

# Ham Chatter



Volume 44 Issue 3

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

March 2010

Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY

Email: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)

Associate Editor, Tim Nelson, WA4TMN

## Good time had by BARC members in the North Carolina QSO party at VOA Site C

Another North Carolina QSO Party is in the books. While not our best score, we did what hams to do best; eat and talk. Claimed score is 5750.

It was good to exercise the equipment from the VOA Site C. Two rhombic antennas were left standing for our use and they were put to good use. The call sign uses was **NC4PC**.

Peter, **KG4WEZ**, operated PSK (though not part of the QSO party) and gave us a demonstration of his K2 inte-

grated with his PowerBooks. Truly amazing and at the other end of the ham spectrum from "peak the grid and dip the plate".

Those sharing in the fun were Doug, **K4ROK**, Paul, **KS4YF**, Bill, **N3KKM**, Murray, **K4MHM**, Richard, **KG4SNE**, Peter, **KG4WEZ**, and Mike, **KD4MTT**. An excellent suggestion was to hold another event out at Site C. Suggestions are welcome.

See you next year. **Dave, KV4CN**.

## Next Meeting March 9

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Program will be by Bill All, N3KKM, about contesting. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting will be March 30 at 7:30 PM at 631-B Dickinson Avenue - entrance at back of the building. All members invited.*

## ARRL DX Phone Contest Brings DX in Full Force to the HF Bands!

With the 2010 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history, the first weekend in March brings the next round of competition: the 2010 ARRL International DX Phone Contest. Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

"Conditions during last weekend's CW contest were, by all accounts, very good indeed," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Fifteen Meters was open for extended periods of time, allowing excellent QSOs to be made from the US and Canada to all corners of the globe. Even 10 meters decided to show up for the party, with openings both Saturday and Sunday to South America and Africa, with a sprinkling of Europe thrown in for good measure."

For the veterans, it was a delight to have good propagation on the higher bands again. For the more recently licensed, it was a chance to finally experi-

ence an opening on bands that have more or less remained dormant due to the extended low in the 11 year solar cycle. "I've had some Old-Timers in my local club tell me 10 meters would open like this, but I've never heard it open before; I didn't believe them," one newly licensed amateur told Kutzko. "Now I get it. It was exciting. I had a great time!"

Just as in the CW contest, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX -- this means that stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 6 through 2359 UTC Sunday, March 7. Complete rules and forms may be found online. The high bands are finally showing signs of life. Why let all this DX pass you by -- get on the air and have some fun! - via *ARRL Letter Online* 2/25/10

## Pitt County ARES Net

Beginning Monday, March 1, 2010, the Pitt County ARES net will begin at 8:30 pm instead of 9:00 pm.

A new Pitt Co. ARES net script has been posted on the BARC web site that will be used starting March 1.

If you would like to volunteer to run a net or have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at [kg4czv@gmail.com](mailto:kg4czv@gmail.com).

**Dave, KG4CZV**

More information at:

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

## Club purchases video projector

For use in presentations, a video projector has been purchased as approved by the club. It is an Optoma Model PRC250X. Native resolution is 1024x768 and has a built-in 2 watt speaker.

## Did you get the RED DOT?

It's time to renew your BARC membership. See page 3 for details

## President's Corner - John Prokop, N8MPX

I would like to draw your attention to the March edition of QST. On page 85 you will find the call sign of Bill All K3KKM listed as a rover in the Roanoke division in the September VHF QSO party. Congratulation Bill on working a hard contest for the flat lands of North Carolina. Without some sporadic E openings it is a hard contest to make a lot of contacts on. Your dedication to the VHF contests is appreciated.

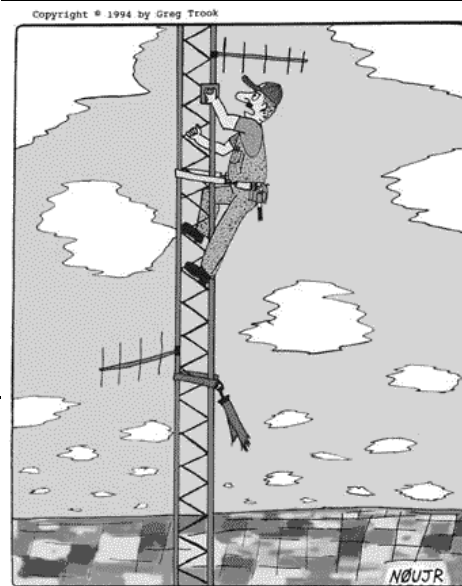
If you were not on the bands in the last week you missed some great propagation openings. The sunspot activity has picked up with active sunspots for over the last 30 days. The sun is finally waking up and hopefully we will be blessed with some band openings.

This last weekend on the ARRL DX contest there were openings on 10 and 15 meters into Europe and South America with some JA signals coming in of 15 over the pole. The 10 meter openings were good into Eastern Europe and South America. 20 meters was open to Europe late into the day with signals holding up well till after sundown. I didn't a chance to work 40 and

80 but from the spots they appeared to be in good shape.

If you have not been active on HF recently now is the time to get back on the air and start enjoying the bands. For our members with a Technician class license the 10 meter band is coming to life. As the sun comes to life you will start to see more openings during the day on this band. When the band finally opens up world wide you might just catch the DX bug. The band openings in the early 90's did it for me.

**John Prokop, N8MPX**



Copyright © 1994 by Greg Trook  
 "So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

## 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. Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, 756-3734 . [bertrandf@ecu.edu](mailto:bertrandf@ecu.edu). 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 \$15.00 (\$1 increase in 2009)
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.
- ◆ SS Number will be needed if you don't have an FRN number.

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

## NC ARES Internet



<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>



**Happy Birthday**

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

- |    |        |                 |
|----|--------|-----------------|
| 9  | NC4RR  | Neal Sumrell    |
| 9  | WB4RQG | Leland Tucker   |
| 9  | NW4S   | Jeff Wainwright |
| 12 | KI6BPT | Rita Pulera     |
| 17 | KG4CZV | Dave Pulver     |
| 20 | K4MHM  | Murray Merner   |
| 25 | W4UEF  | Rick Parker     |

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

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:



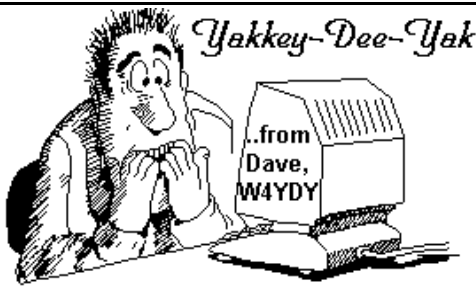
**Tim Nelson, WA4TMN**  
**Charlie Wells, K4SKI**

Please inform Bill All, N3KKM., n3\_kkm@embarqmail.com of any changes.

## In This Issue

<i>ARRL DX Phone Contest</i>	1
<i>Next Meeting - March 9</i>	1
<i>Pitt County ARES net</i>	1
<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Next VE Session - February 12</i>	2
<i>Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave</i>	3
<i>BARC Dues - NOW</i>	3
<i>W6ZH, Silent Key</i>	3
<i>FCC allows device in ham band</i>	4
<i>February VE Session results</i>	5
<i>February Meeting minutes</i>	6
<i>February Board Meeting minutes</i>	6
<i>ARRL web site delayed</i>	7

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 \* NON COPYRIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION \* **PRESIDENT** - JOHN PROKOP, N8MPX, 321-4044 \* **FIRST V. PRESIDENT** - BILL ALL, N3KKM, 321-2053 \* **SECOND V. PRESIDENT** - JOHN McCOY, K4KBB, 758-1719 \* **SECRETARY** - BONNIE PULVER, KG4CZW, 353-7161 \* **TREASURER** - DAVE PULVER, KG4CZV, 353-7161 \* **BOARD MEMBER** & VE LAISON - TED BERTRAND, KI4PWX, 756-3734 \* **BOARD MEMBER** - BOB MOORE, N4USB, 524-4003 \* PUBLIC RELATIONS, TAYLOR MILLAR, W4WTM, 756-2192 \* PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR & BARC HISTORIAN - PAT WILLIAMS, KG4NSC, 752-9281 \* W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE, TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 \* HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY, 321-2525 \* ASSOCIATE HAM CHATTER EDITOR, TIM NELSON, WA4TMN \* EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE \* **OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC.** \* CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE. \* **BOARD MEMBERS IN BOLD** \*



with their experiences with the robot. If it was using the frequencies that was just approved, then it would be illegal if a special exception was not obtained. Maybe they had one.

Sometimes you wonder what is going on at the FCC. I guess it's the same old thing, politics overrides science and common sense! That's my opinion.

**NC QSO Party**

Took a few breaks from trying to finish *Ham Chatter* Sunday afternoon to work a few stations in the NC QSO Party. One of the first stations contacted was NC4PC and the operator was BARC's TV personality.

From the map during the start of the contest, it looked like 98 of the 100 counties would be active. Only Durham and Cumberland Counties were not listed. There were several in the area not on the list a few days ago but Hollis got his antennas fixed on his truck so he went out to take care of those. Got him in 4 counties.

A lot of activity on the 40 and 20 CW bands but NC very weak on 20 meters. I did go up to 15 meters SSB for about 15 minutes and called CQ NCQP. Six stations from NM to CA called me. Made 56 contacts to 45 counties, mostly on 40 and 80 CW. - W4YDY

**BARC Dues - RED DOT?**

It's time to renew your BARC membership. Dues for 2010 are the same as 2009:

- Regular Membership - \$20
- Family Membership (per additional family member) - \$2

Members not renewing their membership within the 60 day grace period will be removed from the membership roll until dues are caught up.

Dues and an updated membership application (found at the [www.w4amc.com](http://www.w4amc.com) web site) should be mailed to **BARC, P.O. Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835**. Dues and applications can also be given to the Treasurer at any BARC meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your dues, please contact our Treasurer, Dave Pulver, KG4CZV at [kg4czv@gmail.com](mailto:kg4czv@gmail.com) or by phone at (252) 353-7161. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club. - KG4CZV

*Editors note: For those that have not renewed by the March Ham Chatter, you have received the dreaded RED DOT! The March issue will be your last until renewal and the roster password will change in early March. - W4YDY*

**Possible interference?**

A disturbing new FCC regulation was recently approved. A remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry was approved by the FCC to use the Amateur Radio 70 Centimeter band. Eligibility is limited to state and local police and firefighters eligible for licensing on a secondary basis. They cannot cause interference and are not protected from interference.

An article via the ARRL is on page the next page about the approval by the FCC.

The band covers the local 440 repeaters. The robots use about a 6 MHz band for video. If one is in use locally, it's possible that the local 440 repeater could interfere with the signal. Couldn't you see the local papers and TV stations screaming the headlines, "Ham operators interfere with law enforcement." Yet the FCC said that they are not protected from interference.

ReconRobotics, the manufacturing company, asserted that even though the device operates in an area allocated to other services, including Amateur Radio, the Recon Scout operates with only 1 W peak power and it is "unlikely to cause interference to these services." How many in the area have used 1 watt on their HT to key up and talk on the local 440 repeater? I have no problem getting into the repeater, over 4 miles from me, full quieting with my HT running 1 watt. What will the Recon Scout do to a repeater? Was it tested for interference problems?

I looked at the QRZ.COM and the eHam.net web sites and there are many comments, 140 on QRZ. There are many unhappy folks there. Although the FCC just approved the new frequencies for the robots, it seems that a police department in California bought one in May 2007. They have a page on the ReconRobotics web site

**Silent Key: Herbert "Pete" Hoover III, W6ZH (SK)**



**Pete Hoover, W6ZH, and his wife Meredith on a visit to ARRL HQ in 1978. This photo appeared in the October 1978 issue of QST.**

Herbert "Pete" Hoover III, W6ZH (ex-W6APW) -- the grandson of Herbert Hoover, the 31st President of the United States, and the son of former IARU and ARRL President Herbert Hoover Jr., W6ZH (SK) -- passed away February 4, 2010. He was 82. A resident of San Marino, California, Hoover was active in

ARRL activities, serving as a Director of the ARRL Foundation in 1976 and as a member of the ARRL Long Range Planning Committee from 1978-1981. In the 1970s, Hoover, along with EIMAC's Bill Eitel, W6UF (SK), established a matching fund to encourage contributions to the amateur satellite program. Hoover served as Vice President and Trustee of the Pasadena (California) Radio Club and was also a member and former President of the Southern California DX Club. In 1978, he was elected to the National Red Cross (later the American Red Cross) Board of Governors. Donations may be made to Doheny Eye Institute, 1490 San Pablo St, Los Angeles, CA 90033; Hoover Institution, 434 Galvez Mall, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6010; Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 302 Parkside Dr, West Branch, IA 52358 or the House Ear Institute, 2100 W 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90057. - via ARRL Letter Online 2/11/10

## FCC Allows Robotic Device in Amateur Band



In January 2008, a company called ReconRobotics filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules with respect to the Recon Scout -- a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry. A waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band, which is allocated to the Federal Government Radiolocation service on a primary basis, as well as the Amateur Radio Service and certain non-federal radiolocation systems on a secondary basis. More than two years later, the FCC granted the waiver request in the form of an Order (WP Docket No 08-63), subject to certain conditions.

According to ReconRobotics, the Recon Scout device can be thrown, dropped or launched into hazardous areas and can provide an operator located a safe distance away with video and audio, along with infrared, biological, chemical, heat, radiation or other data. It would be marketed for use by state and local law enforcement and firefighting agencies, as well as by security personnel in critical infrastructure industries.

The FCC noted in the Order that they had received more than 70 comments "generally consist[ing] of public safety and law enforcement entities supporting the waiver request, and amateur radio operators opposing it." In their initial waiver request, ReconRobotics asserted that even though the device operates in an area allocated to other services, including Amateur Radio, the Recon Scout operates with only 1 W peak power and it is "unlikely to cause interference to these services."

### ARRL's Arguments Against the Waiver

In its comments filed in May 2008 (as told in a May 29, 2008 article on the ARRL Web site), the ARRL called on the FCC to deny ReconRobotics waiver request, "either permanently or even temporarily," calling on the Commission to require ReconRobotics to "initiate a rulemaking proceeding if it feels that the Part 90 or Part 15 rules governing analog devices are not sufficiently accommodating and should be changed, and could be changed consistent with interference avoidance. Repeatedly granting waivers for analog devices which do not meet the fundamental interference avoidance requirements of the existing rules is bad spectrum management and ill-serves the Amateur Service."

The ARRL pointed out in its May 2008 comments that there are differing amateur operations throughout the 420-450 MHz band. One of the channels ReconRobotics is requesting use of -- 442-448 MHz -- is used by amateur repeaters (with band plans varying by locality) and also for Amateur television repeater inputs. "These repeater inputs, both for voice and video, are at high locations where line-of-sight to [ReconRobotics] devices should be expected anywhere in the United States. Repeater in this band are routinely used for

emergency communications via Amateur Radio for numerous served agencies including FEMA, and so at times when the Petitioner's device may be expected to be used, the repeaters may be expected to be in operation in the same areas." As such, the ARRL maintained that interference -- both from and to -- the Recon Scout device may be expected on a regular basis from Amateur Radio operations.

"Because [the Recon Scout] operates on a channelized basis, each of the three channels being six megahertz wide, the necessary bandwidth of the device is apparently close to 6 MHz," the ARRL argued. "[ReconRobotics] asks that it be granted an unspecified series of permanent waivers to allow the marketing and sale to, and use of this device by law enforcement and fire department personnel for public safety applications. The Amateur Service, which has a heavily occupied, secondary allocation in the 420-450 MHz band...would be potentially substantially impacted by grant of these waivers."

The ARRL noted that ReconRobotics asked for "unspecified permanent waivers of Part 90 rules" in order to market and sell its product, but, as the ARRL pointed out, more than the Part 90 rules would have to be waived: "Because the three channels (430-436 MHz, 436-442 MHz and 442-448 MHz) on which the device is proposed to operate...are all within that segment [430-450 MHz], what is being requested is not only a waiver of Part 90 service rules, but also a waiver of Section 2.106 of the Commission's Rules, the Table of Allocations. The only allocations in the 430-450 MHz band are for Government Radiolocation (limited to military radars) and on a secondary basis, the Amateur Service. Per Section 90.273 of the Commission's rules, frequencies above 429.99375 MHz and below 450 MHz are unavailable to stations in the land mobile service anywhere in the United States."

The ARRL's comments also stated that ReconRobotics "fails to establish that the 420-450 MHz band is the only viable choice and that no other band would be suitable; an obligation of the Petitioner in order to entitle it to a waiver. In requesting the waiver, ARRL asserts that ReconRobotics only claimed, but did not show, prove or demonstrate, that other bands were not suitable for its purposes. In other cases before the FCC as recent as 2006, the Commission denied such waivers, saying, "We do not believe that the public interest requires grant of a waiver merely to accommodate a manufacturer's choice of a specific frequency when others are available." The ARRL contended that "nothing in the four corners of [ReconRobotics'] request indicates anything that would verify the factual conclusions offered. The waiver request boils down to 'trust us, we have checked into this.'"

The ARRL claimed that a permanent waiver of the Commission's Rules permitting nationwide marketing and use on a licensed basis of land mobile short-range transmitters, benefiting as it does only one manufacturer to the exclusion of all others, "is an inferior method of conducting spectrum allocations and spectrum management" and that ReconRobotics "should be required to refile its proposal as a petition to modify

*(Continued on page 5)*

## FCC Allows Robotic Device in Amateur Band

*(Continued from page 4)*

the Table of Allocations for this purpose. Its petition should be vetted in the normal course, and would be properly evaluated based on a complete technical compatibility showing, which is not included in the present Waiver Request."

Upon learning that the FCC had granted the waiver, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ said that "While we are completely sympathetic to the desires of law enforcement and firefighting agencies and certain security personnel to have a tool like the Recon Scout at their disposal, the fact remains that 430-448 MHz is a poor choice of frequency range for such a device in the United States. In its Order, the Commission does not say otherwise; it simply concludes that by imposing an array of conditions and limitations on the use of the device by eligible Part 90 licensees, the potential for harmful interference to Federal and licensed non-Federal users of this band can be, in the Commission's view, adequately minimized. The Order falls short of requiring that the manufacturer adequately explain these conditions and limitations to its potential customers and does not explain how the Commission will enforce its requirements. We share the concerns expressed by NTIA on behalf of the Federal users of the band with regard to development of mass-marketed consumer devices that the Commission has no ability to control. Everyone's interests would have been better served had the manufacturer spent the last two years on engineering, redesigning its product for a more suitable frequency range, rather than on advocacy to legalize the domestic use of a product that was designed for military use abroad."

In a February 2010 letter to Julius Knapp, Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology from Karl Nebbia, Associate Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Office of Spectrum Manager, Nebbia told the FCC that the NTIA has concerns that "[i]f mass-marketed low power consumer devices are permitted to operate in the 420-450 MHz band, this could adversely impact the performance of critical radar systems." The NTIA listed several conditions that is said "are necessary to preclude the development of mass-marketed consumer devices that, over time, could impact the use of the 420-450 MHz band by federal systems."

### The Waiver Is Granted

The FCC noted that Section 1.925 of the Commission's Rules provides that they may grant a waiver if "it is shown that (a) the underlying purpose of the rule(s) would not be served or would be frustrated by application to the instant case, and grant of the requested waiver would be in the public interest; or (b) in light of unique or unusual circumstances, application of the rule (s) would be inequitable, unduly burdensome, or contrary to the public interest, or the applicant has no reasonable alternative." The Commission concluded that "ReconRobotics has met the first prong of the waiver standard and that the grant of the request is warranted, subject to certain conditions."

The FCC explained that "one purpose of allocating dif-

ferent spectrum bands to different services is to prevent harmful interference" and that ReconRobotics asserts that operation of the Recon Scout is unlikely to cause interference to the other services using the 430-448 MHz band, "because the device operates with lower power (1 W peak power, 0.25 W average power) than radiolocation systems. With respect to amateur operations, ReconRobotics asserts that amateur satellite downlinks should not experience interference because earth station antennas are angled too high to detect a low-power device near ground level; and that terrestrial amateur operations are unlikely to experience interference due to the Recon Scout's low power and brief, itinerant operation, and amateur transmitters' much higher power. Moreover, ReconRobotics acknowledges that the Recon Scout would operate on a secondary basis to amateur services in the band, obligating its users to avoid causing interference."

The ARRL, as well as some Amateur Radio operators who submitted comments on the waiver request, stated that because amateur satellite orbits are not geosynchronous, amateur earth station antennas often point toward the horizon to receive low-level signals. The FCC, however, agreed with ReconRobotics, "that interference to amateur satellite communications is unlikely. The Recon Scout will be used infrequently and will be limited in number, significantly reducing the possibility of interference. In addition, it is unlikely that Recon Scout would have a significant effect on the ability of even an amateur earth station operating near the horizon to receive a low-level satellite signal, given the variety of natural and man-made interference sources such as terrain, trees, buildings, and other obstacles and ground level interferers having a greater effect on reception. We conclude, therefore, that grant of a waiver to permit equipment authorization and customer licensing of the Recon Scout on 436-442 MHz clearly is appropriate, because the device is unlikely to cause interference to amateur satellite communications in the 435-438 MHz segment."

According to the Commission, the remainder of the 436-442 MHz segment is used by amateurs for wideband amateur television (ATV) operations. The FCC cited the 2002 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs (pages 12.44-12.51), noting "that amateur stations transmitting a video signal to a repeater station typically use much higher power than the Recon Scout and may use high gain, directional antennas. We believe, therefore, that the signal of the amateur station can reasonably be expected to be much stronger than the signal of the Recon Scout at the repeater's receiving antenna, and that the stronger signal of the amateur station will capture the repeater, thereby minimizing any interference from a Recon Scout. Accordingly, we find no basis in the record before us to believe that operation of the Recon Scout on 436-442 MHz will create interference to ATV operations."

The FCC stated that they are "not as clear" if the Recon Scout can operate in the 430-436 MHz and 442-448 MHz segments "without causing harmful interference." Some Amateur Radio operators, in their comments, stated that 1 W is more than

*(Continued on page 6)*

## FCC Allows Robotic Device in Amateur Band

*(Continued from page 5)*

enough to activate a repeater, which could cause interference to an entire system of linked repeaters. In addition, the 432-433 MHz segment is used for long-range weak signal communications utilizing very sensitive receivers. "We note, however, that deployment of the Recon Scout on multiple channels is expected to be rare. Therefore, we believe that interference to these amateur operations can largely be avoided by requiring deployment first in the 436-442 MHz segment, then in the 442-448 MHz segment and in the 430-436 MHz segment only if the other two channels already are in use."

### FCC Imposes Special Conditions

The FCC noted that ReconRobotics will need to follow the following special conditions:

\* Eligibility is limited to state and local police and firefighters eligible for licensing under Section 90.20(a)(1) of the Commission's Rules, and security personnel in critical infrastructure industries. Any offer for sale or lease of the Recon Scout will state these eligibility limits.

\* The Recon Scout may be used only during actual emergencies involving threats to safety of life and for necessary training related to such operations. Security personnel in critical infrastructure industries may operate the Recon Scout only in areas that are environmentally hazardous for entry by human personnel, and for necessary training related to such operations.

\* Training operations are not permitted within 30 kilometers of certain US military installations.

\* The first unit sold to a responding organization will operate on 436-442 MHz, with the 442-448 MHz version being sold only to entities that already own the 436-442 MHz version and the 430-436 MHz version being sold only to entities that already own the other two versions.

\* The number of units to be sold is limited to 2000 during the first year following equipment approval and 8000 during the second year. Future sales of the Recon Scout will be reconsidered at the end of this period. ReconRobotics may request authorization to sell additional units in subsequent years.

\* The Recon Scout will operate on a secondary basis (cannot cause interference and is not protected from interference) to all federal users and licensed non-federal users.

\* The operation of the Recon Scout may be impacted in the vicinity of certain radar and ionospheric research sites. Recon Scout transmitters shall be labeled as required in Part 2 of the Commission's Rules, and shall bear the following statement in a conspicuous location on the device: "This device may not interfere with Federal stations operating in the 420-450 MHz band and must accept any interference received." In addition, the following statement shall be placed in the instruction manual: "Although this transmitter has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission, there is no guarantee that it will not receive interference."

The FCC also noted that operation of the Recon Scout by eligible entities will require a separate Commission authorization: "Applications must reference this Order. Applicants must specify the proposed area of operation, and the requested frequency segment. Part 90 frequency coordination is not required. No operation is permitted prior to license grant, and no applications will be granted until ReconRobotics obtains equipment authorization. Licensees must maintain a log of all Recon Scout use. The log will include date of operation, start/stop times, location of operation, frequency segment of operation, reason for use and point of contact. Licensees must provide this log to the Federal Communications Commission or to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration upon request of either agency."

In conclusion, the FCC pointed out that some commenters were concerned that use of the Recon Scout will not be limited to emergencies and that it is meaningless to authorize the device on a secondary basis "because even if amateurs can identify the source of interference, public safety entities will not discontinue use of the device in the middle of an operation. We do not believe that this speculation is grounds to deny the waiver request, but we caution prospective users that operation of the Recon Scout in an unauthorized manner will subject licensees to Commission enforcement action and license revocation. Widespread improper use could lead us to stop granting or renewing Recon Scout authorizations."

The ARRL Executive Committee will consider what additional steps can be taken with regard to the grant of this waiver. - via ARRL.ORG

*Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club*  
*Greenville, NC*

## February VE Session Results

Three candidates were at the February 12 BARC VE session. Joseph Minton, **K4ORH**, Murfreesboro, passed the Amateur Extra Class exam. James Lyle, **KJ4SHO**, Roper, and John Wuest, **KJ4SHP**, Greenville, passed the Technician Class exams. They received their new call signs February 18, 2010. BARC congratulates all for their achievement.

The VE's were VE Liaison Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, Tom Parsons, **W4TEP**, Richard Cox, **K4CRD**, Bob Moore, **N4USB**, Thomas Styron, **KB7L**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**.

The next regular VE session will be April 16, 2010.


# 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: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com) (no spaces)

**Wanted:** Sony 2010 Shortwave receiver.  
Neal, NC4RR Ph: 946-3840, Email; [nscsxrr@centurylink.net](mailto:nscsxrr@centurylink.net)

**For Sale:** Tarheel screwdriver antenna, Little Tarheel HP. Covers 40 to 6 meters. Includes 34" whip, new installation kit with control up/down switch, 20 ft. of control cable, matching coil, ferrite decoupling core, 3/8-24 stud, fuse holder and fuse. Instruction manual. Color; Aquamarine Frost (light blue/green) \$239. W4YDY, 321-2525, [w4ydydave@suddenlink.net](mailto:w4ydydave@suddenlink.net)

**MARK'S MARINE, INC.**



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

Mark Langley  
Mike Langley  
**KD4MTT**

**H&R BLOCK**

**Patrick Williams, KG4NSC**  
Senior Tax Advisor 5

Stanton Square 2408 Stantonburg Rd  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Tel 252.329.1099 Fax 252.695.0392  
[patrick.williams@taxinfo.hrblock.com](mailto:patrick.williams@taxinfo.hrblock.com)

Year Round Service  
Buyers Market 2400 S Memorial Dr Greenville, NC 27834 Tel 252.756.1209

*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

**K4KBB**

**J & P Machine Works, Inc.**



4291 US 264 East  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-758-1719 Fax 758-9031

Manufacturer of Swiss Screw Machine Products.  
Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

**Batteries for Home & Business...**  
*from laptop batteries to forklift batteries, we either have the battery you need in stock or we'll get it!*

>> **Business Class and Commercial Grade** accounts available for businesses. Get special pricing on product by opening a commercial account.

>> On site **Tech Center** that can custom build your rechargeable battery packs

**BatteriesPlus.** 

America's Battery Experts®

**GREENVILLE**  
740 SE Greenville Blvd Ste 500A  
(Next to McAlister's)

Phone **252.353.8143**  
Fax **252.353.8145**

**Store Hours**  
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 - 7:00  
Sat. 9:00 - 5:00  
Sun. closed

[www.batteriesplus.com](http://www.batteriesplus.com)

## BARC Meeting Minutes - February 2010

**BARC Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2010**

**Call to Order:** 7:35 pm

**Pledge of allegiance was led by Tom Parsons, W4TEP**

**Introductions were made.**

**There were 26 members present and 2 guests as recorded in the sign in book.**

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as published in the *Ham Chatter*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, gave the report. Further information regarding the treasurer's report is available to members upon request.

**Ham Chatter:** Dave Langley, W4YDY, explained that if members who do not pay their renewal dues by the end of February will receive a large red dot on your next newsletter, whether mailed or emailed.

**VE:** Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, announced that the next VE exam is on Friday, February 12, at St. Peter's School at 6:30 pm.

**State ARES:** Bernie Nobles, W4MOK, reported that there is Areas 1 & 2 meeting at the Golden Skillet in Plymouth, 02/13/10 starting at 10:30. A statewide ARES meeting will be held at 10:30 am, on 04/24/10 at the State EOC. Tim Slay N4IB will be replaced as Section Manager by Bill Morine N2COP. There will be a statewide hurricane drill in May. Hurricane Season starts on June 1. This year is predicted to be more active than last year.

**Pitt County ARES:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, announced that on 03/01/10, the Pitt County ARES net will begin with a time change from 9:00 pm to 8:30 pm. This is in hopes of making it easier for people to attend both the BARC and ARES nets. A new script will be on the website. More ARES members need to be net control. Members are asked to volunteer for dates that are convenient to them or otherwise they will be assigned a date to be primary or secondary net control. More training materials will be presented on the nets to keep information fresh on member's minds and to keep us more prepared.

The Coastal Carolina Search and Rescue team will be having an exercise on Saturday, 01/13/10. Mark Webb is asking for Amateur Radio support from noon to midnight. The BARC equipment trailer will be there and volunteers are needed to run the base station and to go out with the teams. This will be the 3rd year that BARC will be participating in this exercise.

The MS Walk is on 05/15/10. Anyone who volunteers

must undergo a background check. No interest was expressed due to the background check.

**Eastern Branch ARES:** Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, reported that Beaufort County will be starting a net on Wednesday nights and meeting every other month.

**Programs:** John McCoy, K4KBB, announced that Bill All, N3KKM, will present a program on contesting. A survey was passed around for ideas of what members wanted for future programs.

**Old Business:** none reported

**New Business:** Rick LaMonica, W4ZRA, announced a VOA directive that Greenville will decrease broadcasting at the end of December 2010.

The BARC annual raffle prizes will be the winner's choice of a Garmin GPS, a Kestrel Weather Instrument, a Nintendo Wii, a gift card or \$250.00 in cash. All prizes will be approximately \$ 250.00 and the one chosen will be purchased after the winner has been announced.

February 28, 2010 is the NC QSO party. It will be located at the VOA, Site C at noon. All are invited. The antennas will be ready. Lunch will be served.

**Announcements:** Bob Moore, N4USB, announced that the Fleet Reserve Association is starting a chapter in Greenville. All of those who served in the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines are welcome to join. The meeting will be on February 11, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Hampton Inn.

Prentice Tyndall, N4VBH, announced that the PCC Amateur Radio Club started 6 months ago. There are approximately 20 members which includes 12 students plus alumni and staff. They are participating in school round-up this week. Thanks to BARC members for helping to get the club started.

**50/50 Drawing Winner:** \$ 18.00 to Bill Dawson, WA4SLC

**Program:** The program was presented by Murray Merner, K4MHM; John McCoy, K4KBB and Peter Van Houten, KG4WEZ on the Elecraft transceiver kits.

BARC's birthday was celebrated with cake and ice cream.

**Adjourn:** 9:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

*Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW, Secretary*

## BARC Board Minutes - February 2010

**Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 23, 2010

**Call to Order:** 7:30 pm

**Board Members Present:**

President John Prokop, N8MPX; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bill All, N3KKM; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP John McCoy, K4KBB; Secretary Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW; Treasurer Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, Trustee Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX and Past President Bob Moore, N4USB.

**Others in Attendance:**

Dave Langley, W4YDY; Taylor Millar, W4WTM; Thomas Styron, KB7Z and Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as published in the *Ham Chatter*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, gave the report which is available to members upon request.

**Publicity:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM, talked to WITN about publi-

*(Continued on page 9)*



## BARC Board Minutes - February 2010

(Continued from page 8)

cizing the Coastal Carolina Search and Rescue training. A search team member will do the interview.

**Public Service:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, spoke with Phoebe Coggins with the MS Walk. Those who have worked with the walk in the past years will be grandfathered in and will not need to undergo a background check. The walk is May 15, 2010. Those board members who have participated in the past, all volunteered to participate this year.

**VE:** Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, announced that the next VE exam is on Friday, April 16, at St. Peter's School at 6:30 pm.

**Equipment:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, led discussion about an opportunity to receive donated equipment from Wake County. The board agreed that the opportunity should be pursued.

**Pitt County ARES:** Dave Pulver KG4CZV, announced that on March 1, 2010, the Pitt County ARES net will begin with a time change from 9:00 pm to 8:30 pm. This is in hopes of making it easier for people to attend both the BARC and ARES nets. A new script will be on the website.

The Coastal Carolina Search and Rescue team will be having an exercise on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Mark Webb is asking for Amateur Radio support from noon to midnight. The BARC equipment trailer will be there and volunteers are needed to run the base station and to go out with the teams.

**Programs:** John McCoy, K4KBB, announced that the next program will be given by Bill All, N3KKM, on contesting.

**Old Business:** It was approved that Dave Langley, W4YDY, will purchase an Optima projector for the club.

A Field Day Coordinator and a location for Field Day are still needed.

**New Business:** Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZV, announced that funds were being raised for Pitt County ARES to register as a non-profit (IRS filing fee). It will cost \$300.00. The board approved a donation to complete the funds needed. The amount of the donation is yet to be determined.

Adjournment: 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZV*  
*Secretary*

## 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, W4YDY** or  
email [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)

Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club.

**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 2000 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 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

### 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 (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

### Pitt County Repeater Association

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

## Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to "Get it Right"



After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 -- two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch -- ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of

the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually use of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site -- which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and

other 21st century opportunities for members -- is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken. "Reviewers have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible," Kramer explained.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. "The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic," he said. "Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site." - via ARRL Letter Online

# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 6/7.....	ARRL DX Contest, SSB	May 29/30.....	CQ WWCW WPX Contest
Mar 9.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Jun 8.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Mar 13/14.....	Charlotte Hamfest, Concord, NC	Jun 11.....	BARC VE Session
Mar 27.....	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest	Jun 19.....	Down East Hamfest, Kinston, NC
Mar 30.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Jun 26/27.....	ARRL Field Day
Apr 1.....	<b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>	Jun 29.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Apr 3.....	<b>RARSfest</b> , Raleigh, NC	Jul 1.....	<b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>
Apr 13.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Jul 10/11.....	IARU HF World Championship
Apr 16.....	BARC VE Session	Jul 13.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
Apr 27.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Jul 27.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Apr 29.....	<b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>	Sep 4/5.....	Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC
May 11.....	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	Nov.....	JARSfest, Benson, NC
May 14/16.....	Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH		
May 25.....	<b>Board Meeting</b>		
May 27.....	<b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>		

**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM  
**Board Meeting** - 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 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S**



Next Meeting  
**March 2010**  
**March 9**

To:



Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 8387  
Greenville, NC 27835  
**Ham Chatter**