

ham chatter



Volume 50 Issue 3

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

March 2016

Editor, Joe Jeansonne, WB4JOE

Email: jljeansonne775@my.pittcc.edu

US Amateur Radio Numbers Continue to Soar

Amateur Radio is alive and well! Growth in the US continued in 2015, with a record 735,405 licensees in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database by the end of the year. That's up 9130 over December 2014, a 1.2 percent rise, continuing a steady increase in the Amateur Radio population in every year since 2007. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8149 licensees. The figures, compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages, exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Compared with the same month 10 years ago, the Amateur Radio population in the US has expanded by 72,805 licensees — or nearly 11 percent.

As expected, the biggest growth by license class was in Technician licensees, which rose by 6570 in 2015. General ranks increased by 3079, and Amateur Extra numbers went up by 3496. The 2015 overall numbers faltered a little in April before rebounding in July. The introduction of a new General class question pool on July 1 appeared to have only a slight effect on month-to-month numbers in that license class. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said 2015 was another banner year for ARRL VEC-sponsored test sessions.

"For the second year in a row, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an im-

portant milestone for the ARRL VEC," she said. "A total of 7358 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2015, compared to 7216 in 2014. The number of exam applicants was down slightly in 2015, compared to the previous year, and the number of examination elements administered also dipped slightly, she noted.

"Since 2014 was a record-setting year, the numbers of 2015 examinees didn't drop so much as return to more typical levels," she explained.

Somma pointed out that the ARRL-VEC also processed and filed nearly 10,100 license renewals and address changes for members in 2015. This is a free service to ARRL members.

Technician licensees still comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 47,850 Advanced and 10,800 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 103,938 at the end of 2015, up from 107,735 at the end of 2014. North Dakota remained the state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees, with 1510, up very slightly over the previous 12 months. Club station licenses in the US number 11,599, according to Speroni's web pages.

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

Next Meeting - Mar 8, 2016

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be by **Chief Meteorologist for WNCT, Jerry Jackson**. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.



Jerry Jackson, WNCT

BARC Board Meeting

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

FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2. Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

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

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held **Tuesday, April 19, 2016** 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 **March**.

9	NW4S	Jeff Wainwright
12	KI6BPT	Rita Pulera
17	KG4CZV	David Pulver

Additions or corrections to WB4JOE

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Charlie Wells, K4SKI
Tom Parsons, W4TEP
Taylor Millar, W4WTM
Family of E. Underwood, KE4JZU

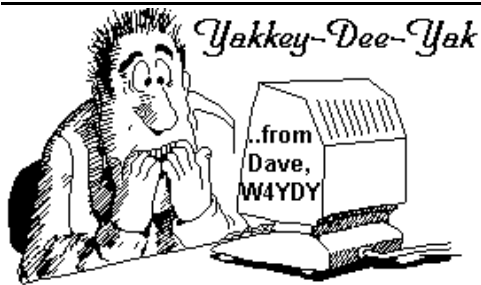
Please inform Gerry Clayton, K4IDD, [gclayton4 @ suddenlink.net](mailto:gclayton4@suddenlink.net) of any changes.



In This Issue

Numbers Continue to Soar	1
Lifetime Licenses	2
Brightleaf 2016 Dues	3
Yakkey-Dee-Yak from Dave	3
President's Corner	4
VE Session Results	4
Meeting Minutes	6
QSO Party	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** - JEFF MEYER, K4DKW * **FIRST V. PRESIDENT** - GERRY CLAYTON, K4IDD * **SECOND V. PRESIDENT** - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY * **SECRETARY** - BOB HANRAHAN, AF4QY * **TREASURER** - VACANT * **BOARD MEMBER** - TERRY MONDAY, K4ZYD * **BOARD MEMBER** - JOHN McCOY, K4KBB * **VE LIAISON**, STEVE HORNE, II, AB5B * PUBLIC RELATIONS, TAYLOR MILLAR, W4WTM * PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR & BARC HISTORIAN - PAT WILLIAMS, KG4NSC * W4AMC/W1VOAW/4UHS TRUSTEE, TOM PARSONS, W4TEP * HAM CHATTER EDITOR - JOE JEANSONNE, WB4JOE * WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY * EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE * **OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC.** * CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. * **BOARD MEMBERS IN BOLD** *



DUES

It's that time of the year again! If you haven't paid your dues for 2016, you get the red dot. That means that if dues are not paid by the end of March, you will not receive notices about new *Ham Chatter* newsletters online and you will be dropped from the roster. The new roster starting in April will have a new password. As I am writing this, 27 of the 69 on the roster have not paid dues for 2016. If you can't get to a meeting, please send you payment to Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835. Applications are at <http://www.w4amc.com/application.pdf>.

W4AMC.COM

Mike Monteith, KM4OLT, is in the process of taking over the editing duties of the club web site. He has a test site now that is a mirror of the present site. When all logistics are worked out, he will be in charge of editing the site. At first it will look like the one up now but he is working on a new design. He plans to have the Ham Chatter archive, pictures, videos of club activities and most other pages. I'm sure it will be a great looking site as I have only learned by doing and still using programs from the 1990's to edit the site.

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

This coming July will be 20 years ago that I suggested that the club should have a site and guess who was standing on the tracks when the train got me!! Mike has training and a lot of experience with web sites. On QRZ.COM, he has info about his experience. The third paragraph reads as follows, *"Programming - from previous jobs and curiosity, I've programmed in Basic, assembly, C, C++, C#, Pascal, Fortran, Java, and shell programming. I also started out making web pages when all you had was ftp and a text editor. Now I use PHP, CSS, HTML, Java, JavaScript, and currently using Joomla for a lot of work."* So you can see that good things are coming. Check him out on QRZ.COM for his story.

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.**

W1VOA & NC QSO PARTY

Several from other parts of North Carolina to help with the setup and operation of W1VOA out at the old VOA Receiving Site C West of Greenville. Marty Young, W4MY, NCQP Committee Chairman led a group to help setup and operate the radios for W1VOA since it was one of the bonus stations in North Carolina that counted for 50 extra points in the scoring. Thanks to those that helped with the station.

Dave, W4YDY

President's Corner - Jeff Meyer, K4DKW

Just in case you missed January's DMR program or the February's program on the NC QSO Party, we have another good one scheduled March.

First and foremost, don't forget being in the audience!

When **7:30PM Tuesday, March 8th**
Where: **VFW Post 7032, 1108**
Mumford Road, Greenville, NC

MARCH'S PROGRAM

As hams we are always interested in the weather, so we've scheduled **Jerry Jackson**, Chief Meteorologist for WNCT 9 First Alert Weather as our speaker for March's meeting. A native son from Mount Olive, Jerry has worked for nearly 20 years as a broadcast meteorologist, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from NC State, the Television Seal of Approval from the American Meteorological Society and has been honored 9 times by the Associated Press and RTNDA for broadcast excellence.

Jerry has kept viewers informed through some of the largest severe weather events in North Carolina history, including Hurricane Floyd and the Carolina Tornado Outbreak of 2011 and will be sharing both his experiences and insights that night.

NC QSO PARTY

Turning our sights to **NC QSO Party** on Sunday, Feb 28th, there's still time to participate, manage a pileup and really test your operating skills. If you're interested and up for the challenge, drop me or Dave Langley an e-mail soon. The more the merrier!

SURVEY

We all know that hams traditionally like to maintain a low profile and that finding a group/club, Elmer, help when it's needed, etc., can be difficult, intimidating and frustrating. I have a solution! Hams have always been unselfish and readily willing to lend a hand, especially, when a radio is involved.

With goodwill as our motive and radio as our vehicle, **please review, complete and return the attached survey**. I will be using it to identify skills, interests and ideas for both team building and future programs. This survey will identify people that can potentially help you to build an antenna, setup your stations, teach you on how to properly solder, etc. The list is endless. We all can use a little help sometime and should be willing to share our skills too!

