

Ham Chatter



Volume 49 Issue 8

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August 2015

Editor, Joe Jeansonne, WB4JOE

Email: jjjeansonne775@my.pittcc.edu

Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3.

In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

“Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category,” the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register.

“Once [it’s] eliminated, these licenses will no longer be financially bur-

dened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments.”

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees “will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories.” Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

- via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1HUpsQK>)
- build your own vanity call sign at (<http://www.radioqth.net/>)
- Thanks to W4YDY for the article info!



Next Meeting Aug 11, 2015

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, August 11, at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be about Collins Receivers by ARRL NC Section Manager Karl Bowman, W4CHX. All members and guests are invited to attend.



Karl Bowman, W4CHX

Next Board Meeting Aug 25, 2015

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

ARRL Files More "Grow Light" Ballast Complaints with FCC

The ARRL has filed three more complaints with the FCC, urging its Enforcement Bureau to investigate and initiate enforcement proceedings to halt the marketing and retail sale of certain RF lighting devices typically known as "grow light" ballasts, which, it said, violate FCC Part 18 rules. The largely identical complaints zeroed in on three specific products: The Galaxy Legacy Selective Wattage Ballast, the Quantum Horticulture HPS/MH-600W RF Lighting Ballast, and the Lumatek "Dial-a-Watt Air-Cooled" 1000 W Ballast.

The League had complained to the FCC in March 2014 about another Lumatek product, and noted that "apparently nothing has been done to date" in that case. The ARRL asserted that the three devices that are the subjects of its most recent complaints generate "blatantly excessive conducted emissions." Further, the League alleged, the devices are being marketed and sold illegally — in both instances in violation of FCC Part 18 rules. Supporting all three complaints were detailed reports from the ARRL Laboratory that quantify the League's emission level concerns.

"The level of conducted emissions from [these devices] is so high that, as a practi-

cal matter, one RF ballast operated in a residential environment would create preclusive interference to Amateur radio HF communications throughout entire neighborhoods," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote in each complaint. The devices exceeded conducted emission limits under all test conditions, "sometimes by extreme margins, throughout most of the HF range," Imlay said in his letters.

Samples of each RF lighting device cited were purchased by ARRL through retail outlets. All are manufactured overseas and imported into the US.

In a similar vein as its recent complaint about marketing of certain RF lighting devices by The Home Depot, the ARRL pointed out that there were no FCC labels on two of the devices mentioned nor any FCC compliance information "anywhere in the documentation, or in or on the box, or on the device itself," in violation of FCC Part 18 rules.

The League asked the FCC to require removal of all such illegal "grow light" devices from retail sale and marketing and the recall of those devices already sold or available for retail sale, and it said the device importers should be subject to a forfeiture proceeding.

The complaints were addressed to FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Bruce Jacobs and Laboratory Division Chief Rashmi Doshi.

— Via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1OLw7e9>)



Happy Birthday

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

5 - KM4JEG Robert Freuler
 15 - KB4JOE Joseph Jeansonne
 17 - W4WTM Taylor Millar
 18 - WA4BJP Bobby Pace
 19 - KS4YF Paul Fletcher
 20 - KV4CN David LeMoine
 25 - K4GOE Al Mullis
 26 - KM4DXX Jay Oswald
 26 - N2BVN Elizabetha Schultz
Additions or corrections to WB4JOE

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Charlie Wells, K4SKI

Tom Parsons, W4TEP

Please inform Gerry Clayton, K4IDD, gclayton4@suddenlink.net of any changes.



Aug 2015 BARC VE Session

The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for August 18, 2015. Exams will be held at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Email Steve Horne, KB5B 07jkrubi@gmail.com All sessions will accept walk-ins. Please bring the following:

- Photo ID
- ORIGINAL AND COPY of Amateur Radio license if applicable.
- ORIGINAL AND COPY of CSCE if applicable
- FRN. SSN will be required if you do not have an FRN.
- The proper fee (\$15.00 CASH).

See <http://bit.ly/1IHFTxG> for more info.

NC ARES Internet

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

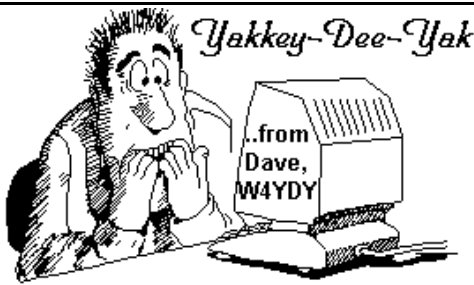
Pitt County ARES
EC needed!



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Participants at International Gatherings to Speak with ISS via Amateur Radio

For those that missed the July meeting, you missed an outstanding program by Tim Parkin, Batteries Plus Bulbs store manager. Several have told me it was one of the best programs presented to the club meeting.

Tim explained the advantages of LED lighting to replace the standard bulbs that are common in most applications. There are 2 big advantages with the LED bulbs. They use much less power and last about 25 times longer than regular bulbs. They usually pay for themselves in electricity rates in less than a year. The 60 watt equivalent uses about 10 watts versus the 60 watts for a regular bulb.

They have come down in price and as most things that have increased sales, the price will surely be lower as time goes on. The 60 watt units I recently bought were on sale for \$4.99 and use only 9.5 watts. They seem to be slightly brighter and they are equivalent to the soft white regular bulb. In a fixture that uses 2 bulbs, I now use 19 watts instead of 120 watts. Of course for a 4 light fixture, it uses 38 watts instead of 240 watts. Quite a savings in power and cost to use.

I have about 15 in use now, mostly 60 watt equivalents and but one is a 100 watt equivalent that uses 17.5 watts and also has a little more light output than a regular 100 watt bulb. I expect that after the first year, it will be like using free bulbs and lower electricity bills. They operate much cooler and have not caused any radio interference.

Tim also talked about batteries and the different types. He also had an excellent question and answer session. There were many questions from the members.

Karl Bowman, W4CHX, will present the August program about Collins receivers.

Participants at two international youth gatherings will have opportunities this week to speak via Amateur Radio with a member of the International Space Station crew.

On Tuesday, July 28, attendees at the United Space School in Seabrook, Texas, are scheduled to speak with astronaut Kimiya Yui, KG5BPH.

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact between NA1SS and W6SRJ in California will get under way at about 1252 UTC. Audio from W6SRJ will be relayed to Texas via telebridge. This will be the inaugural ARISS contact for Yui, who just arrived on station, and the 145.80 MHz downlink signal should be audible over much of the US West Coast during the pass.

He is a Collins collector. He will probably have a few words to say about the ARRL since he is the North Carolina Section Manager. He presented a program about the ARRL and NC activities to the club last year. Karl lives in Raleigh.

Good news for those that hold vanity call signs. The FCC has dropped the fees for the vanity call signs. Starting on September 3, you will be able to file a vanity application for a new call sign or renewal. It was costing more than it brought in. The main cost was administration of refunds for those that did not get the call sign that they ask for. Now it will be much easier to renew the call signs and not having to use credit cards or sending a check for the fee. The current fee is \$21.40 every 10 years. But no more!

The ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016.

The United Space School is an educational program hosted by the Foundation for International Space Education (FISE).

For 2 weeks each summer, FISE invites up to 50 students from about 2 dozen different countries to the University of Houston-Clear Lake to introduce them to aspects of working in the space sciences. During their stay, the students work in teams to assemble a mock manned mission to Mars, utilizing knowledge gained from guest lecturers and interactive field trips. On Friday, July 31, Scouts attending the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan are scheduled to speak via Amateur Radio with astronaut Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS ("cosmos"), on the ISS.

