

# Ham Chatter



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## Revamped FCC Website to Debut on December 10

The FCC has announced that its large-scale website redesign will be completed by December 10. The switch to the new site is set to begin on December 10 at 0100 UTC and will be completed about 4 hours later. "While the transition to the revamped site is expected to be completed almost instantaneously, there will be an ongoing process following this transition that will continue to involve user feedback, fixes by the FCC's Information Technology team, and content updates by policy bureaus and offices," the FCC said in a November 24 Public Notice.

The FCC said the new website has been designed to provide "better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability." Earlier this year the Commission's IT Department opened a beta-test version of the site and has been gathering user comments.

"Extensive user research revealed how the FCC could improve the website's information architecture to make content easier to find," the Public Notice said. The FCC said its new website has been designed to operate on tablet and mobile device browsers with the display optimization based upon the device. The site utilizes a "toggle" navigation that allows visitors to browse either by "Category" or "Bureau and Office."

When the new site comes online, the familiar current FCC website will no longer be available. The FCC said web

pages and files on [transition.fcc.gov](http://transition.fcc.gov) that have not already migrated to the new site will remain available, and existing bookmarks will be redirected to the appropriate content on the new site. While the Commission has already upgraded some of its interactive systems, including the Consumer Help Center, and is working toward improvements on similar systems, including the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), these systems will not be directly impacted by the December 10 migration.

"This migration will impact the look and functionality of web pages that are coded in HTML and managed through a content management system, such as the homepage and individual bureau pages," the FCC Public Notice said. The FCC said the change to a new website design was, in part, driven by a need to start using a more modern, open-source content management system to upgrade the site's look and architecture, and to transition to a system that is compatible with the latest website innovations.

FCC Chief Information Officer David Bray has written blog posts about the website development process, and the beta site has been publically available and soliciting feedback since April. Two additional public outreach sessions will be held before the December 10 changeover to explain the new site and its functionality to interested stakeholders. -via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1QiiH7Q>)

## Next Meeting—Dec 8, 2015

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its **Annual Christmas party** at 7:00 PM with a potluck meal with setup starting at 6:30 PM. BARC will furnish beverages. It will be on Tuesday, December 8, at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be peer awards and introduction of 2016 BARC officers after the meal. **All members, families and guests are invited to attend.**

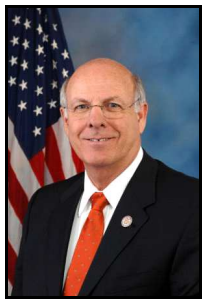
## Senator Burr misinterpreted S 1685 support letters

If you receive, or have received, a letter from Senator Burr indicating that you do NOT support S 1685, and you do support it, you need to contact Senator Burr and correct the mistake. His telephone number is (202) 224-3154 and his FAX number is (202) 228-2981.

## BARC Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 29 at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

## There's a New Ham in the House!



US Rep Steve Pearce (R-NM-2) has become the third Amateur Radio licensee in the Congress. Pearce recently became KG5KIQ. He joins his House colleague, Rep Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI), and Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Pearce had reached out earlier this year to ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and New Mexico Section Manager Ed James, KA8JMW, to find out more about ham radio. "He said he had learned of ham radio and was interested in its utility for communicating with others wirelessly, especially at long distances on HF," Milesosky recounted. More recently the congressman

alerted Milesosky and James that he would be passing through Albuquerque and wanted to meet with them to chat further about Amateur Radio. The get-together over coffee with Pearce, an aide, James, and Milesosky lasted for "a very productive hour," Milesosky said. On November 12, Pearce's aide contacted James to say that the Congressman has just arrived in Albuquerque and wanted to take the Technician license examination, if possible. "We notified Frank Warren, AB5WJ, whose VE team regularly conducts on-demand licensing exams," Milesosky said. Three hours after our first indication that he was in town, the Congressman was taking his Technician license exam."

The FCC granted Pearce's license on November 18.

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held **Tuesday, December 15, 2015** at the VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Email Steve Horne II, KB5B, VE Liaison at [07jkrubi@gmail.com](mailto:07jkrubi@gmail.com). Walk-ins welcome. 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. \*

\* **More info** at <http://www.w4amc.com/barcinfo.html#VE>.

## NC ARES Internet

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

**Pitt County ARES**  
EC needed!



**Happy Birthday**

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

- 02 W4ZRA** Rick LaMonica
- 11 KG4CCX** Tod LeMoine
- 11 AK4MU** James Lewis
- 13 KC4RBE** June Highland
- 24 KK4HHY** Ervin (Erv) Davis
- 31 W4DXJ** Vashti Forrest

## Well Wishes

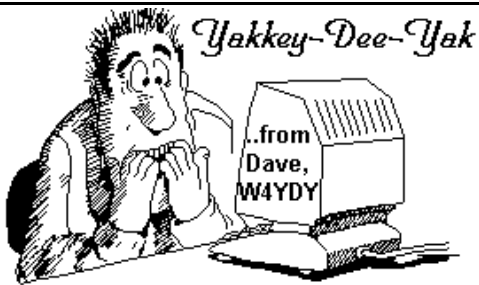
Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following: **Charlie Wells, K4SKI**  
**Tom Parsons, W4TEP**  
Family of **Gary Gilliland, N5SEW**  
Please inform Gerry Clayton, **K4IDD**,  
[gclayton4@suddenlink.net](mailto:gclayton4@suddenlink.net) of any changes.



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Another year gone already! It's Christmas party time on December 8. If you have never been to the BARC Christmas party, you have missed a good time with the families and great food. It's a covered dish meal with lots of good meats and vegetables not to mention the great deserts. The club will furnish the beverages. After the meal, plaques and certificates are awarded to the members that have participated in helping to keep the club functioning. If you go to the party once, you will have such a good time, that you will not want to miss the future Christmas parties. I have been to them all but one in the last 20 years. Missed that one because I was in the hospital!

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, and I went to the Benson hamfest in November and had a good time browsing the flea market. It was fun seeing all the good parts that you want but can't always remember which ones you need because you didn't bring a list. I did pick up some replacement feet for my Collins 30L-1 amplifier.

I don't remember seeing anyone from BARC. Usually there are several that go to the Benson hamfest. Robert Young, NC4RY, was there looking over the flea market and taking it easy. He didn't do a display of his Tarheel Antenna products this time. Had a nice chat with him and we are looking forward to his annual presentation at one of our club meetings in 2016. Also talked to Bill Morine, N2COP, ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director and Karl Bowman, W4CHX, North Carolina ARRL Section Manager while

## Brightleaf 2016 Dues

Membership dues for BARC are due January 1. Those who have not paid their dues will not be listed on the roster and will be removed from the *Ham Chatter* mailing list starting in April. Membership dues are the same as they were in 2015 and are as follows:

**Regular Member** \$20.00  
**Family Member** \$2.00  
**Associate Member (Non-Licensed)** \$5.00  
**Honorary Member** \$0.00  
**New Hams: 18 and younger (1st year)** \$5.00  
**New Hams: 19 and older (1st year)** \$10.00

Please mail your dues, along with the member application form if there are any changes to: **Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835.**

We are requesting that you send the application form in so that we can have your correct information on file. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.w4amc.com/application.pdf>.

If anyone has any questions concerning their membership status or their dues, please email Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, BARC Treasurer, at [jef-freymeyer55@gmail.com](mailto:jef-freymeyer55@gmail.com) (remove spaces in email address). **Thank you for your support and participation in BARC.**

they were working the ARRL booth. Also talked with several friends that I have known for over 40 years.

Jeff discussed the NC QSO party with Marty Young, W4MY. BARC will be a bonus station, W1VOA, at the old VOA Site C receiving station West of Greenville on February 28, 2016 - 1000 EST to 2000 EST. The QSO Party is sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and Marty is heading the project. The official QSL card will feature the VOA site. Jeff will be looking for operators because we will be a big contact for the contest participants. We need to be on the air for the whole 10 hours.

Also picked up some more ARRL logbooks at the hamfest. Still have all the old ones and keeping those since 1952. Now on log Number

94 for the fixed station and Number 11 for the mobile radio. Starting keeping the mobile log when I installed the Icom 706 in 2002. Since each log holds about 1200 QSOs, you can figure out how many contacts that is.

Also have all the paper log contacts in the computer log using LOGic9. If you have contacted me, the computer can find the contact in less than a second. That's how I can find a contact with K4KBB on December 15, 1957 at 1:20 AM. He was in Bishopville, SC and I was in Raleigh and we talked for 30 minutes. Don't know what rig he had but I'm sure he can tell you. It was probably an ART-13 transmitter. I was listening on a Collins 75A-4 receiver and the transmitter was a Hallicrafters HT-32 driving a home brew pair of grounded grid 813s running 750 watts. That amplifier ended up at Wake Tech ham shack in the 1960s but I'm sure it's long gone now. - W4YDY



## Dutch Hams Face Hefty Cleaning Cost for Return of QSLs Shipped on Downed Flight

The Netherlands IARU member society VERON has reported that hams there have an opportunity to reclaim their QSL cards salvaged from the wreckage of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, which was shot down over Ukraine in 2014 — provided they're willing to cover the cost of having them cleaned. VERON spotted the recovered cards in a YouTube video last year, and the Dutch QSL Bureau confirmed that a shipment of QSL cards had been headed for Indonesia, the flight's planned destination. The 465 recovered cards now are at Schipol Airport near Amsterdam in the custody of Malaysian Airlines.

