



Ham Chatter



Volume XXXII Issue 9 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication September 1998

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Meet The Member Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ



Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, became interested in Amateur Radio in his teens, but got his license in May 1990 while attending college when he didn't have anything better to do. He now has an Extra Class license. Alex is our Treasurer this year and enjoys our Field Day and other Special Events. He is also a one good to ask for advice on Amateur Radio.

He has impressive radio equipment including: Icom IC-736 and a Clipperton-L linear amplifier, MFJ Versa Tuner 5 roller inductor tuner for HF. For UHF/VHF he has: Icom IC-275A all mode 2 meter base/mobile, Icom IC-2400A 2 meter/70 cm mobile rig, RF Concepts rfc 2-317 170W 2 meter amplifier, Kenwood TM-641 144/220/440 tri-band mobile, Yaesu FT-530 144/440 handheld, Icom IC-2330 144/220 mobile. Antennas consist of: Butternut HF9-VX 6 meter to 160 meter

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The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on August 11 at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Nominating Committee to announce slate for new officers Election Mike Langley, KD4MTT, will present the second part of Emergency Preparedness. It's a timely subject in this area! All members and guests are invited to attend. The next board meeting is tentatively set for October 1. The meeting is open to all members.

Amateur Radio Operators Respond To Hurricane Bonnie

This article was in the "ARRL Letter Online" the day after Hurricane Bonnie blew by near Greenville. -W4YDY

It was a busy weather week for Amateur Radio. The first major storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, Hurricane Bonnie, hit the North Carolina coast on August 26, knocking out power to

(Continued on page 7)

New Member

William H. Wallace, Jr., KF4ZTD, from Pantego, joined BARC at the August meeting. William just completed the BARC Amateur Radio class and passed the Technician Class exam on the final night. Congratulations and welcome to the club William - W4YDY

FCC Streamlines Away Novice, Tech Plus Tickets

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place--Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. And the FCC proposed to permit Advanced class licensees to administer amateur exams up through General class. The proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10.

Given the December 1 comment and January 15 reply comment deadlines, it's likely that the issues the NPRM raises won't be resolved until well into next year.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC pointed to what it called "an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus," and asserted that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. The FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current

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President's Corner - Tom,

During Hurricane Bonnie, "the Amateur Radio community of Pitt County did a truly outstanding job."

There is only one subject that is befitting for this month's letter and that, of course, is "Bonnie". Prior to the hurricane, the only use of the word Bonnie, was for my daughter. Now! the word Bonnie will forever refer to the hurricane of 1998. As a participant on the emergency radio net, I can say with great pride that the Amateur Radio community of Pitt County did a truly outstanding job. We had operators at five shelters, the hospital, the Emergency Operations Center, and at my location, the Red Cross. Several husband-wife teams were functioning together, which allowed the operators to get a little rest. All of you deserve a great deal of thanks for your efforts.

...we need to get more operators to commit to helping in these emergencies.

The newspaper reported that over one thousand refugees spent time in our five shelters. There were problems like power outages and dead cell phones which emphasized the desirability of having ham radio stations at each location. The "jump kits" also got a good test of their capability. We were short of operators and volunteers came from as far away as Randolph County and Burlington to help out. The jump kits gave them the equipment but, from what I understand, they came prepared to function with their own rigs. The amateur radio community is really great. I can't even begin to start mentioning all the individuals for their call signs alone would fill up my space. As your president I take great pride in thanking all of you for your generous support. One lesson I learned is that we need to get more operators to commit to helping in these emergencies. This is not just a club function, we need to call on the entire amateur radio community to

assist when needed.

I note with pride that members of BARC were active at the LOSA in Kinston, as well as all over Pitt County. The planning of our emergency preparedness leaders paid off for us. We were fortunate that our area suffered only minor damage. I hesitate to use the word "minor", for to someone whose home or trailer was flooded out, it is definitely not minor. Now is the time to reevaluate our preparedness, cite the lessons learned and be better prepared for whatever mother nature throws our way in the future.

Thanks and congratulations to all.

Roanoke Division Director and Vice Director reelected

Director John Kanode, N4MM, of Boyce, Virginia, and Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, of Arlington, Virginia were reelected for two-year terms in the Roanoke Division. They had no opposition. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/28/98



Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **September**

- 1 KC4ROR Rose Wainwright
- 5 KQ2V Brother Simon Jaworski
- 6 KD4MTT Mike Langley
- 8 KD4NRB Harold Bailey
- 14 WA4DAN Murray Adams
- 19 KD4BSZ Ward Bradshaw
- 20 W4FA John Schultz
- 24 N4BSI Hassell H. Bailey
- 25 KF4RIF Michael Kushman, Jr.
- 26 KC4HHW Billy D. Elks
- 29 N4WHT Hugh Lindsley
- 30 WD4PYO Tommy Lang

Please let me know of any additions or

Well Wishes!!

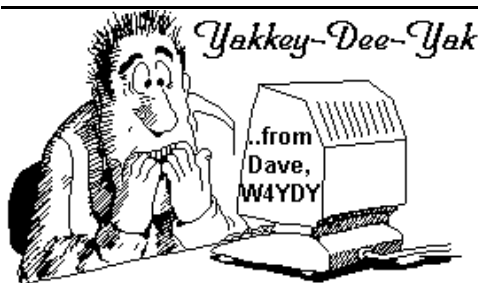
Thoughts and Prayers go out to Shirley Katrobos, KF4VHJ, who had emergency surgery on August 28. She reported from her home that she was doing much better now and hopes to be back to normal soon.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club wishes her a speedy recovery!!



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The Amateur Radio operators that worked during Hurricane Bonnie did an outstanding job. Many put in long hours because of the shortage of operators. A lot of the operators were BARC and ARES members. As Tom, W4TEP, states in his column, some operators came from the center of the state to help out. Many operators in the affected area are trying to look after their families and property when the hurricane is in the area. Therefore, when a call goes out for operators in an area that needs help and your area is not affected,

maybe next time you can go to their aid. Those operators that lived in the affected area are to be especially commended for coming to the aid of others while their families and property were riding out the hurricane.

I received reports from a couple of hams in the western part of the state about hearing the W1VOA callsign at the Kinston emergency headquarters. Also W4AMC was very active in Pitt County.

The FCC released NPRM WT Docket 98-143 on August 10, 1998. There are articles about the docket on pages one and six of this newsletter. In the opinion of this writer, the FCC proposal is tremendously better than the dumbing down disaster that some of the ARRL directors proposed to the FCC. There have been questions that the ARRL is more interested in numbers instead of quality of Amateur Radio operators. Money talks! It looks like the commercial interests are more important. If the ARRL wants just numbers, turn it over to the CB bunch and Amateur Radio

Many put in long hours because of the shortage of operators.

will be over. Operators can cheat and cuss all they want to and not fear reprisals. Many don't fear reprisals now! It would probably do away with the ARRL along the way.

The July Minutes of the ARRL Board of Directors are in the September issue of QST. The ARRL General Counsel was instructed to submit a letter to the FCC without delay, the ARRL proposal for amateur licensing restructure. Roanoke Division Director John Kanode, N4MM, made the motion and it was approved by a vote of 8 to 7 in favor. It was moved to reconsider to reconsider the question and the vote to reconsider was 13 to 2 in favor. John Kanode, N4MM, again made a motion to submit the letter to the FCC and the vote was 9 to 6 in favor.

John replied via email to those that made comments to him about the vote to send the letter to the FCC. He

stated in it that he had requested comments from members over the past couple of years and he only

got about 15 replies. I hope he got mine because I sent comments on May 7, 1997 via email to ARRL HQ and copies to several others including John. I plan to send comments to the FCC on their proposal and I will send copies to ARRL officials. The FCC has set a longer than normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. More information can be found on the two articles on pages one and six of this newsletter.

All Amateur Radio operators should send comments to the FCC with a copy to the ARRL and your Director.

1998 Air Force Anniversary QSO Party

The AF Anniversary QSO Party is now an annual event! It will be on the third weekend of September, 1998 from 0001UTC on Sept 19th until 2359UTC on September 20. Full rules are at The Razorback Radio Club web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k5xs>. The purpose of the annual event is gathering on the air as many active and former members of the Air Force as possible for a weekend of fellowship and in remembrance of all those who served.

POINT IDENTIFIERS: Point identifiers will be used to identify participants' Air Force experience. The point values will be determined by subtracting the year the participant entered the Air Force from the year 1998. For example, people who joined in 1947 will have a point value of 51 (1998-1947=51) and will identify "/>

Participants may use experience in any Air Force component (active, Air National Guard, or Air Force Reserve) to determine their point identifier. Members of our Air Force auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, may use point identifiers based on when they joined CAP as a cadet or senior member. Previous members of our parent organization, the Army Air Corps, may use a point identifier of "AF51."

SCORING: Score each contact based on ID number (eg. AF50, 50 pts; Af20, 20 pts) multiply the number of points by the number of different IDs worked, add 100 pts for each station worked that is operating from an Air Force installation. Logs must be received by The Razorback Radio Club not later than October 15, 1998 for award consideration. Logs may be submitted by e-mail (ASCII text file only) to k5hog@aol.com.

For more information contact

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 □ MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION □ PRESIDENT - TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 □ FIRST V. PRESIDENT - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ SECOND V. PRESIDENT - GENE UNDERWOOD, KE4JZU, 746-6964 □ SECRETARY - JUANITA HUMBLER, KE4JWK, 355-1051 □ TREASURER - ALEX MACKLIN, KC4PHJ, 752-2231 □ BOARD MEMBER - PAUL FLETCHER, KS4YF, 756-6985 □ BOARD MEMBER - GARY GASPERINI, KU4NQ, 758-8101 □ HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE

ARRL Debuts Web Magazine September 1

The ARRLWeb Extra, the new ARRLWeb publication, debuts September 1 on the League's new Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. The ARRLWeb Extra will offer news and features, photos and sounds from the world of Amateur Radio and the ever-changing communication scene.

A totally new online publication, The ARRLWeb Extra, will publish Amateur Radio news and features--including insider news, technical and how-to topics, additional information on Product Review items, "First Looks" at upcoming products that will be reviewed in QST, and occasional offbeat items, a "Foto Gallery," and information about--and links to--interesting Web sites. From time to time, The ARRLWeb Extra will explore subjects only indirectly related to Amateur Radio.

Web publication also will make it possible for Product Review and New Products items to include sound and more pictures that we might not have room for in QST.

Members now get a chance to actually hear what a new transceiver sounds like, for example. The first edition of The ARRLWeb Extra takes a closer look at the new SGC SG-2020 transceiver, providing sound clips of CW and SSB reception (in RealAudio format) plus interior photographs not included in QST. The full-blown SG-2020 Product Review will appear elsewhere on the Members Only Web Site as well as in October's QST.

The Members Only Web Site will make current and past QST Product Review columns available in a searchable archive as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The QST Product Review Columns page lists all Product Reviews from 1990 to the present.

The premier edition of The ARRLWeb Extra will feature several general-interest articles. There's an exciting narrative by Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, of how he used ham radio to help save

the lives of a missionary family, caught up in a hostage situation in a remote section of Guatemala. Sound clips of actual transmissions are included. Ralph Katz, KB8ZQY, tells the uplifting tale of how "Two Honest Hams"--who also happened to be pretty good detectives--retrieved his H-T, lost at the Dayton Hamvention.

News items for the Extra will be updated as soon as possible, which means that breaking stories sometimes will be available before they're published in The ARRL Letter or issued as W1AW bulletins. Whenever available, pictures and sound cuts will augment our news coverage. The ARRLWeb Extra is free of advertising and other "commercial clutter." News and article submittals are welcome via e-mail to awextra@arrl.org.

In a related move, The ARRL Letter now will become more available to League members. ARRL members may subscribe to The ARRL Letter and receive it via e-mail directly from ARRL Headquarters free-of-charge and without having to go through the third-party listserver. Members can choose to receive The ARRL Letter via e-mail when they register to use the Members Only Web Site. They'll also be able to start or stop their Letter subscription at any time from the Membership Data page on the Members Only site.

Current and back issues of The

Next VE Session Oct. 16

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on October 16. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. - KQ2V
Please bring the following:

- Photo ID (drivers license)
- Original Amateur Radio License
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Original CSCE's
- Copy of CSCE

ARRL Letter will continue to be available on the public ARRLWeb as well. In addition, ARRL Audio News, the weekly RealAudio news broadcast that's compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter, will continue to be available via the public ARRLWeb site. ARRL Audio News also is available by telephone at 860-594-0384.

ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, will edit The ARRLWeb Extra. He will continue to edit The ARRL Letter and edit and voice ARRL Audio News.

To access the ARRL Members Only Web Site welcome page, League members need only point their browsers to <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. Register by providing your call sign and your ARRL membership number--found on your QST mailing label. You'll also be prompted to select a password. If you're not a member, you can join the ARRL

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BARC August VE Sessions

A special VE session was held on August 10, the last day of the recent BARC Amateur Radio classes for Novice and Technician licenses. Steven B. Letchworth from Goldsboro received the Technician Plus license and William H. Wallace, Jr. from Pantego received the Technician license. On August 13, the FCC assigned Steven the station call sign KF4ZTC and William received KF4ZTD. VEs at the session were Brother Simon Jaworski, KQ2V, Murray Merner, K4MHM and Dave Langley, W4YDY.

On August 14, the regular VE session was held and Mike Langley, KD4MTT, took a step toward the General Class license. Mike plans to take the written exam shortly. VEs at that session were Brother Simon Jaworski, KQ2V, Bob Connelly, KB4FWL, Murray Merner, K4MHM and Dave Langley, W4YDY.

Congratulations to all from the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club. - W4YDY

Meet the Member - Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ

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vertical, Cushcraft 13B-2 13 element beam, Cushcraft 11 element 220 beam, Cushcraft 4 element 220 beam, Cushcraft 4 element 144 beam, Cushcraft 7 element 2 meter sideband beam, Cushcraft 11 element 440 beam. And a 4 KW generator.

His operating preferences are: 2 meter SSB and FM, 220 FM, 6 meter SSB and FM and 440 FM. His favorite amateur radio activity is Mountain Top DX-peditions to work VHF and UHF SSB and FM. He makes at least one trip a year to Whitetop Mountain (ele. 5500 ft) in SW VA. He feels VHF simplex coverage from the mountain is excellent under normal conditions, but has had FM simplex connections as far away as Kansas during inversion conditions. He has worked two watt HTs more than 250 miles away and UHF contacts on 440 as far away as Atlanta and Arkansas. Their 144 SSB/FM rig with a 170 watt brick feeding a 13 element 144 beam powered by a 4KW generator provides the best results. They have gotten good propagation on 75 meters, but not so good on 6 meters. Microwave

experimentation is in their future. He has enjoyed expeditions to other mountain tops too.

Alex has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Campbell University and is interested in getting a second degree in computer science. He has worked at Wachovia Bank for more than five years where he is a Banking Officer working as a Credit Manager. He has been working on a Year 2000 project since May 1998 and is teaching a new software system to staff. While in college, he worked at Circuit City for five years in their electronics department.

Alex is from Cary, NC. His father is retired from Burroughs Wellcome where he was the head of Toxicology. His mom is a homemaker and Alex has one younger married brother in Henderson, NC. He has another interest which includes a lot of time on the water -- so that's how you got such a great tan! We appreciate the time and the concern Alex has for our fiscal condition -- it's a challenge keeping BARC in the black. - *K4MHM*

Spectrum Bill Picks Up More Sponsors

During August, HR 3752, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, picked up seven new cosponsors. This brings the total to 64, plus the original sponsor Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida.

The August additions include Rep Frank R. Wolf, Virginia; Rep Linda Smith, Washington; Rep George Miller, California; Rep Max Sandlin, Texas; Rep Lynn Rivers, Michigan; Rep William Goodling, Pennsylvania; and Rep Anne Northup, Kentucky.

The ARRL's Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, returns to the Hill the first week of September to prepare for Congress' return from its "district work period" the following week. *via ARRL Letter Online 8/21/98*

Vanity Update \$13 Application Fee

The FCC in Gettysburg reports it has processed vanity call sign applications received through August 5. In the last processing run, the FCC granted 68 call signs. Another 45 applications hit the work in process (WIPs) stack for further processing. The FCC has formally announced that the vanity call sign application fee will be \$13 beginning with applications received on or after September 14, 1998.--FCC - *via ARRL Letter Online 8/28/98*

Web Magazine

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online via the ARRLWeb site at <http://www.arrl.org>. - *via ARRL Letter Online 8/28/98*

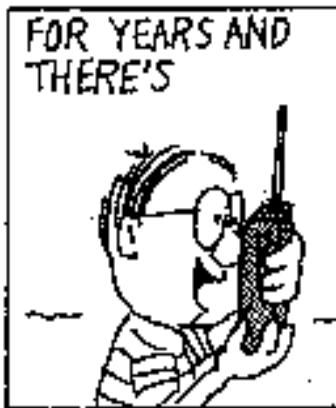
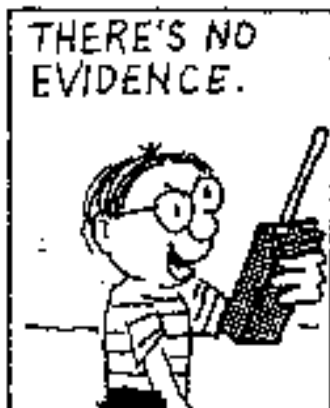
1998 Air Force QSO

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by e-mail k5hog@aol.com or k5xs@compuserve.com or by mail at: The Razorback Radio Club 8437 Wesley Stinnett Blvd., Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732. - *K5XS*

ELMER

BY RICH REGENT, K9GDF



Via ARNS Bulletin

FCC Proposes Other Amateur Radio Rules Changes

In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket WT 98-143, the FCC seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In its proposed rules, however, the FCC has altogether deleted current language regarding a physician's certification to waive the 13 or 20 WPM Morse requirement. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

The FCC went along with an ARRL petition and proposed allowing

Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The Commission said the change would permit greater testing opportunities for hams. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

October QST will explore the NPRM and its implications in greater

Referring to yet another ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease

and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES, stations by not renewing their licenses. No new RACES licenses have been issued since 1980, and only 249 valid licenses remain. The FCC said RACES stations no longer are needed because any amateur station that has been properly registered with a civil defense organization has the same privileges as a RACES station.

The FCC also used the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13 (c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee.

Without comment in the NPRM text, the FCC also appears to have eliminated the 365-day time limit for a Certification of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid. The current 365-day limit remains in proposed wording in Section 97.9(b), Operator license, however.

The FCC is expected to issue an erratum to correct outright errors in the NPRM, but it has no plans to clarify the Commission's intent on individual issues.

The FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>. The FCC NPRM also can be downloaded from the FCC Web site in WordPerfect 5.1 and text versions as <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp> or <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt>, respectively. via ARRL Letter Online 8/21/98

FCC Streamlines Away Novice, Tech Plus Tickets

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examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The proposal would eliminate the 5 WPM code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of license, while retaining references to it elsewhere in the rules. This has left hams wondering exactly what the Commission intends. The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes and Element 1A as a requirement appear to effectively raise the bar for most future applicants wanting HF operating privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse code requirements.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200-W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited

comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The FCC opened the door to comments on all aspects of Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system--and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method. via ARRL Letter Online 8/21/98

Amateur Radio Operators Respond To Weather Emergencies

(Continued from page 1)

thousands of homes and causing structural damage and widespread flooding from torrential rain. The New Hanover County EOC wound up having to operate from emergency power. Schools in the county were damaged. A hospital in Brunswick County lost its roof.

As the storm approached, more than a half million residents and visitors in the Carolinas were ordered to move inland. Mobile home owners in 44 North Carolina counties were asked to evacuate. Officials opened more than 100 shelters in North Carolina to accommodate those who were temporarily displaced. "Our goal is to have at least one ham in every shelter," North Carolina Section Manager Reed Whitten, AB4W, said.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams deployed in coastal Carolina regions as the massive hurricane approached. Hams at shelters provided communication support and backup, handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic, and reassured shelter residents that they were not totally out of touch with the outside world. For that reason alone, Whitten said, hams working in the shelters were advised to maintain a high profile.

Hams also staffed emergency operations centers in the wake of ARES activations.

The Hurricane Watch Net was activated on 14.325 MHz. Hurricane Watch Net members provide ground-level meteorological reports to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, which houses W4EHW.

ARRL PIO Frank Ebbinghouser, N2EMR, in Wilmington, North Carolina, says a local TV station interviewed one ham at a shelter. "We are all fine," Ebbinghouser said in an e-mail message to ARRL Headquarters. He said damage from Bonnie did not appear to be as serious as in past storms.

By Friday, August 28, Whitten

reported that many shelters and EOCs had released their Amateur Radio operators, although one relief operator was diverted to Carteret County after shelters in Sampson County closed.

The HF station W1VOA in Kinston, and the state EOC went into standby. A few EOCs and shelters remained active, and the Tar Heel Emergency Net (3.923/7.232 MHz) was monitoring for them. The net remained in continuous operation for more than two days, providing communication for Emergency Management and relief agencies.

As Bonnie churned slowly away from North Carolina, hams in Virginia awaited their turn. On August 26, Virginia ARES/RACES had activated in anticipation of the storm. Virginia State RACES Officer and ARES SEC Frank Mackey, K4EC, said that many local

Hams at shelters provided communication support and

emergency operation centers were staffed with hams, and many shelters opened in anticipation of evacuations. ARES station W4ZA at the state EOC was

activated. As the storm appeared to be losing strength, Mackey reported that ham radio operations were standing down and shelters closing. Then, Bonnie changed her mind.

Hurricane Bonnie was downgraded to a tropical storm Thursday, August 27, but picked up steam again as it headed north and regained hurricane status, catching hams and emergency officials off guard. Hardest hit was the Tidewater area of Virginia, which experienced heavy rain and damaging winds--clocked unofficially at more than 100 MPH. At least one death has been reported in Virginia.

The home of District 9 Emergency Coordinator Cynthia Rohrer, AE4EF, in Chesapeake suffered extensive structural damage, and outbuildings were totally demolished. "It was impossible for her to get out of their residence due to extensive debris," Mackey said. "Damage from fallen trees

and downed power poles appears to be very extensive." He said emergency managers and police were asking people to stay off the streets unless absolutely necessary.

Virginia Electric Power reported more than 250,000 customers without power. Officials closed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel due to the strong winds. A roof was reported blown off an apartment building in the Oceanview section of Norfolk.

"The Norfolk area was still reeling under continued battering, higher-than-expected tidal surges coupled with local high tides, and strong winds," Mackey said Friday.

SKYWARN and emergency nets remained active in the region.

The storm was sitting off the North Carolina/Virginia Border and was expected to hug the coast on its way to New England during the weekend.

Damage in North Carolina alone is estimated at up to \$2 billion. - via ARRL Letter Online 8/28/98

Turkey Added to Reciprocal, Third-Party

The ARRL (and the FCC) have belatedly received word that Turkey (TA) has signed a reciprocal operating arrangement with the US Turkey added to reciprocal, third-party lists: The ARRL (and the FCC) have belatedly received word that Turkey (TA) has signed a reciprocal operating arrangement with the US that permits hams of either country to operate in the other country. Turkey also has joined the list of countries that permit hams to handle communications on behalf of third parties. that permits hams of either country to operate in the other country. Turkey also has joined the list of countries that permit hams to handle communications on behalf of third parties.

BARC Monthly Minutes - August 1998

BARC MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 11, 1998 1930HR. ST.
PETER'S SCHOOL

1. Call to Order by Murray Merner, K4MHM, 1st V.P. in the Absence of Tom Parsons, W4TEP, on vacation.

2. 50/50 Invitation - none due to Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, out of town and tickets not available.

3. June Meeting Minutes approved as published in the Ham Chatter. There were no July Minutes due to VOA Tour.

4. Reports from Officers / Committees:

A. Treasurer's Report - no report due to Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ, out of town on vacation.

B. Secretary's Report by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK: See Mail received. Alex and myself looking into feasibility of the present Club's Insurance Policy. Treasury Balance as of the Board Meeting was \$557.95.

C. President's Report by Tom, W4TEP - No report.

D. VOA Site C - Murray, K4MHM, relayed message from Paul Fletcher, KS4YF to ask all Members to call or write to your State Representatives and ask them to support a Museum for the VOA Site C.

E. Absentee Ballot - No report.

F. Special Service Club Status - No report.

G. Special Events - Field Day Review by Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, Chairman. Bernie noted the biggest problem was the heat. The event was 3 Alpha with most of the Radios used were from the Jump Kits loaned by Pitt Co. ARES. Ken Graf, N8FF, brought his Kenwood TS-60, 6 Meters Radio. All went fairly well until the end of set-up with the Heat Index climbing up to 115 degrees. Cold Wet Towels were greatly appreciated and helpful. Most everyone did a good job of helping, with a few standing around and watching. Everyone involved seemed to have a good time. Bernie suggested that next year the Club should simplify the antennas and radios and wishes good luck to next year's Chairman. Brother Simon Jaworski,

KQ2V, noted the Field Day Results Total @ 2002 this year, passing the 1700 from 1997. Brother Simon also voiced concerns about the old Compaq computers and the need to upgrade asap.

- JOTA set for October 17-18. Give Tom, W4TEP a call if you can help.

H. Health and Welfare Constitution Amendment - To change the 1st Vice President's duties to include following up on the Health and Welfare of Club Members was placed into motion by Joe Melton, WB4SLF, 2nd by Gary Gasperini, KE4NQ and Shirley Katrobos, KF4VHJ and approved by the group present after a brief discussion. Shirley voiced appreciation of the card she had received during her recovery from surgery.

I. Instructor Group - Murray, K4MHM - New Ham Radio Class session completed. A special thanks to Instructors as follows: John McCoy, K4KBB, Dave Langley, W4YDY, Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, Bernie, WA4MOK, Brother Simon, KQ2V, Ken, N8FF, teaching Morse Code, Murray, K4MHM, and Mike Langley, KD4MTT, who attended & offered support.

Brother Simon, KQ2V held a special VE Session for the Students on Monday Night. Congratulations to Steve Letchworth for passing the Tech Plus exams and William Wallace for Tech exams. Anyone wishing to be an Instructor for the next session of classes, please contact Murray, K4MHM.

J. Programs - Eugene Underwood, KE4JZU. Tonight - Hurricane and Severe Weather Preparedness by Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

September - Nominating Committee to announce slate for New Officers Election, need program; October - Elections, Jamboree on the Air preview; November - No Program yet. (Nominating Committee - appointed by Tom as follows: Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, Doug Ferris, K4ROK, Byron Highland, KA4KGZ, John McCoy, K4KBB, and Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ.)

K. ARES - Mike, KD4MTT noted Byron, KA4KGZ out of town for a while, so he will solicit Net Control Operators for Monday Night Nets. Dan Bartholf, N2RNF from the Newport NWS has been transferred to W.V., but will return in case of a severe storm to help out. James Smith is the new coordinator in Washington, NC.

5. Outstanding Business:

A. Fund Raiser - still awaiting approval of \$500.00 Grant submitted to Proctor & Gamble to have a Raffle with \$100.00 and \$50.00 prizes. Tickets to sell for \$1.00 each. Each member asked to buy 5 or more tickets & sell at least 20.

B. Commercial Ads in Ham Chatter - John, K4KBB suggested business ads -- 1/8 of page @ \$10.00 per month or \$100.00 per year. (Can not place ads on Website at present).

6. New Business:

A. Club Insurance being reviewed.

B. Old Trailer Title - looking for it.

C. Be careful with W4AMC - Brother Simon received Out Of Band reports for the last 3 years from Field Day Events.

D. ARRL Licensing Proposal - discussion on possible changes and effects.

7. Joe Melton, WB4SLF with brief discussion on the year 2000 and computer upgrading to prevent shut-down. CNET on the Web has a section to help people out with Software, etc. updates.

8. 50/50 Drawing: No Drawing tonight.

9. ARES: Doug, K4ROK noted Paul, KS4YF working hard on the VOA Site C and ARES projects.

10. VE Session - Brother Simon, KQ2V voiced next Session coming up Friday, Aug. 14th at 6:30PM and that the sessions may be problematic with the need for Extra Class License VE's. Brother Simon also voiced his concerns about the latest Licensing proposals and is considering retiring from the VE's.

11. The Meeting was adjourned at

(Continued on page 9)

Ham Ads

Ham Ads will be run, free of charge in Ham Chatter for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue. Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835, ATTN: Dave Langley** or email to: w4ydy@sprintmail.com

FOR SALE

Kenwood MC-85 Desk Microphone with MJ-88 Adapter. \$60.00.
Call Ken Graf, N8FF @ 321-4824. (2)

Why Johnny Can't Read - Here's a Clue!

These excuses were written by parents to teachers.

1. Dear school: Please excuse John of being absent on January 28, 29 30, 31, 32 and also 33.
2. My son is under doctor's care and should not take fisicaled. Please execute him.
3. Ralph was absent yesterday because of a sore trout.
4. My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent the weekend with the Marines.
5. Please execute Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
6. Please excuse Joyce from gym for a few days. Yesterday she fell out of a tree and misplaced her hip.
7. Excuse Gloria. She has been under a doctor.
8. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
9. PLease excuse Ray Friday from school. He has lose vowels.
10. Please execute Wayne for being out yesterday, because he had the fuel.
11. Please excuse Sarah for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
12. Maryann was absent December 11-16 because she had a fewer, sore throat, and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick

Hams Need for Eastern NC MS-150 Bike Tour September 26/27

From Gary, KN4AQ

Every year the MS Society has a 150 Mile bike tour through eastern NC as a fund raiser, and hams have been providing communications for the event for years. (Actually, there are MS-150 bike tours all over the country -- I know another one starts in Charlotte, with support from the hams there).

I'm looking for a few more volunteers to help out with this one. The tour begins in Clayton, and ends at Kinston. Any hams in the "down east" area of NC, from the Triangle to the coast, are good candidates for participation. I'd really like to get some more participation from outside Raleigh.

I've put together a web site with some basic information for hams at: <http://www.rtpnet.org/~rars/ms-150>

If you're e-mail only, no WWW stuff for you, just e-mail me and I'll tell you all about it.

Gary Pearce, KN4AQ Cary, NC, 919-380-9944, Email: kn4aq.gary@mms.net

BARC Minutes - August 1998

(Continued from page 8)

2035hr. by motion of the group.

12. Tonight's Program: Hurricane Preparedness by Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

Minutes by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK

with fever and sore throat and her brother had a low grade fever and ached all over. I wasn't the best either, sore throat and fever. There must be the flu going around shool; her father even got hot last night. - *Authors Unknown!!! Who wants to know them!*

Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size
\$10 per Month - \$100 per Year

Send ads to: **Ham Chatter
PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835,
ATTN: Dave Langley**

or email w4ydy@sprintmail.com
Help support *Ham Chatter*. Get some ads to offset the higher printing and soon to be mailing costs. Donations accepted!

*Attention *

Greenville 2 Meter Repeater Users

The **W4GDF 147.09** and **WD4JPQ 145.35** repeaters have started using tone access codes because of interference from so many commercial radios nearby. The tone frequency is

NETS

VHF

- ♦ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ♦ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz.
- ♦ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ♦ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/ Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WA4DAN Net, Monday, 2000 on 146.61 and 224.84 MHz
- ♦ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ♦ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ♦ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ♦ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.11 MHz and linked repeaters.
- ♦ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

HF

- ♦ Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 8.	Regular Meeting	October 29*.	Board Meeting
September 19-20.	Air Force QSO Party	November 1.	Ham Chatter Deadline
September 19-20.	Virginia Beach Hamfest	November 10.	Regular Meeting
October 1*.	Board Meeting	November 15.	Benson Hamfest
October 4	Ham Chatter Deadline	November 29.	Ham Chatter Deadline
October 11	Maysville Hamfest	December 5	Greensboro Hamfest
October 13	Regular Meeting	December 8	Christmas Meeting
October 16	VE Session	December 18.	VE Session
Oct 17-18	JOTA		*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 STATIONS

W 4 A M C - W I V O A

September 1998

To:



PO Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter