

# Ham Chatter



Volume 46 Issue 5

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May 2012

Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY

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

## Bill Finch, W4EHF, awarded North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine



**Bill Finch, W4EHF**

*W4YDY Photo*

BARC member, Bill Finch, W4EHF, was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Beverly Perdue for his service to Amateur Radio and his work in emergency communications and radio nets. Bill is still active in the traffic nets every week. It was presented to him by North Carolina Section Manager Bill Morine, N2COP, at the RARSFest April 7, 2012 at the beginning of the ARRL Division meeting. Weldon Fields, W4AJT, Greensboro, also received the award. Morine remarked that there was a lot of Amateur Radio experience between Bill, age 100, and Weldon, age

98. Bill was licensed in 1935 and Weldon was licensed in 1930 for a total of 159 years between the two.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.

Bill had a few remarks at the end of the ceremony thanking everyone for their help and about his love of North Carolina even when he was away. Bill remarked that he was born in Raleigh and always looked forward to returning to North Carolina even though he was not gone for long. Years ago while in New York, he memorized the North Carolina toast and recited it in his comments. The first 4 lines are on the certificate that he received.

*Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,  
The summer land where the sun doth shine,*

*Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,*

*Here's to "Down Home," the Old North State!*

*Here's to the land of the cotton bloom white,*

## Next Meeting Delayed 1 Wk May 15, 2012

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Program will be a presentation on the Yasue 897 to be used on Field Day. Josh Steele, KB3VKH All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting will be May 29 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. All members invited.*

*Where the scuppernong perfumes the breeze at night,*

*Where the soft southern moss and jessamine mate,*

*'Neath the murmuring pines of the Old North State!*

*Here's to the land where the galax grows,*

*Where the rhododendron's rosette glows,*

*Where soars Mount Mitchell's summit great,*

*In the "Land of the Sky," in the Old North State!*

*Here's to the land where maidens are fair,*

*Where friends are true and cold hearts rare,*

*The near land, the dear land, whatever fate,*

*The blessed land, the best land, the Old North State!*

Congratulations Bill from all BARC members. Well deserved.

## BARC provides communication for MS Walk

The Greenville MS Walk was held on April 22nd, and as expected members of BARC and ARES were out in full force for the event. Events like the MS Walk give an opportunity for Amateur Radio operators to give back to the community through volunteering of our time, as well as honing our skills as competent amateurs who are available when the need arises. In total, eight of our members showed up in the dreary rain, HT's and rain gear in hand, to relay and coordinate communications for the event. As the rain kept coming down, we bundled up in our vehicles or under our umbrellas and awaited the start of the event. As the weather was less than cooperative, the race organizers decided it was best to have a shortened course, and I marveled at our abilities to adjust our plans on very short notice and continue on with our mission. Margaret McGuire, **KJ4RGQ**, and Cheryl McGuire, **KJ4RGP**, walked with the pack of attendees around the Greenville Town Commons area even as the rain came in full force and kept our net control station situated in the RENCi Van, Paul Fletcher, **KS4YF**, and Doug Ferris, **K4ROK**, updated on the location of the walkers. John McCoy, **K4KBB**, situated himself on the

outskirts of the course at the final loop, followed by myself and Gerrie Sanchez, **KJ4DMV**, nearer the starting position.

Overall, the event was a huge success, and the event managed to raise over \$32,000.00 that will go towards funding research on Multiple Sclerosis. My final thoughts after the event concluded was one of pride towards the attitudes and skills our amateur volunteers exhibited in the face of terrible weather and plan changes. When the rain poured, our spirits rose in response. When plans changed, we simply asked what we could do to help. In the face of adversity, we pulled through to ensure that the 2012 MS Walk was a success. Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, came out to assist if necessary.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated, those of you that stood by while we utilized the airwaves, and the Pitt County Repeater Association for use of the repeater. Here's to looking forward to next year's walk, and hoping that perhaps the weather will give us break this time. But as I was told when I moved to Greenville NC not too long ago, if you don't like the weather in Eastern NC, just wait a few minutes. - *Josh Steele, KB3VKH*

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held **Tuesday, June 19** at the VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, 756-3734. [bertrandf@ecu.edu](mailto:bertrandf@ecu.edu). Please bring 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 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/>

## Pitt County ARES

<http://www.pittares.com/>



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## Happy Birthday

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

- 14 W4TEP Tom Parsons
- 22 K4DKW Jeffery Meyer
- 29 KJ4RGQ Margaret McGuire

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

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

**Lucy Adams, WA4BVH**

**Charlie Wells, K4SKI**

**Tom Parsons, W4TEP**

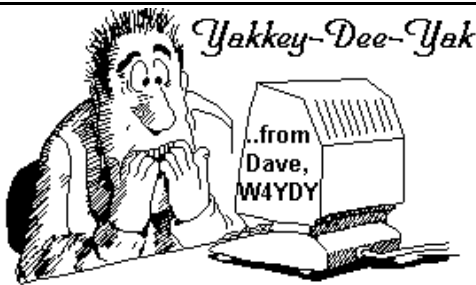
**Bob Moore, N4USB**

**Phyllis Nobles, wife of Bernie, WA4MOK**

Please inform *John McCoy, K4KBB*, *k4kbb @ earthlink.net* of any changes.



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**Thanks to KB3VKH**

A great big thanks from BARC goes to Josh Steele, **KB3VKH**, for leading the group that provided communications for the MS Walk on April 22. Also thanks to the participants. Article on page 2.

**Johnnie Edmondson, W4GDN, SK**

I was very sorry to see that Johnnie Edmondson, **W4GDN**, passed away on April 13. I enjoyed working with him in 1956 at the old WITN-TV transmitter site in Grifton. Johnnie worked part time some at the transmitter site after his day at the Grifton Railroad Station. I was working there when we were down to just one supervisor and one technician after the second technician resigned. Johnnie came in to help out until another technician was hired but he stayed on part time for a while. At that time in the early days of the TV station, it was only on the air from 1 PM to 11:30 PM each day so only a couple of technicians were required.

Since I was always off in the mornings, I would sometimes go to the Grifton railroad station and visit with Johnnie. Sometimes while I was there, the sounder on the telegraph would cut loose and Johnnie would copy the message and reply with a short burst. Of course, he was using the American Morse code and it was foreign to me! Hey - That was one of the questions Terry, **K4ZYD**, used at the last meeting in his first annual Great Ham Radio Trivia Challenge. I got that one right!

By the time Johnnie started his part time work at WITN-TV, I had set up a ham station at the transmitter site. Wish I had a picture of it. When I decided that I would like to put a station there, the station manager signed the form that I would send to the FCC. I sent it to the FCC and asked if I should just operate portable using **W4YDY** or would I get a second call sign. Back then, if you wanted to operated a station away from the official station location, you had to notify the FCC in the district of the mobile or portable operation if more

than 24 hours. A few weeks later, I received a Second Station call sign, **K4IWJ**. I set up my Hallicrafters SX-71 receiver and Heathkit DX-100 AM transmitter next to the TV transmitter console. I installed a 75 meter dipole with a 10 meter loosely below it using the same transmission line. I hooked one end with a loop over the tower guy wire that was 300 feet up tower. I tied a ball of twine to it and threw the ball to the ground. Tied the other end of the dipole to the tower at the 120 foot level. When I pulled it down the guy wire, it was a perfect flattop at 120 feet! My signal was weak in central NC, but in the NC mountain area, they thought I was running a KW! It sure had a low angle of radiation. When Johnnie was there, I was able to talk to **K4IWJ** from **W4YDY**. We both enjoyed the station on our breaks.

**756PRO For Sale by BARC**

The Icom IC-756PRO covers all nine HF ham bands plus 6 meters (receive from 30 kHz - 60 MHz). The high resolution 4.9 inch TFT color dot matrix LCD display provides more operating information than you've ever had before, including a spectrum scope ( $\pm 12.5$ ,  $\pm 25$ ,  $\pm 50$  or  $\pm 100$  kHz). The Pro features a 32-bit floating point DSP Digital IF filter with 41 selectable bandwidths, microphone equalizer, manual notch function, digital twin pass band tuning (PBT), all mode, and much more. No additional filters or high stability crystal oscillators are available or needed. The selectivity lets you pull out weak signals like never before. The rear panel features two antenna inputs plus an RCA type receive antenna jack.

Some of the features are a Voice Keyer, 101 Memories, RIT/XIT, Noise Blanker, Multiple Display Formats, Real-time Spectrum Display, Twin Digital PBT, Voice Recorder, 100 Watt Output, Built-in

**April VE Session Results**



Four applicants passed exams at the April 17 BARC VE session. BARC member Geraldine Sanchez, **KJ4DMV**, upgraded to Amateur Extra as did James Masclat, **WH6JQ**, Raleigh. Steve Creech, **KI4PLF**, Plymouth, upgraded to General. John Johnston, Jr., Fountain, earned the Technician license and was assigned **KK4IUB** on April 25. Congratulations to all for their accomplishment.

The VE's that attended were VE Liaison Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, Thomas Styron, **KB7L**, Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, Tom McLaughlin, **KE4NQP**, Dan Wallace, **K4HMW**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**. The next regular VE session will be June 19, 2012.

Auto Antenna Tuner, TCXO Built In, 100% Duty Cycle, Built in RTTY Demod, DSP Notch, 1 Hz Readout, Memory Keyer, RF Attenuator 6/12/18 dB and Automatic Notch. **See the ad on page 5.**

I had a Kenwood TS-850/SAT before the 756PRO and I was amazed at the increased performance. With the band scope, it's like having a TV picture of the activity on the bands by seeing nearby stations. I will never have another main transmitter without a band scope.

For recent reviews on the Icom 756PRO, go to eHam.net at <<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/418>>. One reviewer on 3/4/12 ended with "If you find one about \$1k or 1100, take it...you won't regret it! Enjoy!"

The original price was a little over \$3000 with shipping/tax. For those that have wanted a top notch transceiver at a good price, this is the one to get. -**W4YDY**

**Johnnie Edmondson, W4GDN, SK**  
 Johnnie Ray "J.R." Edmondson, 88, passed away, April 13, 2012.  
 Edmondson, a native of Martin County, served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He lived in Halifax County for a number of years before moving to Grifton in 1956 and to Greenville in 1977. He worked for Seaboard Coastline Railroad, formerly Atlantic Coastline, for 22 years prior to working for the Voice of America in 1968 until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1986. He was a former member of the Moose Lodge. He enjoyed playing golf, bridge, dancing and fishing.  
 He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Doris Ballard Edmondson; sons, Carroll Ray Edmondson and his wife, Sue, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Stuart W. Edmondson of San Diego, Calif., Phillip M. Edmondson and his wife, Ruby, of Hope Mills and Jeffrey L. Edmondson of Greenville; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. - *excerpts from the Daily Record.*



# BARC Field Day to be at ECU W Research Campus



The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will hold Field Day at the former VOA Site C, now the ECU West Research Campus. Roads to the site are in the map at the right.

From the 264 bypass interchange, it's 2.5 miles to the Mazingo Road interchange. Turn right and then go 1.25 miles to the stop sign at the VOA Site C Road. Turn right on the VOA road and go 1.75 miles to the entrance road on the right. You will see many towers that were used for the VOA Site C receiving station.

If you are coming around the 264 bypass from the East, turn off on the NC43 interchange. Turn right on NC43 and go 2.1 miles to VOA Site C Road. Left on the VOA road and then 2.1 miles to the entrance road on the left.

Although there is not a Field Day chairman to date, a few plans have been discussed at the board meetings. More will be discussed at the regular meetings. The May meeting will be on the operation of the Yasue radio. Josh Steele, **KB3VKH**, is going to do a presentation on the 897 transceiver that will be used on Field Day. Remember, anyone can operate no matter if they are licensed or not. For those that normally cannot operate on some or any of the bands used, there will be a licensed operator with you. It's a chance to operate and see what you are missing at home! Come on out and have fun. Also, enjoy the fellowship and a great meal on Saturday evening. - *W4YDY*



## New Amateur Extra exam



A new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) Pool will take effect July 1, 2012 and will be valid until June 30, 2016. The June 19 BARC VE session will be the last chance to use the old pool questions in Greenville.