– Read more at (<http://bit.ly/1E4SG8c>)

Presently it is \$39 and will be going to \$49 that includes the QST Magazine. Sure glad I decided to become a Life Member back in 1968 when the annual dues were \$6.50 a year. Requirement for Life Member was 20 times the annual rate. So it cost \$130. Now it is 25 times the annual rate or \$975. In 2016, it will go to \$1225 for Life Member. You can make arrangements for payments, such as quarterly payments, etc. It sure was a good investment for me. It didn't take 20 years to break even. Starting in 2016, \$130 would get you a little over 2 ½ year membership! It's something to think about.

Remember, there is a VE Session at the VFW facility, Mumford Road, on Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 PM. It's time for Technician and General Class licenses to upgrade! Come on out. - W4YDY

FCC Shows No Mercy, Sustains \$22,000 Fine for Egregious On-Air Behavior by Michigan Licensee

The FCC has dropped the other shoe — hard — in the case of Michael Guernsey, KZ8O (ex-ND8V), of Parchment, Michigan, imposing the full \$22,000 fine it had proposed in 2014 for causing intentional interference with other Amateur Radio communications and for failing to identify.

In a Forfeiture Order issued on July 22, 2015 — exactly 1 year from its Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) proposing the hefty fine — the FCC cited Guernsey's "long history of causing interference to other Amateur Radio operators" and noted that he "has been warned repeatedly in writing." Guernsey's interactions with the FCC Enforcement Bureau date back well over a decade, and, at one point agreed to have his license suspended for 9 months.

"Despite repeated warnings from the [Enforcement] Bureau regarding his on-air behavior, Mr Guernsey's violations included the deliberate playing of music on top of the transmissions of other amateur operators in order to obstruct their ability to communicate on the frequency," the FCC recounted in the July 22 Forfeiture Order. "Mr Guernsey further used various animal noises to prevent the communications of other stations with whom he had a longstanding and well-documented dispute."

The FCC said the egregiousness of Guernsey's "repeated willful acts of

malicious interference" warranted the assessment of the full \$22,000 forfeiture it had proposed a year earlier. "Nothing in the record in this case, including Mr Guernsey's financial condition, warrants any leniency or mitigation of that amount," the FCC added.

In responding to the 2014 NAL, Guernsey denied responsibility for the interference, in part noting that FCC agents had not inspected his station and may have heard the signal of a nearby radio amateur. He also sought a cancellation or reduction of the fine based on inability to pay.

The FCC was having none of it. The Commission said its agents "positively confirmed the source" of the interfering transmissions as Guernsey's residence and monitored them for 40 minutes. Further, the FCC said that inability to pay a fine was but one criterion it uses in determining an appropriate financial penalty.

"Considering the entire record, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty," the FCC said in the Forfeiture Order to Guernsey, who has 30 days to pay the fine or arrange to do so on an installment plan.

In a related enforcement case, the FCC in January affirmed an \$11,500 fine against Brian Crow, K3VR, of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, for causing deliberate in-

terference. The FCC The Enforcement Bureau had proposed fining for both Crow and Guernsey in separate, but similarly worded Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture issued a year ago. Crow did not respond to the 2014 NAL.

In both instances, the FCC said, it responded in March 2014 to "several complaints of intentional interference" on 14.313 MHz, and Commission agents used radio direction-finding techniques to pin down the transmission sources.

– Via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1E4O4Pj>)

In a related story, The FCC has proposed fining a Georgia ham \$1000 for alleged failure to properly identify. David J. Tolassi, W4BHV, had been warned last August about not following the Commission's Part 97 ID rules. The FCC said his "deliberate disregard" of that warning warranted the proposed penalty.

"Mr Tolassi...has a history of failing to comply with the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL), released on July 22. As the NAL recounted, agents from the FCC's Atlanta Office used direction-finding techniques to locate the source of a signal on 14.313 MHz to Tolassi's residence in Ringold, Georgia.

– Read more at (<http://bit.ly/1hg4ZcO>)


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: Joe Jeansonne** or email to: barc@w4amc.com (no spaces)
NOTE: Commercial rates on page 7.

FOR SALE: IC-91AD D-star handheld. It is in mint condition, having been used very little. It was bought when I lived in the Columbia, SC area where there were 5 D-star repeaters, but I

very soon moved to Greenville, NC from there and it has just sat around. It does also work on standard FM repeaters, but I also had a Yaesu FT-60 and I use it exclusively for local work. I know there are no D-star repeaters in the area except for Rocky Mount and Raleigh, but someone may want that capability or know someone who does. It works on 2 meters and 440 both FM and D-star digital and receives several other bands too. I am asking \$350 for it after looking around on the internet at going prices. It originally sold for more than \$600. Included with the IC-91AD are the following; Instruction manual, Quick Reference booklet, Configuration disk, Programming cable, Wall charger, Drop-in charger and Car charger.
 Al Mullis, K4GOE,
 252-940-0510, k4goe@arrl.net

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BARC Regular Meeting Minutes - July 2015

MEETING DATE: 07-14-2015.

CALL TO ORDER:

Our President, Terry Monday, K4ZYD, called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm. We had the Pledge plus everyone introduced themselves with their name, call letters and city.

SECRETARY REPORT: n/a

TREASURER REPORT:

Account balances were reported.

EQUIPMENT REPORT:

Richard Campbell, W4JNC, reported all equipment was OK from Field Day.

PUBLICITY: Taylor W4WTM, reported that announcement of our meeting was printed in the "Meeting Place" in the Sunday Daily Reflector newspaper.

VE SESSION: it was announced that our next VE Session will be Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm.

HAM CHATTER: A printed copy of the July Ham Chatter is available on the front table at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Jeff, KD4KW, gave a Field Day report. He mentioned the bad weather at times. He said that the radios worked good. Reception was not good along the east coast, others mentioned that the west coast was good.

NEW BUSINESS: Terry, K4ZYD, reported that the antenna at the Oakwood School needed repair. He said we might get a group together to repair it later in the fall when we have much cooler weather.

PROGRAM: The program about LED Lighting was given by Tim Parkin of Batteries Plus Bulbs. Tim explained the cost savings with the newer LED bulbs. He told us about all the different bulb types and their advantages. We had a great question and answer session with Tim who had all the answers to battery and bulb questions.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 9:10 PM.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by:
Taylor Millar, W4WTM, Secretary

BARC Board Meeting Minutes—July 2015

Date : 07-28-2015

CALL TO ORDER: President, Terry Monday, K4ZYD, called the meeting to order at about 7:30 PM.

DISCUSSIONS: OAKWOOD SCHOOL ANTENNA REPAIR:

Our Treasurer, Jeff Meyer, led discussions about repairing the antenna at Oakwood School to get them on the air. It is planned to do this in the fall when we have cooler weather. He also kicked off the discussions about the new Technician Class.

TECHNICIAN CLASS: We also talked

about the Oakwood School being a possible site for the new Technician Class. Another site for the class mentioned was the Shepherd Library downtown which was where several of us took the class years ago. We felt like this class would help many get their radio license. Jeff mentioned contacting the library to see if we could get a room for this class. We also talked about times for the class. Some mentioned having it on Saturday mornings which would fit most everyone's schedules. A number of good ideas were mentioned.

SECRETARY REPORT: No report.

VE SESSION : it was announced that the next VE Session will be held on August 18th at 6:30 PM.

HAM CHATTER: No Report.

The Shelby Ham Fest will be in Shelby on September 5th/6th.

With no further business the meeting adjourned about 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Taylor Millar, W4WTM, Secretary

Two Radio Amateurs Set to Launch to ISS

Three new International Space Station (ISS) crew members will launch July 23 (UTC) from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS;

Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, and Kimiya Yui will travel into space in a Russian Soyuzspacecraft that will rendezvous with the ISS and dock after four orbits of Earth. NASA TV will cover the activities.

Expedition 44 Commander Genady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineers Scott Kelly and Mikhail Kornienko, RN3BF, will be on

hand to greet the newcomers. Lindgren, Kononenko, and Yui will remain on station until late December.

Kelly and Kornienko, who have been onboard the ISS since March, will return to Earth next March at the end of their 1-year mission. Padalka, who also has been aboard since March, will return to Earth in September.

- Via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1K17wP0>)
- NASA (<http://1.usa.gov/1b4frcu>)



Short Circuit Causes Feed Line Fire at Sweden's SAQ Alexanderson Station

Sweden's Alexanderson alternator station SAQ said this week that a feed-line fire may have adversely affected the tally of listener reports from the station's June 28 "Alexanderson Day" transmissions. Lars Kalland, SM6NM, at the SAQ World Heritage Grimeton site said there was a problem with the antenna on the first transmission from the vintage equipment at 0900 UTC.

"[A]fter a wet and rainy night between Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28, an isolator [insulator] in the antenna feed system, just outside the transmission hall, caught fire, during the startup and tuning of the Alexanderson Alternator," a report on the SAQ website recounted. As a result, the transmitter was shut down, and no transmission was made at 0900 UTC.

Kalland blamed the incident on a short circuit and said the problem was able to be repaired in short order, in time for SAQ to return to the air for its scheduled 1200 UTC transmission. He said the SAQ team considered the 1200 transmission "one of the best transmissions ever," and the frequency was clear of interference. SAQ transmits on 17.2 kHz.

The vintage SAQ Alexanderson alternator, dating from the 1920s — essentially an ac alternator run at extremely high speed — can put out 200 kW but typically is operated at less than one-half that power level.

Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions.

The number of Alexanderson Day reports was lower than usual, though — some 200 compared to the nearly 400 reports received after the Christmas Eve 2014 transmission. "Possibly the interrupted transmission is a reason," Kalland speculated.

Out of the five US listeners who attempted to hear SAQ in June, only one — John Magliacane, KD2BD — was successful. He reported a "weak signal on [the] spectrum plot." Far more reports came from all over Europe, with many listeners reporting a strong signal from SAQ.

The next planned SAQ transmission will take place on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015.

– Via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1IHSvF5>)



An SAQ operator prepares to transmit.

NETS VHF/UHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Newport SkyWarn Tues. nights 2100E Grifton-146.685-88.5 tone Newport-145.450....
IRLP 8561 links to Columbia Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone 444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone
- ◆ Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ Wayne County ARA Net, Thursdays at 8:30 PM, 146.850 PL is 88.5. PL turned off during net. Net is also linked to the 443.000 repeater .

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

Greenville repeaters

147.09/69 - 145.35/144.75

444.8/449.8

All use 131.8 tone

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 11	Regular Meeting	Nov 21/22.	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Aug 18	BARC VE Session - Tuesday	Nov 22	Benson Hamfest ** ***
Aug 25	Board Meeting	Nov 24	Board Meeting
Sep 5/6.	Shelby Hamfest **	Nov 28/29.	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Sep 8	Regular Meeting	Dec 5/6	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Sep 12	Virginia Beach Hamfest	Dec 8	BARC Christmas Party
Sep 26/27.	CQ WW RTTY Contest	Dec 12/13.	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Sep 29	Board Meeting	Dec 29	Board Meeting
Oct 11.	Maysville Hamfest ** ***	Jan 2/3	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Oct 13.	Regular Meeting	Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM **Hamfests	
Oct 24/25	CQ WW SSB DX Contest	Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM *** Date not confirmed	
Oct 27.	Board Meeting		
Nov 7/8.	ARRL CW Sweepstakes		
Nov 10	Regular Meeting		

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 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



Aug 11, 2015
Next Meeting
Aug 2015

To:



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