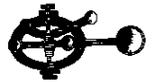




Ham Chatter



Volume XXXI Issue 10 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication October 1997

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Meet the BARC Members Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK

Election for 1998 Officers

Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK is the one being written about this month. Since she is the secretary of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, she has been writing about us and anything we do at the club meetings. Now it's our chance!

Juanita became interested in Amateur Radio in 1992 because her sister, Jannette Sumrell, KD4KLO, and brother-in-law, Neal Sumrell, KB4FKF, were Amateur Radio operators. A former friend gave her the final push to attend classes at St. Peter's in the fall of 1993 and she passed the Technician class license exam. She received her call, KE4JWK, on February 15, 1994. An Azden 2 meter transceiver in her Crown Victoria keeps 2 meter repeaters in the area occupied. A handheld 2 meter transceiver also helps. Juanita said that it had battery problems. There are a number of reasons for that, but I won't go into it! At least she is enjoying Amateur Radio and the friends she makes on the air.

She has been BARC Secretary for the past two years and has done an excellent job. Juanita enjoys BARC club activities and she participates in the annual ARRL Field Day in June and club special events when her work schedule permits.

Juanita has lived most of her life in Pitt County. Juanita graduated from Chicod Elementary School and D. H. Conley High School. She graduated from

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The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on October 14, at 7:30 PM at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. The election for 1998 officers will be held. All members and guests are invited to attend. The next board meeting is set for October 2 at 7:30 PM at St. Peter's School. All members are invited to attend.

FCC ANNOUNCES ELECTRONIC RENEWAL FORM 900

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is *only for renewals*, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (eg, name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You *cannot* use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a

(Continued on page 2)

The election of new club officers will be on the agenda for the next club meeting on October 14. All members (especially voting ones) are encouraged to attend. The slate provided by the Nominations Committee consists of: President - Tom Parsons, KD4AFH, First Vice President - **OPEN**, Second Vice President - Gene Underwood, KE4JZU, Treasurer - Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, Secretary - **OPEN**, and Trustee - Gary Gasperini, KE4SMJ. In accordance with the By-laws, Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, the out going president, will be the other Trustee. Nominations will be accepted

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President's Corner - Paul, KS4YF

From the Desk of the President -

Cool nights and warm days mean that Fall is here and Summer 1997 is history. With Fall comes a quieter HF and maybe some of those boomers will stay away, too. If you are a ham who has HF privileges and have not encountered lightning, you are among the few. I recently joined the increasing ranks of the **struck**. I happened to be at home when this even occurred - fortunately, too; because a small fire started that I quickly extinguished. I had just arrived at home, late too; because we were leaving for Raleigh that day to spend the night before catching a morning flight to Mexico where we were scheduled to attend a large international meeting. As I had just run in through heavy rain most of my office gear was still in my truck, nothing was even turned on when the bolt hit. I was looking out my breakfast room window and saw my antenna feedline that goes into the trees fall. At the same time I could see substantial limbs in the trees also fall, but more alarming were the sparks I saw fall from beside the house above the window from about where the feedline enters my 'shack' (a loose term for the room that also serves as my study). A quick trip upstairs revealed a

small fire blazing away in that window. A piece of polyurethan foam I use to seal insects, weather, etc. around the feedline was burning. Fortunately, some quick puffs put it out.

The Damage - I try to be responsible in wiring for this, but you CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL. All my radios were unplugged, disconnected from antennas,

Moral - YOU CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL.

and ground. BUT - Remember, that bolt just arrived from 1 or 2 miles away - a few more inches didn't seem to matter. From my reconstruction this stroke melted the G5RV antenna at the center, followed the feedline into the house where it burned through the coax and jumped to the ground line on the **OTHER SIDE** of a disconnected switch, up through the radio and into a small lamp on top of the rig where it **destroyed** the switch (pieces, including the pushbutton are *gone*). The rig still put the usual signal into the dummy load, but I cannot

yet test the receiver section since the antenna and probably the feedline are gone. A 2 meter transceiver (Kenwood TS-700A) placed beneath it and the Astron power supply seem to be OK. Of course, I didn't see it up close and personal, **No Thanks**, but things could be different - the bolt could have come IN through the lamp and out the antenna, but I don't think so. The **rest of the house** - suffered too. Circuit breakers tripped (6), the microwave, TV, doorbells, garage door opener, a dimmer switch, answering machine, cordless phone, modem, and telephone system died, too. It could have been MUCH WORSE; most notably the fire could have done things I don't even want to consider! The electrical items that could have been damaged or destroyed are far more extensive in my home, but I do miss the ones that were damaged.