There are not a lot of changes to the pool starting July 1. It looks like the same 12 schematic diagrams are used. For complete information on the new exams, go to the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/extra-question-pool>. You can download the complete current pool and the new pool from the site.

## Fifteen Years

This issue completes 15 years that I have edited Ham Chatter. Looks like more years are ahead! Thanks to everyone that has helped me with material and to the many friends that have resulted because of Ham Chatter. - *W4YDY*

## North Carolina Enforcement Updates

Pages 67-69 of the May issue of QST describes the role of Official Observers (OO) and how they work to improve the airwaves for all us. Three recent North Carolina cases have been resolved.

The Johnston County Amateur Radio Society (JARS) formed a committee to search for a station causing deliberate interference on its 147.27 repeater. Using fox hunting type skills, the club was able to identify the offender who stopped his misbehavior once discovered.

In western NC, a Ham who accused another Ham of interfering a repeater net retracted his complaint when it was discovered the net doesn't exist.

Finally, a Ham in the I-77 corridor who had been cited for ongoing malicious interference on 75 meter phone got a phone call from FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Laura Smith who told him to cease or face action. Such cases are rare but North Carolina's conscientious OO team and other concerned Hams helped to root out perpetrators and remind them of their compliance with Part 97.


By the way, did you know that OOs also send out notices for good operating skills? When exemplary on-air skills are heard, OOs will send out a "Good Operator Report". - *via NC ARRL Section News, Bill Morine, K2COP, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager*

# 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)

**FOR SALE:** YASEU 857D/ WITH REMOTE HEAD KIT. With box and manual. Already programmed with repeater, and public service frequencies. \$500.00 - Bernie Nobles, **WA4MOK**, [wa4mok@embarqmail.com](mailto:wa4mok@embarqmail.com)

**MARK'S MARINE, INC.**



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

Mark Langley  
Mike Langley  
**KD4MTT**

**H&R BLOCK**

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

Buyers Market:  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Tel 252.756.1209 Fax 252.756.6378  
[patrick.williams@tax.hrblock.com](mailto:patrick.williams@tax.hrblock.com)  
[www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com)

**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.

**WANTED:** Sony 2010 and a Kenwood RA-5 VHF/UHF Telescoping HT Antenna.

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

**FOR SALE:** Realistic Pro 2006 Programmable Scanner for \$125.00. Grundig Satellit 700 Communications receiver also for \$125.00. Richard Campbell, **W4JNC** 252-758-1244 or email at [richardecu@gmail.com](mailto:richardecu@gmail.com).

**FOR SALE by BARC:** ICOM 756PRO Transceiver. 160 to 6 meters (no 60). The transceiver has less than 25 hours of use since it was returned from factory service and completely checked out. No scratches! Looks and works like new. Includes hand mike, power cord and instruction book. In original box. \$1100. More information on page 3 in the Yakkey-Dee-Yak column. Dave Langley, **W4YDY** Email [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com) or Ph: 321-2525.

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Sun. closed

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## BARC Meeting Minutes - April 2012

### BARC Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 10, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:33 pm

President Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, opened the meeting.

There were 20 members and 2 guests present as recorded in the sign in book.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** was recited by the club at large.

**Visitors:** Jonathan O'Quinn, Bell Arthur; John Johnston, Fountain.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March Board Meeting were approved as published in Ham Chatter.

**Secretary's Report:** Brenda Bertrand, **KJ4GDS**, had nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, gave the report. Further information regarding the Treasurer's Report is available to members upon request.

**Equipment:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, had nothing to report.

**VE:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, reported that the next VE session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17 at 6.30 pm at the VFW Lodge. Further information can be found on the BARC website.

**Health and Welfare:** John McCoy, **K4KBB**, reported that the Well Wishes are as published in the Ham Chatter. Our extended well wishes to Bob Moore, **N4USB**, in hopes for a successful surgery and speedy recovery. Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, reported that Lucy Adams, **WA4BVH**, is back in Golden Living Center after a recent hospital stay. He reported that her son, Murray Adams, **WA4DAN**, said she would like visitors and phone calls. (Phone number in the roster.)

**Ham Chatter:** Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, encouraged club members to pay their dues. A new roster has been posted online for

access to club members.

**Publicity:** Taylor Millar, **W4WTM**, reported that club meetings and upcoming VE sessions are reported in Sunday editions of the Daily Reflector.

**Pitt County ARES:** Bill Dawson, **WA4SLC**, had nothing to report. A meeting in Plymouth is scheduled for May 12 at 10.30am at the Golden Skillet restaurant. Anyone interested in being the Emergency Coordinator for Pitt County is encouraged to contact Bill.

**Public Service:** Josh Steele, **KB3VKH**, reported that Sunday, April 22 is the MS Walk. The walk starts at 2 pm, Health and Safety meeting starts at 1pm. Anyone interested in providing radio support for this event should contact Josh.

**Future Programs:** Terry Monday, **K4ZYD**, is looking for future program ideas.

**Old Business:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, reported that the Field Day site will be at VOA site C (ECU West Research Campus).

**New Business:** Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, reported that Wednesday, May 2 at 10am there will be a re-dedication ceremony for the Edward R. Murrow transmitter station. Contact Dave if you plan to attend.

**Announcements:** Nothing to report.

**50/50 Drawing Winner:** Bill Dawson, **WA4SLC**.

**Program:** Terry Monday, **K4ZYD**, presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ham Challenge Bowl. Fun was had by all!

**Adjournment:** 8:39 pm

Respectfully submitted by

*Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS*

## BARC Board Minutes - April 2012

### BARC Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 24, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:34 pm

**Board Members Present:** President Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**; 1<sup>st</sup> VP John McCoy, **K4KBB**; Treasurer Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**; Secretary Brenda Bertrand, **KJ4GDS**; Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, Taylor Millar, **W4WTM**.

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

**Secretary's Report:** Brenda Bertrand, **KJ4GDS**, had nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, gave the report. Further information regarding the Treasurer's Report is available to members upon request.

**VE:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, reported that the next VE session is scheduled for June 19 at the VFW Lodge at 6:30pm.

**Equipment:** Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, had nothing to report.

**Health and Welfare:** John McCoy, **K4SKBB**, reported that Well Wishes are as published in the Ham Chatter.

**Ham Chatter:** Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, reported that May 2012 Ham Chatter will be Dave's 15 year anniversary as Ham Chatter editor. Excellent job, Dave!

**Publicity:** Taylor Millar, **W4WTM**, reported that announcements for upcoming club meetings and VE sessions are posted in the Daily Reflector.

**Pitt County ARES:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, had nothing to report.

**Programs:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, had nothing to report.

**New Members:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, had nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, reported that there is a need for a Field Day Chair (June 23/24). Discussion followed about Field Day logistics.

**New Business:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, had nothing to report.

**Announcements:** Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, had nothing to report.

**Adjournment:** 8.33 pm

Respectfully submitted by

*Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS*

## WPX Awards via LoTW Enters Beta Testing

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications announced that the ARRL will provide support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system. The WPX Award is the first of the CQ-sponsored awards that LoTW will support.

"We had originally planned to introduce this new program in early April, but due to the introduction of the new DXCC fee structure and our new Online DXCC application, we had to push the date back," explained ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "We are now beta testing the program with a select group of hams and are looking forward to launching to LoTW-WPX partnership in the first part of May."

The ARRL's LoTW system -- an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs -- was created in 2003 and has been adopted by almost 50,000 radio amateurs worldwide. It already has records of more than 400 million contacts and is growing weekly. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and CQ award fees will apply.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that this step gives radio amateurs throughout the world an inexpensive and convenient means of gaining credits toward CQ's popular operating awards. "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC, Worked All States and VUCC awards programs," he said when the partnership was announced. "We anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards."

CQ President Richard Ross, K2MGA, said he is very pleased to be able to move forward with LoTW support for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmations for several years," he explained. "I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those participants in our award programs who use Logbook of The World. We look forward to a smooth launch for WPX and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs, as well."

Yaesu is the Principal Sponsor of the LoTW website. - via *ARRL.COM* 04/25/12

## 2012 Continues to Show Growth in Amateur Radio Licensing

The first quarter of 2012 (January-March) saw a high level of Amateur Radio license exam sessions, producing an elevated influx of applications for new licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, these numbers outpaced the 2011 first quarter results by 30 percent. This uptick does not only apply to new applications; there was a 6 percent increase in the number of upgrades, too. "Statistics over the last 13 years reveal that these are the highest numbers that we've ever seen for the total number of US amateurs," Somma said. "Now there are more than 704,000 radio amateurs in the US."

Somma said that there are currently 704,236 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US. "We broke the 700,000 barrier in October 2011," she explained, "and the numbers continue to progress higher. Broken down by license class, at the end of March there were 14,352 Novices, 343,597 Technicians, 161,220 Generals, 57,393 Advanced and 127,674 Amateur Extra licensees. It's an all-time high for Technician, General and Extra class licensees, as well. Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year."

For the first quarter of 2012, Somma said that the ARRL VEC test session statistics are the highest first quarter results since the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007: "Our exam session activity and exam elements administered are elevated. As the total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions also grows. In turn, the number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also rising. The ARRL VEC has seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors. This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months." 04/11/2012

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## 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, Thursdays @ 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/>



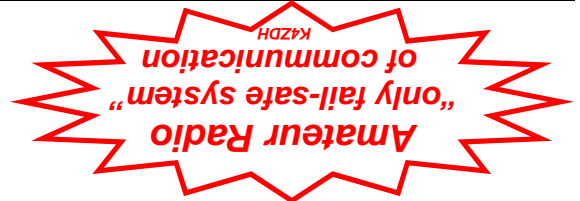
# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                     |                                       |                     |                             |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 15. ....        | <b>Regular Meeting - Delayed 1 WK</b> | Aug 14. ....        | <b>Regular Meeting</b>      |
| May 26/27 . . . . . | CQ WW CW WPX Contest                  | Aug 21. ....        | BARC VE Session – TUESDAY   |
| May 29. ....        | <b>Board Meeting</b>                  | Aug 28. ....        | <b>Board Meeting</b>        |
| May 31. ....        | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>           | Aug 30. ....        | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b> |
| Jun 12. ....        | <b>Regular Meeting</b>                | Sep 1/2 . . . . .   | Shelby Hamfest              |
| Jun 19 . . . . .    | BARC VE Session – TUESDAY             | Sep 11 . . . . .    | <b>Regular Meeting</b>      |
| Jun 23/24. . . . .  | ARRL Field Day                        | Sep 25. ....        | <b>Board Meeting</b>        |
| Jun 26 . . . . .    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                  | Sep 27. ....        | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b> |
| Jun 28 . . . . .    | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>           | Sep 29/30 . . . . . | CQ WW RTTY Contest          |
| Jun 30 . . . . .    | Down East Hamfest - Kinston           | Oct 9 . . . . .     | <b>Regular Meeting</b>      |
| Jul 10. ....        | <b>Regular Meeting</b>                | Oct 16 . . . . .    | BARC VE Session – TUESDAY   |
| Jul 14/15 . . . . . | IARU HF World Championship            | Oct 27/28. . . . .  | CQ WW SSB DX Contest        |
| Jul 21. ....        | Cary Midsummer Swapfest               | Oct 30 . . . . .    | <b>Board Meeting</b>        |
| Jul 31. ....        | <b>Board Meeting</b>                  |                     |                             |
| Aug 2. ....         | <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 8:30 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  
May 15  
DELAYED 1 WEEK

**May 2012**

To:



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