

Ham Chatter



Volume 55 Issue 2

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

February 2021

Editor, Mark Raysin, KG4GVJ

Email: hamchatter@w4amc.com

BARC in-person Meetings, Regular, Board and VE sessions cancelled until further notice.

**Next Meeting - On ZOOM.
February 9, 2021, 7 PM**

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7PM. 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:
Tom Brown, **N4TAB**. State Emergency Coordinator. Topic: ECOM in NC.

All members, families and guests are

Board Meeting - February 23, 2021

The meeting will be on ZOOM at 7:00 PM. All members invited.

****Renew/Join Now****

As of Jan. 26, 2021 we have 17 renewals and one new.

Help Support BARC,
Renew Today.

The contents of this Newsletter doesn't necessarily express the opinion or views of Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club or it's members. No offence is intended.

2021 AM Rally Set for First Weekend in February

01/07/2021 From ARRL

The 2021 running of the AM Rally will take place from 0000 UTC on Saturday, February 6 to 0700 UTC on Monday, February 8. The annual AM Rally operating event encourages all operators to explore amateur radio's original voice mode by showcasing the various types of amplitude modulation equipment in use today, ranging from early vacuum-tube radios to the latest SDR-based transceivers.

"Participation in the AM Rally has continued to grow over the past 5 years, as more operators explore the mode," said Clark Burgard, **N1BCG**. "The AM Rally is a great way to beat the winter and COVID-19 blues."

The AM Rally is open to all radio amateurs capable of operating on AM using any type of radio equipment from vintage to modern, vacuum tube to solid state. The AM Rally will use the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, 10-, and 6-meter bands.

"Those who have never tried

AM mode will find plenty of help, if needed," Burgard assured. An AM Rally 2021 promotional video is available. Contact Burgard for more information.

Valentine's Day Feb 14.



Special Day with your XYL

Remember, Sunday, February 14 is Valentine's Day. Let's keep the Ladies happy. After all, they have to put up with us and our Hobbies.

VE News

Recent VE session resulted in 1 General and 2 Tech's. One new Tech is 15 years old.

NEXT VE Testing session

Will be March 13, 2021. Space is limited and reservations is required. Go to the ARRL website and lookup for testing in your neighborhood and lookup Gerald KN4CKL.

You can practice at "Ham Test Online"

Presentation Ideas Needed

Who do you want to see or hear giving a Presentation at the Meetings? Let Byron know. Email him at: bhighland@nc.rr.com

Missing out on seeing folks in person at the meetings?

Join us on ZOOM. We miss seeing you too. No camera on or for your computer? No problem. You can still be part of the experience without a camera. You can watch, listen and talk.

Next VE Session

Regular SESSIONS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19?

Study material at: <http://www.arrl.org/courses-training>. Please bring to the Test 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. *
- ♦ Email address will need to be provided.

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



Happy Birthday

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

02-10 AC4JL	James Lowe
02-11 KK4GC	Gary Coriell
02-15 N4PVH	Peter VanHouten
02-17 K4ROK	Doug Ferris

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. If yours is missing, I don't have it! Please, please email hamchatter@w4amc.com

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 another club member.

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Doug Ferris, K4ROK
Mike Langley, KD4MTT
Matt McMahon, WU2V



Please inform the Vice President of any changes.

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President's Corner, Peter Van Houten, N4PVH



Feb 2021

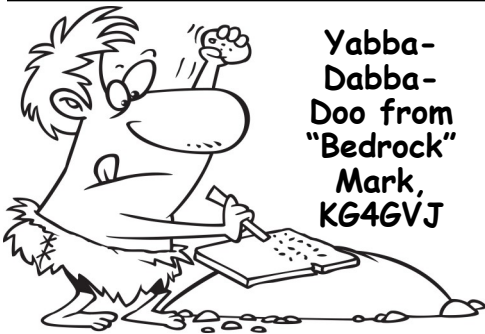
Happy New Year to all! Even with the new year, some of the old problems from last year persist. Covid-19 is still "front and center" in our minds and on the news. I am happy to report (as a front line worker) that I have received the two doses of the vaccine that should stop the virus with only a sore arm for two days as a side effect. The sooner that we all get vaccinated, the sooner the virus stops replicating and that also stops the mutations. There are at least 5 known mutations so far and we are lucky that the vaccines still cover all of them. Even if the virus does change sufficiently to stop the vaccine from helping, they can change the vaccine easily to accommodate any mutations as the science behind this vaccine is really advanced.

From a BARC perspective, we will still be doing ZOOM meetings on line for at least for the next 6-9 months. This is both good and bad. Not to have the "eye ball QSO's" is sad but then on Zoom, we can be in our comfy clothes at home and get speakers from far and wide that we could never have gotten before to talk to us due to the cost of travel. This virus has changed a lot of things but this is just temporary until we all get vaccinated.

The activities of the club have been forced to change. At NC QSO party or Field day, the gatherings will have to be either on line or only small distanced groups. The last week end in January is going to be "Winter Field Day" and David K1KK and I are going to get on the air at the farm, socially distanced and with masks on. We will also have a 2M rig or HT tuned to the W4GDF repeater in Greenville (145.090) where we can all get on the air and have a party line talking to each other while working HF. You can also reach this

repeater via Echolink if the 2M rig cannot reach it. We can be "altogether" via the radio waves even if we cannot be there in person. This is a real Ham Radio solution!

I would like to propose the start of an attendance prize to be awarded to the person with the most attendance at the General BARC Meetings and attendance at club functions to encourage participation at club activities. The names of all the club members at the end of each meeting is noted and their names are entered into the virtual box. At the meeting you can send a "Chat" message to "everyone" on the meeting like a check in: "N4PVH checking in." This way we will have a record of your attendance. Each meeting will add your name again to the box doubling your chances of a win. At the end of the year, we will award the person with the most attendance. They will receive a serious prizes of equipment or other great stuff (to be determined by budget issues). In the mean time, be safe, wash your hands, socially distance, wear a mask or two, get vaccinated and HAVE FUN ANY WAY! 73 Peter N4PVH.



What's New?

For those who hasn't heard, David Langley, after years of slaving over the Hot Presses, has retired from the News Letter. He's been known to have done at least 3 News Letters for clubs through the years and now has past the reins over to a new Editor.

Now on his heels is myself, Mark Raysin, KG4GVJ. Nowhere close to the years of experience on News Letters, but have dabbled a bit over the years.

I have acquired the nickname of "Bedrock" a few years ago from joining in with the "Question of the Day" group in Virginia, where a question would be asked and you would try to answer it correctly. If you don't know the answer, you can guess, or make up a answer. There was some crazy answers given, and at times I'd use Fred Flintstone and his friends as part of the answer if I didn't know the answer. There was a few other "Mark's" out there and finally I acquired the "Bedrock Mark".

I have ran the Audio-Visual board at my Church in Virginia before we moved down and usually would be setting up the Announcements to keep folks informed, along with some entertainment to help get the message across.

Special Day with your XYL

Remember, Sunday, February 14 is Valentine's Day. Let's keep the Ladies happy. After all, they have to put up with us and our Hobbies.



Help the Editor.

Do you have something to say or post? Want to right a article? Any ideas? Comments and notice's of help needed (Personal or club needs or activities. Can be BARC related or other club's)

Send it along to the Editor at Ham Chatter. We will see if we can fit it in.

Other Club's Zoom Meetings and News

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) W4NC



Like us, FARC is also having to deal with the Virus these days. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month on ZOOM at 7:30 PM. The Log on is 294 418 122 with the Password being the club call in lower case.

ARES/Auxcomm training is on the 3rd Thursdays at 8:30 PM at 897-9792-5844.
Tech-Talk is on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM (informal) 549 621 524.
Password is their Call sign.

Auxcomm Training on Feb 23, 2021 (Tuesday) 10AM-12:30PM I believe. Please check their website for news or check their recording of the January Meeting. You will need to pre-register for it.
From FARC website.

ARRL News:

From ARRL Members Jan 10,2021 Newsletter.

Tim Slay, (n4ib@arrl.org) of ARRL will be holding another virtual meeting with club membership in February.

A priority Tim and Marv, WA4NC have is to make sure all the clubs are exchanging information with each other, weather it is success stories, tales of struggling with losing members, or exchanging information on joint efforts to arrange classes and testing sessions. Tim will be sending out a notice later with information about the club leadership meeting to those persons on his list of interested clubs.

ARES CONNECT News

ARRL Will be replacing ARES Connect, the reporting system for ARES activities. Prior to the Board Meeting, Paul Gilbert, Director of Emergency Management, sent a message to the Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators that ARES Connect was being abandoned and until a new system is developed, SEC's and EC's should revert to using paper reports. The message was not well received and later it turned out the change is due to the existing software contractor parting ways with ARRL.

Continue on page 10

ARES/AUXCOMM News

The FCC comment, "amateur radio is not an emergency service" has provoked a lot of comment across the country. On the weekly Section Manager Zoom meetings a frequent topic involves the difficulty that many ARES groups have in getting recognized by Emergency Management despite the great willingness and desire for hams to be of service in emergencies.

Although there are some large ARES groups that have positive relationships with their EM agencies, it is commonly recognized that ARRL spent over ten years resisting having ham operators complete the four on-line FEMA courses that is the baseline training for anyone in emergency services. Although this official resistance has recently disappeared, there is a history that has to be overcome. At times, there have been situations in which hams showed up during a disaster and who interfered with operations because they were untrained in

how Emergency Management uses the Incident Command System.

Mike Harris, TN Deputy Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, has said more than once, "We work with folks that we have trained with."

State Emergency Management agencies in Tennessee and North Carolina, and other states, that place heavy reliance on amateur radio operators, insist that the hams complete the four online ICS courses as well as the federal Auxcomm course and that the hams have been vetted. In this day and age, no one gets access to EOC's and state telecommunications systems who has not been trained and vetted. Well intended strangers are not accepted into the ICS command structure.

A common problem reported by many ARES groups is their lack of a working relationship with local emergency management agencies. Thursday night, I spent an hour listening to a presentation by a local ARES leader in Missouri who has successfully embedded ham radio with Emergency Management. A link to the presentation can be found at <https://vimeo.com/498519217>.

Last night, the Michigan Emergency Management Division of the State Police hosted a meeting that over nearly 100 persons participated in which dealt with the topic of Professionalism. The meeting is on the web at <https://youtu.be/GvllFh5kf54>. There are many useful takeaways for amateur radio operators who want to be accepted by EM groups.

Copied from ARRL Jan. 10, 2021
Newsletter from Marv, WA4NC

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

ARLB003 FCC Invites Comments on Expanding the Number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

ZCZC AG03
QST de W1AW, ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 8, 2021
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003
ARLB003 FCC Invites Comments on Expanding the Number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

In a January 5 Public Notice, the FCC requested comments on whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) are sufficient to facilitate the efforts of their accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations. The ARRL VEC is the largest of

the 14 VECs in the US. Comments are due by February 5, and reply comments are due by February 19. After Congress authorized it to do so, the FCC adopted rules in 1983 to allow volunteers to prepare and administer amateur radio examinations, and it established the system of VECs and VEs.

The Public Notice can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-9A1.pdf>.

"VECs introduced consistency into the volunteer examiner program by centralizing accreditation of volunteer examiners, coordinating the dates and times for scheduling examinations, and managing the various administrative tasks arising from examinations," the FCC said. Author-

ized VECs may operate in any of the 13 VEC regions but must service at least one region. The FCC pointed out that some VECs now offer remote examinations.

"The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community, or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs."

The FCC Public Notice provided questions for framing comments:

* Are the existing 14 VECs sufficient to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio operator licenses, or are additional VECs needed?

Continue on Pg.6

AUXCOMM Training

EOC-NCS Zoom Training Course Information

REQUIRED TRAINING

The State of North Carolina has mandated that all personnel performing any functions within any Emergency Operations Center, forward Command Post, or any Incident where Incident Command System (ICS) is used have completed basic ICS training. This training is available via the FEMA Learning Institute's on-line training system at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>. Training required is ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700 and ICS-800.

It is recommended taking the courses in the following order: ICS-700, ICS-800, ICS-100 and ICS-200. You will be asked to register for the courses and a certificate of training will be issued upon successful completion. Team members are requested to forward an electronic copy of their certificate(s) to the AuxComm - ARES EC at the email address below. Completion of these courses will permit AuxComm - ARES team members to perform Radio Operator at duties an EOC or other ICS Command location. Each course is self-paced and should take approximately 3 hours to complete on-line.

WebEOC

This course is a 4 hour course provided by WS/FC Emergency Management several times per year and is required for those personnel who will perform Communications Lead duties at the Forsyth County Emergency Operations Center, any forward Incident Command Post or any ICS operations where a Communications Team is deployed. Personnel must be available for deployment locally and possibly to immediate surrounding counties should the need arise. Typical EOC shifts during an emergency or disaster are 12 hours. If you cannot do this type of shift or are not deployable please do not seek this training as we have a limited number of total persons that can access the system.

Personnel must be approved by the AuxComm - ARES EC and Emergency Management. Those desiring to take the training should first contact the AuxComm - ARES EC who will advise Emergency Management that you are

approved for the course. Once notified of approval to apply by the EC, you must register for the course on NCTERMS at <https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/>.

Course name: FOR-WEBEOC-JIT

NOTE: A laptop is required for this course.

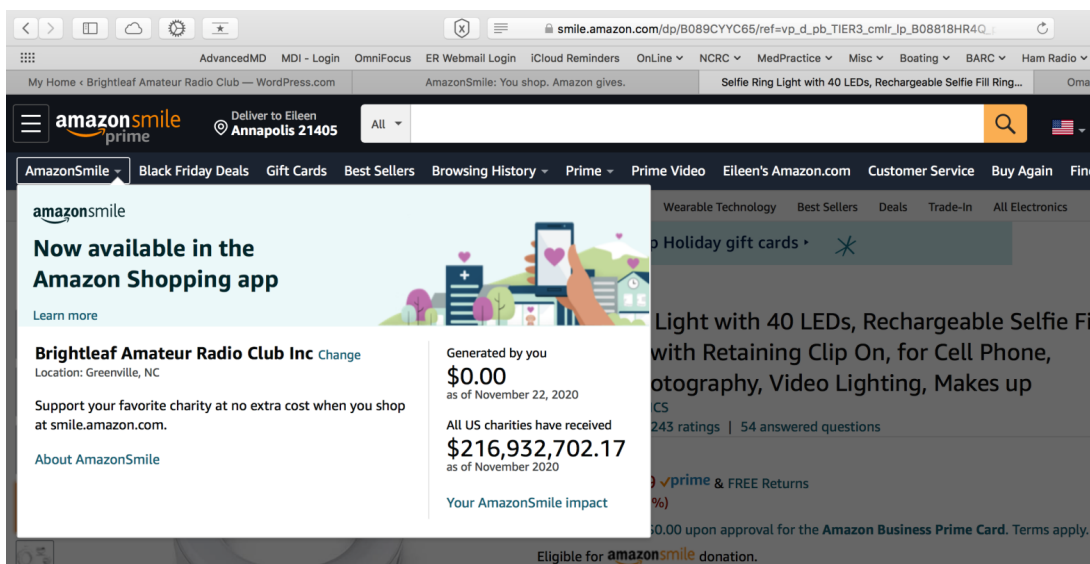
COURSE DATES: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 10am to 12:30pm

Class will be online. More info can be found at:

<https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/courseDesc.do?sourcePage=courseSearch&cofid=131188/>.

Again, PREREGISTRATON REQUIRED VIA <https://terms.ncem.org/> If you have any questions concerning this course please contact Harlan (W1HRC) via radio or email at ARES at W4NC dot com.

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WSJT-X 2.4.0 to Introduce New Digital Protocol Q65

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 will introduce a new digital protocol called Q65, which, according to the *Quick Start Guide*, is designed for "minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths." The *Guide* said, "On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."

The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, introduced in 2016. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4, and MSK144. Q65 employs a "unique tone" to sync time and frequency. "As with JT65, this 'sync tone' is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display," the *Guide* said.

"Unlike JT65, synchronization and decoding are effective even when meteor pings or other short signal enhancements are present. Transmit/receive sequence lengths of 15, 30, 60, 120, and 300 seconds are available. According to the *Guide*, "Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more and to work one another on 6 meters at distances up to ~1,600 kilometers at most times, in dead-band conditions."



The FCC's Enforcement Bureau has announced that it will target property owners and managers who "knowingly tolerate pirate broadcasting on their properties." The FCC said it would be exercising its new authority under the recently enacted PIRATE Act.

From ARRL letter 1/14/2021

ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio



For over 100 years amateur radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.

Dayton Hamvention Cancels 2021 Show

[Dayton Hamvention](#)® has been canceled for the second year.

"Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021," a January 11 announcement from the Hamvention Executive Committee said. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), Hamvention was set to take place May 21 - 23 in Xenia, Ohio.

"Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention," the committee continued. "Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months."

FCC Comments Continued from Pg. 4

- * What needs are currently being met, and which needs, if any, are not?
- * If the FCC were to allow additional VECs, how many more would be needed to satisfy existing Amateur Radio Service license examination needs? (The FCC indicated that it will likely cap the number of additional VECs at five.)
- * Given that VECs use a collaborative process to create examination question pools and volunteer examination administration protocols, would additional VECs enhance or hinder this process?
- * How would increasing the number of VECs address the unmet needs, if any, of the amateur radio community, and what obstacles or complications could result from increasing the number of VECs?

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket No. 21-2 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing Service (Express) at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>.



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.

How to print a copy of your FCC License

by Jim, KV4SJ

To access an official copy of your license:

1. Go to: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>
2. Log in with your FRN and password. (Also has links to find or get your FRN.)
3. Click on "Download Electronic Authorizations" in the links on the left hand side.
4. Select your call sign in the box labeled "My Authorizations" and click on the Add button to copy it into the "Authorizations to Download" box.
5. Click on the Download button to download an official copy of your license in PDF format.

via *Forsyth ARC Newsletter, August 2020*

BARC MEMBERS

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices, please send an email to 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. - *KG4VJ*

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!**

Monday & Monday, CPA's, PA

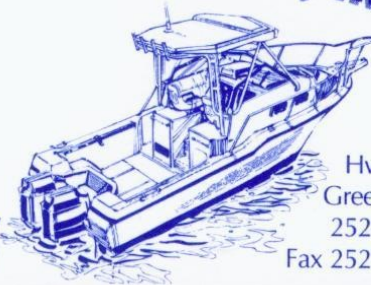
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K4ZYD

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Greenville, NC 27858

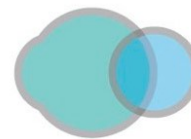
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KD4MTT

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Fax 252 758-1396



East Carolina Retina
CONSULTANTS

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Greenville, NC 27834

252-758-2402

<https://ECRetina.com>

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions. The schedule is subject to change.

Easy Helical Copper Tape and PVC 2-Meter Vertical Antenna -- John Portune, W6NBC

Here's how to quickly build a tiny, 18-inch, continuously loaded lightweight portable or base station 2-meter omnidirectional vertical antenna with performance and efficiency comparable to a 5-foot J-pole. The antenna is built from hardware store copper tape and PVC pipe, and the cost is roughly \$10. It's an easy afternoon's homebrew project, ideal for the new ham but equal to the experienced ham's needs. It's great for events like bike-a-thons. It also makes an excellent ham radio club hands-on building project, and the design is adaptable to other bands.

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 10 PM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)

Interesting Stories about Ham Radio & Weather Spotting -- Rob Macedo, KD1CY

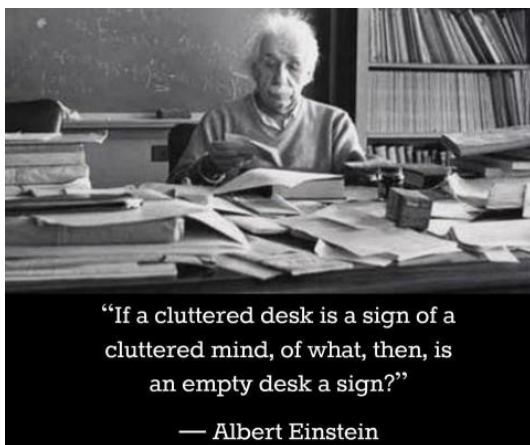
One of the most critical ways amateur radio supports agencies such as the National Weather Service (NWS), National Hurricane Center (NHC), and emergency management is through weather spotting via the NWS SKYWARN program. This presentation reviews some interesting stories about how amateurs involved in SKYWARN have saved lives and property and why this is an important amateur radio activity.

Thursday February 11, 2021 @ 8 pm EST (0100 UTC on Friday, February 12)

From ARRL Letter 1/14/2021

ON THE AIR

The North Carolina QSO Party, organized by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (rars.org), will be held on February 28, 2021 from 10 am to 8 pm. Information can be found at <https://ncqsoparty.org>. Your NC Section will once again be a sponsor for the single-op/instate/digital award.



Chuckle, My desk and operating position is much like this. Mark, KG4GVJ

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
- ◆ **220 Net**, Wednesday 2000hrs, 224.840 MHz -1.6, PL 91.5

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

- *Info@w4amc.com
to Peter Van Houten, **N4PVH**
- *Treasurer@w4amc.com
to Jim Lowe, **AC4JL**
- *Hamchatter@w4amc.com
to Mark Raysin, **KG4GVJ**
- *QSL-VE@w4amc.com
to Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**
- *Webmaster@w4amc.com

HamCation QSO Party Set

01/18/2021

Orlando HamCation has announced it will sponsor the [HamCation QSO Party](#) over the February 13 – 14 weekend (UTC), “to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air.” The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour event on HamCation weekend. HamCation 2021 was to host the ARRL National Convention, which now will take place in 2022.

“The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19,” the HamCation QSO Party Committee said. The HamCation QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on February 13 until 0300 UTC on February 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station.

Categories will be High Power (more than 100 W output), Low Power (100 W output or less, but greater than 5 W), and QRP (5 W output or less). All participants will be single operators; there is no multioperator category. The exchange will be your name and state/province/country, and the outside temperature at your location. “We are including temperature at your QTH as a way of highlighting Orlando’s mild February weather,” the committee said.

Nine HamCation special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs will be on the air with combined suffixes spelling out HamCation (e.g., K4H, W4A, K4M, etc). Each contact will count as one point, and stations may be worked once on each band and mode. Entrants will report their scores on www.3830Scores.com; no logs are required. Final results will be based on the information submitted to the website.

Station guest operators must use their own call signs and submit their scores individually. Plaques and certificates will be awarded.

2021 Membership Dues Are past Due

It’s that time of the year once again. Membership dues for BARC was due January 1. Membership dues are as follows and are the same as 2020: • Regular Member \$20.00 • Family Member \$2.00 • Associate Member (Non-Licensed) \$5.00 • Life Member \$0.00 • New Hams: 18 and younger (1st year) \$5.00 • New Hams: 19 and older (1st year) \$10.00.

We are requesting that you send the application form in, so that we can have your correct information on file. The form can be downloaded at <https://www.qsl.net/w4amc/barc-application.html>.

Please give the application and dues to the Treasurer at the meeting or mail your dues, along with the member application form to:
Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club,
P.O. Box 8387, Greenville, NC
27835

Or go to <https://w4amc.com/membership/> to use PayPal at the page bottom.

If there are any questions concerning membership status or dues, please contact Jim Lowe, AC4JL, Treasurer at or (252) 320-6545.

ARRL ARES Connect continued from pg. 4

SEC’s as a group for several years have complained to HQ about difficulties in using ARES Connect and wanted changes made in the system. ARES Connect was recommended to the Board by a former HQ staff member. The software system was a modification of software used by the Red Cross to track member activities. ARES Connect had as its primary capability collecting information about time spent on activities rather than training records and capabilities of ARES® members.

According to reports, Paul Gilbert will lead a committee comprised of ARRL staff and Section Emergency Coordinators that will ask the EC’s and SEC’s what is needed and the committee will seek bids from vendors in hopes of getting a new system operation in late 2022 or 2023.

by amateur radio operators when the ARRL leadership talks to the EC’s have been instructed to sharpen their pencils and start recording activity data data on paper. Someone will have to total up the reports from the sections and prepare a report that is used to calculate the dollar value of time donated FCC and FEMA. In North Carolina, only nine counties have attempted to use ARES Connect and most have dropped it because of its clunky operation, lack of useful data and a failed training campaign over the three years of existence of ARES Connect.

Despite the documented shortcomings of ARES Connect, ARRL poured significant amounts of money into a software system that it is now abandoning.

BARC Board Meeting

January 26, 2021

In Attendance: Bill Dawson, Beth Gonzalez, Byron Highland, Mark Raysin, Dave Langley, James Lowe, David Meeks, Gerald Seighman, Peter Van Houten, Dave Woods

Reports:

Treasurer: \$3552.71 available, 17 members have renewed, one new ham via website.

Technology: One other new member via web, David Meeks resigning from Technology Position due to over commitment to other organizations. Any volunteers willing to help with web pages? Please send an email to webmaster@w4amc.com

Newsletter: Still building, reorganizing, prefer items at least half a week before published, preferable by a week. Aiming for first week of the month

VP Report: Next Meeting is Tom Brown, EmComm in NC. Byron is working on ICOM rep coming in, checking on ICQ podcast team speakers. Club has previously purchased Icom radios so will see if they are willing to donate a IC7610???. Trying to acquire radio for raffle.

Education: Class coming up at Camp LeJeune organized by Dave Wood. He may bring the ARES trailer for demo. We will need a new deep cycle battery for the ARES trailer, considering larger battery and charger. Probably this will occur toward the end of March, pending covid restrictions.

Summary of Business:

Discussed the possibilities of having a raffle for a big prize. Possible rules to be considered: Allow board members in raffle, yes! Raffle tickets for attendance and for renewal, 2 for renewal before end of Feb, 1 for renewal by end of March (?). Possibility of buying extra tickets depending on when we can open up and get out more. Explore budget to determine prizes we can purchase. Beth will track attendance at each meeting and the member with the most attendance will get a surprise at the Christmas party. Decided to separate the attendance prize from the raffle. The highest attendance at the meeting and activities in the club would be awarded points, then at the Christmas party a prize for the winner. This is not finalized but attendance will be collected starting in Feb Meeting. The raffle will be discussed further.

End of year trivia quiz with prizes? Possible prizes: Mag mount antenna? Analyzer, coax, gift card?

NC QSO party? Feb 28 Get in to ECU? Oakwood? How to socially distance? Two at a time, one log, one tx, Bring trailer for additional operating position. Jim will check on Oakwood as that is more possible than going through ECU.

Winter Field Day reminder (Jan 30-31), check rules, lots of ways to participate, Use W4DGF repeater and Echolink as a party line to talk amongst us while on HF doing winter field day (like we did last Field Day).

New Member Alvan LaRoque, KX4ND, approved! Jim stopping out to help him with a grounding issue. He needs help with his HF station.

Make sure new members get on roster via Jim and Peter.

Send out dues reminder: PLEASE EVERYONE: SUPPORT BARC BY SENDING YOUR RENEWAL DUES NOW!
We have made it easy as possible by going to the W4AMC.com web page (membership page) and using Paypal or mail a check. If you are feeling BIG, send a donation as well to keep this going. (It is a TAX DEDUCTION to a non profit!)

We need BARC Board member seats filled: Webmaster, Public Relations, VE to name a few places that need filled. This is a volunteer organization. It is fun to be part of a great club and NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER to help run it. Please volunteer. (thanks – email me)

Respectfully submitted by Beth Gonzalo, and edited by N4PVH.

ARRL CLUB MATTERS

You may not know that there is a large collection of free video materials on various technologies that clubs may want to share with club members while we are quarantined during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Working from home over the past year, ARRL's Learning Initiative staff has produced seven videos that you may want to consider. Go to www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network.

A wider selection of sessions prepared by the RATPAC (a group of Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators which prepares two Zoom educational sessions each week). The RATPAC sessions are popular because they allow hams to interact directly with subject matter experts and ask questions in real time. Once the sessions are concluded they are stored for downloading by interested persons who could not attend the live sessions. If you want a wide array of subjects to consider, look at the list that can be found at <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list> This list is updated and remains current.

Additionally, I hope you will take time to register for the Orlando HamCation (cancelled) Forums and Speakers (not cancelled but on-line) on February 13 which includes interesting topics and will highlight rigs from ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood and Elecraft.

Go to <https://www.hamcation.com/forums-speakers> to sign up.

From NC Section Newsletter 1/26/21

BARC Website Blog page Titles

See you at QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo!

Around the world in a Balloon.

Contest University Propagation Seminar 2021.

Winter Field day.

Podcast/Videos/webpages.

Let's look ahead.

John McCoy, K4KBB, SK 11/29/20.

10kHz signal on 40M.

Everyone Join Amazon Smile and support BARC.

The "Bubba" potatoe gun.

Fill free to view, comment and add.

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 6	2021 AM Rally	May 9.	Mothers day
Feb 9.	Regular Meeting - 7PM	May 11	Regular Meeting-7PM
Feb 14.	* Valentine's Day*	May25.	Board Meeting - 7PM
Feb 13/14	CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest	May 29.	Ham Chatter Deadline
Feb 23.	Board Meeting - 7PM	June 8.	Regular Meeting - 7PM
Feb 26/28	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest	June 11/13	June VHF Contest
Feb 27	Ham Chatter Deadline	June 25/26	Field Day
Feb28	NC QSO Party Contest 10-8pm	June 29.	Board Meeting - 7PM
March 6/7	ARRL SSB DX Contest	July 3	Ham Chatter Deadline
March 9	Regular Meeting - 7PM	July 10/11	IARU HF World Championship
March 27/28	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest	July 13	Regular Meeting – 7PM
March 30.	Board Meeting - 7PM	July 27	Regular Board Meeting—7PM
April 1	Time to flip all Beams over	July 31	Ham Chatter Deadline
April 3.	Ham Chatter Deadline		
April 13.	Regular Meeting - 7PM		
April 27	Board Meeting - 7PM		
May 1	Ham Chatter Deadline		

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

Ham Chatter

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club
 PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835



To:

