

# HAM CHATTER



Volume 51 Issue 12

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

December 2017

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## JOTA “Alive and Doing Well,” Although 2017 Participation Down from Last Year

Nearly 8,000 Scouts got on the air for the 60th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) over the third weekend in October, National JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND said. Wilson this week released the 2017 JOTA report, which declared, “Radio Scouting and Jamboree on the Air are alive and doing well.” Facilitating the October JOTA activity were more than 900 radio amateurs at 525 stations.

“Propagation wasn’t our friend, but, even so, [radio amateurs in] almost 90 countries and all 50 states engaged in conversations with Scouts during the weekend,” Wilson said. “In addition to HF, VHF, and UHF many Amateur Radio digital modes were in use, as well as online Jamboree on the Internet channels.”

The tally for JOTA 2017 was 7,872 Scouts on the air, which, Wilson pointed out, was down from the 10,761 who took part in JOTA 2016, but more in line with 2015’s participation. Reports were filed by 226 JOTA locations.

“The Boy Scouts of America National Radio Scouting Committee will be exploring several improvement projects for 2018,” Wilson said. These would include estab-

lishing a JOTA Frequency Task Force to explore updated frequency listing and operating recommendations, looking into new ways to alert participants in real time about other JOTA stations that are on the air.

The Radio Scouting Committee’s work in 2017 resulted in the introduction of new Radio Merit Badge requirements, which included a new option for Amateur Direction Finding (ARDF) — or “foxhunting.” The panel also developed documents to help Scout leaders incorporate radio and JOTA in their unit activities — “Cub Scout Program Helps for JOTA” and “Boy Scout Troop Meeting Plan for Radio.”

Wilson pointed out that the “very successful” K2BSA operation at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree in July introduced Amateur Radio to nearly 2,500 Scouts, with 305 earning the Radio merit badge. -via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/2jVPGJc>)



## Next Meeting December 12, 2017

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its annual Christmas Party at 6:30 PM with setup starting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 12, at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The Christmas Party will be a covered dish meal which has always been great. The club furnishes beverages, table settings, etc. The program will be peer awards presentations and introduction of 2018 BARC officers after the meal.

All members, families and guests are invited to attend.



## BARC Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 26th at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), Suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

## FCC Dismisses Radio Amateur's Petition to Revise Call Sign Rules

The FCC has **dismissed** a rule making petition filed last May by Thomas J. Alessi, K1TA, of Stamford, Connecticut, that sought to amend the Part 97 rules regarding Amateur Radio Service call signs. The Commission action came in a November 28 letter from Scot Stone, Deputy Chief of the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Mobility Division. Alessi had asked the FCC to make call signs consisting of one letter, followed by two digits, followed by one letter (1 × × 1 format) available to Amateur Extra Class licensees. Alessi asserted that the number of Amateur Extra Class licensees who desire short call signs exceeds the available supply of 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs, and that his plan would make available an additional 7,800 four-character call signs.

“Approximately fifteen million call signs are presently available in the sequential call sign system, but it does not include every amateur call sign that has been allocated to the United States,” Stone wrote in denying Alessi’s petition. He also pointed out that the FCC had rejected a similar suggestion in 2010 that would have made certain additional call signs, including 1 × × 1 call signs, available to Amateur Extra Class licensees, but concluded at the time that enough call signs already were available for every Amateur Radio licensee to obtain an acceptable call sign. In addition, the FCC said in 2010 that it had no plans to revisit the issue.

“You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision,” Stone’s letter concluded.

-via ARRL (<http://bit.y/2AuRCSS>)

## Next VE Session

Exams will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville, NC. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. For more info email Gary, KK4GC at [ve@w4amc.com](mailto:ve@w4amc.com). (remove spaces) Study material at <http://www.arrl.org/coursestraining>. 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://bit.ly/1FOhE1S>>.

## NC ARES Internet

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

**Pitt County ARES EC needed!**



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*Happy Birthday*

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

- 02 W4ZRA Rick LaMonica
- 11 AK4MU James Lewis
- 11 KG4CCX Tod LeMoine
- 13 KC4RBE June Highland
- 31 W4DXJ Vashti Forrest

Additions or corrections to KB4JOE

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Please inform Joe Jeansonne, **KB4JOE**, of any changes.

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### Christmas Party

It's the annual Christmas party at the December 12th meeting at the VFW. It's pot luck so members will bring in something good to eat. There will be peer award presentations and other recognitions of members after the meal. Note the time! The meal starts at 6:30 with members and guests arriving at 6 PM for setup and fellowship. A good time is always had. If you haven't attended, you have missed out on the best meeting of the year. Members, their families and guest are all very welcome.

### FT8!

The new mode FT8 has been catching on like wildfire! As of this writing, I have been on FT8 for 3 weeks. My fifth contact was with Michael, KM4OLT, on 15 meters. It was a long haul of 2.5 miles! Eight days later, had contacts with Australia on 20 meters and New Zealand on 10 meters. It does not take much power, 10 to 50 watts. 10, 12 and 15 meters can be dead when listening on most any mode but signals can still be heard on FT8. In 3 weeks, I have worked 37 states and uploaded them to the Logbook of the World (LOTW). 36 of them have already been confirmed.

Once I uploaded about a weeks contacts to LOTW and it was processed in a few minutes on the site. A station that I contacted 25 minutes earlier had

already uploaded his contacts to LOTW and the contact was confirmed. The 25 minute confirmation sure is a lot faster and cheaper than sending and receiving a QSL card in the mail for an award. Since all of the FT8 operators are versed in digital operations, most are on LOTW. I have never had so many confirmations so fast. But the cards are a great addition to your ham shack. Some are even collectable. It's interesting to look back in my six card file boxes that hold about a thousand each and see the many different cards. About 2000 of them are DX cards.

If you are interested in paper certificates for your walls, FT8 seems like a good mode to get many contacts for awards. Most of my 125 FT8 contacts have been USA stations since I am looking for USA digital contacts in counties. They include 107 different counties with 81 confirmed, including Pitt County (Michael, KM4OLT) and Wake County (NC4RY, Robert Young of Tarheel Antennas)! Not bad for 3 weeks. I see many DX stations on all the bands. It shouldn't take too long to work 100 countries for DXCC. I have seen DX stations in all continents.

I still have mixed feelings about FT8. It does not seem to be a mode for much communication. A contact take a minimum of about 2 minutes for an exchange of signal reports. Each transmission lasts just over 14 seconds with momentary pause for the computers to analyze the data just sent and make decisions on the next transmission. The transmissions usually send

the 2 call signs. If you see someone call CQ, you double-click on it and it puts your transmission on frequency and sends his call, your call and your grid square. If the station answers you, his transmission data to you will turn red. Then you just wait until the exchanges are automatically sent and the rig will return to standby. If the station that was calling CQ answers someone else, your computer will put you back in standby. Minor changes can be made to the transmissions if they have not started. For instance, instead of sending the last transmission that is set as "NC4RY W4YDY 73", I can change it to "Hi Robert 73". You have about a minute to make the change once the contact starts.

If you call CQ, click on the CQ radio button and Enable Tx. It will send the CQ several times every 15 seconds for several times or until someone answers you first. Then you just sit and wait for the computers to do their thing. After about 2 minutes, the QSO is over. Just log you data. Once the QSO starts, there is nothing to do!

All transmissions are made at 15 second intervals. It's 0, 15, 30 and 45 seconds on the clock. You must load a program that sets the time on your computer to the near exact second. Many use Dimension 4. If your time is not correct, you will not decode the signals.

Worked Richard, W4JNC, on 40 meters using FT8 as I was finishing this column. That makes FT8 on 2 bands in Pitt County. - **W4YDY**

## Reindeer Dash for Cash

Sunday's race 12/3/17 starting at 1 pm was held under clear skies and mild temperatures. The motley crew consisting of Cheryl KX4EC, Doug K4ROK, Jeff K4DKW, Gary N4PIR, Pat KG4NSC and Peter KG4WEZ met at the Greenville Town commons with the ARES trailer. Set up was easily done by turning on the radios and start talking. Jeff was placed at the first watering station and was given the tactical call sign "Dash1" followed by Gary at "Dash2", Cheryl at "Dash3", Doug at "Dash4" with Peter as Net control in the trailer at the finish line. As the race progressed, Gary and Cher-

yl were reassigned to the last part of the race course to allow a small crew to cover the entire 10 miles. Matt McMahon (WU2V) of Vidant Emergency Services loaned a Viper radio to net control to be able to pass messages to the medical support group. Matt also being a ham, had his HT on frequency as a backup. He will be bringing his communications trailer and speaking about emergency communications in 2018 at our February BARC meeting. The runners started in three shifts, the 10 milers, then the 5k and then the kids. Good communications were maintained on the 147.090 W4GDF repeater

without problems (Thanks to the Pitt Co Repeater Association). The last runners crossed the line by 3:30 PM. The after event debriefing was done at Applebee's where serious discussions about the meaning of life was contemplated while drinking tea from Long Island (1\$ specials). A good time was had by all. As net control, I would personally like to than all involved for making this a seamless event and a good showing to the public.

Sincerely, Peter KG4WEZ.



## Year-Long NASA On The Air Event Kicks off on December 11

The Amateur Radio clubs at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) centers around the US have invited the Amateur Radio community to join the NASA On The Air (NOTA) special event. NOTA gets under way in December 2017 and continues through December 2018. In addition to being the agency's 60th anniversary, 2018 will mark 50 years since NASA orbited the first human around the moon, and 20 years since the first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) were launched into low-Earth orbit.

Starting on Monday, December 11, 2017 (UTC), Amateur Radio club stations at various NASA centers and facilities will be on the air with special event operations to celebrate these monumental achievements, as well as current milestones. Some clubs will offer commemorative QSL cards, and a special certificate will be available indicating the number of NASA club stations worked on various bands and modes.

"We plan to have a web-based system for you to check your points total and download a printable certificate at the end of the event in December 2018," the NASA announcement said. "Points will be awarded for each center worked on each band and mode (phone, CW, digital, and 'space' modes — satellites, meteor scatter, EME, ISS APRS)." That would, of course, include contacts with any of

### October 2017 BARC VE Session Results

On the October 17, 2017 BARC VE session, one candidate upgraded to General and another passed the Technician Amateur Radio exam.

BARC member, **Michael Monteith**, **KM4OLT**, upgraded to General Class license. **James Lowe**, **KN4GWZ**, Grimesland, NC, passed the Technician exam. James was assigned his new call sign by the FCC on 10/24/17. Congratulations to both.

the Amateur Radio stations on the ISS.

Key anniversaries during NOTA include the 45th anniversary of Apollo 17 on December 11, 2017, which kicks off the event; NASA's founding on July 29, 1958; the 20th anniversary of the ISS first element launch on November 20, 1998; the 20th anniversary of the ISS Node 1 Launch on December 4, 1998, and the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 — launched on December 21, 1968, and returned on December 27 — marking the end of the event.

Ham radio clubs at various NASA facilities will sponsor their own special events to commemorate and celebrate specific events.

"We hope to be on the air for casual contacts and contests as well. All contacts with NASA club stations will count toward your total," the announcement said. "QSL cards can be requested from each club you work and details will be on the individual QRZ.com profile page for each club call sign."

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/2jVPGJc>)

The VE's that attended were VE Liaison Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**, Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, Dan Wallace, **K4HMW**, Byron Highland, **K4BMH**, Al Mullis, **K4GOE**, Richard Cox, **K4CRD**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**.

The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for **December 19, 2017**. - W4YDY

**Ames Research Center  
ARC - NA6MF - California**

**Armstrong Flight Res. Center  
AFRC - NA6SA - California**

**Glenn Research Center  
GRC - NA8SA - Ohio**

**Goddard Space Flight Center  
GSFC - WA3NAN - Maryland**

**International Space Station  
ISS - NA1SS, etc. - Earth orbit**

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
JPL - W6VIO - California**

**Johnson Space Center  
JSC - W5RRR - Texas**

**Kennedy Space Center  
KSC - N1KSC - Florida**

**Langley Research Center  
LARC - KG4NJA - Virginia**

**Marshall Space Flight Center  
MSFC - NN4SA - Alabama**

**Stennis Space Center  
SSC - TBD - Mississippi**

**Wallops Flight Facility  
WFF - W4WFF - Virginia**

**White Sands Complex  
WSC - N5BL - New Mexico**

The next  
BARC VE  
session is  
scheduled for  
Dec 19, 2017

# Ham Ads

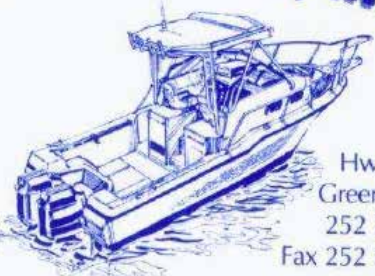
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## Mysterious Signals Did Not Come from Missing Submarine; MF/HF Frequencies Listed

Satellite signals heard over the weekend did not come from a missing Argentine Navy submarine San Juan that went missing on November 15, dashing hopes that the vessel could be located. The submarine had reported a malfunction, had surfaced, and was headed back to its base when the Navy lost contact with it. The sub, built in Germany in the 1980s, carries a crew of 44.

Vessels from Argentina, the US, Great Britain, Chile, and Brazil have joined other vessels and aircraft looking for the submarine.

A Naval commander told media today that the submarine had surfaced and reported “an electrical problem” before it disappeared some 270 miles off the South American coast on its return to its base

at Mar del Plata.

Over the weekend, Argentina’s Defense Ministry reported receiving seven “failed satellite calls” that officials thought might be coming from the missing submarine. No contact was made, and no transmissions occurred. Poor weather has complicated the search.

Over the weekend, IARU Region 2 News Editor Joaquín Solana, XE1R, issued a list of marine frequencies, suggesting that radio amateurs and SWLs listen for any signals that could be related to the missing San Juan. Frequencies are 2,065.0 kHz; 2,182.0 kHz; 3,023.0 kHz; 3,860.6 kHz; 4,125.0 kHz; 4,143.6 kHz; 6,218.6 kHz, and 8,528.0 kHz on HF, as well as 42.395 MHz, 43.040 MHz, and 84.470 MHz. The MF

emergency frequencies of 416 kHz, 437 kHz, and 500 kHz also were suggested.

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/2AtFXUz>)



## ARRL Board of Directors Publicly Censures Southwestern Division Director

Acting on a recommendation of its Ethics and Elections Committee, the ARRL Board of Directors has publicly censured one of its own — ARRL Southwestern Director Dick Norton, N6AA. On an 11-3 vote, with one member abstaining, the Board adopted a resolution to censure Norton for criticizing the ARRL Code of Conduct for Board members at an Amateur Radio gathering “by virtue of his characterizations thereof, thus criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct and drawing the Board’s collective decision making into disrepute.”

The resolution cited “multiple portions of the Code of Conduct” that Norton was found to have violated. The Board’s action related to a complaint filed with the Ethics and Elections Committee by an ARRL member.

The Board met in special session by teleconference on November 14 to consider the matter. President Rick Roderick, K5UR, conducted the session; ARRL CEO and Board Secretary Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, were among those who attended the evening online gathering.

According to the resolution, fellow Board members had cautioned Norton that “his actions and his manner” in criticizing the Code of Conduct for Board members were “not acceptable and cannot continue, with no notable change in his behavior since that time.”

Norton had been provided with a copy of the Ethics and Elections Committee resolution, dated September 7, 2017, and responded to it in writing, accompanied by statements of four ARRL members who supported his response.

The Board found that Norton’s violation of the ARRL Code of Conduct had “caused harm to the League” and provided sufficient cause to publicly censure Norton for “unacceptable behavior as an ARRL Board member.”

“Mr. Norton is admonished by the Board that no further, similar behavior will be tolerated,” the resolution concluded.

The minutes of the special ARRL Board of Directors meeting have been posted on the ARRL website.

-via ARRL (<http://bit.ly/2BAPyWP>)

## 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 (20wpm)
- ◆ 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

## December

Dec 2/3 ..... ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
Dec 9/10 ..... ARRL 10 Meter Contest  
Dec 12 ..... BARC Christmas Party  
Dec 19 ..... BARC VE Session  
Dec 26 ..... Board Meeting  
Jan 1 ..... BARC Dues DUE

**Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM**

**Board Meeting - Last Tuesday**

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**

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**December 2017**  
**Next Meeting**  
**Dec 12, 2017**

To:



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