

HAM CHATTER



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Amateur Radio Emergency Service Transitioning to New Online Reporting System

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will phase out the traditional ARES report forms later this year in favor of an online system called ARES Connect, a volunteer management, communications, and reporting system. The new system will allow information to be logged by ARES members and managed through the Field Organization. The advent of ARES Connect was among other highlights in “[The Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\) 2017 Annual Report](#),” released this week.

“ARES Connect is a volunteer management system that covers event signup, reporting, and roster management,” ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, said. “It does not change how ARES operates when serving a partner entity; it is simply a system that will make managing volunteers and events easier.” Beta testing of ARES Connect will begin in March. ARES made changes to its report forms last year to make it easier to process information at ARRL Headquarters and to standardize the format for all forms. ARES Monthly Reports have been posted to the ARRL website, providing regular information on Amateur Radio public service communication activity, the report noted.

According to the 2017 report, ARES membership stands at 31,332, up by nearly 13% from 2016. The number of emergency operations events reported was up by 665 from the previous year, with 1,913 reported in 2017. The top three states in terms of ARES membership in 2017 were California (2,265), Texas (1,930), and Ohio (1,858).

Reported ARES events amounted to 51,673 in 2017 — a 4% increase — accounting for 718,930 volunteer hours at a calculated value of more than \$17.3 million.

“There was a noticeable increase in reported activity during August through November,” the ARES 2017 Annual Report said. “During this period there was Amateur Radio response activity for hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; wildfires in the western states, and the total solar eclipse that occurred on August 21.”

According to the report, 26 states gained ARES members, while 13 lost members.

via ARRL at <http://bit.ly/2oEjz38>

Next Meeting March 13, 2018

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its regular meeting at 7:30 PM Tuesday, March 13, at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Allen Everette, Pitt County Emergency Management Director, will discuss the steps/process involved with monitoring, activating, and decision making as they relate to any incident. He oversees the divisions of 911, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Planning. Allen has been in the business for 30 years and has functioned as a firefighter/EMT; Fire Inspector; Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director.

All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

BARC Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), Suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

Brightleaf 2018 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 jeffreymeyer55@gmail.com (remove spaces in email address).

Thank you for your support and participation in BARC.

Next VE Session

Exams will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 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. (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!



Happy Birthday

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

09 NW4S Jeff Wainwright
17 KG4CZV Dave Pulver

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Additions or corrections to KB4JOE

Please inform Joe Jeansonne, KB4JOE, of any changes.

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Technicians to get Phone and Digital privileges?

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to give more HF privileges to Technician licenses. If the FCC acts on and approves this request, Technicians will have some phone bands on 75, 40 and 15 meters. They presently can operate phone on a small area of 10 meters. Also they could operate RTTY and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. There are about 750,000 Amateur Station licenses and the Technician licenses have slightly over 50%.

Since the code test requirement was dropped, there are fewer new Technicians getting on CW to operate. Some of the ones that do operate CW like it so much that they end up using that mode over phone or digital modes. If the petition was to be approved, maybe new licensee would try the new privileges on the HF bands instead of just getting on 2 meters. They would be excited to work more states and countries instead of just local contacts.

My own opinion about this is not firm in one way or the other. We'll just have to wait to see what the final changes to be recommended or implemented. It may make Amateur Radio grow more but will it be a good growth or bad growth. Some may not like new operators getting new

privileges when they had to take more exams along with Morse code. Also he bands could get more crowded and cause more interference. Some will like more operators if they get active. Since the code was dropped, some of the new hams have become very active in clubs and/or on the air operations including emergency communications.

When I got my license, there was only 2 HF bands that a General Class (13wpm code) license could use, 160 and 10 meters. You had to have an Advanced (13wpm) or Amateur Extra (20wpm) to get on 75 or 20 phone. There was no 60, 30, 17, 15 or 12 meter bands. 40 meters was CW only. You had to have the General one year before you could take the Advanced license and two years before taking the Amateur Extra. But the Advanced was dropped before I could get my year in so I was looking at two years to get on 75 and 20 phone. Looks like more CW was in the future for me. But just before I got my General, the FCC surprised everyone and open all privileges to General, Advanced and Amateur Extra. I got the General in April, 1953 by just passing the 13 wpm code test since I already had the Technician license for 6 months. At that time, the Technician and General had the same written exam. When the FCC starting incentive licensing in 1968, I got Advanced Class and a couple of months later got the Amateur Extra (20 wpm) so I would not lose any privileges. Advanced had been reinstated when incentive licensing was passed to take effect in two stages. The first stage began on November

22, 1968 and the final stage was effective on November 22, 1969.

A lot of Amateur Radio history can be seen at <<http://www.ac6v.com/history.htm>>. It covers all areas of Amateur Radio and then some. Today, the Amateur Radio population is a little over 0.214 percent with about 750,000 hams for the USA population of about 325,000,000.. In 1952, it was 0.0617 percent with about 100,000 hams and the USA population was 162,000,000. You can see there are almost 3 1/2 times as many Amateur Radio stations now per 100,000 as there were in 1952. I think the major difference is the fact that there were a greater percentage of younger hams in 1952 than now. Ninety-nine percent of the teenagers today are on 'smart phones' or computers for communication and not interested in talking around the world. When I got my license in 1952, I contacted a lot of teenagers also in high school that became lifetime friends. Ended up in a tech school with a couple that I talked to on 75 meters. We found out that we were going to the same school via 75 meter AM phone. Some in Greenville may know Bill, W4TES, and the other was Paul, W4TEW. We were the only three hams at Gaston Tech, now Gaston College. Still hear from some today. Another thing we have in common now is gray hair! - W4YDY

NC QSO Party 2018 2/26/2018

Two intrepid members started out on Saturday 2/25/18 hanging a carolina windom antenna from two towers and running the feed lines into the shack. Gary N4PIR and Doug K4ROK were the only two out there doing the work Saturday! Our heart felt thanks to the two of them for being the spirit of amateur radio setting up the logging computers, two radios and keys.

On Sunday the group of volunteers met for final set up about 9 AM and were fed cupcake sized omelettes with bacon, hash browns and tomatoes in the cupcake forms made by Eileen VH. Coffee provided by Doug. Radios, microphones and keys were pressed into service and by 10 AM were on the air. Peter KG4WEZ brought the ARES trailer to VOA site C and set up another 36' vertical random wire antenna on a wonder pole next to the trailer. In the trailer the Elecraft K2/100 and the NUE-PSK modem was connected to the auto-tuner. This appears to work well but after an hour of fiddling around the settings and tuning, no contacts were possible. There were two problems identified: One was that the CW ops in the shack nearby swamped the digital band and de-sensed the radio severely even if PSK was on 40 meters and CW was on 20 or visa-versa. The harmonics were on most bands. Out came the band pass filters that did not much to solve the problem. Power filters were placed in service without any changes. Finally

in the mid afternoon, Billy KC4HHW suggested placing a ground rod outside the trailer connected to the auto tuner and radio and that did solve the band interference problem. Other issues included JT65 or FP8 signals would flood out any PSK signal as if one station started to transmit JT65, multiple other stations would jump in at the same time creating a S7-9 noise on that part of the band. Hunting around the bands finally discovered where the PSK signals were hiding. Tuning the window so that no JT65 signal was in the receiver window was necessary as it would drown out the PSK signals. Another error was not tuning the modem to the transmitter. The procedure is to press F9 on the keyboard sending the modem into "diddle signal" then turning the tuning pot just up high enough to produce power out of the final stages to the antenna. After all these crazy errors, two digital contacts were achieved by the end of the day! Meanwhile in the shack the team of several operators kept the CW key hot and the microphone busy. The team included Gary N4PIR, Peter KG4WEZ, Jeff K4DKW, Billy KC4HHW, Paul KS4YF, Doug K4ROK, Richard W4JNC Jim Lowe, KN4GWZ producing 105 CW contacts, 331 Phone contacts, 2 digital contacts and was on the air from 10:30AM to 7:30PM where the last to close the shop was Richard, Billy and Doug!

Many thanks to Eileen Van Houten who provided breakfast and a chili lunch with Bratwurst, 3 pounds of lean hamburger and a sauce to die for. Thanks to Jeff K4DKW for the snacks and to all the volunteers who came out and participated and hopefully had lots of fun. The final big thanks goes to Doug who bore the brunt of getting the place set up and going and without him it would have not happened. If we want a QSO party next year then we must all commit to helping set it up as I do not think Doug can put all that effort into it next time. Much thanks Doug. Rest and recover dude!

73 Peter KG4WEZ

February 2018 BARC VE Session Results

On the February 20, 2018 BARC VE session, one candidate upgraded and five passed the Technician Amateur Radio exam. The FCC records were updated 3/1/18.

Peter Van Houten, **KG4WEZ**, Fountain, upgraded to Amateur Extra Class.

Frances Smith, **KN4KEI**, Greenville, Brian Smith, **KN4KEJ**, Greenville, Ektan Patel, **KN4KEM**, Greenville, Albert Sloan, **KN4KEK**, Winterville, and Daniel Holley, **KN4KEL**, Fountain, all successfully passed the Technician Class

exams. All of the Technician Class licenses were assigned call signs on March 1, 2018.

Congratulations to all.

The VE's that attended were VE Liaison Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**, Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, Al Mullis, **K4GOE**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**. The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for **April 17, 2018**.

- W4YDY



(Left to Right) VE Liaison Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**, Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, Al Mullis, **K4GOE**, and Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, grading exams at the February session. . Photo KG4WEZ

Ham Ads

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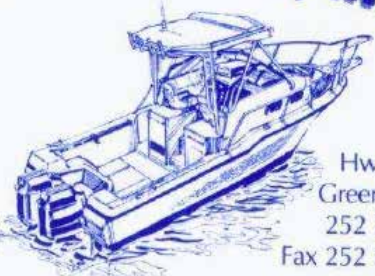
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**Send ads to:
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Sisterhood of Amateur Radio Supports Girl Scouts in Obtaining Radio Wireless Patch

The Sisterhood of Amateur Radio (SOAR), in conjunction with the Girl Scout Council of Southern Nevada, hosted a Radio and Wireless Tech Field Day on February 3 in Las Vegas, for more than 60 girls and their adult chaperones. ARRL began offering its [Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program](#) for Girl Scouts in 2016. The program defines the requirements for Girl Scouts to earn the patch at the Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador levels and provides a platform for participants to learn about wireless technology, including Amateur Radio, and to inspire girls to learn the fundamentals of radio communication and wireless technology. It also prompts participants to take action in their communities to apply their newfound knowledge to connect people, provide safety, and to kindle an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and careers.

In addition to hands-on activi-

ties, the Girl Scouts in Las Vegas also learned about emergency and public service communications, and explored ways wireless technology is used in everyday life and in the workplace. The SOAR participants enthusiastically shared what it means to be an Amateur Radio operator and demonstrated how they can communicate around the world via Amateur Radio.

“As a girl-led and girl-focused organization, Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada understands the importance of providing science and engineering educational programming to girls of all ages,” said Linda Bridges, Chief of Communications for Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada. “By partnering with SOAR, we look forward to inspiring all Girl Scouts to pursue a lifelong love of communication and global goodwill.”

Highlights of the event were spelling out their name in Morse code and hearing it via a code practice oscillator, learning

about antenna directivity and participating in a fox hunt, and actually talking on the radio as well as using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes.

Todd Wilson, WH6DWF, coordinated the *ISLANDS* Conference Server, IRLP 9256, the StarLink System Hub 357087, and DODROPIN 355800, and AllStar, illustrating how Amateur Radio can be used on a tablet or a smart phone, in addition to traditional radio equipment.

ARRL Nevada Section Manager John Bigley, N7UR, expressed appreciation for “the contribution of all the participants who took time out of their day to speak to the girls to demonstrate to these young girls what Amateur Radio can do to connect people around the world.” -- Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, and Nevada Section PIO Cathy Etheredge, N7HVN

via ARRL @ <http://bit.ly/2FHNrnH>

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club - February 13 2018 Meeting Minutes

President Gary Coriell KK4GC called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA. Matt McMahon Disaster Services Specialist/ Communications at Vidant Health, presented a program about the special equipment that Vidant Health has. He talked about the communications equipment that he is responsible for and what it is used for. He also talked about the portable hospital and how it is set up and its capabilities. He ended his presentation by inviting everyone to see the communications van that he brought with him. In celebration of BARC's birthday ice cream was served to the members present.

A brief business meeting followed with the following discussed. The next class at Oakwood School will be Feb. 17 with Bernie Nobles talking about antennas. The March Oakwood Class will be Dave Wood talking about grounding. It was announced that there would be a half marathon taking place in Washington NC to benefit epilepsy research and volunteers are need to provide communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Ham Radio “a Special Hobby,” Young ARRL Member Tells College Publication

A rising star in the Amateur Radio world —19-year old Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, of Lawrenceville, Georgia — has caught the eye of her school, Kettering University in Michigan, where she is majoring in mechanical engineering and engineering physics. Willet already has attracted attention through her ham radio activities. Last spring, she was the keynote speaker at the 32nd annual DX Dinner® held in conjunction with Hamvention®, where her topic was “Experiencing the Hobby of a Lifetime.” The previous summer she was a member of the 2016 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure (YDXA), which operated from the island of Saba that year. Last year, she won the QST Cover Plaque Award for the article she wrote about her YDXA experience. At the 30th Hamvention Youth Forum in 2017, Willet spoke on “Plugging into Your Valuable Club Resources.” She is the recipient of the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Scholarship.

Kettering University News took notice of Willet in a [February 12 article](#), “Kettering University Student Brings Ham Radio Hobby, Expertise to Campus,” by Sarah Schuch. The article explains how an early fascination with Morse code led Willet into ham radio and inspired her to obtain her license in 2015. She now holds an Amateur Extra-class license.

“I would encourage people to consider exploring Amateur

Radio, because it’s a hobby that allows you to explore anything from technical electronics to international friendships,” Willet is quoted in the article. “It’s such a special hobby because there’s so many people that want to get to know you and want to help you learn and grow. It really has enabled me to mature into who I am today.”

Set to graduate in 2021, Willet said her ham radio experiences have taught her a lot, some of which she is able to apply to her studies, and vice versa. She hopes to start an Amateur Radio club on campus this spring to get more students interested. In the article, Willet also pointed to Amateur Radio’s public service role, citing the devastating 2017 hurricanes, where ham radio sometimes was the only available communication resource.

Ruth Willet and her mom Sharon, KM4TVU, participated in ARRL’s highly successful National Parks on the Air (NPO-TA) event in 2016, which also was mentioned in the Kettering article.

“It’s a stress relief for me,” Willet said in the article. “I really enjoy sharing this hobby with other students.”

See more @ <http://bit.ly/2Fb7HQA>

**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 - 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARRL Int DX SSB Mar 03
 Club Meeting Mar 13
 Russian DX Mar 17
 Oakwood Topics Mar 17
 CQ WW WPX SSB Mar 24
 Board Meeting Mar 27
 UK/EI DX CW Mar 31
 SARL 80M QSOP Apr 05
 SP DX Apr 07
 Club Meeting Apr 10
 JIDX CW Apr 14
 Oakwood Topics Apr 14
 VE Apr 17
 Holyland DX Apr 20
 ES OPEN HF Apr 21
 CQMM DX Apr 21
 YU DX Apr 21
 Board Meeting Apr 24
 ARI Intl DX May 05
 CQ-M Intl DX May 12

Club Meeting May 08
 Oakwood Topics May 12
 Board Meeting May 22
 CQ WW WPX CW May 26
 Asia Pacific Sprint SSB Jun 09
 GACW WWSA DX CW ... Jun 09
 Club Meeting Jun 12
 Oakwood Topics Jun 16
 All Asian DX CW Jun 16
 VE Jun 19
 ARRL Field Day Jun 23
 Board Meeting Jun 26
 RAC Canada Jul 01
 Marconi HF Jul 07
 Club Meeting Jul 10
 Oakwood Topics Jul 14
 IARU HF Jul 14
 Jakarta DX 40M Jul 21
 Board Meeting Jul 24
 RSGB IOTA Jul 28

European HF Aug 04
 Southern Africa HF SSB .. Aug 05
 WAE DX CW Aug 11
 Club Meeting Aug 14
 Oakwood Topics Aug 16
 NA QSOP SSB Aug 18
 VE Aug 21
 YO DX HF Aug 25
 SARL HF CW Aug 26
 Board Meeting Aug 28
 All Asian DX SSB Sept 01
 WAE DX SSB Sept 08
 Club Meeting Sept 11
 Oakwood Topics Sept 15
 Scandinavian CW Sept 15
 UK/EI SSB Sept 22
 Board Meeting Sept 25
 SARL 80M Oct 04
 Oceania SX SSB Oct 06
 Club Meeting Oct 09

Oakwood Topics Oct 13
 Oceania DX CW Oct 13
 VE Oct 16
 Asia Pacific CW Oct 21
 CQWW SSB Oct 27
 Board Meeting Oct 23
 Club Meeting Nov 13
 Oakwood Topics Nov 17
 Board Meeting Nov 27
 Club Meeting Dec 11
 Oakwood Topics Dec 15
 VE Dec 18
 Board Meeting Dec 25

To:



**March 2018
 Next Meeting
 March 13, 2018**



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 PO Box 8387
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