VERON has since learned that a hefty "cleaning"



charge stands in the way of any hams who might want to reclaim their cards. According to VERON, a Malaysian Airlines attorney has indicated that a safety specialist must first clean the 465 cards before they may be returned to their senders. The quoted cost for the job is more than \$27,000 US, exclusive of any taxes.

According to VERON, the cards belong to the radio amateurs who sent them, and neither it nor the Dutch QSL Bureau can make a decision on whether or not the cards should be cleaned. "Given the high cost, it is unlikely that the rightful owners want their cards back," VERON said. "Nevertheless, the [VERON] central administration offers amateurs the chance to regain their QSL cards." Any amateurs interested in reclaiming the salvaged cards should contact VERON.

MH17 was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it went down after being struck by a missile, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew members. — Thanks to Southgate ARC via VERON/Jean-Paul Suijs, PA9X

- via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1QiUmn4>)

### Special November 2015 BARC VE Session Results

Two candidates just finished the BARC Technician class on November 14 and a special VE Session was held after the class ended.

Jamie Dail, **KM4PDT**, Greenville, and Christine Zuercher, **KM4PDS**, Greenville, passed Element 2 to earn the Technician Class license. *Their new call signs were granted on November 23 by the FCC.* Congratulations to Jamie and Christine.

The VE's that attended were VE Liaison Steve Horne II, **KB5B**, Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, Dan Wallace, **K4HMW**, Gary Coriell, **KE5ACR**, Thomas Styron, **KB7L**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**.

The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for

**[December 15, 2015.](#)**

# 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)

I will be selling some equipment of K4LEN SK , Len Downing, prices pretty much firm. Equipment pristine condition. Alpha 8100 spare set of finals mint about 5 hours box

manual 5000.000—Palstar 5k dummy load — Kenwood tm 741a 2 / 220/ 440 mint with triplexers 600.00 each or both 1000.00—Some other equipment is being burned in and check along with organizing boxes/ manuals / accessories boxes. Will not ship large equipment at this time.  
call Neal 252-946-3840 between 11 am and 5 pm and/or leave message




**FOR SALE:** Ameritron ALS-600 solid-state HF amp, (1.5-30 MHz) and MFJ-994B 600W auto-tuner package. Amp has manual band-switching only (SN 12965) 50-75W drive for 500W output. Heavy (36 lbs.) analog PS set to 240V input. Line taps and fuses can be changed for 120V. With manuals, no dents, no scratches. Both for \$600 cash. John, W4FA, 252-355-3415

## 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**  
Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club.  
**Donations accepted!**

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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  
www.hrblock.com

**K4KBB**

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Greenville, NC 27834  
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Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

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**K4ZYD**

105-D East Victoria Ct. Phone (252) 321-6007  
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Sun. closed

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## BARC Regular Meeting Minutes - November 2015

No Minutes Submitted.

### Estate Sale of N4KDR (SK)

- K6VHF foot switch, model #FS101 - **\$15**
  - K6VHF Hs-101c headset adapter cable for Icom - **\$15**
  - Jennings Variable Inductor with motor - **\$100**
  - MFJ Practice Code Oscillator w/key - **\$25**
  - 5 - Alpha Delta Surge Protectors, model #TTEGO, new/not used has type N connectors - **\$15 each.**
  - 2 - Six meter Halo antennas, one round, one square—**Please call**
  - Homebrew antenna tuner, 10 – 80 meter, no SWR meter, very good condition - **\$50**
  - NooElec NESDR Mini HF bundle, which includes Ham It Up v1.3 RF Upconverter for Software Defined Radio, and NooElec R820T SDR & DVB-T Flash drive, cables, and antenna - **\$60**
- The “Packaged Sale” was purchased new in June of 2013, and has had very little use. **\$900**
- For further information and pictures contact  
**Dave Tabbutt**  
**W3DET**  
**w3det@arrrl.net**  
**cell: 252-944-3660**

#### Packaged Sale

##### Complete HF station includes

- Icom 7200, 100 Watt, HF Transceiver, 6 – 80 meters, mic, manual, boxes.
- Power-werx 30 amp. Switching power supply
- LDG Auto Tuner IT-100, cables , box
- MFJ 822 – SWR, Watt meter, hf/vhf, 300W

## BARC Board Meeting Minutes - November 2015

Date : 11-24-2015.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Langley, John McCoy, Jeff Meyer and Bob Hanrahan.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President- elect Jeff Meyer at 7:30.

#### TREASURER’S REPORT:

No report,

#### SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Read from November Ham Chatter.

The Christmas meeting will have a pot luck dinner, peer awards and certifi-

cates, and induction of new officers. VE session was reviewed. The VE Liaison is Steve Horne II, KB5B. New HAMs from the previous session include Jamie Dail KM4PDT and Christine Zuercher, KM4PDS. Call signs were issued 11/23/2015.

Mike Monteith has volunteered to coordinate the website. The material to be transferred to the new website will be discussed at the Jan business meeting.

Flowers, paper-ware and stuff for dinner and tables will be needed for the December meeting, and Jeff will talk to Terry Monday to make sure we will

be ready. Mike Langley will be contacted by Jeff to see if he will present awards again.

Topics for programs were discussed and will be brought up by Dave Langley. QSO party W4MY RARS Website for QSO party 12-10 on Feb 28. W1VOA will be one of four bonus stations.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.**

**Submitted by Secretary- elect Bob Hanrahan AF4QY**



## WX4NHC Will Be On the Air for SKYWARN Recognition Day on Saturday, December 5

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, will be taking part in SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) on Saturday, December 5. The annual on-the-air event gets under way at 0000 UTC (Friday, December 4 in US time zones) and concludes at 2400 UTC. WX4NHC will be active from 1400 UTC until 2300 UTC. The Hurricane Center ham station has participated in every SKYWARN Recognition Day since its inauguration 16 years ago. WX4NHC will take advantage of the event for operator training.



“We will try to stay on the recognized Hurricane Watch Net frequency of 14.325 MHz most of the time and announce when we QSY,” said Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, at the NHC. WX4NHC will also be active on a wide variety of bands and modes, from HF through UHF. Cosponsored by ARRL and the National Weather Service, SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform. Registration is open for stations planning to participate from a National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office; a list of NWS participating offices is on the NWS

SKYWARN Recognition Day webpage. During the 24 hour event, Amateur Radio operators set up at NWS offices contact other hams across the country. This event is also aimed at strengthening the bond between Amateur Radio operators and local NWS offices.

During SKYWARN Recognition Day amateur stations exchange contact information with as many National Weather Service-based stations as possible on SSB, FM, CW, RTTY, and AM on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus 70 centimeters. Repeater contacts are permitted.

Stations exchange call signs, signal reports, location, and a one or two-word description of the weather (eg, sunny, partly cloudy, windy, rainy). Procedures are detailed on the NOAA SRD web page. The volunteer SKYWARN program comprises nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters — many of them radio amateurs — who identify severe storms and provide NWS forecasters with reports of local weather conditions during severe weather events.

To learn more, visit the SKYWARN Recognition Day website.

- via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/1QiUBOU>)

## 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

## 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

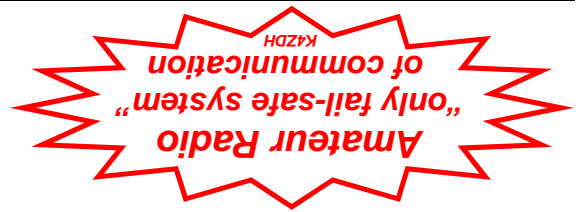
**Dec 8 .....BARC Christmas Party**  
 Dec 12/13.....ARRL 10 Meter Contest  
 Dec 15.....**VE Exam**  
 Dec 29.....**Board Meeting**  
 Jan 2/3.....ARRL RTTY Roundup  
 Jan 12.....**Regular Meeting**  
 Jan 26.....**Board Meeting**  
 Jan 29/31.....CQ WW CW 160M Contest  
 Feb 6.....Richmond Frostfest \*\*  
 Feb 9.....**Regular Meeting**  
 Feb 13/14.....CQ WPX RTTY Contest  
 Feb 16.....**VE Exam**

Feb 20/21.....ARRL CW DX Contest  
 Feb 23.....**Board Meeting**  
 Feb 26/28.....CQ WW SSB 160M Contest  
 Mar 5/6.....ARRL SSB DX Contest  
 Mar 8.....**Regular Meeting**  
 Mar 26/27.....CQ WW SSB WPX Contest  
 Mar 29.....**Board Meeting**  
 Apr 2.....RARSfest - Raleigh \*\*

**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM \*\*Hamfests  
**Board Meeting** - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

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**



**DEC 2015**  
**Next Meeting**  
**Dec 8, 2015**

To:



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