Ham Chatter

Amateur Radio
"only fail-safe system"

Volume 58 Issue 6 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication June 2024

Editor, Mark, KG4GVJ Email: hamchatter @ w4amc.com

WARNING! Print at your own risk of number of pages printed. Yes, one member printed the April edition at home. WOW!

Ideas Wanted!

Ideas of what YOU want to do as a Club. Trips, Events, Contest, projects, car pools to/from? Give all of us a chance to say THAT'S IT!
New calendar towards the back of these.

BARC General meeting June 11, 6:30pm in person and ZOOM ***All members, families and guests are invited to attend.***

BARC June 11, 2024, Field Day prep at Oakwood School (Proposed TBA)

PARC June 13, 2024

BARC Board Meeting - June 25, 2024. ZOOM

VE News

To find the next VE testing session please go to the ARRL web site: http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session and find one in your local area.

Practice taking the test on line with https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com.

hamradioPrep.com

HamStudy.org

Study material at: http://www.arrl.org/courses-training.

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.

Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays :

06-11	WA4SLC	Bill
06-12	n/c	Lindalee
06-20	KN4VJR	David
06-27	W4JNC	Richard

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

Next VE Session

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 (Cash) .
- FRN number is required. *
- A valid Email address will need to be provided.

See this link for further information: https://w4amc.com/get-your-license-ve/

Gil Cartoons Courtesy of ARRL's 2021 Calendar(2020) and Gil, a Collection of Classic Cartoon from QST(1986-2007)

Articles in the Chatter may be from the ARRL Newsletters, ARES Newsletters and Section Managers. Others may be Material provided by others. Please respect possible copyrights.

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Please inform the Vice President and Ham Chatter of any changes or needs. This can be of death announcements, sickness or prayers requested.

Presentation Ideas Needed

Please send ideas of new presentation topics and presenters to our VP Judy W3JUU

Email: info@w4amc.com

BARC Needs YOU!

BARC needs to know where You think we should go as a Club.

Service the Community, Contesting, Teaching, Elmering, What? Give us your thoughts.

In This Issue

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 * NON-COPY - RIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION * PRESIDENT - Beth, KN4FZB * 1ST VICE PRESIDENT - Judy, W3JUU* 2ND VICE PRESIDENT - Vacant * SECRETARY - Dan, N4OHK * TREASURER - Dave W4EJ * VE LIAISON - Vacant *PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR - VACANT * W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE'S - BILL, WA4SLC and Scott, K9SPJ * HAM CHATTER EDITOR - MARK , KG4GVJ * WEBMASTER - PETER , N4PVH * EMAIL ADDRESSES ON BARC WEB SITE * EmComm—Judy, W3JUU * QSL Manager—Rich., W4JNC * OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC * CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. .

April, 1957

BARC's President's Corner, Beth, KN4FZB

Good June to you all!

We have confirmation on using The Oakwood School as our site for Field Day, which will be on June 22 and 23 this year. Our monthly meeting will be devoted to planning and will also be held at Oakwood on June 11, starting at 6:30. This will not be Zoomed, so I hope you can come out in person. Even if you can't make it to the planning meeting, all are invited to come to Field Day. Watch for more emails with the details as it comes together.

Field Day Trivia: You may know that the first Field Day was held in 1933, but do you know who originated the idea? And also how many contacts were made by the winning station? The answers will be in the back of the Chatter!

Gary NG9T's PARC President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

So, let's talk about some upcoming spring activities! June 7 and 8 is Summerfest in Washington. PARC will have a spot and will be showing off Ham Radio to all the attendees. If you're out in Washington stop by and say hello. Everyone ready for Field Day? PARC will be in Goose Creek State Park at the campground. Plans are to work 3 transceivers, one on SSB, CW, and FT8. We will be operating on Saturday and Sunday. We have a cabin and several RVs to operate from. Visitors are welcome to come out and operate with us. After Field Day every year my favorite event of the year comes along, The 13 Colonies Event. Get on the air and work a station from each colony plus a bonus station in Philadelphia, England, and France. The event runs from July 1 through July 7. I volunteer each year to work CW as K2J, the callsign for North Carolina. There will be operators with callsigns K2A to K2M. Look for the state operators on CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. A clean sweep of each colony and the bonus stations will get you a really nice certificate. 73 Gary Faust NG9T President, Pamlico Amateur Radio Club

2024 PARC Officers:
Gary Faust, NG9T President
Scott Pollard, K4WSP Vice President
Cheryl McGuire, KX4EC Secretary/Treasurer

PARC Club Dues:
Dues for 2024 are Due now. $24.00 and only $1 for immediate family members.

PARC Meetings:
2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at:
Zion Episcopal Church
7302 US-264 E
Washington, NC 27889
Note: GPS sometimes takes people to West side of Washington. The church is East of Washington, towards Bath. About 7 10ths of a mile past Hwy 32.
Also: Meetings are Zoomed for those who cannot attend in person.

Wednesday Breakfast:
Every Wednesday morning at 8:30am at:
Shep's Grill
129 N. Market St
Washington, NC 27889
Note: Park in rear lot, use back door.

PARC Nets:
Tuesday Nights: 80m sideband Net, at 7:00pm

3,850mhz unless frequency is occupied, then we move to closest open frequency.

Thursday Nights: 2m repeater Net.
Currently on the Washington Repeater (Chocowinity) at 8pm
147.255mhz +.6mhz PL 131.8
Alternate: Bath Repeater 146.955 -.6mhz PL 131.8
Note: We do not have the net on Meeting nights.

VE Exams:
Odd months (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) on the Second Saturday of the month at 10am.
By appointment, we do not have walk-in exams.
Contact: Tom Kottke WT4TK Tkottke@centurylink.net
Location:
Beaufort County EOC
1420 Highland Dr
Washington NC 27889
Upcoming Exam: July 13, please contact to reserve an exam spot

HPSNC Public Service Net

7:30 p.m. on the RARS 146.64 repeater for the new HPSNC Public Service Net. The net will have a short instructional followed by a rag chew discussion. The net will conclude promptly before the 8:00 p.m. nightly net.

The net will meet on the last Wednesday of each month and will feature brief training on various topics relating to ham radio's contributions to and involvement in public service.

If you are available, please check in to the net (in and out check-ins are welcome too!).

Thanks for your support.

73,

Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX
HPSNC Volunteer Coordinator
919-523-9631
K2HJX@att.net

E. N. C. Repeater Inc.

Eastern North Carolina Repeater Association

W4NBR Repeater 146.685 PL 88.5

Individual Membership (Annual Dues of $15.00), Family Membership – All licensed individuals domiciled at same the address (Annual Dues of $15.00)

Dues (cash or check made payable to E.N.C. Repeater Inc.) to any Club Officer, or mail to David Burt, 1425 Harris Ct., Cary, NC 27511 or email to enc@inner360.com

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format .

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY May 10, 2024

Even up here at 3850 feet above sea level, everything has turned green and the flowers on the Rhododendrons are in bloom.

Even with lots of yardwork on the to-do list the pace ham radio and EmComm activities is also picking up. Here are topics you may want to consider.

ARMED FORCES CROSS-BAND OPERATION IS THIS WEEKEND

Each year radio amateurs have an opportunity to make cross-band contact with a variety of Defense Department radio stations. In order to increase participation, the cross-band operation occurs on May 11 rather than Armed Forces Day (May 18) because many amateur operators will be at the Dayton Hamvention which is held in Xenia, Ohio on May 17-19.

The Defense Department stations (Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps) will be transmitting on DOD frequencies and listening for calls from amateurs operating on ham frequencies. Details can be found .

HAMVENTION IS NEXT WEEKEND!

The largest gathering of amateur radio operators (approximately 15,000 hams) occurring in the United States each year is the Dayton Hamvention. This year the dates are May 17-19 and the event is held at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio. Xenia is located near Dayton, Ohio where the Hamvention was held over several decades .

Hamvention traditionally has been the location where the major manufacturers (Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood and Elecraft) introduce their new products. Several large buildings are filled with products offered by many smaller ham radio companies.

An adjacent outdoor flea market has hundreds of tailgaters and individuals selling their used equipment and products from small manufacturers and dealers. Older hams who have been to the Dayton Hamvention often say, “if you need something and can’t find it at Dayton, you probably will never find it.”

Each day of the Hamvention has forums scheduled that will cover a wide variety of topics and those at the Hamvention will have opportunities to hear and meet with ARRL leaders.

Information about Hamvention

FIELD DAY – JUNE 23-24

Many clubs are actively planning operations for Field Day which is held

each year on the fourth weekend in June. ARRL has posted a large amount of information about Field Day operations, rules, and how to figure your score for operation. Information can be found at.

Be sure to list your Field Day location at so that visitors can stop by and learn about ham radio.

Most FD sites will have a Get On the Air (GOTA) station where persons without a license can make contacts under the supervision of a licensed ham.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

- July 13, Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, Civic Center, 315 S. Martin Luther King Ave., Salisbury, NC 28144. This event is sponsored by the Rowan County Amateur Radio Society. Information can be found at.

- July 20, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society Hamfest, Waynesville, Smoky Mountain Event Center, 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville, NC. Information can be found at.

- July 20, Cary Hamfest, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Ritter Park, 301 W Lochmere Drive, Cary. Info at.

AUXCOMM COURSE SCHEDULED IN STATESVILLE IN JULY

Information has been received that North Carolina Emergency Management will offer the CISA Auxcomm course on July 24-26 at the Mitchell Community College in Statesville. Information on the course, including required prerequisites, can be found at.

Persons who hope to take the course are strongly urged to quickly complete the required FEMA on-line courses (IS 100c,200c, 700b and 800d). These courses can each be completed in about 90 minutes or less. Go to register for the online courses.

You will need to complete the perquisite on-line courses and have certificates of completion from FEMA.

At the present time, it appears that this may be the only opportunity to take this course through the remainder of 2024.

NC PRN DISCUSSION

Many DMR operators are familiar with and routinely use the last heard listing at the NC PRN website. The NCPRN public site displays data about transmissions over the NC DMR system, including which repeater(s) are being accessed, signal levels and the talkgroup being used as well and the time of the transmission.

I have been asked why a particular transmission does not show up on the last heard list.

As an owner of two of the NCPN DMR repeaters I can look at activity on the CBridge that shows more data than the public last heard displays. For example, the PRN repeater owners are able to see attempts by users to communicate using what may be called “disallowed” talkgroups which the CBridge is set to reject.

When use of a disallowed talkgroup is attempted, the attempt does not show up on the public last heard listing that can be found at ncprn.net but it can be seen by repeater owners and system administrators.

There are several reasons why incorrectly programming a DMR radio (portable or mobile) may result in a transmission being rejected by the CBridge which manages traffic over the NCPRN system.
Among the reasons why the CBridge will reject a transmission:

a. Attempting to use a talkgroup on the Brandmeister or some other system. Only the talkgroups listed at will be processed by the CBridge which is the system’s server.

b. Attempting to use a talkgroup that is listed at ncprn.net/repeater/ but on the wrong timeslot. Programming a talkgroup that is “allowed” but erroneously assigning to the wrong timeslot, the transmission will be rejected by the Bridge. For example, If you attempt to program a talkgroup that is listed as being on timeslot 1 but you assign it to slot 2 in the CPS, the CBridge will reject the attempted transmission. The reverse is also true. If a talkgroup is assigned to timeslot 2 but you program it for timeslot 1, the CBridge will reject the attempted transmission,

Owners and system administrators can determine who, when and where the rejected transmission was initiated.

c. If you attempt to program a talkgroup using your radio id that is assigned to your radio(s) or alternatively pout in a radio id number assigned someone’ else s radio to make a private call, , the CBridge will reject the attempt and it will not show up on the public last head listing. However data, including the radio id, callsign, time and identification of the DMR being used will be shown to system administrations.

PRIVATE CALLS ARE NOT ALLOWED. Do not set up a channel with someone’s radio ID. Making a private call ties up a part of the network and make a particular repeater unavailable for wider use.. Even though others cannot hear the conversation , the repeater (possibly more than one), the frequency and timeslot are in use so that others who attempt to make a normal call are blocked because their radio cannot receive a connect tone.

ARRL MATTERS

a. Section Managers have been asked to remind affiliated Clubs that the club can benefit funds by encouraging new and renewing hams to process their applications through their club. The Club Commission program involves clubs collecting membership fees and membership application paperwork and then send both to the ARRL. ARRL will process the application(s)and send the club a commission to the club based on the number and type of memberships submitted by the club. A new member recruited through this process yields the club a $20 club commission. Renewals processed through the club generate a $5 commission. Information about the commission program.

GENERAL MATTERS

a. Debate Reopens Over AM Radio's Future In Cars

Congress is about to engage in a battle over whether new automobiles manufactured in the United States. Some in Congress want to pass legislation directing the US Department of Transportation to require AM radios in cars. Some car manufacturers have already indicated their intention to not include AM radios in some models next year.

The political battle involves car manufacturers who want to eliminate AM car radios generally based upon the cost of suppressing the significant electrical interference found in Electric Vehicles which is caused by the extremely large number of computers in the cars (which will be making up an increasingly large share of all new cars each year in the future).

Those wishing to keep AM radios in new cars include broadcasters who own AM stations and FEMA which feels that AM radio is vital to alerting public because satellite radios may not target messages to affected areas. Farmers and rural interests also support keeping AM radio in cars and point out that FM stations do not cover much of rural America, particularly large areas of the West. Read about the political battle.

b. In case you have not heard, MFJ will cease manufacturing operations at its base in Starkville MS on May 17. This will affect Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products. Existing inventories will be sold until supplies are gone.

CLOSING COMMENT

April 29 was a terrible day for law enforcement in Charlotte. Four officers who were part of a Regional Fugitive Task Force were killed while attempting to serve a warrant in a residential neighborhood, doing their jobs on an otherwise beautiful day. Three died at the scene and one died in the hospital.

One was a Deputy US Marshal, two were State Adult Correction Officers and one was a Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department officer. All four had made law enforcement their careers and have families who must cope with their losses.

Four other officers were seriously injured but have been released from the hospital.

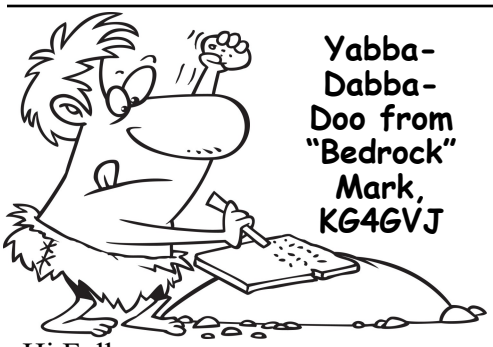
There has been extensive media coverage of the funerals and rightfully so. A large outpouring of support has been shown for the families which lost their fathers, sons, and brothers. Dozens of law enforcement vehicles escorted the bodies to the funerals while hundreds of officers attended the services

Political leaders including the Mayor, the Governor, the US Attorney General and the Head of the US Marshal Service joined CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings in mourning the four brave law enforcement officers who died serving all of us.

Rest in Peace, Deputy Marshal Thomas M. Weeks, Adult Corrections Officers Sam Poloche and Alden Elliott and CMPD Officer Joshua Ayer.

Marv, WA4NC

ARRL North Carolina Section
Section Manager: Dr Marvin K Hoffman, WA4NC
wa4nc@arrl.org



Hi Folks,

Another month is done and another begins. This is the time to finish preparing for June's Field day. At the time I'm writing this, a few days before the Governing Board meeting, the location is not finalized yet. Oakwood School has some construction going on and Peter has been trying to contact the school to see if we can use it this Month. Hard to do since the school office closes before Peters work day is over. Hopefully he has been able to speak with them by now. If so, it should be on the front page when I publish this edition.

At this time, my wife is preparing to leave me for a week. Leaving me to the attentions of our cats and dogs. Hopefully I will behave and work on preparing myself for my third year of trying to be ready enough for a Colonoscopy. The mild stuff they have me take doesn't seem to do anything for me in the flushing.
I also learn I have stage 3a Kidney disease. Hopefully it won't get worse, but it's bad enough. I guess we older folks can relate to the problems that may crop up.

So, how have you been doing with the solar storm in May? We had the power drop off for a couple of seconds here a couple of times. My wife didn't notice due to the backup Battery for the house, not a flicker. In the unprotected part of the house, I had the lights go out for it, then back on. Nancy said the News reported the storm was part of the reason.

Hurricane season is coming. Are you ready? Food and water for a few days if power is knocked out for a while? Have a radio ready for communication if no power? Remember, if the repeater goes down, Use the simplex frequency. Even my Battery backup is limited if power is out long enough.

Interested in the Ham Chatter?

If you are not receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices and would like to receive them, please send an email to **hamchatter@w4amc.com** so we can get your email address and put you on the list. You may miss some important BARC or PARC notices. - *KG4GVJ*

Help the Editor.

Do you have something to say or post? Want to write an article? Any ideas? Comments and notice's of help needed (Personal or club needs or activities? Can be BARC related or other Club's) are welcomed. Have interesting photo's or articles? Done something related to radio? Please let us know and we may add them to the Ham Chatter and web page Blog.

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

Be a Net Control

Volunteer to help with the Weekly Net for BARC, or other nets. All are welcomed. It's great practice for if you need it for later, it's like First Aid training. A script is available to read off of to help in the progress on the web site.

PUBLIC SERVICE? 2024 New events up!

Website for NC hams who are interested in public service, Check it out at https://hpsnc.org/.

FARC

FARC Newsletter is available at http://www.dwepe.com/FARCNewsletters/y2023m11.pdf
They also have great articles and along with want ads.

U.S. KFF Park-County Database Listing For World Wide Flora & Fauna (WWFF)

https://countyhunter.com/Toplist/KFF-County.htm

Word to the Wise

Operating Tip

Technical Topics and Discussion

Conversation

Field Day Countdown

Field Day is just about 1/5 months away, and now is the time for your club to plan for the event. Many of the details of this event should not be left to the last minute. With hopes of pointing clubs in the right direction, here are a few tips that may help.

1. **Plan your location with a few questions in mind.**

a. Will you have public traffic around your site, and are the antennas you will be using mindful of safety?

b. Is your site on property that requires supplying an insurance certificate to the owners? Many public sites require this.

c. Are you planning to create signs telling the public what you are doing and inviting them to learn more?

d. Does the site have adequate parking and access? Remember, Field Day is a 24-hour operation. You don't want to get locked in or out of your location, especially once it's dark.

e. Have you reviewed the safety requirements for fueling and grounding your generator? Noise may be an issue if you are on a public site.

f. How do you plan to keep the site clean and uncluttered for pictures?

2. **Contact the local media to invite them to your site.**

a. Local newspapers

b. Local television networks

c. Plan to have someone that can serve as a guide, answer questions, and direct pictures.

3. **Operator planning is essential. Create a schedule of operators.**

a. Think about whether you will operate for the full 24 hours or not.

b. Invite new hams to learn by logging and operating.

c. Don't forget to think about having relief operators.

4. **Consider contacting your local served agencies to demonstrate the capabilities of hams in an emergency.**

a. Local emergency management

b. American Red Cross

c. Local police, fire, and ambulance companies

d. Other local agencies that may be involved with shelter management

Field Day is what you want to make of it. Treat it like a contest and see how many contacts you can make, make it an emergency drill, use it for outreach to the public, or make it a social event for your club and include having fun on the radio. Field Day is all about having fun and showcasing the different aspects of amateur radio. Make your Field Day an event that the club will learn from, and, most importantly, have fun!

Find the complete list of Field Day resources at field-day.arrl.org.


PROJECT BUILD
Drive-on Antenna Mast Mount
Craig LaBarge, WB3GCK
Telescoping fiberglass poles have become very popular as portable antenna supports. Here's a simple and inexpensive mount you can build in less than an hour using materials you can find at most hardware stores.
20 ON THE AIR

I have used variations of this mount with telescoping poles to support lightweight vertical wires and dipoles for ARRL Field Day and Parks on the Air (POTA) activations. Used with a lightweight twinlead J-pole, it has also come in handy for VHF and UHF operations during ARES events.

Construction

Remove the end cap of your pole and measure the inside diameter of the bottom section. You'll need this measurement to determine the size of the flange and pipe you need to buy. The pole on the right is shown with the end cap in place.

Tools and Materials

Note: The materials listed are what I used for my 31-foot antenna mast. The sizes of the floor flange and steel pipe will depend on the specific telescoping pole you have. (See text for further information.)

- 1-¼ inch plumbing floor flange
- 18-inch length of 1-¼ inch threaded steel pipe
- (4) ¼-20 x 1-½-inch flathead machine screws
- (4) ¼-20 nuts
- (4) ¼-inch flat washers
- (4) ¼-inch lock washers
- 18 to 24-inch length of 1 × 8 lumber (I used a scrap piece of maple. A piece of 1 × 6 lumber would also work)
- Drill with a 5⁄16-inch drill bit
- Countersink drill bit (you can also use a ½-inch drill bit for countersinking)
- Screwdriver
- 7⁄16-inch wrench
- Duct tape (optional)
- A fiberglass telescoping pole that has a removable end cap.

Step One

Before purchasing the plumbing flange and pipe, remove the end cap from the bottom of your antenna mast and measure the inside diameter of the pole (see ①). When selecting a pipe, measure the outside diameter of the pipe to ensure it will fit inside the bottom section of the antenna mast. Also, double check to ensure that the flathead machine screws you buy will work with the flange you selected.

Get the largest pipe that will fit easily inside the bottom section of the pole. If it's a little loose and wobbly, you can wrap some layers of duct tape around the pipe for a more snug fit. This can also prevent damage to the pole in windy conditions.

For example, I have a 20-foot pole that needs a ¾-inch pipe. For my 28-foot and 31-foot poles, I need 1-inch and 1-¼-inch pipes, respectively. To be safe, double-check the dimensions of the pole you have before heading off to the hardware store.

Step Two

Place the flange at one end of the board and use it as a template to mark the locations of the holes (see ②).

Step Three

Drill four holes at the marked locations. Use a drill bit slightly larger than the flathead machine screws.

The holes in the board's underside need to be countersunk (see ③), so the board will lay flat on the ground when in use. To do this, you can use a countersinking bit if you have one. Otherwise you can use a ½-inch drill bit to taper the holes just enough so that the screw heads will be flush with the surface of the board.

Continues on following page.

Place the flange at the end of the board and use it as a template for marking the hole locations.

Drill the four holes for the four flathead machine screws. On the bottom side of the board, countersink the holes, so the screw heads are flush with the surface of the board.

PROJECT BUILD

Step Four

Insert the four machine screws through the bottom of the board. Place the flange over the screws on the top side of the board. Use a flat washer, lock washer, and hex nut on each screw and tighten (see 4).

This completes the assembly.

4 Insert the machine screws through the bottom of the board, and securely fasten the flange on the top of the board with flat washers, lock washers, and hex nuts.

Using the Mount

Position the mount on the ground behind the tire of your vehicle. Carefully back your vehicle onto the mount, ensuring that the tire is completely on the board.

Insert the pipe into the flange (see 5). Remove the end cap and fully extend the pole. Place the pole over the pipe (see 6), and you're ready to go.

To remove the pole, lift it off of the pipe and set it on the ground. Collapse the pole and reattach the end cap.

5 Once your vehicle's tire is on the board, screw the pipe into the flange.

6 Remove the end cap from your pole and lower it onto the pipe.

You may be able to adapt the mount to accommodate different sized poles. For example, I built my mount using a 1-¼ inch flange for use with my 31-foot pole. Using a 1-¼ inch to 1-inch pipe reducer with a 1-inch pipe (see 7), I can also use the mount with my 28-foot pole.

7 You may be able to use a reducer to use your mount with smaller diameter pipes. The reducer shown is used to adapt a 1-inch pipe to a 1-¼ inch flange.

TIP **This mount works with lightweight, fiberglass poles. If you need to support something heavier, like a steel mast, you may need something more robust.**

Photos by the author.

Craig LaBarge, WB3GCK, was first licensed in 1974 after serving as a Radioman in the US Navy. He retired after a career in engineering and enjoys operating QRP while portable. Craig is also active with his local ARES-RACES organization. He can be reached at wb3gck@arrl.net.

Hints & Hacks

Share your hints (or hacks) with fellow hams by sending them to ota@arrl.org or *On the Air*, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

The business end of the Lamptenna, connected and ready to help boost your low-power signal.

HACK

Tri-band Lamp Antenna for Your Handheld

This simple arrangement can turn any household lamp into an antenna to help your 5-watt handheld's signal along. To build the Lamptenna, you will need a 1/16 × 1 ½ inch aluminum strip, an SO-239 connector with a threaded stud, and a telescoping rod antenna with 3 mm female thread. Construction is as follows:

1 Saw the aluminum strip to a length of 3 inches to form the support bracket.

2 Drill a ¼-inch diameter hole ½ inch from each end of the strip.

3 Punch a ⅜-inch diameter hole at one end.

4 Place the SO-239 in the hole and mark its four mounting holes onto the aluminum strip.

5 Drill ⅛-inch mounting holes at the marks and mount the SO-239 connector.

6 Install the rod antenna onto the SO-239.

To use the antenna, find a medium-sized table lamp and remove the finial and shade. Place the bracket onto the lamp's hoop stud and replace the shade and finial. Route the coax alongside the hoop using a wire twist-tie. Extend the rod antenna to 19 ¼ inches for 2 meters, 12 ½ inches for 1.25 meters, or 6 ¼ inches for 70 centimeters.

Use the Lamptenna only with low power of 5 watts or fewer, and use coax long enough to allow yourself to sit several feet away from the antenna when operating.

Bob Evans, WØSVS

HINT

Hot Glue Fix-it

Add a box of hot glue sticks to your repair kit. They come in various diameters and lengths, and can be purchased at hardware and craft stores. Hot glue heats and reheats easily with an ordinary butane lighter. It's reusable, waterproof, works as an insulating coating, fills holes and large cracks, and can be removed from most hard surfaces either hot (with a flat screwdriver blade) or cold (with a scraper).

You can use it as a grommet to protect wires that pass through a chassis hole. It can be used to tack down wires to a chassis, or to attach a small project box to the outside of another plastic, wood, or metal object (it can be removed later, but expect it to leave smudges or minor heat markings).

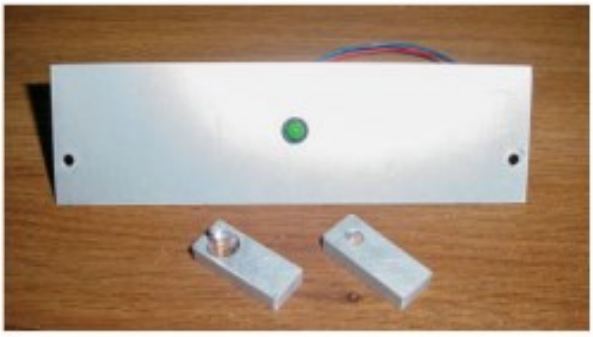
To fill an unwanted hole in most chassis material, place a piece of electrical tape over the outside of the hole and use a lighter to heat a glue stick until glue runs in a small string into the hole, overfilling it just slightly. Once the hot glue has cooled, remove the tape from the outside and use a permanent marker to color-match the repair.

Use good sense and some caution. Hot glue can catch fire, and when it's hot enough to melt, it's hot enough to burn unprotected skin and delicate materials. Also, don't use it to hold any object that heats up during its normal use. Keep it off of your soldering iron, too.

Paul Schlueter III, KB3LIC

Figure 1 (below): An LED clip, retaining ring, and bulb atop a faceplate with a hole in which the LED is to be installed.

Figure 2 (right): Press-on mounts make it easy to install LEDs in a faceplate.



HACK

LED Mount Insertion Tool

Mounting clips with press-on retaining rings are convenient for mounting LEDs to a faceplate (see Figure 1), but getting the retaining ring on is not always easy, particularly when you have limited access. The most common technique is to use two nut drivers, one from each side. This works well if space is available, but the technique cannot be used with LEDs that have attached leads. Another technique is to use needle-nose pliers. Because the pliers do not exert uniform pressure around the retaining ring, the typical result is scratches to the faceplate, a torn retaining clip finger, or an occasional gouge to the clip face. Also, pliers can't be used on panels that have lips.

I made a simple tool from two aluminum blocks that works on faceplates with or without lips, where there is limited access, and with LEDs that have attached leads. The tool is made from two blocks of 1⅛-inch-long pieces of ½ × ¼-inch bar stock. The overall size is not critical.

There are two pieces; a clip block and a ring block. The clip block is made by drilling a single hole with a number 7 drill bit. Center the hole about ½ inch from one edge.

The retaining ring block is made in three steps:

Use a 25⁄64-inch pilot point drill bit to make a flat-bottomed recess slightly larger than the outer diameter of the ring approximately 12⁄64-inch deep (not critical). Make this hole centered, near one edge of the block, positioned to mate with the hole in the clip block.

Using a 9⁄32-inch bit, drill a through hole centered in the recess hole. This will leave a small lip to support the retaining ring.

Saw and file smooth a slot between the hole and the narrow edge as a pass-through for any wire leads.

The operation is simple and quick. The retaining clip is inserted into the faceplate hole with the chamfered inner edge facing the panel. The faceplate hole should be deburred but not chamfered.

Place the retaining ring, chamfered inner edge facing outward, on the LED and insert the LED into the clip.

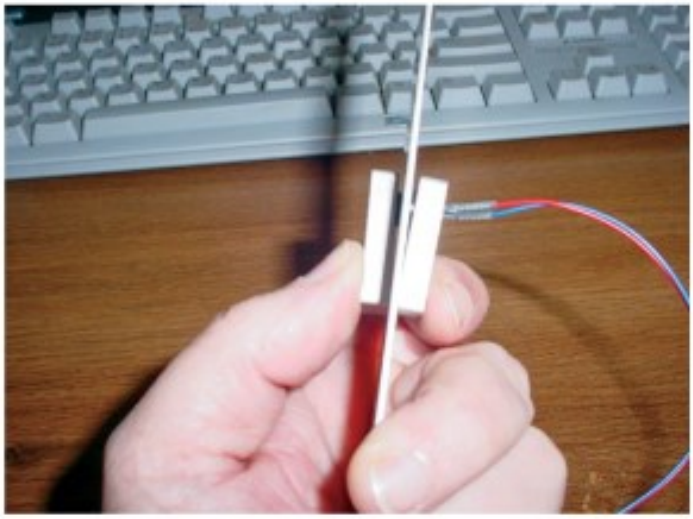
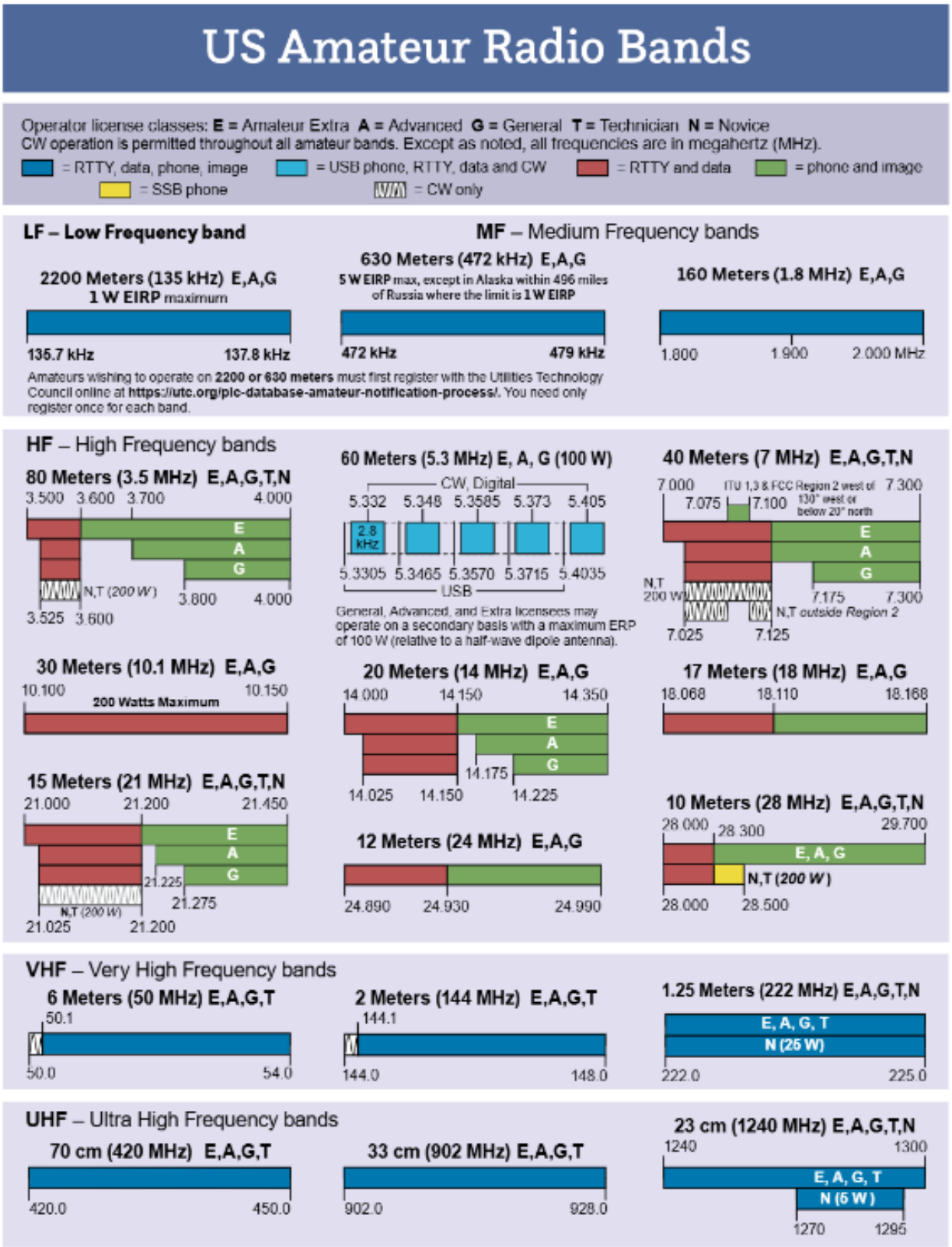


Figure 3: Using this tool makes for a simple installation that avoids damaging the equipment's faceplate.

The clip block is placed against the front of the retaining clip. If the LED has leads that are soldered at each end, the wires are passed through the slot in the tool before the ring. Slide the tool along the wires until the ring is seated in the tool. Now, with both tool blocks in place, gently squeeze the blocks together (see Figure 2). When you hear a snap, the LED has been installed.

This tool will allow you to mount an LED almost effortlessly in almost any panel (see Figure 3).

John M. Franke, WA4WDL


US Amateur Radio Bands
Operator license classes: E = Amateur Extra A = Advanced G = General T = Technician N = Novice
CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands. Except as noted, all frequencies are in megahertz (MHz).
= RTTY, data, phone, image
= USB phone, RTTY, data and CW
= RTTY and data
= phone and image
= SSB phone
= CW only
LF – Low Frequency band
2200 Meters (135 kHz) E,A,G
1 W EIRP maximum
135.7 kHz
137.8 kHz
MF – Medium Frequency bands
630 Meters (472 kHz) E,A,G
5 W EIRP max, except in Alaska within 496 miles of Russia where the limit is 1 W EIRP
472 kHz
479 kHz
160 Meters (1.8 MHz) E,A,G
1.800
1.900
2.000 MHz
Amateurs wishing to operate on 2200 or 630 meters must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/. You need only register once for each band.
HF – High Frequency bands
80 Meters (3.5 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
3.500 3.600 3.700 4.000
E
A
G
N,T (200 W)
3.525 3.600
3.800 4.000
60 Meters (5.3 MHz) E, A, G (100 W)
CW, Digital
5.332 5.348 5.3585 5.373 5.405
2.8 kHz
5.3305 5.3465 5.3570 5.3715 5.4035
USB
General, Advanced, and Extra licensees may operate on a secondary basis with a maximum ERP of 100 W (relative to a half-wave dipole antenna).
40 Meters (7 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
7.000
7.075
7.100
ITU 1,3 & FCC Region 2 west of 130° west or below 20° north
7.300
E
A
G
N,T 200 W
7.175
7.300
N,T outside Region 2
7.025
7.125
30 Meters (10.1 MHz) E,A,G
10.100
200 Watts Maximum
10.150
20 Meters (14 MHz) E,A,G
14.000
14.150
14.350
E
A
G
14.175
14.025
14.150
14.225
17 Meters (18 MHz) E,A,G
18.068
18.110
18.168
15 Meters (21 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
21.000
21.200
21.450
E
A
G
21.225
21.275
N,T (200 W)
21.025
21.200
12 Meters (24 MHz) E,A,G
24.890
24.930
24.990
10 Meters (28 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
28.000
28.300
29.700
E, A, G
N,T (200 W)
28.000
28.500
VHF – Very High Frequency bands
6 Meters (50 MHz) E,A,G,T
50.1
50.0
54.0
2 Meters (144 MHz) E,A,G,T
144.1
144.0
148.0
1.25 Meters (222 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
E, A, G, T
N (25 W)
222.0
225.0
UHF – Ultra High Frequency bands
70 cm (420 MHz) E,A,G,T
420.0
450.0
33 cm (902 MHz) E,A,G,T
902.0
928.0
23 cm (1240 MHz) E,A,G,T,N
1240
1300
E, A, G, T
N (5 W)
1270
1295
SHF&EHF – Super and Extremely High Frequency bands
All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:
2300-2310 MHz
2390-2450 MHz
3300-3450 MHz
5650-5925 MHz
10.0-10.5 GHz
24.0-24.25 GHz
47.0-47.2 GHz
76.0-81.0 GHz
122.25-123.0 GHz
134-141 GHz
241-250 GHz
All above 275 GHz
See www.arrl.org/band-plan for detailed band plans.
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OTAbands rev. 11/16/2023

All Local Area FCC Exams:

WINSTON-SALEM NC

2023

2ND Monday, 6PM at Red Cross on Coliseum Drive

No Exams are scheduled in December, the Club has its Christmas party. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC), Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive. Pre-Registration Only. Exams start at 6:00 PM. Bring 2 forms of identification (one with picture). Pre-registration, FRN number, are required before test session date. NOTE: COVID-19 protocols still in effect. Please bring the ORIGINAL, COPY of any CSCE's and signed license to the test session. Exam fee is $12.00. For more information, contact: Dale Mierisch- WB9SZL, Email , Phone 336-766-9675

The following testing dates and sites are from: https://www.w4vec.org/ar.html

GREENSBORO NC
TESTING 2ND SATURDAYS

All sessions begin at 9:00 AM Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27407 (MAP) For more information contact: David Macchiarolo- AJ4TF EMAIL

336-420-9424

HIGH POINT NC
TESTING LAST SATURDAYS

All sessions start at 10:00 AM. Location: Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road (off MLK Jr Drive) High Point, NC 27262 MAP Pre-registration is required. Contact: David Macchiarolo Email 336-420-9424

KERNERSVILLE (?)

King/Rural Hall, NC

Piedmont Triad VE offers free of charge testing, at the King Public Library, 101 Pilot View Drive, King, NC. This is a free of charge exam session for subject to the $35.00 fee to be paid to the FCC. Contact Jeff Webset at webstej <at? windstream <dot> net for next exam.

SALISBURY NC

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY
Bostian Heights Fire Dept. Community Room
(MAP)
8211 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146
For more information contact:
Fred - WB4QOC EMAIL phone 704-534-1031
Last updated 1/26/22

THOMASVILLE NC

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Test Session at 9:30am, Davidson-Davie Community College, 297 DCC Rd. Thomasville, NC 27360 (MAP) Building: Finch *Building marked with RED arrow), room 221, Preregistration and FRN number is required before test session date. NOTE: COVID19 protocols still in effect. For more information contactL Rick Weinbaum, KK4RR, cell: 446-687-8001 email: weinbaum <at> mac <dot> com. Last updated 6/1/22

New Ham? New Upgrade?
Live in Forsyth County?
Or just want to join FARC?

For new hams, or upgrades, who have taken an exam, please complete the information on the FARC application (usually the next-to-last page of the Newsletter), if you have not already done so, for a free membership to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC). Mark the form "New Ham - Exam date". Even if this is not an FARC exam session, since we are limited in exam offerings at this time. Once the form is completed, bring to the next club meeting, or please scan and email to secretary <at> w4nc <dot> com [and an email to newsletter <at> w4nc <dot> com].

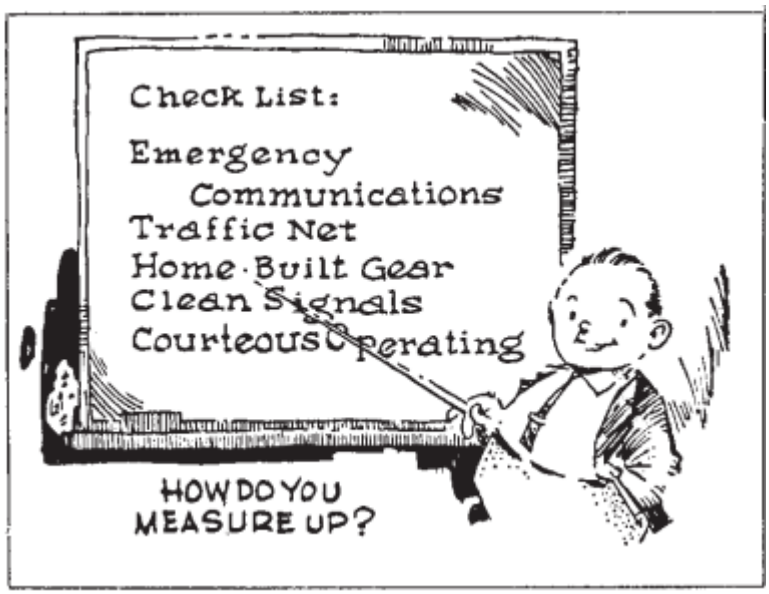
Exams usually will be offered before the FARC meeting (2nd Monday at the Red Cross) and start at 6:30 PM in room 109 at the Red Cross building **see above to make sure a session is offered.** You are encouraged to arrive early at 6:20 PM Preregistration is required at info <at> w4nc <dot> com.

From the FARC Newsletter

ARES/AUXCOMM News

Note from Editor: This section is added for information for those interested in Emergency services. Pitt County doesn't have a active ARES Presence. But the practices and lessons available can be useful if working for or helping pass traffic in times of need.

The five USB channelized 60-meter frequencies are available for interoperability (communication between services). By convention, Channel 1 is designated the calling channel. This convention is established to train the amateur radio community to reach out on Channel 1 in times of national emergency, for information from the federal government. The amateur radio community uses 60 meters on a secondary basis with federal agencies. This and similar 60-meter interoperability exercises are conducted during the first full week of each month. More information here. - ***ARRL News***



ARES Resources

· Download the ARES Manual [PDF]

· ARES Field Resources Manual [PDF]

· ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Fillable PDF]

· ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book [Word]

· ARES Plan

· ARES Group Registration

Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find Your ARRL Section: www.arrl.org/sections

Find a License Class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a License Exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

ARES® Briefs, Links

The 2024 ARRL National Convention was conducted with the Dayton Hamvention® May 17-19 in Xenia, Ohio. Attendees learned about how amateur radio is relevant and highly involved in the modern emergency management landscape. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, hosted an ARES® booth, which was supported by ARES® leaders and members of the ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee.

On May 17, Johnston and four representatives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) conducted a forum "ARES®, SAFECOM®, and Building Relationships" as part of the ARRL National Convention track. CISA is the federal agency SAFECOM serves. Together, they led a discussion about how amateur radio emergency communications groups can establish and foster relationships with served agencies.

Johnston is ARRL's representative member of SAFECOM®. In 2023, ARRL was elected to serve on SAFECOM®, a program of the US Department of Homeland Security. SAFECOM supports the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem. This relationship gives ARRL a seat at the decision-making table for emergency communications policy nationwide.

"Amateur radio operators are in a unique position to serve agencies of many different types, but that relationship has to be well established long before a crisis," said Johnston, who emphasized that local partnerships are just as important as national-level relationships. ARES groups work with local, state, and county governments, and non-government affiliated organizations, including local offices of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and faith-based organizations.

ARRL has released two new courses to train emergency communications operators for volunteering within ARES®. Both courses are published in the ARRL Learning Center. In 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revised the Guide for National Emergency Preparedness to specifically include amateur radio. ARRL and FEMA entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding in May 2023 that outlined the importance of trained radio amateurs within the response ecosystem.

The 2024 Boston Marathon is in the history books – Monday, April 15, 2024 was the Patriots' Day state holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and with that holiday came the 128th running of the Boston Marathon. More than 280 amateur radio operators volunteered across the Start, Course, Finish, and Transportation functions, and various operations centers -- including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) State EOC Unified Command Center (UCC) and the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Race Operations Center (ROC) -- in Boston, performing communications duties that included logistics support as a primary function and backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race as needed. Amateur Radio operators were supporting the BAA, Red Cross and other agencies during the event. This is one of the largest public service events Amateur Radio supports in the US. – Rob Macedo, KD1CY, ARRL District Emergency Coordinator, Eastern Massachusetts Section.

Storms and Tornadoes: Amateur Radio Ready

Strong storms and at least 60 tornadoes wreaked havoc in the central US for nearly 2 weeks last month. On May 1, 2024, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in Oklahoma. ARRL Iowa Section Manager Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, reported that in the state, they have moved from response to recovery. Currently, nine counties are under the Iowa State Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program.

Garner said "Amateur radio has served our local agencies well. We recently networked at a central Iowa hamfest and are building our emergency communications capacity primarily through ARES®." "The opportunity

to share our experience and knowledge gained in the field has been critical to supporting ARES® in Iowa," said Garner.

Garner added that awareness is the best tool. She stressed that amateur operators and ARES® members work to help the National Weather Service and other served agencies in order to make their work and the community safer.

ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, agrees that everyone should stay vigilant in their awareness and preparations, even during periods of less activity. “Make sure you are prepared at home and that your family has a severe weather plan. This is extremely important if you plan to be mobile or away from your home during a severe weather event. Your safety is the most important thing if you plan to be active during severe weather. Every ham who is interested in severe weather should take the SKYWARN storm spotting class offered by the National Weather Service," said Johnston.

He added that some of the most important aspects of preparation are communication and building relationships. These activities, including drills and exercises, need to be done during blue-sky days to ensure you will be ready during days with severe weather. – *The ARRL Letter*

ARES Supports New Hampshire Red Cross (ARC) Eclipse Standby Deployment

This was a group effort, with input from ARRL Section staff, multiple ECs and members, American Red Cross (ARC), Department of Emergency Services, State Parks and Lands, and the state’s interoperability coordinator. The mission we took on was in support of the Red Cross.

The Mission

Red Cross was asked by the state and towns to stage responders and vehicles in Lancaster to deal with any mass casualty or sheltering needs in the region. The premise behind our role in this operation was that cell service would be clogged with calls, making it difficult for ARC teams to communicate with their office and each other. The clogged network part turned out to be real from about mid-day Monday until late in the evening. There is good cell coverage in the region, but limited call capacity. ARES’ role was to relay deployment and logistics messages between the ARC office in Concord, and the response teams staged in Lancaster if cell service wasn’t available.

Planning and Prep

The planning team included Section Emergency Coordinator Al Shuman, K1AKS; Section Manager Pete Stohrer, W1FEA, Emergency Coordinator Erik Rider, KC1FZB, myself and others. Solid information was hard to come by in the planning stage, partially because everyone involved faced so many variables, such as how many day-trip visitors would make it to the north country, the weather, crowd behavior, local capabilities, etc. Our plans needed to be flexible. I made two recon trips in the weeks prior to the event to help firm things up. The personal contacts and information that resulted were invaluable. We met and talked with staff from Red Cross, HSEM, State Parks, and DOT at various times as well as several operators in the Coos County ham community. All were supportive of our planning and needs. Special mention goes to the DOT Region 1 personnel in Coos County who went above and beyond not only for us, but for all the emergency responders.

Former Coos Emergency Coordinator Bob Martin, KB1IZU, and I met and talked during my first trip north. He provided valuable local insights, and made sure both of his repeaters were up and running well throughout the setup and operational period. Special thanks also to John Marcel, K1FDD, of the NH Division of Forests

and Lands, Bob Erskine from the Division of Emergency Services, John Stevens, and State Interoperability Coordinator, for bringing ARES into this event, and ARC Regional Disaster Officer John Montes.

One of the biggest problems was the logistics of putting ARES teams into an area with no available overnight accommodations. That was solved by operating from three self-contained RVs sited at NH DOT facilities. This issue also forced us to limit the number of participants, and the fact that both RVs and space to park them were limited. We considered recruiting local non-ARES hams to assist but decided that might introduce too many unknowns into a potentially high-profile operation.

Because the ARC office in Concord was the operations center for Red Cross response, we installed a new HF station there with an IC-718, LDG tuner, and a 53' end-fed antenna in the attic. We staged ARES teams in Lancaster at the District 1 DOT and the Pittsburg North DOT garage, a few miles north of town. The Lancaster team included two hams to respond along with ARC assets, and one to be the link with Concord and Pittsburg. The Pittsburg team of two was there to handle communications from the north if a deployment occurred.

We built plenty of redundancy into our plans because our knowledge of coverage in northern Coos County was limited. In addition, it was a rare opportunity to compare different long-haul methods and modes throughout a single operation.

There were two communication paths to provide for: One was long-range, between the two fixed stations in Coos, and Concord ARC. The other was local communication between the two fixed Coos County sites and the deployment team. Local communications were facilitated by the Clarkesville and Mt. Agassiz 2-meter W1COS repeaters, which have overlapping coverage along Rte. 3 between Pittsburg and Lancaster. We also had a self-contained quick-deploy cross-band repeater just in case a repeater went down and plans to shift to simplex operation if needed.

The link between Pittsburg, Lancaster, and Concord was the larger challenge. I opted for a redundant multi-path approach, using HF voice, HF NBEMS, Winlink, and FM voice via the Mt. Washington repeater. At the last minute, we decided to add DMR to the mix as an experiment, which required a bit of running around since two of our three fixed stations lacked DMR capability.

Operations

During the operational period of 7 AM to 7 PM, we conducted periodic tests on every path so we would know which one to use if ARC was deployed from Lancaster. HF voice was the least reliable, likely due to weak propagation and compromise antennas. It further deteriorated from the beginning of the eclipse until we shut down around 6:30. All stations were on shorter end-fed antennas, and our signals varied. I could hear whispers from ARC, but W1FEA with his full-sized antennas was quite usable, if not booming. Other home-based stations were also quite strong at times, but no one was hearing our field stations well enough for relays. It might have worked better if we had more home stations participating as relays, but the response to our pre-deployment request was light.

HF NBEMS worked almost 100% of the time, although late afternoon on Monday we had to slow down to Thor11 on 40 meters. Eighty meters was good in the early morning, but 40 meters was better through the daytime and early evening. Our seldom-used original 40-meter NBEMS frequency turned out to be the new home of FT8 and similar modes, so I moved us to 7.060 MHz, which worked well until late afternoon Monday, when someone attempted to jam us by sending random CW on top of the signals in the waterfall. He'd start a second or so after the transmission started and stop just after we stopped. Later, he was transmitting some other digital mode and slowly tuning back and forth across the waterfall on top of our signal. We ignored him and dealt with the small errors it caused, but it's a future consideration.

The Mt. Washington 2-meter FM repeater was the clearest and most reliable voice path. [At 6,288 feet, the mountain is New England's highest. – Ed.] The ARC's base radio can't reach it, so Pete, W1FEA, was our relay from his home. Al Bradford, AE1H, was our backup relay on both Mt. Washington and HF SSB. We might consider experimenting with a higher-gain antenna for ARC's station. Had the repeater not worked out, HF NBEMS would have been our best choice. Earlier plans to have Mount Washington ARES members relay to a Concord repeater turned out not to work well. However, we did have a phone in the radio room, so messages could have been relayed that way as well.

Winlink didn't end up playing a direct role in the event, although both Steve Davidson, NA1T, in Lancaster and Dave Colter, WA1ZCN, in Pittsburg were easily able to connect to gateway stations. What we lacked was a known monitored email address at ARC Concord, but that could have been solved quickly if the need arose.

In addition, we had Twin State Radio Club's commercial VHF interoperability radio set to VCALL-10 in Pittsburg to allow for communications with Pittsburg Fire and others, but fortunately it wasn't needed. Had an actual deployment occurred, it would have allowed more rapid coordination with other responders.

The DMR experiment did work, but with a few problems. There were frequent network dropouts (attributed to internet issues), and some transmissions never made it through at all and had to be repeated. That caused a bit of confusion. DMR audio can be difficult to understand under normal conditions, and the network-related packet loss and dropouts made it even more difficult. If we'd had to send a formal message over DMR, it would probably have required multiple tries to get it accurate.

The Reality

The number of visitors coming north directly affected the timing of our arrival on site. We anticipated the possibility of heavy traffic on Sunday, but that didn't happen. We set up the Pittsburg station early Sunday morning after an evening arrival on Saturday. The serious traffic started very early Monday morning. In the end, Pittsburg, which was considered the best viewing place, never really filled up with visitors. The crowd was large-ish but stayed mostly in the town center. A few hardy souls ventured north toward the border. We later figured out that many, many thousands more people were on the way up, but made too late a start to make it in time because of the "funnel effect" of the road system. There is only one good road from Lancaster into northern Coos County – Route 3 – but there are many roads leading north to Lancaster. Those roads were jammed all the way back to Concord, and I suspect most folks ended up watching the eclipse from their cars on the highways. Post-eclipse traffic was even worse, because nearly everyone seemed to head south at the same time. The highways in New Hampshire and Vermont didn't clear out until well into the wee hours of Tuesday morning. We left closer to 6:30 and were finally able to get home shortly after midnight.

Random Thoughts and Takeaways

This plan worked, as far as it went. It might not have survived an actual deployment that extended into Tuesday.

Redundancy is good insurance but takes a lot of equipment and extra work. Working from the small RV dinner table with four radios and a laptop would have been difficult if an actual deployment occurred.

Propane generators beat gasoline units for run time by many hours. Our dual-fuel 2 kw unit ran up to 24 hours on a 20 lb. tank. We brought four tanks.

There was no place to refill in Pittsburg, just exchange, which is much more expensive. In a pinch we could have switched to gasoline.

We gambled on not having an actual deployment, but if it had happened, we'd have had to call in extra help. That wasn't planned for. You can never do too much thinking and planning. Just remember to edit it down to something readable and understandable. Building relationships with key partners makes everything work better. -- *Dave Colter, WA1ZCN, Assistant SEC, New Hampshire ARES; Interim EC – West Central New Hampshire ARES*

Letters: QRP is the Way to Go

I saw your note about checking into a Florida net with just 10 watts. I operate Army MARS and check into the local 8 AM net with 3 watts (with an Icom IC-703) every day. It covers Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and it works every time. I use a 180-foot random wire at about 35 feet.

Twice a month MARS has a liaison net with CFARS (Canadian version of MARS) on 14 and 6 MHz and for this net I use just 9 watts to a trap vertical on 14 MHz. I check into SHARES HF nets every week also. Come vacation time, I use just 3 watts to a rain gutter at a lodge in Virginia.

High power (QRO) is just not necessary. Put a good QRP rig in your ARES shelter; it runs on a battery you can hold in one hand. Keep it charged with a small solar panel and forget the Big Rig -- after a while you will give it away. -- *Scott McCann, W3MEO*

Keystone 6 -- National Mass Care Exercise This Month

The 2024 National Mass Care Exercise, called Keystone 6, will be held in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania on May 20-¬23, 2024. Pre¬-exercise activities including logistics planning and movements, as well as training opportunities have been occurring since March.

The scenario will involve large-scale impacts cascading across the region and need for mass care services for more than 100,000 people. Pennsylvania will be standing up a Commonwealth-managed shelter and activating operational/planning mass care task forces for Feeding, Sheltering, Disability Integration, Reunification, Household Pets, Distribution of Emergency Supplies, and Housing. You can read more about mass care in Pennsylvania.

In addition to the Shippensburg location, the American Red Cross Greater Pennsylvania Region (GPA) will also be conducting simultaneous shelter exercises in each of their 10 Disaster Response Areas (DRA).

The Red Cross EMCOMM teams in both the Greater Pennsylvania Region (GPA) and the Southeast Region (SEPA) are extending an invitation to Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) partners and hams throughout Pennsylvania to participate. This would involve providing simulated emergency communications between the Red Cross's 10 DRA shelters in the GPA Region and the shelter in the SEPA Region during the PEMA Sheltering exercise in Shippensburg.

There have been three pre-¬exercises leading up to next week's exercise. A March 16, 2024, test was designed to help players get acquainted with the new Red Cross EMCOMM Stations (RCES) throughout Pennsylvania. The exercise was organized by the Red Cross EMCOMM Team, which invited all Pennsylvania hams to check ¬in with Pennsylvania Red Cross EMCOMM Stations using various VHF repeaters. Hams were requested to check ¬in with their call sign, name, county, and noting whether they were an ARES® or Red Cross volunteer. ARES® ECs were invited to visit the RCES before and during the exercise.

On April 6, an exercise was conducted during the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Sec-

tions' ARES Spring SET. On May 11, an exercise was conducted as a dry run for the actual Keystone 6 exercise.

The PEMA National Mass Care Exercise will serve as practice for sending Red Cross forms via Winlink between the PEMA Shelter in Shippensburg and the RCES locations and pass some VHF voice traffic between the Red Cross shelters and Red Cross RCES locations. ARES and club stations will also be participating in the Winlink portion. -- Blair ARES Alert!, May 2024 issue, Drew McGhee KA3EJV, editor; from information provided by Ed Majewski, Jr. KC3NAF, and Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL WPA Section Manager.

K1CE for a Final: NTS and ARES – A Symbiotic and Historic Relationship Needed Again

In the early 1950s, ARRL HQ staff made an effort to consolidate the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC, the forerunner of the modern ARES program that exists today), and the new National Traffic System (NTS) conceived in 1949 from the prior trunk lines relay system that had been employed which led to the creation of the American Radio Relay League in 1914. Under one ARRL-sponsored umbrella to be called the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC), the goals were to have the NTS operate daily, 365 days a year, handling routine radiogram traffic during normal times. The AREC would conduct occasional drills to develop operating acumen and maintain a high state of preparedness. Once a year, a simulated emergency test nationwide in which the AREC nets would become active at local levels to handle simulated emergency messages and the NTS would provide both local and long-distance record message handling in support. This required close cooperation between these two divisions of ARPSC.

It's time to bring them back together. Let's just say it: NTS traffic handlers were, and now with the ARRL's major effort to renew and reinvigorate the system, are once again emerging as water carriers for emergency communication systems and programs like ARES. These systems and alliances allow for competent, accurate message handling across the country when needed. Professionalism and quality management are the hallmarks of the new system.

The NTS 2.0 Committee is working hard to raise the standard of operation of NTS traffic handlers and the system that has enjoyed a long, symbiotic relationship with ARES (formerly AREC). I got my start in organized amateur radio public service in 1977 with the Boston area repeater net – the Heavy Hitters Traffic Net – and the Eastern Mass Rhode Island Phone Net. I'm looking forward to reengaging with the NTS; not only for the public service opportunity it offers, but also for the pure fun of it, as enjoyed over 40 years ago! -- *K1CE*

Field Day

Dovetailing with the above opinion, this coming Field Day, consider Field Day Rule 7.3.6. Message Handling: 10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (10 messages). Copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report. The message to the ARRL SM or SEC under Rule 7.3.5. does not count towards the total of 10 for this bonus. Messages claimed under this bonus must be in either standard NTS or ICS-213 format (or have the equivalent content). All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF. Available to all Classes.

Why not make the above a priority for your Field Day operation next month! – *Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor*

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio

Emails

ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur

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.

ARRL Podcasts

Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

ARRL Audio News is distributed through Blubrry.com. You can subscribe to the podcast via your IOS or Android mobile device with your favorite podcast app, or you can listen and download episodes directly from the Audio News page at Blubrry. Each week, the current edition is available at ARRL Audio News.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

On the Air
Sponsored by Icom

The 2024 ARRL National Convention at Hamvention took place May 17-19 in Xenia, Ohio. ARRL Director of Marketing & Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, joins this month's podcast to share details about ARRL-sponsored activities at the show, including several ARRL forums and the Youth Rally. Listen to the On the Air podcast now.

The *On the Air* and *Eclectic Tech* podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry -- *On the Air* | *Eclectic Tech*

Amateur Radio in the News

"A Stroudsburg teens' passion for radio" / WBRE - TV (Pennsylvania) April 24, 2024

"Local radio operators prepare for the next weather emergency" / WPSD - TV (Kentucky) April 27, 2024 -- The Paducah Organization of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES®).

"The world of amateur, or HAM radio, and its role during emergencies like Hurricane Ian" / WGCU (Florida) April 29, 2024 -- The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Club Stays Amateur Radio-active" / The Carroll News (Virigina) May 2, 2024 -- The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club.

"Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Railroad Museum of South Florida to celebrate National Train Day May 11" / North Fort Myers Neighbor (Florida) May 3, 2024 -- The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Amateur radio club seeks county ARP funds" / Tribune Chronicle (Ohio) May 15, 2024 -- The Warren Amateur Radio Association.

"'I love being here;' Hamvention

brings in thousands, including international visitors" / WHIO -TV (Ohio) May 18, 2024 -- The Radio Society of Great Britain

"Hamvention sees big turnout of amateur radio enthusiasts" / WDTN-TV (Ohio) May 19, 2024 -- 2024 Hamvention® at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

"Sussex amateur radio group conducts emergency scenario drill" / Cape Gazette (Delaware) May 23, 2024 – The Sussex County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

"Ham radio operators put the USS Montrose on the air" / Montrose Daily Press (Colorado) May 24, 2024 -- The Montrose Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"In the age of satellites, cell towers and web servers, CMU offers amateur radio course" / WESA Radio (Pennsylvania) May 23, 2024 -- Carnegie Mellon University.

"Joplin HAM radio club donates setup to Camp Childress" / KSNF - TV (Missouri) May 25, 2024 – The Joplin Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

"Local Ham Radio operators prep for Field Day" / WJBK - TV (Michigan) May 26, 2024 – The Motor City Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

Announcements

MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring:

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than $10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years.

He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members and loyal QST readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world, and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.

MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"

Storms and Tornadoes: Amateur Radio Ready

Strong storms and reports of at least 60 tornadoes have wreaked havoc in the Central U.S. for nearly two weeks. Homes and businesses across Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Iowa were destroyed, and power is still down for more than 30,000 residents. On May 1, 2024, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster exists in Ok-

lahoma, making federal aid available to those affected by last weekend's severe storms in Hughes, Love, and Murray counties.

Section Manager of the ARRL Iowa Section Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, reported that in Iowa, they have moved from response to recovery. Currently, nine counties are under the Iowa State Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program.

"Amateur Radio has served our local agencies well. We recently networked at a central Iowa hamfest and are building our emergency communications capacity primarily through [the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). ARES resources [include] personnel, experience, meetings, training, [communications] equipment, [and] operating trailers. The opportunity to share our experience and knowledge gained in the field has been critical to supporting ARES in Iowa," said Garner.

Garner added that awareness is the best tool. She stressed that amateur operators and ARES members work to help the National Weather Service and other served agencies in order make their work and the community safer.

ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, agrees that everyone should stay vigilant in their awareness and preparations, even during periods of less activity. Make sure you are prepared at home and that your family has a severe weather plan. This is extremely important if you plan to be mobile or away from your home during a severe weather event. Your safety is the most important thing if you plan to be active during severe weather. Every ham who is interested in severe weather should take the SKYWARN storm spotting class offered by the National Weather Service," said Johnston.

He added that some of the most important aspects of preparation are communication and building relationships. These activities, including drills and exercises, need to be done during blue - sky days to ensure you will be ready during days with severe weather.

The ARRL Learning Center offers courses like on Basic EmComm and Intro to Radio for Emergencies & Disasters.

ARRL Learning Center Features Two New Emergency Communication Training Courses

ARRL has released two new courses to train emergency communications (EmComm) operators for volunteering within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). Both courses are within the ARRL Learning Center.

The Basic EmComm course is designed to get a new volunteer started. It provides basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer and contains three modules and 11 topics, including required prerequisites. It's expected to take approximately 10 - 20 hours to complete.

The Intermediate EmComm course builds on the lessons learned in the first course and equips volunteer radio amateurs with the tools needed to thrive in the fast-paced environment of public service communications and to understand the legal rights and responsibilities of working with a served agency, as well as teach them and how ham radio fits into the broader incident command (IC) structure.

The new courses replace the previous EC-001 and EC-016 programs, however, certificates of completion earned for the previous courses are still valid. "Training is not a one-and-done thing. Throughout my firefighting and emergency management career, we were constantly taking new courses to reinforce existing knowledge and introduce new concepts," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Engaged volunteers should want to stay up to date on advances in the science of emergency communications. I'd even encourage veteran operators to take the new courses."

In 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revised the Guide for National Emergency Preparedness to specifically include amateur radio. ARRL and FEMA entered into a new Memoranda of Understanding in May 2023 that outlined the im-

portance of trained radio amateurs within the response ecosystem.

"Amateur radio is as important as ever in emergency management," said Johnston. "The new courses will keep hams trained to serve effectively."

The ARRL Learning Center at learn.arrl.org is a member benefit and features many ways to get the most out of your amateur radio license. The Basic and Intermediate EmComm courses are available to anyone with a free www.arrl.org account. Users must log in to the ARRL Learning Center with this account, and functionality of the site relies on cookies being enabled.

ARRL Volunteers Obtain Ham Exemption to Pennsylvania Handsfree Law

ARRL volunteers in Pennsylvania have successfully protected the legal right to use amateur radio while operating mobile within the state. A handsfree distracted driving bill had worked its way through the legislature over the past several years, and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, successfully advocated for an exemption for licensed radio amateurs. "The bill survived until just before the latest vote, which stripped out our exemption but left in exemptions for commercial drivers, including truck drivers, bus drivers, and public transportation [drivers]," he wrote in a message to ARRL members in Pennsylvania.

In April, the exemption was stripped from the bill, sending Pennsylvania hams into a state of worry. ARRL members in the state rallied, contacting their state legislators to explain the benefit that licensed operators provide to the state. The bill also was going to remove the ability for first responders, such as volunteer firefighters, to use radios in their personally owned vehicles. "Hundreds of emails then went out to legislators and such and back to me. We also helped our volunteer emergency responders who were in the same boat as us with radio use from their personal cars. Many members are also emergency responders as well, and they picked up on this too," said Famiglio.

This week, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted in favor of accepting the bill with the exemption. The senate passed it last summer. The bill is now on its way to Governor Josh Shapiro's desk, where he is expected to sign it. Mobile use of amateur radio will continue in Pennsylvania, thanks to ARRL advocacy and government relations carried out by member-volunteers.

Queens of the Mountains will be held June 1 - 3. The goal of this woman-ham (YL) Summits on the Air (SOTA) event is to encourage and inspire YLs to get on the air and on a mountain for SOTA. There will be multiple special event stations across the US on the air for a fun weekend of sisterhood on the summits. Special certificates will be available for YLs activating and chasing. Look for the special event calls W0Q, W1Q, W3Q, W4Q, W5Q, W6Q, W7Q, W8Q, and W9Q, as well as #QOM and #YLSOTA on SOTAWATCH3. For more information or questions, email Amy Haptonstall, AG7GP. The Young Ladies Radio League, K4LMB, originated in 1939. Members are from all walks of life, ages, and levels of ham radio interests. Whether they got into the hobby to talk locally or to travel around the world to the strangest of places, the one radio interest they have in common is comradery with other YLs. To learn more, visit the Young Ladies Radio League.

International Museums Weekends (IMW) 2024 will take place June 15 - 16 and 22 - 23. The purpose of this event is to activate an amateur radio special event station in as many museums around the world as possible. Frequencies, bands, and modes are at the discretion of the operators, as is the museum selection. For this event, the definition of museum can be loosely interpreted. It could be a collection of old cars or one of a kind paintings from a neighborhood artist. Through this event, organizers hope to present amateur radio to the public to garner support and understanding of the hobby. The first IMW was held in 2002 with over 80 museums, featuring small, local venues and large prestigious operations. The event was especially popular among amateur radio operators in the United Kingdom. For information about registration and event awards, visit International Museums Weekends 2024.

Fair Radio Sales, an iconic electronic military surplus store in Lima, Ohio, announced in August 2023 that they would be going out of business in October of that year. Phil Sellati, owner of Fair Radio Sales, told The ARRL Letter editor last year that

it was time to close the business. "I took over the business that my dad started in 1947, and after 50 years, it's time to close the doors," he said. Sellati had an offer on the building and felt that it was time to move on and was wondering what might come next. But they haven't closed their doors just yet. At the urging of many amateur radio operators, Fair Radio Sales is still in business and will be open during the 2024 Dayton Hamvention®. The company's website recently posted: "Fair Radio will be open until June 28, 2024. We will then prepare for an auction to be held in the summer." Thousands of amateur radio operators, collectors, experimenters, and shortwave listeners have visited the store over the years. The shelves and aisles are full of old military radios and receivers. Many other electronic surplus stores, like J.J. Glass Surplus in California and Ritco Electronics in Virigina, closed several years ago.

2024 ARRL National Convention a Success

Three days of festivities for the 2024 ARRL National Convention, hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, concluded on Sunday, May 19. Thousands of ARRL members were among the crowds of radio amateurs who descended on the fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio.

The convention theme, "Be radio active," was played out in a variety of ARRL-sponsored exhibits, presentations, and activities. One particular focus area was on youth involvement in amateur radio. On Saturday, ARRL hosted a Youth Rally that drew dozens of young people for an all-day immersion into ham radio interests and activities. “It was great to see the kids fired up about ham radio," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. "They got to make radio contact with a parachute mobile station, learn about satellites, and really put radio concepts into action."

In his forum, “Youth Outreach Through Amateur Radio STEM Education,” Goodgame shared the keys to success ARRL has found in helping grow interest in radio among the next generation. A video recording of the forum is available on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel.

Within the large ARRL exhibit area was a booth for the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP) staffed by student volunteers. They welcomed college-aged hams, helping network students from all over the world. “Amateur radio needs more youth involved,” said Ruslan Gindullin, KE8ZCA/R9WFW, a student at Case Western Reserve University who volunteered with the CARP booth. On Saturday afternoon, Morgan Lyons, KI5SXY, led the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio forum. Lyons is a student attending Missouri University of Science and Technology, and President of the Missouri S&T Amateur Radio Club (WØEEE).

Throughout the convention, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and other volunteer-leaders of the association visited with members and answered questions for those who had them. “We’ve had so many members come by and talk about things going on in amateur radio; things ARRL is doing. It has just been fantastic,” said Roderick.

The next ARRL National Convention will be hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama, in August 2026.

The Northeast HamXposition and ARRL New England Division Convention announced a major addition to its program for 2024.

The event runs from August 22 - 25, in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and will feature the Mini-Contest University (mini-CTU), based on Contest University. Contest University has been featured at Dayton Hamvention® since 2007 and presented in 15 countries to over 10,000 participants. A series of contest-oriented talks and presentations will be offered at HamXposition on Friday August 23. More information is available at hamxposition.org.

The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, NJ2BB, is sponsoring the 2024 Museum Ships Weekend

from June 1 - 2, 0000Z - 2359Z. The event is not a contest but an opportunity for amateur radio operators to contact stations onboard historic battleships across the country. To date, more than 100 ships are registered to participate, including the USS Hornet aircraft carrier and the USS Nautilus submarine. Additional information and a complete list of ships, locations, and call signs can be downloaded here. Contacts made on any ama-

teur radio frequency are permitted, but most ships will be operating SSB or in the General-class licensee portion of the bands. Additional modes, including PSK31, FT8, and FT4 may also be active.

Beginning June 1, 2024, several amateur radio clubs will activate special event stations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

The Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, K3NEM, located in Hunt Valley, Maryland, will be on the air as W2D from June 1 - 14, 1300Z - 2200Z. Call sign W2D's primary operation will be from June 1 - 6, with the possibility of additional operations during June 7 - 14, as operator availability permits. Operations will take place on 80 meters, 3.544, and 3.844 MHZ, as well as additional bands and digital modes. The South East Metro Amateur Radio Club in Cottage Grove, Maryland, will operate with call sign W2W on June 6 from 1500Z - 2000Z on 7.040, 14.040 MHz, and the SSB portion of 40 and 20 meters. A commemorative QSL will be available to those who send a SASE to N0BM. See semarc.org for more information. During June 8 - 9 from 0630Z-2200Z, the Torbay Amateur Radio Society in England will operate on 7.040, 14.040, MHz and the SSB portion of 40 and 20 meters. More information and special event station (SES) call signs will be listed before event at www.torbayars.org.

Solar Activity Significantly Affecting Ionosphere, FCC Opens Docket for Comments on Impact

Aurora Propagation, Northern Lights

The sun has been busy, and it's been a mixed bag for radio amateurs. Earlier this month, millions of people got a chance to see the aurora borealis for the first time, as the northern lights were active farther south than they had been in decades. The brilliant displays, visible as far south as Mexico, were a result of a series of coronal mass ejections. The energy from our star interacted with particles in the upper atmosphere, causing them to glow in dancing curtains of multicolored light.

VHF aurora activity was up significantly, according to DX spotting clusters and activity heard on the air. The 2- and 6-meter bands were especially active, as the aurora acted like a reflector in the sky to enable signals to propagate much farther than they normally can on those bands.

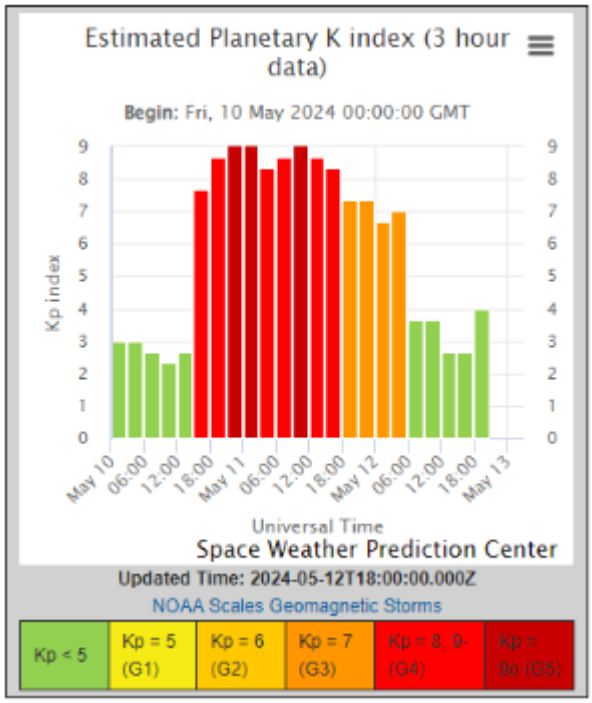
G5 Storm Significantly Impacted Ionosphere

ARRL Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is a leading expert on propagation. He's provided the following analysis of the situation:

May 10, 11, and 12 of 2024 may go down as one of the greatest space weather storm periods of our lifetimes. It all started with two big sunspots in early May. These two big sunspots were identified as AR3663 (in the northern solar hemisphere) and AR3664 (in the southern solar hemisphere). AR stands for Active Region.

Both of these sunspot regions produced multiple M-class and X-class solar flares, which caused radio blackouts (signals were significantly attenuated) on the sunlit side of Earth. Typically, a radio blackout lasts for an hour or so, is most severe on the lower frequencies, and is due to the x-ray radiation from the solar flare increasing D-region absorption.

Not only did the big solar flares cause radio blackouts, they also caused solar radiation storms due to energetic protons that increased ionospheric absorp-



tion in the D region in the polar caps (the area inside the auroral ovals). Solar radiation storms can last for a couple of days and can result in degraded propagation on over-the-pole paths.

But the biggest impact to propagation started on May 8, when AR3664 released multiple Earth-directed CMEs (coronal mass ejections). CMEs manifest themselves as geomagnetic storms by significantly increasing the 3-hour K index. The K index indicates the activity of the Earth's magnetic field and ranges from 0 (quiet) to 9 (extremely disturbed).

The image (from https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/) shows the [data from May 10 - 12]. When the K index is this high for such a long time, the electron density in the F2 region of the ionosphere can be significantly depleted for days, not allowing higher frequencies to be propagated. On-the-air activity confirmed this.

In summary, early May was a very interesting period. We saw all three categories of disturbances to propagation — radio blackouts (x-ray radiation from solar flares), solar radiation storms (energetic protons from solar flares), and geomagnetic storms (elevated K indices).

FCC Opens Comments About CME Comms Impacts

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau wants to know if you noticed any impacts to radio communications during the storm. In a public notice, the FCC wrote:

To better understand the impacts of the geomagnetic storm on the U.S. communications sector, the Bureau is requesting information from communications service providers and the public regarding disruptions in communications between May 7 and 11, 2024, that it believes to be a result of the storm. The Bureau is encouraging commenters to provide any available evidence, particularly electromagnetic spectrum analyses, imagery, or chronological logs relating the storm's impacts. Where possible, the Bureau asks that commenters include the description of the impacts; make and model of affected communications equipment, which could include transmitters, receivers, transceivers, switches, routers, amplifiers etc.; make, model, and type of affected antennae and their composition; frequencies affected; type and composition of cable adjoining communications equipment and the antennae, if applicable; duration of the impact; and any residual effects observed in the hours following restoration.

The public notice is at this link (PDF). Comments may be submitted using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs and referring to PS Docket No. 24-161. ARRL's guide to filing comments is at this link: https://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-fcc.

How to Find a Field Day Site

2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 – 23. The annual event is part emergency communications exercise, part operating event, and part open house for amateur radio. No matter what your local club makes of Field Day, it is sure to be a good opportunity for hams and members of the public to gather socially in a public place and celebrate the joy of radio and wireless communication.

ARRL's Field Day locator -- at www.arrl.org/field-day-locator -- is an interactive tool to help you find a Field Day site near you, or to list your club's Field Day location so that members of the public and the media may attend.

Populating your group's information into the database is easy. ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says social media should also be used to let interested people know where you're going to be. "Use social media before and during 2024 ARRL Field Day to help people find you. Let them know what your plans are, who is going to be there, and what they can expect if they visit," he said.

Making newcomers feel welcome and getting them involved is important. "Get them on the air! Show them how to make contacts with the GOTA (Get on the Air) station," encouraged ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "People may not remember what you show and tell them, but they will

always remember how you made them feel welcomed and involved by allowing them to participate. Your time in showing a newcomer what radio is all about is an investment in the future of ham radio."

To encourage visitors to come to the event, Jahnke recommends contacting local dignitaries or served agency partners who frequently attend Field Day events.

For complete rules and promotional materials for 2024 ARRL Field Day, visit the Field Day landing page at www.arrl.org/field-day. We hope to hear your club on the air!

Cliff Ahrens, KOCA, former ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, Silent Key

Hon. Clifford Ahrens, K0CA, passed away on May 22, 2024. He served as Vice Director and Director of the ARRL Midwest Division. He was a Life Member of ARRL and the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, and held an Extra-class amateur radio license.

Longtime friend and current ARRL Midwest Director Arthur Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, said Ahrens' death is a great loss for amateur radio. "He was kind, always available to give advice, and was proud of the hobby," said Zygielbaum.

Services for Ahrens will be held Friday, May 31 at the Holy Family Church in Hannibal, Missouri. Read more about Ahrens and his noted career as a judge on ARRL News.

Ground is a Myth!

Every ham knows about grounding, right? What if what you've been told isn't exactly true? ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, tackles this topic in a compelling presentation called "Ground is a Myth!" She lays out the case that ground means different things at different times and in different cases, and that much of what many operators have accepted as fact may just be legend. The presentation was a part of the 2024 ARRL National Convention forums hosted at Dayton Hamvention and may be seen on YouTube.

ARRL Systems Service Disruption

We are providing updates about the status of several services as we continue to respond to a serious incident involving access to our network and systems. The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) has resumed the processing of Amateur Radio License applications with the FCC. W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, has resumed all scheduled transmissions, including Morse code practice, and code and digital bulletins. Read more and follow updates on ARRL News.

The ARRL Foundation announces the return of the Club Grant Program for 2024

The program is an opportunity for clubs to apply for grants up to $25,000 to fund projects in their community. Emphasis is given to projects that are of a "transformational" nature, such as a club that has a plan to improve the community through education, recruiting, training, and promotion of amateur radio. The application period will open at 9:00 AM Eastern time on June 3 and close at 4:00 PM Eastern time on July 26. Clubs across the country are urged to apply. This program is not restricted to ARRL Affiliated Clubs or 501(c)(3) clubs. Those clubs that are awarded grants will be required to share updates and participate in social media and reporting with ARRL. Information about the Club Grant Program can be found at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program. The ARRL Club

Grant Program is made possible through generous funding by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC).

The 2024 ARRL Kids Day event will take place June 15 and June 22 - 23

Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for amateur radio with the children in their lives. Kids Day always runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC, and you operate as much or as little as you like. The suggested frequencies for Kids Day are:

10 Meters: 28.350 to 28.400 MHz

12 Meters: 24.960 to 24.980 MHz

15 Meters: 21.360 to 21.400 MHz

17 Meters: 18.140 to 18.145 MHz

20 Meters: 14.270 to 14.300 MHz

40 Meters: 7.270 to 7.290 MHz

80 Meters: 3.740 to 3.940 MHz

You can also use your favorite local repeater with permission of the repeater's sponsor. Be sure to observe third-party restrictions when making DX QSOs. All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can download this certificate and complete it with the participant's name and date of the contact. Visit Kids Day (arrl.org) for more information.

The NTS™ Letter

National Traffic System®

NTS and ARES: A Symbiotic and Historic Relationship Needed Again

In the early 1950s, ARRL Headquarters staff made an effort to consolidate the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC, the forerunner of the modern ARES program that exists today) and the new National Traffic System (NTS), which had been conceived in 1949 from the prior trunk lines relay system that had been employed, and which had led to the creation of ARRL in 1914. Under one ARRL-sponsored umbrella to be called the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC), the goals were to have the NTS operate 365 days a year, handling routine radiogram traffic during normal times. The AREC would conduct occasional drills to develop operating acumen and maintain a high state of preparedness. Once a year, a nationwide simulated emergency test was held, in which the AREC nets would become active at local levels to handle simulated emergency messages, and the NTS would provide both local and long-distance record message handling in support. This exercise required close cooperation between these two divisions of ARPSC.

It's time to bring them back together. Let's just say it: NTS traffic handlers were water carriers for emergency communication systems and programs like ARES, and now with ARRL's major effort to renew and reinvigorate the NTS, they are once again emerging in that function. These systems and alliances allow for competent, accurate message handling across the country when needed. Professionalism and quality management are the hallmarks of the new system.

The NTS 2.0 Committee is working hard to raise the standard of operation of NTS traffic handlers, and the system that has enjoyed a long, symbiotic relationship with ARES (formerly AREC). I got my start in organized amateur radio public service in 1977 with the Boston area repeater net -- the Heavy Hitters Traffic Net -- and the Eastern Mass Rhode Island Phone Net. I'm looking forward to reengaging with the NTS; not only for the public service opportunity it offers, but also for the pure fun of it, as enjoyed over 40 years ago! -- Rick Palm, K1CE

NTS 2.0 Upcoming -- Traffic Measurement Tool and Test Traffic

Many know Rick Palm, K1CE, as the editor of the popular ARES Letter. As Rick notes, the NTS 2.0 Committee is working hard to raise the standard of operation of the NTS. If our service is ever to be called upon in an emergency and prove to be of value to the public, I think we can agree there is a need to obtain better coverage, better speed of operation, and better accuracy. To this end the NTS 2.0 committee is planning to introduce test traffic into the system on a somewhat regular basis to obtain actual data that will reveal where problems exist. Identifying a problem is, of course, necessary to finding a solution.

A year and a half ago, approximately 160 radiograms were sent from ARRL Headquarters to all Section Managers, Section Traffic Managers, Directors, Vice Directors, and ARRL officials. These messages contained an HXD handling instruction in which any operator handling one of these messages, whether relaying or delivering, was to send a report to HQ identifying the date and time the message was received and either sent or delivered. The process of sorting all the data received was a daunting task. To simplify this task, we are working on the creation of an online reporting tool that we hope will be taken advantage of by anyone handling test traffic. Our goal is to make this tool as simple and time-saving as possible for the traffic handler, while helping

us to improve and raise the standard of our service to levels not only expected by emergency communications agencies, but ones we can all be proud of, and where we can find a sense of purpose along with the fun we have always enjoyed. Stay tuned for more details.

Do Your "PART" in NTS!

Through many years of handling traffic via nets -- both NTS and independent -- and individual skeds, I've found four personal attributes to be hallmarks of good message handling. For ease of recall, I've created a mnemonic, "PART," that I believe captures the essence of those four factors:

· Proficiency

· Accuracy

· Reliability

· Timeliness

Let's take a brief look at what each of these means to me (and I hope to you, as well).

Proficiency. We may feel we can jump right in and do new things perfectly right away, but others might not agree with us. Good message handling is not just mechanical; there is an art to it, as well -- especially when conditions are tough. You may be able to perform the mechanical part of it after reading a set of guidelines just once. But acquiring the proficiency necessary to properly pass traffic under challenging circumstances requires another "P" word: practice. These days there are many vehicles available to newcomers to traffic for acquiring and practicing message-handling techniques; some you can utilize on your own, some are available on the internet (ARRL's own NTS training materials, for instance), and some by actually getting on the air and checking into a Section, Local, or other training net.

Accuracy. Many aspects of amateur radio are rightly seen as a hobby. But other aspects are more than just a hobby -- they're a public service. Third-party message handling falls into that category. When we volunteer to relay or deliver traffic headed for someone other than ourselves, we automatically assume a responsibility for seeing that we "do no harm" to the messages we're handling for others. It is not just important, it's imperative, that what we pass on to the next person -- whether it's another relaying operator or the actual recipient -- is exactly what we received. To be blunt: Don't guess at characters you may have missed because of QRM, a QRN crash, slower code speed, or any other distraction. It's no crime to ask for repeats or to send "PSE QRS" on CW.

If there is an obvious error in either the preamble or the body of the message, attach an "OpNote" at the end of the message, but (except for adding a corrected Check, as in "CK 17/18" on CW) do not alter the message itself. Of course, if you believe something about the message is illegal, against FCC rules, international regulations, or your own moral code, don't relay or deliver the message. Instead, send a "service message" back to the originator, explaining why you did that. But don't alter the message -- either deliberately or through careless operating techniques!

Reliability. If you agree to take traffic headed for other people, you have made a commitment to serve the public by expeditiously passing those so-called "third-party" messages according to established routing guidelines. If you agree to serve as a representative ("rep") between nets, there is an implied commitment -- not just to originator and addressee, but to at least two net managers and two net control stations as well -- to accept whatever traffic is coming your way during that assignment, and to properly move that traffic. If you accept a

weekly assignment for NTS, you have a commitment to show up for that sked every week. For those weeks when you can't, it's your obligation to find a qualified alternate and/or notify the net manager in advance.

Note that "reliability" refers to both you and your station. For the latter, I find it helpful to think of the "R" in "reliability" as also standing for "redundancy": Work toward having total redundancy for everything you need when handling traffic. For instance, I have two separate antennas and feed systems for both HF and VHF/UHF. I can use my mobile transceiver in place of my primary rig if the latter fails. I have multiple headphones, cables, keyers, paddles, and microphones, and my laptop can substitute for my desktop computer. I have a backup generator to replace my utility company's power, if necessary. I copy all voice or CW message traffic by hand, and I have more than adequate quantities of paper and pens on hand!

Timeliness. When you take traffic and then fail to pass it on at the earliest opportunity ("My plans changed;" "There was a great show on TV I wanted to see;" etc.), you are harming not just the originators and addressees of the traffic you accepted, you're harming the entire System and the image of amateur radio itself. If you choose not to forward or "service" a message in your possession, you are thumbing your nose at one of the cornerstones of our shared access to highly sought frequency spectrum -- namely, part 97.1(a).

Yes, "stuff happens" -- to all of us at one time or another. And yes, the Radio Amateur's Code (https://www.arrl.org/amateur-code) tells us to strike a balance in our lives. So there are judgment calls involved. But if you find yourself invoking those judgment calls frequently, perhaps you need to examine your motivation for accepting traffic and then rejecting it, or reevaluate your ability to hold that specific assignment.

The Bottom Line: Ultimately, a key component of amateur radio's ability to provide emergency communications in primary or backup roles for government agencies, non-government organizations, or directly to the public depends on our ability to handle third-party communications proficiently, accurately, reliably, and in a timely fashion. So get on and do your PART! -- Bud Hippisley, W2RU

ARRL Field Day and NTS

As we look forward to summer, the thoughts of many amateur radio operators turn toward ARRL Field Day, one of the highlights of the year, which will occur this year on June 22-23. Many clubs have already begun making plans for this big event, and because ARRL awards points for handling NTS messages, this would be a good time for traffic handlers to work with their respective club leadership to promote formal message handling and to help them get those extra points. This could include training club members in the formatting and transmission of NTS messages. Many are not aware of the radiogram format, and generally even those with some knowledge do not know how to get messages into the network. They may need guidance on where and when traffic nets meet and how to introduce a message into a net. This is a great opportunity to show the value of NTS, not only for getting messages from origination to destination, but also the training that it provides. You can check out the new page on the NTS2 website at https://nts2.arrl.org/promo/ for some suggestions for Field Day, as well as some videos on basic traffic handling.

If your club invites the public to observe Field Day proceedings, you might make copies of the flyer noted on the above promo page, adding information for your area. You might also direct visitors to the web-based Radiogram Portal where any member of the public can send a message via amateur radio to family and friends. While it may be a novelty now, it could someday help save lives or notify loved ones of one's welfare in times of emergencies. To learn more about the Radiogram Portal, visit https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram-portal-quick-start/.

Spotlight: Missouri Section Traffic Manager Bill Schrock, N0ET

In recognition of leaders in the NTS, this month I am highlighting Missouri Section Traffic Manager Bill

Schrock, N0ET.


Bill Schrock, N0ET

Not only has Bill served as Missouri STM, but he has also been an active participant and contributor with the NTS 2.0 working groups.

As a young kid, Bill says he used to enjoy taking things apart, much to his siblings' chagrin, as he often failed to put them back together. He got interested in electronics at the age of 11 when his father gave him a book on repairing old tube radios. He went to work in a TV repair shop while a senior in high school. He got his first amateur radio novice license in the early 1970s, but failed to upgrade, and the license expired.

Later, marriage, two kids, and work in the oil fields of Kansas occupied most of his time, until the early 1990s when he got back into amateur radio and obtained a General-class license. At that time, Bill began checking into traffic nets. He became interested in the NTS and later went on to become a Section Traffic Manager.

We appreciate the leadership responsibilities that Bill and others like him have assumed, and the work they have done to promote NTS and keep the traffic flowing. We wish to thank them all for their much-appreciated efforts.

NTS Resources

The National Traffic System® (NTS) is a network of amateur radio operators who move information during disasters and other emergencies. General messages offering well wishes also move through the NTS to help test the system and to help amateur radio operators build traffic handling skills. While the NTS is primarily set up to serve the United States and Canada, it is possible to move traffic internationally through the NTS through various local, regional, area, and international network connections.

- NTS 2.0
- NTS Manual
- NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines Table of Contents
- Handling Instructions
- Numbered Texts
- Form Encoding Rules for Form

BARC Website, some Blog page Titles

Hex Beam in the Air!

Even more than this on the website.

Feel free to view, comment and add.

*** Membership Dues***

Membership dues for BARC are due **January 1** every year. Membership dues are as follows and are almost the same as 2020: • Regular Member $20.00 • Family Member $2.00 • Associate Member (Non-Licensed) $5.00 • Honoree Members $0.00 • New Hams: Free first calendar year (Jan. to Dec.)

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://n4pvh.files.wordpress.com2020/11/application-for-membership.pdf

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 Treasurer@w4amc.com.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

Renew/Join Now
Help Support BARC.

HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION RESOURCES

National Hurricane Center
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

Tropical Tidbits (current forecast models)
https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/

Active Red Cross Shelters
maps.redcross.org/website/maps/ARC_Shelters.html

Red Cross Safe and Well
www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/contact-and-locate-loved-ones.html

Facebook Safety Check
www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck

Hurricane Watch Net
hwn.org

VOIP Hurricane Net
voipwx.net

Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Center
www.WX4NHC.org

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov

Ready.gov - Plan ahead for disasters
www.ready.gov

Hurricane Central - The Weather Channel
https://weather.com/storms/hurricane

Nets to Know

Caribbean Emergency Weather Net - Meets daily at 1030Z and 2230Z on 3815 kHz.

Hurricane Watch Net -- 14.325 MHz, 7.268 MHz -- Activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 nautical miles of expected landfall. Disseminates storm information and relays meteorological data to National Hurricane Center via embedded NHC station WX4NHC. Also relays post-storm damage reports and other relevant information.

Intercontinental Net operates from 7 AM to noon US Eastern Time on 14.300 MHz, providing a means of emergency communications to any location where normal communications are disrupted.

Marine Maritime Services Net -- 14.300 MHz -- The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) -- 14.260 MHz -- The purpose of the SATERN net is to support the Salvation Army operations in local, regional and international disaster situations. - *ARRL US Virgin Islands Section News*

SKYWARN

To learn how to become a trained NOAA storm spotter visit Spotter Training (weather.gov) .

WinLink Nets and Practice

Great Lakes Area Winlink Net

A new Great Lakes Winlink Net to promote the use of Winlink and training on the various facets of the hybrid amateur radio data/internet system. The net is open primarily to those states that border any of the Great Lakes: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, and the Canadian province of Ontario. However, radio amateurs wishing to check in from other states or provinces anywhere are welcomed to participate. This net is modeled on the Wisconsin ARES Winlink net.

The net check-in process is as follows: Send either a basic, plain text message, or use any of the forms templates on the Winlink Express platform available that will allow you to include the following line of text in the body of the message or in an appropriate part on the form you choose to send: FIRST NAME, CALLSIGN, CITY, COUNTY, STATE, COUNTRY. For example: RYAN, KB8RCR, REMUS, MECOSTA, MICHIGAN, USA.

The net is on each Wednesday, amateurs may send their messages or forms any time during the day using Winlink in any mode available, RF or via Telnet. Send your message to KB8RCR as the recipient on Winlink. - *Ryan Lughermo, KB8RCR, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Data Management/Special Projects, Michigan Section; and Official Relay Station* *From ARES March 2021 Newsletter (Editors Note: Great way to learn and practice)*

The EmComm Training Organization (ETO) will continue the popular Winlink Thursday exercises to foster Winlink-knowledgeable operators across the country. Procedures will include a weekly exercise for routine practice with a fourth Thursday exercise of a more challenging nature. Exercises will almost always include a Winlink Express Check-in form. Please send questions about Winlink Thursdays. Questions about the ETO group can be sent here.

The Canadian American Net (CANAM) aims to unite hams in the Eastern US and Canada. Some 40 amateurs from Canada and the US typically check in for each session, and the net accommodates CW and SSB. The Canadian-American Net operates 7 days a week on 7.153 MHz, with check-in starting at 1300 UTC.

Recommend: Programming your local Emergency Simplex frequency's into your Radio's. It's easier now than when you need them. Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club uses the Repeater frequency in Simples in case of Repeater failure.

National Hurricane Center

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Hurricane Net , Nets: 14.325MHz, 7.268MHz

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, Traffic Net 2030 local
Fountain 444.425 MHZ, 88.5 Tone N4HAJ
♦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 444.725-91.5 tone.
♦Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
♦ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 444.725MHZ, 91.5 tone
♦Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz, tone 100
♦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
- PARC 147.255+ PL Tone 131.8 Thursday at 2000 hours Except day of meeting

HF

Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.
PARC Tuesday net 3.807Mhz SSB 1900 hours(EST)
PARC Tuesday 7pm, 3807mHz or closes open freq.
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

More Nets:

New Swap and Trade Net - There will be a new swap and trade net starting up on 6 meters 53.25 N4YR repeater -1.0 MHz, tone is 100 Hz at 8PM.

Thursdays: 8:30 PM Forsyth County Auxcomm net on 145.47 MHZ. 3rd Thursdays are training programs on Zoom at 8:00PM.

Thursdays: 9:00 PM 2 Meter SSB on 144.200 MHz

Sundays: 8:30 PM 6 meter SSB net on 50.155 MHZ

Sundays: CW Legacy Net every Sunday from 12:30-1:45 p.m. every Sunday afternoon on 7.060. All speeds and brands of rigs welcome. Net control: Rick, WO8L

Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

South Carolina/North Carolina National Traffic System 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),

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Ten-Tec Legacy

The nets operate on: Ten-Tec Legacy SSB 3.927 MHz on Saturday morning from 6:00 am until 9:30 am

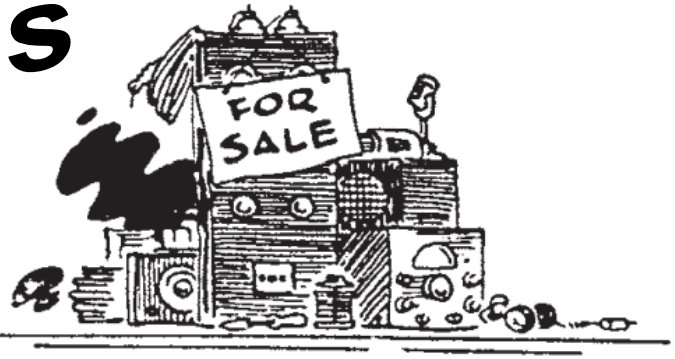
7.195 MHz on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm

Any radio type is welcome. Netlogger is the preferred check-in method but CQ calls are made for those that don't have access to Netlogger. More information can be found at www.groups.io (search for Ten-Tec Legacy nets).

Virginia EmComm (A Winlink practice group)

This is a Facebook Group that practices Winlink and other related modes every Wednesday. Many Hams all over involved. All are invited to take part in it.

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. Or Email the Ham Chatter.**

Used Radios and equipment for Sale, Buy or Find:

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Don Flowers of Lucama, former VP of the now-defunct Wilson Amateur Radio Association. One of our members, Derek Bonshor, KE4EGM, became a silent key about 2 1/2 years ago. He had a large collection of radio gear, and his widow needs to liquidate it asap. She's in an assisted care facility and has enlisted a family friend and myself to help find new homes for Derek's equipment.

If anyone in your club would be interested, I would be happy to send a list and arrange appointments to visit the collection.

Thanks for your consideration!

73,
Don Flowers
W4XTC
donflowers4nc@gmail.com

Posted May 2024

Ham Ads

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!

No Charge for Ham's selling or looking for items.

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 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/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Contest, Events and Meetings

2024 Starts Here:

June 1 - 2 . . . . . 10-10 Int'l Open Season PSK Contest (digital)
June 1 . . . . . Tisza Cup CW Contest (CW)
June 1 . . . . . Wake-Up! QRP Sprint (CW)
June 1 - 2 . . . . . Kentucky QSO Party (CW, phone, digital)
June 1 - 2 . . . . . UKSMG Summer Contest (CW, phone, digital)
June 1 - 2 . . . . . IARU Region 1 Field Day (CW)
June 1 - 2 . . . . . RSGB National Field Day (CW)
June 1 - 2 . . . . . ARRL International Digital Contest (digital; no RTTY)
June 3 . . . . . K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW)
June 3 . . . . . ICWC Medium Speed Test (CW)
June 4 . . . . . ARS Spartan Sprint (CW)
June 5 . . . . . Phone Weekly Test (phone)
June 5 . . . . . VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (FT8)
June 6 - 7 . . . . . Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
June 6 . . . . . NRAU 10m Activity Contest (CW, phone, digital)
June 6 . . . . . SKCC Sprint Europe (CW)
June 11 . . . . . BARC Meeting 6:30pm FIELD Day Prep
June 13 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
June 22-23 . . . **ARRL Field Day**
June 25 . . . . . BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
July 9 . . . . . BARC Meeting 6:30pm
July 11 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
July 30 . . . . . BARC Board meeting 7pm Zoom
Aug 8 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
Aug 13 . . . . . BARC Meeting 6:30pm
Aug 27 . . . . . BARC Board meeting 7pm
Sept. 7-8 . . . . . **Bike MS New Bern**
Sept 10 . . . . . BARC **Picnic** at Dave Wood's house
Sept 12 . . . . . PARC meeting 7pm
Sept 24 . . . . . BARC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom
Oct 8 . . . . . BARC Meeting 6:30pm
Oct 10 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
Oct 29 . . . . . BARC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom
Nov 12 . . . . . BARC Meeting 6:30pm, **Board members Elections!**
Nov 14 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
Nov 26 . . . . . BARC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom
Dec ?? . . . . . BARC Christmas Party Meeting, Location and date to be determind
Dec 12 . . . . . PARC Meeting 7pm
Dec . . . . . BARC, NO Board Meetin

Contest Calendar: For more Contest and all the rules:
https//www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php

Visit the ARRL Contest Calendar for more events and information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Section, State, Division Conventions and Hamfest

2024:

June 1 Atlanta Hamfest, hosting the ARRL Georgia Section Convention, Marietta, Georgia

June 9 BreezeShooters Hamfest, hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Butler, Pennsylvania

June 15 ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest, Augusta, Maine

June 15 Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, sponsoring the ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

July 12-13 HamCon: Zion, sponsoring the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, St. George, Utah

July 13 Salisbury NC, Firecracker Hamfest sponsored by the Rowan County Amateur Radio Society

July 13 SVARC Summer Hamfest, sponsoring the ARRL North Dakota Section Convention, Minot, North Dakota

July 20 SEARC Tailgate Hamfest, sponsoring the ARRL South Dakota State Convention, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

July 20 51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest sponsored by the Cary Amateur Radio Club

The ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database to find events in your area.

Answers to the trivia questions in the President's Corner:
Clarence D Tuska, 1AY, is credited as the founder of Field Day, and a group from Florida won with either 62 or 68 contacts (I found both numbers in my research).