By sharing both those skills and interests, we'll make some new friends, gain new experiences and skills with other hams, learn something new and get more involved with the hobby you love.

So whether this will be your first meeting or your 100th, I sincerely hope that you will accept my invitation, whether it's just to check us out, rag chew and even become a part of our organization. Everyone wins when we all participate and help each other grow.

May the bands always be open when you call CQ!

Jeff Meyer K4DKW

February 2016 BARC VE Session Results

On the February 16, 2016 BARC VE session, two candidates passed the Technician exam.

Successful candidates on Element 2 were Jonathan T. Jones, **KM4ROA**, Greenville, and George A. Liptak, Jr., **KM4ROB**, Chocowinity.

Their new call signs were assigned by the FCC on February 26,

2016. BARC congratulates Jonathan and George for their accomplishment.

The VE's that attended were VE Liaison Steve Horne II, **KB5B**, Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, Dan Wallace, **K4HMMW**, Gary Coriell, **KE5ACR**, Thomas Styron, **KB7L**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**. *FCC Support (877) 480-3201*


The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for

April 19, 2016

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 Jean-sonne** or email to: **barc @ w4amc.com** (no spaces)

MARK'S MARINE, INC.



Mark Langley
Mike Langley
KD4MTT

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


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

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.

26th ANNUAL DOWN EAST HAMFEST

An ARRL Sanctioned HAMFEST

Saturday, **April 23, 2016**—8 AM until 2 PM
Lenoir Community College Gymnasium-Kinston, NC
231 Hwy 58 South (Please use Hwy 58 entrance)

For HAMFEST info: (252) 347-1498

Web: www.downeasthamfest.org / Email: bhighland@nc.rr.com

Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size

\$10 per Month

\$100 per Year

Send ads to:

Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835

ATTN: Dave Langley, W4YDY or email

barc@w4amc.com

Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club.

Donations accepted!

Monday & Monday, CPA's, PA

Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA

K4ZYD

105-D East Victoria Ct.
Greenville, NC 27858

Phone (252) 321-6007
Fax (252) 321-2991

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

Batteries + Bulbs

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 - 8:00

Sat. 8:00 - 7:00

Sun. 11:00 - 6:00

www.batteriesplus.com

BARC Regular Meeting Minutes—February 2016

BARC Regular Meeting Minutes 2/9/2016

The Call to Order was made at 7:30 by President Jeff Meyer.

The Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of members and guests was next with 17 present.

Secretary Report n/a

Treasurer Report: The treasury balance was reported by Jeff Meyer.

Equipment Report: Given by Richard Campbell. No new or needed equipment was reported.

VE Report: Steve Horne was not present. The next VE session is scheduled for Feb. 15.

Health and Wellness: Hope for Taylor Millar's recovery and return was expressed.

Ham Chatter Report: The BARC Website administration will be transferred from Dave Pulver to Mike Monteith.

The BARC Birthday party was celebrated with Cake, ice cream and soft drinks.

Program: Marty Young from Erwin NC and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Club, presented plans for the 2016 NC QSO Party to be held on Feb 28, 2016. BARC club station, W1VOA at Voice of America Site C, (now owned by East Carolina University), will be an NC QSO Party Bonus station. Bonus points will be awarded for stations contacting W1VOA and also for contacting NI4BK, (Battleship NC), W4DW (RARS Club Station) or anyone in Swain or Warren counties. Bruce Marrin, N1LN is an Orange county bonus station. Plans are for Dan Atkinson, N3ND to operate side band, Mike (last name?) will operate digital modes and Jack Ritter, W0UCE will operate CW. The NC QSO Com-

mittee wants as much BARC participation as possible, (email Jack, W0UCE@NC.rr.com). The SC QSO Party is Saturday, Feb 27. If a station participates in both and submits logs, he/she will be eligible for a barbeque dinner drawing. Set up will be Sat Feb 27. Two rigs and two Carolina Windom antennas will be used, as well as the VOA rhombic antennas if functional. If you don't go out there, call in to SC and NC stations. Four BARC members signed up to participate at W1VOA, and the Committee is looking for BARC member(s) to take over the event in the future. No special QSL cards will be printed, but logs will go to Richard Campbell who is handling the club station traffic.

Publicity: no report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bob Hanrahan, Secretary

BARC Board Meeting Minutes—February 2016

BARC Board Meeting 2/23/2016

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Meyer at 7:30

Present: Dave Langley, Richard Campbell, Jeff Meyer, Terry Monday, John McCoy, Bob Hanrahan

The **treasurer's** report of the club's balance was given

There was no **secretary's** report

QSL cards are needed for the club stations: Richard Campbell will order some more.

Jeff Meyer volunteered to contact change soon.

Marty Young after changes in the plans for the NC QSO party were reported from Doug, K4ROK. (The Raleigh club has assembled a new team, and has borrowed the W4AMC trailer for the event which they will coordinate (2/27/2016)). Four volunteers from BARC were identified at the January BARC meeting. Details were not clear at the time of the board meeting.

Website: Mike Monteith is working with GoDaddy for the website URL. He has the W4AMC website DVD from Dave Pulver and Dave Langley, and should be making the

A proposal was discussed to give an application for BARC membership to VE session people and possibly a discount on the first year's dues.

Jerry Jackson will be the program for the March 8 BARC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by
Bob Hanrahan AF4QY

W1VOA and the North Carolina QSO Party

On Saturday, February 27, Marty Young, **W4MY**, NCQP Committee Chairman, and several others came down to help with the setup for the **W1VOA** operation. **W1VOA** was one of the bonus stations in North Carolina that counted for 50 extra points. On Saturday, Charlie Swindell, **WB4DCM**, Raleigh, and a couple of non-hams came down to help with installation of 3 antennas. The put up 2 multi-band dipoles and a portable tower with a 3 band beam. After they finished in the early afternoon, they went down to Engelhard to set up stations there so they could operate from Hyde County on Sunday.



**Paul Stroud, AA4XX, operating PSK31
Dick Hayter, N4HAY, operating CW
Rob Katz, K4OV, operating SSB**

On Sunday, **W1VOA** was on the air operating SSB, CW and PSK31. Besides Marty, the operators were Paul Stroud, **AA4XX**, Raleigh, Dick Hayter, **N4HAY**, Morrisville, Rob Katz, **K4OV**, Chapel Hill, Tucker McGuire, **W4FS**, Effland, and Bill Turner, **W4WNT**, Matthews. Also at-

tending at one time or another were BARC members Doug Ferris, **K4ROK**, Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**, Paul Fletcher, **KS4YF**, Dave Langley, **W4YDY** and Bill Elks, **KC4HHW**. Paul, **KS4YF**, was operating the SSB station making contacts in the later hours of the contest. There could have been others when time ran out to get this article to *Ham Chatter*.



**Bill Turner, W4WNT, operating PSK31
Marty Young, W4MY, observing
Tucker McGuire, W4FS, operating CW
Rob Katz, K4OV, operating SSB**

The operators took a short break around 3 PM to have lunch prepared by Marty's wife, Kim Young and his son. They cooked hamburgers and had potato salad and deviled eggs and other goodies. For desert, Kim surprised Marty with a birthday cake since his birthday was in a few days. We all sang Happy Birthday to Marty. The weather was almost perfect, just a little cool, so they had the lunch outside in the shade of the giant microwave dish. - *W4YDY*

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

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 **
 Apr 12..... Regular Meeting
 Apr 19..... VE Exam
 Apr 23..... Down East Hamfest- Kinston**
 Apr 26..... Board Meeting
 May 10..... Regular Meeting
 May 28/29..... CQ WW CW WPX Contest
 May 31..... Board Meeting
 Jun 14..... Regular Meeting
 Jun 21..... VE Exam

Jun 25/28..... ARRL Field Day
 Jun 28..... Board Meeting
 Jul 12..... Regular Meeting
 Jul 9/10..... IARU HF World Championship
 Jul 26..... Board Meeting
 Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM
 Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

***Hamfests*

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



MAR 2016
Next Meeting
Mar 8, 2016

To:



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