K4KBB, reported on January and February incoming funds and expenses.

**EQUIPMENT:** Mike talked about getting all club equipment listed on inventory. We will find out who currently has the equipment so if it is needed, we will

know where it is.

Doug Ferris, K4ROK, reported that we may need to purchase more ladder line. He said that we need to be at VOA Site C from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 29th.

**HAM CHATTER:** Dave Langley, W4YDY, mentioned putting an article in Ham Chatter about the upcoming raffle.

**VE SESSIONS:** Dave also reported that the VE session last Friday yielded two new Techs, one upgrade to General, and one upgrade to Extra.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mike mentioned that he was working on someone to take over the training class for new Hams.

We talked about having a prize for selling raffle tickets.

The SkyWarn training class will be held

at the Belk Building on March 27th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

The International Festival is to be held on April 17th, we will need someone to check on a booth for this special event station.

We need to secure tables for the hamfests in Kinston and Raleigh.

Everyone who can, will need to give Richard, KG4SNE, a hand with Field Day. We will need approval for Field Day from the Mall. The Red Cross may want to hold there's at the same time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Taylor Millar, W4WTM*



## Family Disaster Planning

*(Continued from page 4)*

aster plan? How about your children's school or day care center and other places that you and your family spend time? The next time that you visit a place like Disney World, Bush Gardens, Kings Dominion or Carowinds think about how your family disaster plan will work there.

What have we learned from previous emergencies and disasters? Consider the following list.

1. There can be significant numbers of casualties/damage to buildings, and the infrastructure. Employers need up-to-date information about your medical needs and how to contact your family.
2. Health and mental health resources in the immediate area will be strained to their limits, maybe even overwhelmed.
3. Extensive media coverage, strong public fears and international implications can continue for a prolonged period of time.
4. Workplaces and schools may be closed and domestic and international travel may be restricted.
5. You and your family or household may have to evacuate the area, avoiding roads blocked for your safety.
6. Cleanup may take months (or years.)
7. If a chemical or biological emergency occurs you may be told by authorities to evacuate to a designated area or be asked to shelter in place, sealing all doors and windows and turning off air intake.

In our next installment we will cover creating an emergency/disaster plan. **Consider where you might go if forced to evacuate. Is there a "right" way to evacuate? Do I know how to "shelter-in-place"? How about an emergency plan for your pets?**

Information from this article series comes from many sources such as web sites and periodicals. Special mention must be given to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management web site ([www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com)) and their *Get Ready for Emergencies and Disasters* pamphlet. - *KD4MTT*

# 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, ATTN: Dave Langley** or email to: [w4ydy@qsl.net](mailto:w4ydy@qsl.net)

### For Sale:

Icom IC-745 Price \$400 negotiable.  
Mosley Classic 33 \$100. The center part of the reflector was bent in hurricane Floyd. I worked on it and got it as straight as I could.

Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, 946-4760 or [dawsonw@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:dawsonw@mail.ecu.edu).

### For Sale:

Hygain TH-6 tri-band beam. \$200  
Hassell Bailey, W4OZV, 756-4471 or [hbb929@aol.com](mailto:hbb929@aol.com)

## BARC Monthly Minutes

*(Continued from page 8)*

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Taylor Millar, W4WTM*

## History of Amateur Radio

The AC6V Amateur Radio web site has a very good history of Amateur Radio. It is at <http://www.ac6v.com/history.htm>.

The AC6V site is a very large Amateur Radio site and covers about any subject you can think of about Amateur Radio. His home page is <http://www.ac6v.com/>.

## 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**

**ATTN: Dave Langley** or email [w4ydy@qsl.net](mailto:w4ydy@qsl.net)

Help support *Ham Chatter*. **Donations accepted!**

## NETS

### VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz. (131.8 Hz 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, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Tuesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Williamston 145.410 & 444.250, Columbia 146.835 & 443.300, Rocky Mount 147.120, Ahoskie 146.910, Franklin, VA 147.300, Farmville 145.270
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

### HF

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

### NTS CW Nets

- ◆ 3.695 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

# *BARC*

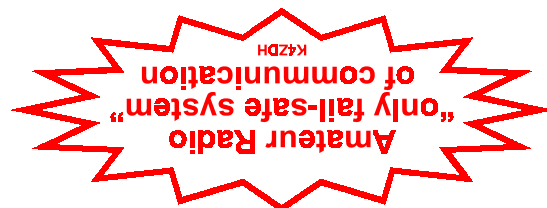
## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Mar 6-7.....	ARRL SSB DX Contest	Apr 27.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Mar 9.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	May 1.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>
Mar 19-21.....	Special Olympics	May 11.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Mar 21.....	Down East Hamfest - Kinston	May 25.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Mar 27.....	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest	May 29-30.....	CQ WW CW WPX Contest
Mar 30.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Jun 8.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Apr 3.....	<b>Ham Chatter Deadline</b>	Jun 18.....	VE Session
Apr 4.....	RARSFest – Raleigh	Jun 26-27.....	ARRL Field Day
Apr 13.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Jun 29.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Apr 16.....	VE Session		
Apr 17.....	International Festival - Greenville		<b>Regular Meeting</b> - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
Apr 23-25.....	Dogwood Festival - Farmville		<b>Board Meeting</b> - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

### W 4 A M C - W I V O A

*Printing courtesy of Xerox*



**March 2004**  
**Next Meeting**  
**March 9**

To:



Greenville, NC 27835  
 PO Box 8387

## Ham Chatter