Moral - YOU CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL.

Always -

Disconnect your antenna and ground it. Wise hams have suggested that you should route your feedline UNDERGROUND before bringing it

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Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club Members birthdays in **October**.

- | | | |
|----|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | KE4TZN | John Johnson |
| 6 | N4SFB | Len Downing |
| 19 | KD4JOV | James Eubank |
| 21 | KF4FQC | Hal Smith |
| 22 | KD4FBP | Alan Grier |
| 28 | KA4KGZ | Byron Highland |
| 29 | KM4ZA | Sandy Vernick |
| 30 | KE4YOE | Paul Fletcher, Jr. |

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - *W4YDY*

FCC ANNOUNCES ELECTRONIC RENEWAL

(Continued from page 1)

taxpayer ID number.

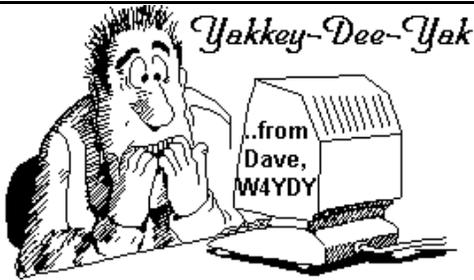
Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html> (click on Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications to access the Form 900). Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on Electronic Renewal Query lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the Continue button to obtain the fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form

will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license (except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet).

Form 900 updates will be batch processed at night. They are not instantaneous.

Send comments about the FCC Form 900 to sreed@fcc.gov. For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. Other general information may be obtained from the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL-FCC). -- *FCC - via ARRL Letter Online 10/3/97*



A few days ago, I was listening to the 75 meter phone band. I was thinking about what if I had someone with me that wanted to find out about Amateur Radio. When I started in Amateur Radio, everything was "G" rated. But now, some of it is "R" rated or worse. If a visitor had been visiting me, I would have been very embarrassed for Amateur Radio. They would have thought it was just another CB band.

I heard one 'operator' (if you can call him that) using profanity on about every five to ten words out of his mouth. This was one morning between 8:30 and 9:30 AM. I had started to call into that QSO because I heard some old friends talking in the group. But when I heard that, I just listened for a few more minutes and then turned the transceiver off. If everyone would take that road, the lawbreakers wouldn't have anyone to talk to but themselves. That would get very boring. It is tempting to get on the air and tell them that it is offensive to others listening. But as everyone knows, these people have a very limited knowledge of the English language and not a whole lot of common sense!

At nighttime on the 75 meter band, just tune around for a few minutes and you will hear obscene language. During my first ten to fifteen years on the air, I rarely, if ever, heard obscene language on Amateur Radio. It was sometime in the 1960's that it started and it just seems to increase as the years pass.

No amateur station shall transmit.. obscene or indecent words or language

Even if you heard someone fussing or arguing, obscene language was not used. That was a trying time for many because there were quite a few Amateurs that didn't like the new 'Donald Duck' emission. I know about that since I had the first Single Sideband Amateur Radio station in Raleigh and Wake County in 1957.

These 'operators' are breaking the Federal Communications Commission Federal Regulation 97.113a4. The regulation is quoted as follows. (The bold emphases is mine. - W4YDY)

§97.113 Prohibited transmissions. a. **No amateur station shall transmit:** 4. Music using a phone emission except as specifically provided elsewhere in this Section; communications intended to facilitate a criminal act; messages in codes or ciphers intended to obscure the meaning thereof, except as otherwise provided herein; **obscene or indecent words or language;** or false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

It sure would be nice if the Federal Communications Commission would enforce their regulations. But as everyone knows, the FCC has had big budget cuts and loss of personal. When they do enforce regulations against someone, it takes years to come to a final conclusion. I don't know what the answer is.

