

# Ham Chatter



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## **BARC in-person Meetings, Regular, Board and VE session cancelled until further notice.**

## **Next Meeting - On ZOOM. June 9, 2020, 7 PM**

### **Amateur Radio Gearing Up for Predicted "Above Average" Atlantic Hurricane Season**



Extended-range forecasts for the 2020 Atlantic Basin hurricane season anticipate above-normal activity, although a low-pressure system now off the coast of Florida could get a jump on things and develop into a subtropical depression or storm this weekend. The Atlantic hurricane season doesn't start until June 1 and extends until November 30. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) 2020 outlook calls for a season about 140% more active than average, with four Category 3 to Category 5 hurricanes. The 2019 season saw three major hurricanes (out of six).

"The above-average prediction is largely due to the hot Atlantic and Caribbean waters and lack of a substantial El Niño in the Pacific," the NHC explained, noting that the combination of a busy hurricane season and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could create a nightmare scenario for affected areas. FEMA and local emergency management agencies are already issuing COVID-19 guidelines for hurricane shelters, which include face masks and social distancing.

The NHC Annual Station Test — to check readiness of amateur radio stations and operators — takes place on Saturday, May 30, 1300 – 2100 UTC. The NHC's WX4NHC will be on the air, marking its 40th year of public service at the NHC. Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC, said the event offers an op-

portunity for radio amateurs worldwide to exercise the sorts of communications available during severe weather. "We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data — sunny, rain, temperature, etc.) with any station in any location," Ripoll said.

Operation will be on HF, VHF, UHF, APRS, and Winlink. WX4NHC will center its activity on the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) frequencies of 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, but will operate elsewhere as conditions dictate. WX4NHC will also operate on the VoIP Hurricane Net from 2000 until 2100 UTC.

Dr. Philip J. Klotzbach et al of the Colorado State University (CSU) Department of Atmospheric Science cite a variety of factors that led them to conclude this hurricane season could get serious. Pointing to the "somewhat above normal" tropical Atlantic sea-surface temperatures, the scientists estimate "about eight hurricanes," four of them major, during the 2020 season.

"We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean," the CSU forecast states, reminding coastal residents that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. The CSU scientists set the probability of US major hurricane landfalls this year at about 130% of the long-period average.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7 PM. The meeting will be on ZOOM. See front page article in the April, 2020 *Ham Chatter* for details on setting up and signing in. Contact Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, for details if you are having trouble setting up.

Program: Field Day.

**All members, families and guests are invited to attend.**

**Board Meeting - June 30, 2020**  
**The meeting will be on ZOOM.** The next board meeting will be Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. All members invited.

"I must say, I'm not liking what I'm seeing," reacted Hurricane Watch Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, pointing to additional extended forecasts posted by Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the University of Arizona, and North Carolina State University. The TSR forecast calls for three major hurricanes, while the University of Arizona and North Carolina State predict between three and five major hurricanes.

"Since 2014, the Hurricane Watch Net has been very busy," Graves told ARRL. "We've had 20 net activations for 19 hurricanes and one tropical storm. Since 2015, we've worked nine major land-falling hurricanes, including four land-falling Category 5 storms." As examples, he ticked off some now-well-known hurricane names: Joaquin (2015); Matthew (2016); Harvey, Irma, and Maria (2017); Michael (2018), and Dorian (2019). Graves notes that the past three hurricane seasons saw at least one Category 5 hurricane make landfall. - *More at arrl.org News 05/14/2020*

## President's Corner, Dave Wood, W4EJ



**Dave Wood, W4EJ**

I hope this communication again finds everyone doing well. Hopefully now that we are at Phase 2 maybe we will be able to meet person to person soon.

Our next meeting will be on June 9th at 7pm on Zoom. This will be our planning meeting for Field Day, which will have to be adjusted on account of Covid 19.

The ARRL has adjusted the rules to allow for home stations to talk to all classes of stations. Additionally, our home scores will be added together for one composite score under the clubs call. So this will be an excellent chance for us to be



**Happy Birthday**

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

06-11 WA4SLC Bill Dawson  
06-12 no call Lindalee Hanrahan  
06-20 KN4VJR David Meeks  
06-27 W4JNC Richard Campbell

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. If yours is missing, I don't have it! Please, please email [hamchatter \(at\) w4amc.com](mailto:hamchatter(at)w4amc.com)

flexible just like a real emergency would likely unfold.

As we get closer to in person meetings I would like to ask all members if they know of any potential meeting locations in case we cannot meet at ECU in the near term. Drop me an email if you have any ideas on this. Thanks and see you at the Zoom meeting. - *Dave, W4EJ*

### Login for BARC meeting on Zoom

Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, will be running Zoom for the meeting. To join, use his Zoom number, 699-723-8982. The password will be sent via email. If you have problems, call or email Peter or an

### VERY IMPORTANT CORONA VIRUS INFORMATION

**WEAR ANY MASK while outside in public AT ALL TIMES (N95, surgical mask or bandanna in that order of effectiveness) as they all reduce the spread of the virus. The data shows that there is a 98% reduction in transmission of the virus if you wash your hands at least 4x a day and wear a mask. Lets ALL DO THIS for the sake of the country!!!!**  
**Dr. Peter Van Houten, N4PVH**

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Byron Highland, K4BMH

John McCoy, K4KBB

Doug Ferris, K4ROK

Please inform Peter Van

Houten, N4PVH, of any changes.



## Next VE Session

### JUNE SESSION CANCELLED

Exams will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 2200 Charles Blvd, ECU Greenville Center in Room 1200, 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/courses-training>. Walk-ins welcome.

Please bring the following required:

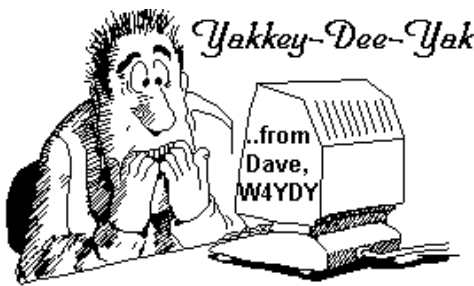
- Photo ID (drivers license)
- Original Amateur Radio License
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Original CSCE's
- Copy of CSCE
- Test fee is \$15.00 .
- Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.
- SS Number will be needed if you don't have an FRN number. \*

Go to <http://www.w4amc.com/barcinfo.html#VE> for more information.

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*Yakkey-Dee-Yak*

## Federal Judge Okays Retrieval of Titanic Marconi Wireless

A US federal judge in Virginia has given permission to retrieve the ill-fated RMS Titanic's Marconi wireless gear, which transmitted distress calls from the sinking ocean liner during its maiden voyage. Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the US District Court in Norfolk ruled that the radio gear is historically and culturally important and could soon be lost within the rapidly decaying wreck. The Titanic sank after striking an iceberg some 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland in 1912.

argued against the salvage effort, saying that any benefit to be realized from cutting into the vessel to recover the Marconi equipment would not be "worth the cost to the resource and not in the public interest."



**A recreation of the Titanic radio Room**

RMS Titanic sought permission to carry out what it called a "surgical removal and retrieval" of the Marconi radio equipment. As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water. The undersea retrieval would mark the first time an artifact was collected from within the Titanic, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the final resting place of some 1,500 victims of the maritime disaster. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, and remained undiscovered until 1985. R.M.S. Titanic said it plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub to retrieve the radio equipment. - via arrl.org

### Spam Emails

From time to time, I receive emails from club members or others that I know are in my email address list that only have a URL link in the body with no description. The subject will not be descriptive either. Just something like 'Check this out', 'Funny', etc. or blank. Since hackers will use someone's email address like they do phone numbers, I don't trust them because they are usually links that install viruses or malware on your computer. I just delete them without clicking on the URL. I don't click on the 'tiny' URLs or suspect URLs. Many hackers use the tiny URL because you have no idea where it's going.

If I get an email from anyone that only has a non-descriptive title or nothing in the body but a URL, I will delete it without clicking on the URL. My email server will mark them as 'Junk' most of the time. If it's one as described above, I will mark it as 'Junk' and delete it. In other words, don't send me a link with no description! Not sure if a member has or if has just been 'hackers'.

### Ham Chatter

I had finished HC for this month with just the regular eight pages. But after talking to Peter, N4PVH, I added two more pages because of extra Field Day info from the ARRL and other late news. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am not able to get printed copies from the printers. I am printing out enough copies to mail on lighter paper so I have to use only one stamp for mailing. If you want a hard copy, you can always print one from the PDF file. So none will be available for pickup at the library or at Batteries + Bulbs. I'm also required to stay home for how long, who knows! Sure would like to go shopping again. My hair is getting very long and I need a new computer!!! - W4YDY 🙄



"The Marconi device has significant historical, educational, scientific, and cultural value as the device used to make distress calls while the Titanic was sinking," Judge Smith wrote in her ruling. She said the company would be permitted "minimally to cut into the wreck" to access the radio room.

David Concannon, a lawyer for R.M.S Titanic Inc., which the court has recognized as the steward of the vessel's artifacts, said the company would try to avoid cutting into the ship, noting that the radio room may be reachable via a skylight that was already open. More legal wrangling may lie ahead. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contends that the retrieval expedition is still prohibited under US law and under an international agreement between the US and the UK.

R.M.S Titanic has said the radio transmitter could unlock some of the secrets about a missed warning message and distress calls sent from the ship.

"It tells an important story," Concannon said. "It tells of the heroism of the operators that saved the lives of 705 people. They worked until water was lapping at their feet."

In an April court filing, NOAA

### BARC Member, Dan Wallace, K4HMW, daughter passed



Betsy Wallace Beamon, age 56, of Washington, NC, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Private graveside services were held on Sunday, May

31st. Condolences from BARC. More at [www.paulfuneralhome.com](http://www.paulfuneralhome.com).

## Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day Hurricane Exercise Carried Out in Southeastern US

With one month to go before 2020 ARRL Field Day, June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from any Class to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station — both can include the radio club’s name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many

radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class.



ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend. Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for submitting entries after the event. Entries must be submitted or post-marked by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day web page includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year. - [via arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) 05/28/2020

### Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club for score submissions to ARRL

All club members that work and stations for the Field Day Contest on June 27/28, please indicate that the results are for the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club. As stated in the article above, they will be combined for the club totals since many clubs will not be in the field as usual because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone should try to make a few contacts even if you are not normally a contester. Entries must be submitted by July 28, 2020.

Complete rules and information at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

A pre-hurricane season exercise was carried out on May 16 for radio amateurs and the National Weather Service (NWS) in the southeastern US. The scenario was a Category 3 – 4 storm making



landfall at Panama City on Florida’s panhandle, and moving through Alabama and Georgia. The

Tallahassee NWS Office asked amateur radio operators for weather and storm damage reports. Exercise nets opened on HF and on a VHF repeater (HF turned out to be a disappointment), with stations using Winlink for reporting. Stations’ weather observations were submitted to the NWS via the nets using the NWSChat utility. — *Thanks to The ARRL ARES E-Letter - 05/27/2020*

### Coronavirus Creating Short-Term Delivery Delays from ARRL Headquarters



ARRL is currently experiencing delays in the fulfillment of orders due to a record number of orders received in the past weeks. Combined with excessive demands on many shipping carriers, our members and customers should expect a 1 – 3 week delay in the delivery of their orders over the next few weeks.

State of Connecticut safety requirements limit the number of employees allowed within the warehouse at one time to ensure their health and safety, further contributing to the fulfillment slowdown. Warehouse personnel are utilizing all available resources to get customers their products as quickly as possible and anticipate that the standard 3 – 7 day US delivery time will be restored sometime in June, once the state mandate has relaxed.

ARRL remains committed to making sure that all customers get their orders as quickly as possible. We greatly appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding during this time and thank you for your continued support of amateur radio and ARRL. - [via arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) 05/08/2020

## Planning Your ARRL Field Day 2020 Operation

For most of us, ARRL Field Day 2020 is going to look quite different than it did in past years. Considering the impact of social distancing due to the pandemic, many radio clubs and large groups will not gather in their usual Field Day locations this year. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a Field Day first-timer, there are many questions about how to participate in amateur radio's largest annual on-air event under these unusual circumstances. Here are some tips and suggestions to help you plan this year's operation.

### Don't Forget 6 Meters

Remember, Field Day is a non-adjudicated operating event and not a "full speed ahead" contest. It is also not an HF-only event. All amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used during the event too.

This includes 6 meters, which often offers significant propagation enhancements in the summer months around Field Day weekend, to help you make contacts. The band is available to amateurs holding a Technician-class license or higher. If you have an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode transceiver, try making SSB, CW, or digital contacts on 6 meters. You don't need fancy beams or large antenna arrays. A simple vertical or dipole will allow you to experience operating on the "Magic Band."

### Activities for Techs

One suggestion for clubs to consider in order to increase participation among their Technician-class members is to schedule specific times where these club members will monitor designated VHF and UHF simplex frequencies for Field Day activity. Keep in mind that the published national FM simplex calling frequencies should be avoided, and the use of repeaters is prohibited for Field Day contacts. This way, members who have equipment capable of VHF/UHF-only operation may be able to participate from their homes or vehicles. Your club can choose a list of frequencies and scheduled times in advance, and publish them in the club newsletter, or via email or other electronic means before the start of the event.

On the HF bands, Technician-

class licensees have CW privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, as well as RTTY/data and SSB phone privileges on 10 meters. If you aren't a CW operator, try calling CQ on 10-meter SSB in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday and see if conditions are favorable for long-distance



communications. Try experimenting with a simple wire antenna for 10 meters. You might discover that the band can offer plenty of unexpected propagation.

### Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try.

Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free WSJT-X suite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (WSJT-X version 2.0 or later, for example). ARRL's book *Get on the Air with HF Digital* (2nd Edition) is also a great primer for anyone beginning to explore

the digital modes.

### The Excitement of Ham Satellites

Another area you might wish to explore is operating via one of the amateur radio satellites, or "birds," as they're often called. Many hams have had success making contacts via the FM satellites by using a VHF/UHF handheld radio and a small handheld directional antenna, or a multi-mode VHF/UHF transceiver for the linear (SSB and CW) satellites. You'll only be able to work the satellites when they are overhead, so you'll need to know when they will be visible at your operating location. Visit AMSAT's Online Satellite Pass Prediction page to see which ones will be orbiting overhead, and at what times they'll be visible. You can find many satellite operating tips and resources on the AMSAT website too.

### An Opportunity for Learning

ARRL Field Day 2020 may be the year you decide to participate solo, or with other members of your household. You may want to focus on expanding your knowledge base and experiment with new modes or bands that you never thought of using before. If you're a mentor to a newer ham, Field Day can be an opportunity to share some of your knowledge, and for you to expand your own operating horizons. This might be the year to leave your Field Day comfort zone and try something new! - *via arrl.org 05/14/2020*

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#### BARC MEMBERS

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices from me, please send an email to [Hamchatter@w4amc.com](mailto:Hamchatter@w4amc.com) so I can get your email address. I know some have said they do not receive them but haven't sent me their address. You may miss some important BARC notices. - *W4YDY*

## Radio Amateur, Fellow Astronaut Headed to Space Station after Historic Launch

A radio amateur is one of two NASA astronauts headed to the International Space Station (ISS) following a May



(L-R) Astronauts Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, and Doug Hurley

30 launch of a SpaceX rocket that marked the return of human spaceflight to US soil for the first time in almost a decade. The Saturday launch from Cape

Kennedy also marked the first time humans traveled aloft via a commercial spacecraft.

Astronauts Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, and Doug Hurley had been set to go into space on May 27 before unfavorable weather scrubbed the flight.

“Crew Dragon has separated from Falcon 9’s second stage and is on its way to the International Space Station,” a SpaceX tweet said. “Autonomous docking at the [ISS] will occur at ~10:30 AM EDT tomorrow, May 31.”

The so-called “Demo-2 is the fi-

nal major test for SpaceX’s human spaceflight system to be certified by NASA for operational crew missions to and from the ISS. Additional background and launch video from the Kennedy Space Center is available. - *via arrl.org 05/30/2020*

Note: On May 31, they joined Astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, and two Russian cosmonauts who arrived on April 9.



## Social Distancing Exam Sessions Demonstrate Pent-Up Demand for Testing

A recent in-person “social-distancing” amateur radio exam session in Indiana and a “drive-in” session in California are representative of those that are relieving some of the pent-up demand for testing. As the COVID-19 pandemic lingers on, in-person exam sessions have begun to resume across the US and elsewhere in the world.

“With in-person sessions starting up again around the country, we are hearing the same story from volunteer examiner (VE) teams everywhere,” said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Maria Somma, AB1FM. “Large numbers of candidates who have been waiting to test are contacting teams and are thankful for the opportunity to sit for an exam. So far, we’ve heard mostly positive results; candidates are very prepared as they’ve had extra time to study. VE teams and candidates are following CDC and state guidelines for social distancing.”

Anderson (IN) Repeater Club VE Team Liaison Steve Riley, WA9CWE, told ARRL earlier this month that his club has been conducting test sessions every month since 2011, typically serving four or five candidates each session, but the May 19 session attracted 14 individuals.

“We were unable to test in April, but were able to get back in for the May session,” Riley said. “Several candidates were from Central Indiana, and we had a fellow drive down from Chicago, a couple from the Dayton, Ohio, area, and also from Fort Wayne, Indiana.” The team limited participation until it could con-

duct the trial run.

VEs and examinees alike wore face masks, and the test room was configured to accommodate the necessary spacing between individuals. “We questioned everyone entering with the usual health questions,” he added.

“Our VE paperwork became a serial flow for grading instead of our prior ‘huddle’ of the three VEs over the answer sheet,” Riley recounted. “As a result, things were a bit slower than in the past. The tables, pencils, and pens were disinfected.”



The result for the session was 11 new radio amateurs and three upgrades. “All went well, although we identified a couple improvements in paperwork flow for next month’s test,” Riley added.

“There is quite a pent-up demand for new amateur licenses and upgrades as a result of the number of test sessions that have been canceled,” he continued. “I hope that as sessions resume, they have the success that we had.” Riley said he’s already been contacted by six people who plan to sit for the exam in June.

In California, VE Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, told ARRL VEC that his team conducted a successful drive-in license testing session on May 16 the Concord Bay Area Rapid Transit station, “and we are encouraged to try it again, especially since we have 17 candidates to test on June 6,” he said.

Loomer explains that candidates fill out their paperwork in their cars. “I have circled in pencil all of the boxes on [Form] 605, the answer sheet and the CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam) that the candidates need to fill in, to minimize the face-to-face time.” Once paperwork is completed, candidates take a test booklet and answer sheet on a clipboard and sit in a chair in front of their cars, taking the test in front of the VEs.

Completed tests go into a box on the VE table, and candidates back their cars into a holding area, to let other cars park by the testing chairs. Once a test is scored and signed, the CSCE goes to the waiting candidate, who then may drive away.

“I’m seeing videos of remote test taking sessions, and they still look labor intensive to me,” Loomer said. “We are sticking with the drive-in format for the present time.”

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said, “Our VE teams are doing a great job! I’m impressed with their attention to safety, their professionalism, and their innovative tactics.” - *via arrl.org 05/29/2020*

## Another New Beta Version of WSJT-X is Available

A new beta (“release candidate”), WSJT-X version 2.2.0-rc2, is now available for downloading from the WSJT-X website, along with another new beta version of WSJT-X is available with a list of new features.



The WSJT-X development team has also published additional FT8 “overflow” frequencies. The WSJT-X 2.2.0-rc2 Release Notes explain:

“Increasing FT8 usage on 40, 30, and 20 meters means that the default 3 kHz

subbands are often wall-to-wall with signals. Overcrowding encourages some to turn on their amplifiers, which only makes things worse. On a trial basis, and in response to numerous suggestions from around the world, we have added a second set of suggested dial frequencies for FT8 on three HF bands and also on 6 meters...7.071, 10.133, 14.071, and 50.310 MHz.

“These frequencies will appear in your drop-down band-selector list after you

go to the ‘Settings | Frequencies’ tab, right-click on the frequency table, and select ‘Reset.’ Alternatively, you can add the new FT8 frequencies manually. When the conventional FT8 subband on 6, 20, 30, or 40 meters seems too full, please try moving your dial frequency down 3 kHz! [A]s currently implemented, WSJT-X will set your dial to the lowest frequency for the selected mode and band, when you switch bands.”

The latest “general availability” (GA) release is WSJT-X 2.1.2. - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 05/27/2020

## ARRL Announces New Life 70+ Membership

The ARRL Board of Directors recently voted to create a special Life Membership opportunity for individuals who are at least 70 years old. Starting on June 1, the Life 70+ Membership will be available to individuals who have turned 70 and have a combined 25 years of paid annual ARRL membership.

Life 70+ Members receive all benefits of an annual membership, including their choice of print magazine delivery (QST or On the Air), and digital access to these publications, plus the digital versions of QEX and National Contest Journal (NCJ). In addition, each Life 70+ Member will receive a Life Member pin and a

window decal and may purchase an exclusive Life Member plaque.

Qualifying members selecting this level of membership will enjoy the convenience of having to make a single payment for their entire tenure as an ARRL Member and not be subject to any future ARRL dues increase.



To apply for Life 70+ membership, individuals must complete the special Life 70+ Member application — available on June

1 — and submit proof of date of birth, if this information is not already on file with ARRL. The Life 70+ membership fee must be made in a single payment. Past membership dues payments will not

apply toward Life 70+ Membership, but a credit will be applied for applicants who paid their dues in full between April 1 and May 31, 2020.

Life 70+ Membership Dues Rates

- \$750 US Life 70+ Membership
- \$750 International Digital Life 70+ Membership
- \$1,515 International Life 70+ Membership with a Print Subscription
- \$250 Family Life 70+ Membership as an add-on to a paid Life 70+ membership

ARRL reserves the right to change or substitute the benefits, products, or services associated with a member's original Life 70+ Member package at any time during the membership. Dues are non-refundable.

Life 70+ membership applications will be available for download beginning on June 1. - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 05/14/2020

## HuskySat-1 (HO-107) Transponder is Open

The transponder on HuskySat-1, now designated as HuskySat-OSCAR 107 (HO-107), has been activated and is open for use and testing, AMSAT Vice President – Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, reports.

“It’s fairly sensitive, and 5 – 10 W is plenty most of the time. There are some fades due to satellite orientation, and some passes are definitely better than others. Strong signals may impact the beacon strength.”

HuskySat-1 is the first CubeSat from the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington and the first mis-

sion with AMSAT’s linear transponder module (LTM-1), a V/u transponder and



integrated telemetry beacon and command receiver. University researchers recently completed their Part 5 (Experimental) operations and have opened up the amateur radio transponder, which is available for use in educational CubeSat missions that are willing to enable the transponder for worldwide use.

The HuskySat-1 V/u transponder is inverting, with an uplink passband of 145.910 – 145.940 MHz, and a downlink passband of 435.810 – 435.840 MHz. The 1200-baud BPSK telemetry beacon is at 435.800 MHz. - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 05/14/2020

# 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.**

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu Vx5. \$75. Richard Campbell, W4JNC (252) 758-1244 or richardecu@gmail.com.

## New SSTV Software Now Available

An update of the popular MMSSTV slow-scan television (SSTV) software is now available. Eugenio Fernández,



has introduced YONIQ, which he calls a modern version of MMSSTV. “We are excited to finally be able to offer the entire radio community the revamped MMSSTV with the nickname YONIQ also in English,” he said. YONIQ is available in English and Spanish. The software offers several improvements, including an indication of the percentage of image sent and received, improved image reception settings, and a more-modern interface, among other things. Download YONIQ by clicking on the link “Descarga de MMSSTV 1.13 YONIQ” on the Grupo Radio Galena website. - via *arrl.org*

### BARC MEMBERS

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices from me, please send an email to [hamchatter@w4amc.com](mailto:hamchatter@w4amc.com) so I can get your email address. I know some have said they do not receive them but haven't sent me their address. You may miss some important BARC notices. - W4YDY

### BARC on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/w4amc/>

### Facebook and Group details

<http://www.w4amc.com/barcnews.html#BARC>

### Pitt County Repeater Association

<http://www.pcra.us/>

## 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**

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

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## The Experts on Contest University 2020 - A 10 Hour video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEEUpsWUtAA>

The 2020 Contest University had over THREE THOUSAND attendees at various parts of the day on May 14. If you missed any of it, you can watch the 10-hour event on YouTube. Don't forget that YouTube's lets you stream at up to 2x the original speed via the playback options menu.

Following is the video start times for the various sessions.

**11:40** Easy to build low band receiving antennas for small and large lots - **W3LPL**

**1:15:40** 2020 solar cycle update and the HF response to ionospheric storms and traveling ionospheric disturbances - **W2NAF**

**2:15:28** Everything you need do know about usb and serial interfaces - **N6TV**

**3:45:01** Youth in contesting update! -

**NN1C**

**4:13:55** Digital contesting Hints & kinks - Ed Muns **W0YK**

**5:18:25** Optimizing your station for contest operations - **K1DG**

**6:16:10** Grounding and bonding for contest stations - **N0AX**

**7:17:57** Contest and DX performance :a complex subject today - **NC0B**

**8:12:27** 60 years of competitive contesting and continuous improvement - the **W3LPL** story

The session was held on Zoom. There is a lot of very good technical on the Contest University site even if you are not a contesteer.

<https://www.contestuniversity.com/>

*Excerpts from the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter 5/27/20*

## Islands On The Air Users May Obtain Award Credits via Logbook of The World

Islands On The Air (IOTA) users may now obtain contact credits via ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). A similar arrangement is already in place with Club Log.

"Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd. is delighted to announce the implementation of the ARRL application which allows the use of QSO-matching via LoTW," IOTA's Roger Balister, G3KMA, said. "We wish to thank ARRL for having made their application available."

Balister said an initial list of operations extending from the arrangement with LoTW has been added to the IOTA database, and these will become available for contact-matching starting on May 21. "We are sure that the IOTA community will welcome this development for which they have long been pressing," Balister added.

ARRL Director of Operations Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, points out that LoTW has, for years, allowed award sponsors access to a utility that lets them verify contacts in LoTW. "The IOTA folks have begun using this utility, but

still check the QSOs against known IOTA operations," he explained, noting that applicants cannot apply for IOTA awards through LoTW.

To claim a new island group from matched LoTW contacts, users would click on "Retrieve QSOs from LoTW" to retrieve matching records. Within 30 minutes, IOTA users will receive an email listing the matches added to a list of pending contacts.

Use the "Submit HF application" or "Submit VHF application" utilities to go through the steps necessary to ensure that your application is complete before submitting it. Once IOTA has accepted the LoTW-matched contacts and any others in an application supported by QSL cards, IOTA will credit the contacts to your IOTA Award account and issue any appropriate awards or certificates.

See Instructions for LoTW QSO Matching for details. Direct correspondence to the IOTA Support Desk. <info@-iota-world.org> - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 05/20/2020



## NETS

### VHF/UHF

♦**BARC Net**, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.

♦**Down East Hospital Net**, 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon

Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone N4HAJ

Fountain 444.425 MHz, 88.5 Tone N4HAJ

♦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

### National Traffic System

Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (ENCTN) 146.685 (146.085 in) Mhz (PL 88.5) 2030E

## BARC Email Addresses

\*President @ w4amc.com

to Dave Wood, **W4EJ**

\*Treasurer @ w4amc.com

to Jim Lowe, **AC4JL**

\*VE @ w4amc.com

to Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**

\*Hamchatter @ w4amc.com

to Dave Langley, **W4YDY**

\*QSL @ w4amc.com

to Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**

\*BARC @ w4amc.com

to Mike Monteith, **KM4OLT**

# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 9. . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Jun 16. . . . . **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**  
 Jun 27/28 . . . . . **ARRL Field Day**  
 Jun 30. . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Jul 4 . . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Jul 11/12 . . . . . **IARU HF World Championship**  
 Jul 14. . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Jul 28. . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Aug 1. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Aug 11. . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Aug 18. . . . . **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**  
 Aug 25. . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Aug 29. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Sep 8. . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Sep 26/27 . . . . . **CQ WW RTTY DX Contest**  
 Sep 29. . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**

Oct 3 . . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Oct 13 . . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Oct 20 . . . . . **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**  
 Oct 24/25. . . . . **CQ WW SSB DX Contest**  
 Oct 27. . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Oct 31. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Nov 7/8 . . . . . **ARRL CW Sweepstakes**  
 Nov 10 . . . . . **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
 Nov 21/22. . . . . **ARRL SSB Sweepstakes**  
 Nov 24 . . . . . **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Nov 28/29. . . . . **CQ WW CW DX Contest**  
 Dec 5/6. . . . . **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**  
**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM  
**Board Meeting** - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM  
 Contest Calendar: All the rules.  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 Down East Hospital Net - 2nd Tuesday at noon - Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone N4HAJ  
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

**W 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S**



Next Meeting on ZOOM  
June 9, 2020 - 7 PM

**June 2020**

To:



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