The problem is not only on 75 meters. There are frequencies on other bands that have horrible problems. On 20 meters, 14.313 MHz is very bad. Some frequencies on 75 meters that I have heard these 'operators' are just below 3.900 and on 3.915 and 3.938 MHz.

I get on the 75 meter band every week and talk to groups of operators.

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Meet the BARC Members Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK

(Continued from page 1)

Pitt Community College in 1982 with a Diploma for Medical Unit Secretary. She returned part-time in 1988 for nursing related courses. Graduating from the Licensed Practical Nurse program in August 1990, she continued in the Registered Nurse program. Unfortunately she had to drop out due to multiple reasons.

Presently working as an LPN in the Observation at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Juanita has held a variety of jobs. They include farm work, carpentry, hauling junk cars and stripping them for salvage for her dad, operating tractors, small dozers and trucks, Secretarial-Bookkeeping, Cashier-Sales Clerk, Medical Unit Secretary and Unit Supervisor. Now that we all know that, when the BARC president asks for a volunteer, we know that Juanita has the training for most any job!

Juanita has many hobbies besides Amateur Radio and going to hamfests. She enjoys her computer and surfing the Internet. When she's not busy with those two hobbies and is looking for something to do, there's the gun shows, target practicing with her 1022's, making silk flower arrangements, gardening, yard work, fishing and water activities. It looks like she has plenty of time to volunteer for BARC activities, like five or six minutes a week when she is not busy with all those hobbies!

To quote Juanita from the interview, she said, "I'm single and hope one day to find that right man for me." Her parents are Bob and Janice Humbles. She has two brothers, Robbie and Sam and one sister, Jannette, KD4KLO, and three nephews.

Juanita has contributed a lot of time to the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club and it is this kind of dedication that has helped make BARC an outstanding club. - W4YDY

FCC Issues Gate 3 Call Signs!

Get ready to remember another batch of new call signs. Six weeks to the day after the opening of Gate 3, the FCC began processing vanity call sign applications. FCC personnel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, had spent much of the intervening time clearing out a backlog of vanity applications filed prior to the Gate 3 opening and matching up payments with electronic applications. On Wednesday, September 17, the FCC issued some 500 to 600 vanity call signs to those who had filed applications on August 6, the opening day.

Applicants can check for new call signs at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fcld.html> or by using one of the other popular call sign databases.

Judging from the call signs turning up on the FCC database, some Advanced class hams took advantage of Gate 3 to obtain Group C call signs where the suffix comprised either a first name (we spotted a Joe, a Don, a Ken, a Bob and a Gay, for example) or a set of

initials. Perhaps apropos of his QTH, Gene Uliasz of Gun Barrel City, Texas, used Gate 3 to turn KC4WA into K5TNT. Formerly KF6CG, Georgia A. Lawrence of Manhattan Beach, California, obtained K6GAL. Other applicants obtained new Group B call signs, sometimes trading one 2x2 in for another. For example, Karl Mortensen of

The FCC still has not indicated when it plans to open Gate 4.

Wakefield, Rhode Island, swapped KE1FK for KA1RL. Still others went for the snappy suffix. Charles Pharis of Kagel Cyn, California, turned in KK6NE for KA6USA. Michael Amaral of Walpole, Massachusetts, gave up W1IDP to obtain WA1AW. Along the same lines, Michael Esposito of Germantown, Tennessee, swapped WA2VXV for WA2AW. Yvonne Lane of Kingwood, Texas, gave up KF5MY for W5XYL.

A few, like West Gulf Director Jim Haynie, just shortened the prefix. Haynie went from WB5JBP to W5JBP. Others went for one appropriate for their QTH. Teriann Miner of Palmer, Alaska, turned in her lower-48 call sign, KG0OY, for KL7AT.

The Iowa DX and Contest Club got WI0WA.

In all, it appears that the FCC received more than 1000 vanity call sign applications on August 6. Because earlier gates remain open, it's impossible to get an accurate count of applications filed solely under Gate 3, however. The FCC still has not indicated when it plans to open Gate 4, which will make the vanity call sign program available to General, Tech Plus, Technician and Novice licensees. - *ARRL Letter Online - September 19, 1997*

President's Corner

(Continued from page 2)
inside. This provides ample opportunity to prevent lightning from coming in via this route.

Disconnect power sources from ham rigs when not in use. Lightning can/will follow conductors when available and utility lines are the most convenient. This goes for phone patches and modems to your computer, as well.

An associated suggestion (Gary Gasparini, KE4SMJ) is to connect the rig outside grounding system to your household utility ground (third conductor) because a differential between these can develop from a corroded connection. This differential may be sufficient to wreak havoc in modern rigs with supersensitive microelectronics.

I hope this does not happen to you, or even me, again; but it can and will.

Be Careful,
73's de Paul, KS4YF

Jamboree-On-The-Air in Pitt County

Check out the article on page 9 about Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA). Let's talk about what will be going on locally. This year, instead of the Boy Scouts coming to us, we will be going to the scouts. Pitt District has a camporee weekend, located at Waldons's Pond in Farmville, with events scheduled for all day Saturday, October 18th. Last year approximately 700 scouts (boy scouts and cub scouts) participated in the camporee. The Boy Scouts will be divided into five separate groups and rotated through the events. JOTA will be one of these events. The Cub Scouts will descend on W4AMC in between the regular rotation. We will be hosting groups which at times may exceed 50 scouts.

The objective of JOTA is not to contact as many stations as possible but rather, to allow as many scouts as possible to talk with other scouts around the world. We will need operators to run additional stations for these large groups and for crowd control. This is a BARC event and we need "YOU" to participate.

Please call Tom (KD4AFH) and volunteer whatever time you can, either a few hours or all day. We hope to operate the station(s) into the night as long as propagation allows. - *KD4AFH*

Next BARC VE Session October 17

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE Session will be held on October 17 at St. Peter's School. The exam fee is \$6.25 if required for the license.

Candidates for the exam will need to bring two forms of ID, one which must be a picture ID. For more information, contact Brother Simon, KQ2V.

Official ARRL Field Organization Appointment Description - Emergency Coordinator

Emergency Coordinator

The ARRL Emergency Coordinator is a key team player in ARES on the local emergency scene. Working with the Section Emergency Coordinator, the DEC and Official Emergency Stations, the EC prepares for, and engages in management of communications needs in disasters. EC duties include:

1. Promote and enhance the activities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for the benefit of the public as a voluntary, non-commercial communications service.
2. Manage and coordinate the training, organization and emergency participation of interested amateurs working in support of the communities, agencies or functions designated by the Section Emergency Coordinator/Section Manager.
3. Establish viable working relationships with federal, state, county, city governmental and private agencies in the ARES jurisdictional area which need the services of ARES in emergencies. Determine what agencies are active in your area, evaluate each of their needs, and which ones you are capable of meeting, and then prioritize these agencies and needs. Discuss your planning with your Section Emergency Coordinator and then with your counterparts in each of the agencies. Ensure they are all aware of your ARES group's capabilities, and perhaps more importantly, your limitations.
4. Develop detail local operation plans

with "served" agency officials in your jurisdiction that set forth precisely what each of your expectations are during a disaster operation. Work jointly to establish protocols for mutual trust and respect. All matters involving recruitment and utilization of ARES volunteers are directed by you, in response to the needs assessed by the agency officials. Technical issues involving message format, security

The ARRL Emergency Coordinator is a key team player in ARES on the local emergency scene.

of message transmission, disaster Welfare Inquiry policies, and others, should be reviewed and expounded upon in your detailed local operations plans.

5. Establish local communications networks run on a regular basis and periodically test those networks by conducting realistic drills.
6. Establish an emergency traffic plan, with Welfare traffic inclusive, utilizing the National Traffic System as one active component for traffic handling. Establish an operational liaison with local and section nets, particularly for handling Welfare traffic in an emergency situation.
7. In times of disaster, evaluate the communications needs of the jurisdiction and respond quickly to

those needs. The EC will assume authority and responsibility for emergency response and performance by ARES personnel under his jurisdiction.

8. Work with other non-ARES amateur provider-groups to establish mutual respect and understanding, and a coordination mechanism for the good of the public and amateur Radio. The goal is to foster an efficient and effective Amateur Radio response overall.
9. Work for growth in your ARES program, making it a stronger, more valuable resource and hence able to meet more of the agencies local needs. There are thousands of new Technicians coming into the amateur service that would make ideal additions to your ARES roster. A stronger ARES means a better ability to serve your communities in times of need and a greater sense of pride for amateur Radio by both amateurs and the public.
10. Report regularly to the SEC, as required.

Recruitment of the new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of the Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

Requirements: Technician or higher class license; full ARRL membership

Info relayed by WD4JPQ

SOLAR FLUX CONTINUES UPWARD

Solar guru Tad Cook, K7VVV Seattle, Washington, reports: Again this week the average solar flux for the previous 90 days rose two points, and again the daily flux values were above 83, which was the high average value on Wednesday, the last day of the reporting

week. Wednesday was the fifty-eighty consecutive day that the solar flux was above the average for the preceding 90 days, and this is a very positive sign indicating a general upward trend in the new solar cycle.

This increased activity can have a downside though, and on October 1 the geomagnetic field was very unstable,

which generally means higher absorption, especially on high-latitude and polar signal paths. The planetary A index was 41, and planetary K index went as high as 6. The A index measured at College, Alaska, was 67, and the highest K index was 8, which means miserable HF conditions. These stormy conditions were

(Continued on page 9)

North Carolina 1997 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test

In the Section News, September 1997 QST, Reed Whitten, AB4W, North Carolina Section Manager said: "Let's try for the top score in SET this year! ECs, please start planning now!"

North Carolina has scored well in recent years, but we never have been first in BOTH the ARES and NTS categories in the same year. We are going to try to do that this year.

Will Harper, K4IWW, North Carolina Section Traffic Manager and I have agreed that the date for the NTS section and local net involvement in SET will be Saturday, October 18. The exercise will start at about 8:15, at the end of

the regular North Carolina Morning Net session on 3,927 kHz. The other section nets (NCEN, THEN, CN and CSN) will be activated at various times later in the morning. Local 2-meter NTS nets will also be activated. The HF net activity will end around 1:00 p.m.

The State EOC in Raleigh and at least one Logistics Staging Area will be on the air for EC's to use in their local exercises. You can send a request to either of them and will get an answer for your county Emergency Management Coordinator.

The SET for each county does not have to be elaborate, just workable,

and all available Amateurs that could participate should be encouraged. The goal is to score as many points as possible. If you do that, you will have a good exercise. A lot of experience can be gained from one of these exercises. Even if you have very little participation, your exercise is important. (Reed told me that before his first exercise as an EC he was afraid no one would participate. More than 30 hams did get involved in that exercise.) By your having an exercise, others will see that something is happening in ARES. Also, if every county would score at least 100 points, we would have no problem being # 1 in the country.

What if you have already planned your exercise at another date? No problem. Don't change your schedule. Let us know if you need the State EOC on another date. On October 18, your guys can participate with nearby counties. They can send test H & W messages to friends out of state. That gets points and is good PR.

More information will be available later.
Charles Hayworth, K4MPJ
North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator - *via email*

"Let's try for the top score in SET this year! ECs, please start planning now!" - **AB4W**

Letter from K4MI

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club de K4MI
Rcvd mi BARC Ham Chatter
Saturday August 9th. Tnx vy much.

As many of you OT's know I was one of the half-dozen or so founders of BARC and maybe 1st Prez? I believe that was in '67. You folks shud be hvng a 30th anniversary. I turned all the papers I had and few foto's to the club sec. (Jim Langley? or who?) about six or 7 yrs ago. I have found a few more pics and will send them to Simon or bring along to NC in late Sept. Perhaps founding date was in 65 or 66? Lamar Reid, K4BPF remembers?

I keep a fairly regular sked with Henry Peszko WB4DWC at 11:40AM on Mondays 7183 +/- QRM. For those who have fairly good 160 mb antennae I am on 1925 +/- QRM at 9PM EDST almost daily. Later in fall we go back to 8PM. I am active on other bands but only one I get some QSO's on is 75mb at 9:30AM daily 3786Khz. QSO's from Greenville that is.

Good fortune has fallen to me Hamwise. Got a 50 ft tilt-over tilt-over - Rohn20 litewate twr w/GEM QUAD es HD73 rotor. \$345 for all. Hope to get it installed after Labor Day. Also a couple of months ago I went to TS-570D as prime xcvr. Got the 32 page lab report via QST and it looks like the noise floor is better than the OMNI VI+. I put in 1.8Khz filter and selectivity is vy gud also. Also for DX pileups you can restrict xmit bandwidth to 2Khz (500-2500) you pile your 1500 watt PEP into that bandwidth in a pileup and they usually hear you.

Hope to run into some of you on HR sn..... vy 73 - *Jack K4MI*
Ed Note: Letter was received by KQ2V.

Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, Not Well

Press reports say that Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, may be suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Goldwater's wife, Susan, told reporters last week that opinions differ on whether Goldwater actually has the disease or is continuing to suffer the effects of 1996 stroke. Goldwater, the 1964 Republican presidential candidate and a long-time US Senator, remains at his home in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ten Attend Brightleaf ARC Amateur Radio Classes

The Amateur Radio classes have ten members meeting each Thursday evening at Pitt Community College. The last 30 minutes of the class is code and, all of the class remain, plus, we are joined by two No Code Techs. Although we have only been meeting for two weeks, the class displays a great deal of interest and it looks like we are well on our way to a bunch of new hams. - *KD4AFH*

ARES Field Resources Manual Arrived

See Byron Highland, KA4KGZ, at the October club meeting to pick up your ARES manual. The manual is a valuable resource for ARES members and all Amateur Radio operators. - *W4YDY*

North Carolina ARES Announcement

The North Carolina ARRL Field Organization is taking the first steps toward changing the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to match the North Carolina Emergency Management Division's new organizational structure. Additional changes will be announced as they occur.

The 33 counties of Areas A and C are now called the Eastern Branch. They have been divided into 5 groups of counties called Areas 1 - 5. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, (current Area A DEC) will serve as the "Eastern Branch District Emergency Coordinator" (DEC). Bernie will be our ARES liaison to the Eastern Branch Manager, Doug Hoell. DEC's for Areas 1 - 5 will be appointed, based on Bernie's recommendation. These "Area DEC's" will act as liaison to the Area Coordinators and work with Bernie to provide support and guidance for the EC's in their counties.

The 33 counties of Areas B and D are now the Central Branch. They are

divided into Areas 6 - 10. Tom Simpson, N4UCO, (current Area B DEC) will serve as "Central Branch DEC". Tom will act as liaison to Bill Gentry, Central Branch Manager. Tom will recommend Area DEC's for Areas 6-10.

The 34 counties of Areas E and F (plus the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation) are now the Western Branch. Although they are divided into Areas 11 - 15, our ARES organization will remain structured as Area E and F for now.

Greg Sellers, WB4HRR, will continue to serve as Area E DEC. Tommy Queen, K4BNP, has been appointed Area F DEC (replacing Dan Henderson, N1ND, who I would like to thank for his service as DEC). Tommy will continue to serve as Buncombe county EC. Greg and Tommy will work together with the Western Branch Manager, Tim Miller, and will recommend DEC's for Areas 11 - 15.

In the near future, the Western Branch will evolve into a structure

similar to the Eastern and Central Branches. Additional changes in North Carolina ARES organization and new appointments will be made on the North Carolina ARRL listserver and on the North Carolina ARRL Web Site <<http://www.ncarrl.org>>. We also hope to add much more information about the ARES organization to the web site.

Information about the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be announced on the listserver later this week. The SET is primarily a local exercise, with stations at the State EOC and Logistic Staging Areas to provide a location to send traffic.

73,

Charles Hayworth, K4MPJ

North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator

Received September 23, 1997 via North Carolina ARRL listserver -W4YDY

ARRL SEEKS CHANGES TO CW WAIVER RULES

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to *attempt* the CW test -- with any and all necessary accommodations -- before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two "rather minor changes" are needed to restrict the waiver process to use by severely handicapped individuals "for whom the process was intended in the first place and who

deserve the substantive accommodation." The League also said the changes would "stem abuses" of the waiver system without putting unreasonable burdens on examinees.

The CW waiver system has been in effect for seven years. The League says that experience has shown that many applicants without severe handicaps "have abused the process" by obtaining physicians' certifications of inability to pass the telegraphy examination. At present, 8% of those applying through the ARRL-VEC have requested a medical exemption from the higher-speed code requirement. Another large VEC reports similar experience. The League cited "a growing suspicion" in the ham community of anyone who has upgraded by using the waiver route. But the League said this is "completely unfair to those who require and deserve the exemption because they cannot be accommodated by procedural means."

FCC rules requires volunteer examiners to exercise broad latitude in

administering CW exams to accommodate handicapped applicants. Measures include using a flashing light or vibrating surface for hearing-impaired applicants, pausing in sending after sentences, phrases, words or even characters to allow an examinee time to interpret, or even substituting a sending test for a receiving test. Instead, the League observed in its filing, there is "a tendency for applicants to seek exemptions instead" of accommodations.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

(For some additional thoughts on this subject, see the editorial "It Seems to Us" by David Sumner, K1ZZ, *QST*, Oct 1997, page 9.--Ed.)

via ARRL Letter Online 10/3/97

BARC Monthly Minutes - September 1997

BARC MONTHLY MEETING
September 9, 1997 1930HR.
ST. PETERS SCHOOL

1. Call to Order by Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, President.
2. Introductions / Rollcall / Welcome Visitors.
3. 50/50 Invitation.
4. August Meeting Minutes as published in the Ham Chatter.
5. Reports from Officers / Old Business / New Business:
 - A. Treasurer's Report submitted by Brother Simon Jaworski, KQ2V. Current Balance \$1256.72.
 - B. Secretary's Report by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK: Usual monthly newsletters received. Received a letter from Carolina East Mall about their annual Community Bazaar. Anyone interested in setting up a table to sell items to raise money for the Club? See Registration Form if interested. See back of Ham Chatter for Hamfest this month.
 - C. Tom Parsons, KD4AFH has sign-up sheet Ham Radio Classes to be held at Pitt Comm. College, Thursday's 6:30PM-10:00PM, starting Sept. 18, 1997. A notice was put in the Daily Reflector. Students will need to buy their own textbook, Now You're Talking, 3rd Edition from Radio Shack. Tom, also noted JOTA to be held Oct. 17-18, District Camporee at Walton Pond, Farmville.
 - D. Executive Committee approved the purchase of 5 Books for the new Class for Hams teaching the classes. Paul ordered and paid for the books. A motion to reimburse Paul was made by Tom, second by Eugene Underwood, KE4JZU, and approved by the group present.
 - E. Paul met with along with the City Council and interested parties at the VOA Site C on Aug. 25th. Mac Green presented an overview of the building. Paul gave an overview of Ham Radio interest to the Council. PCMH representative were there also with the suggestion of using the building as an Emergency Shelter. See Paul for further details.
 - F. Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ,

- Assistant E.C. and representing ARES, asked for the use of the Club's Call, W4AMC, at the County Emergency Management Office during times of disasters or emergency situations. After a brief discussion, a motion to allow ARES and PCEC to use the Callsign was presented by Eugene, KE4JZU, second by Mike Langley, KD4MTT, and approved by the group present. If more than one station is set-up, then each can be designated as W4AMC-1, - 2, - 3, etc.
- G. Murray Merner, KF4FQB, from Nominating Committee, voiced the slate for officers are as followed thus far:
- President: Tom Parsons, KD4AFH
 1st Vice President: vacant
 2nd Vice President: Eugene Underwood, KE4JZU
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ
 Past President Trustee: Paul Fletcher, KS4YF
 2yr Trustee: Gary Gasperini, KE4SMJ
- Please encourage all to participate and volunteer to be nominees!!
- H. Murray also made an announcement on two events of interest:
1. The International Festival is set for May 2, 1998. We hope the Special Event Station will be even more successful next year and encourage all to make plans to participate.
 2. A Kite Festival will be held the last full weekend in Oct. (25-26), if anyone interested. It will take place at the Sands Villa Resort, Atlantic Beach, NC. (Take the road towards Fort Macon).
- I. Alex, KC4PHJ has a folder full of WEFAX material if anyone interested.
- J. Tom, KD4AFH noted we still have a lot of BARC Shirts available. (\$15.00ea.)
6. 50/50 Drawing: \$24.00 collected, with \$12.00 won by Becky Clemens, aspiring to be a HAM.
 7. Tonight's Program: Updates on Emergency Management by Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, Wayne, WD4JPQ, and Byron Highland, KA4KGZ. The State will be divided into three divisions:

- Eastern Branch, Central Branch, and Western Branch according to Bernie. At present, Doug Hoell will be the Eastern Branch Manager, with his office remaining at the (Area A Office), 5601 Hwy 264 West, Washington, NC, 27889. Phone: 919-946-2773. The Eastern LSA (Logistical Staging Area) primary location will be at the Kinston Jetport. See Bernie for more details on the changes in ARES and the Eastern Area coordinators. Handouts are in the process of being made. A drill will be held Thursday between the current Area A office and the Dare Co. location. Encourage all to listen in.
8. Byron, KA4KGZ voiced need for PCEC Net Control Operators. Also, anyone interested in purchasing an ARRL Handbook for \$5.00, see Byron to get your order in.
 9. Paul, KS4YF reminded everyone to participate in the Monday Night BARC Net at 8:00pm also.
 8. Meeting adjourned at 2100hrs after the program by motion of Gary, KE4SMJ, second by Harold Bailey, KD4NRB, and approved by the group.
- Minutes** by Juanita Humbles, **KE4JWK**

Nominating Committee

(Continued from page 1)
 from the floor. Your involvement and support are important to the future of the club.

The success of our club is dependent upon the interest of our members to be involved in its leadership. Let Murray Merner, KF4FQB, Mike Langley, KD4MTT, or Bob Fainter, KE4UGC, know of your interest, or someone else's. - *KF4FQB*

Yakkey-Dee-Yak

(Continued from page 3)
 The ones that I talk to do not use obscene or indecent words or language and we are able to communicate without any problems. We seem to be getting the message across. It can be done without using obscene or indecent words or language if the brains are not too small! - *W4YDY*

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 12. | Maysville Hamfest | November 16. | Benson Hamfest |
| October 14. | Regular Meeting - Elections | November ?* | Board Meeting |
| October 17. | VE License Session | November 29-30. | CQ WW DX CW Contest |
| October 17-19 | JOTA | November 30. | Ham Chatter Deadline |
| October 18. | NC ARRL SET | December 6. | Greensboro Hamfest |
| October 25-26. | CQ WW DX SSB Contest | December 9 | Christmas Meeting & Party |
| October 30* | Board Meeting | January ?* | Board Meeting |
| November 1-3. | ARRL CW Sweepstakes | January 4 | Ham Chatter Deadline |
| November 2 | Ham Chatter Deadline | January 13 | Regular Meeting |
| November 11. | Regular Meeting | January 29* | Board Meeting |
| November 15-17. | ARRL SSB Sweepstakes | * Board Meeting Dates Tentative | |

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATION

W 4 A M C

October 1997

To:



PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter