

# HAM CHATTER



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## Hurricane Watch Net Now Watching Three Atlantic Basin Hurricanes

The already-busy Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) now is watching three hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin — Category 5 Irma; Category 1 José, following behind Irma, and Category 1 Katia in the Gulf of Mexico. It's the first time in more than 5 years that three storms have been active at the same time in the same region.

“It now looks like the Hurricane Watch Net will be working on two land-falling hurricanes,” said HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. “Irma is still affecting Puerto Rico and heading toward the Turks and Caicos Islands. Over the next few days, Irma will affect Hispaniola, Cuba, the Bahamas, and Florida. Katia is forecast to make landfall somewhere between Tampico and Veracruz, Mexico, late Friday evening or early Saturday morning.”

As of 2100 UTC today (September 6), Irma was about 40 miles northwest of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, and about 55 miles east-northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The storm's maximum sustained winds at 185 MPH are well above the

Category 5 threshold. It's moving west-northwest at 16 MPH.

The storm damaged more than 90% of the buildings on Barbuda and Antigua, and it's battered the northern Virgin Islands. In advance of Irma's arrival on the US mainland, authorities in several Florida counties have begun issuing evacuation orders, while schools and offices across the state are shutting down, and anxious residents are clearing supermarket shelves.

The most powerful hurricane to threaten the Atlantic coast in more than a decade, Irma remains an extremely dangerous hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 185 MPH. Katia and José have maximum sustained winds of 75 MPH. Graves said the net is currently working stations affected by Irma, which, he speculated, could last through the weekend and possibly longer. “It appears we will be working stations affected by Katia beginning early Friday,” Graves added.

- Read more: <http://bit.ly/2eKdq11>

## Next Meeting September 12, 2017

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its regular meeting at 7:30 PM Tuesday, September 12, at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program by Tim Parkin, Batteries + Bulbs, Greenville Store Manager. He will discuss the latest in batteries and have some testing done on bulbs for RF interference.



## BARC Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, Sept 26 at 7:30 PM at the Offices of Monday & Monday, (CPA), Suite D, East Victoria Court. All members invited.

**More Professional and Citizen Research Suggests Eclipse Briefly Affected HF Propagation**

Both professional and citizen scientists conducted formal and informal investigations into the effect of the August 21 solar eclipse on HF radio propagation. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, of HamSCI, has said it will take some time to get a more scientific analysis of data compiled during the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Frissell and others are investigating whether the sudden absence of sunlight during the eclipse — and especially of solar ultra-violet and x-rays — would briefly change the properties of the upper atmosphere. Professional ionospheric researcher Phil Erickson, W1PJE, of the Atmospheric Sciences Group at MIT’s Haystack Observatory, said he can say categorically that there was a definite, large, and measurable effect in the ionosphere from the eclipse.

“We saw a 2X reduction in electron density during the eclipse for at least 45 minutes to 1 hour,” Erickson told ARRL. “This reduction had direct impacts on HF propagation along the bottom side.” Erickson said many models and observations exist from previous eclipses that demonstrate these effects. Erickson said MIT researchers used a “megawatt-class Thomson scatter radar” which can directly measure the plasma state of the ionosphere, including electron density, across a huge area in the eastern US. “Scientists in the worldwide space physics community will be using these and many other eclipse observations to learn more about our ionosphere, space weather, and its effects on navigation and communication signals including amateur radio,” Erickson said. He has shared his data with the HamSCI team.

**Next VE Session**

Exams will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at VFW Post 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville, NC. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. For more info email Gary, KK4GC at [ve@w4amc.com](mailto:ve@w4amc.com). (remove spaces) Study material at <http://www.arrl.org/coursestraining>. Walk-ins welcome.

Please bring the following required:

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

\* More info at <http://bit.ly/1FOhE1S>.

**NC ARES Internet**

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

**Pitt County ARES EC needed!**



*Happy Birthday*

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

- 01 KG4NSC Pat Williams
- 01 KC4ROR Rose Wainwright
- 05 KQ2V Bro. Simon Jaworski
- 06 KD4MTT Mike Langley
- 07 KG4ZVM Brad Brechtelsbauer
- 14 WA4DAN Murray Adams
- 14 WD4CQ Danny Garris
- 20 W4FA John Schultz
- 26 KC4HHW Billy Elks
- 29 WA7FXB Albert Sanchez
- 29 KC3X Hollis Thigpen

Additions or corrections to KB4JOE

-Read More: <http://bit.ly/2vPAjv3>

*Well Wishes*

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Please inform Joe Jeansonne, KB4JOE, of any changes.

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BARC Officers to be nominated at the September meeting. There will be a list introduced by the nominating committee and if there is anyone wants to be nominated for a position, just speak up.

After the slate is nominated and approved by the members at the meeting, the nominations will be closed.

Tim Parkin, Batters Plus Bulbs manager, will have a program about batteries and energy efficient bulbs. Also, Dave Wood, W4EJ, will bring his noise testing equipment to check out some of the bulbs.

Tim is interested in finding out which bulbs generate the least noise, if any. If you have any questions about batteries or light bulbs, For the answers, Tim is your guy.

Seems like digital communications is increasing at a fast rate on the Amateur Radio bands. It was just RTTY on the bands for a while but now there are many different digital modes. At first it was old TTY surplus machines from WWII. They were loud and took up a lot of space.

With personal computers in almost every ham shack, digital communications is easier to get on the air. One free popular digital program, FLDIGI, has 16 dig-

ital modes, many sub-modes and it also can send an receive CW. Go to <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/files/fldigi/> to download the files and manual.

You can build a simple interface to hook up between your radio and computer. There are many interfaces by Amateur Radio manufactures priced from about \$50 to over \$300 dollars. I first got on RTTY in 1978 for about a year using a Fisher TU-170 tuning unit that I assembled from a kit.

It interfaced a Radio Shack TRS-80 computer and my Collins KWM-2 running 50 watts. I made 28 contacts on 20 meters mostly to the USA but the DX included Japan and Australia. The KWM-2 is still in use and the rest is in the attic. I got back on RTTY in 2000 and have made over 6000 contacts to all 50 States and 164 countries. Using other digital modes, over 5000 contacts are in the log. The contacts have been on all bands 160 meters to 10 meters (except 60 meters).

As I am writing this, I hear digital activity on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters. 160 and 80 will pick up at night. There are digital contests many times a year and that's where you can get all 50 States and over 100 countries in a short time.

New hams have the chance to explore the many areas of Amateur Radio that are too numerous to list. Just checking out the many activities on the Internet such as the ARRL web site will give you many ideas.

If you need help, just come to club meetings and I know there are members there that will help or let you know where to get help. But you have to get in there and try modes. Experience is the best teacher. - W4YDY

**Membership dues for BARC are due January 1. Those who have not paid their dues will not be listed on the roster and will be removed from the Ham Chatter mailing list starting in April. Membership dues are the same as they were in 2015 and are as follows:**

- Regular Member \$20.00**
- Family Member \$2.00**
- Associate Member (Non-Licensed) \$5.00**
- Honorary Member \$0.00**
- New Hams: 18 and younger (1st year) \$5.00**
- New Hams: 19 and older (1st year) \$10.00**

## Top-Level Domain Name “.radio” Now Available

The top-level domain (TLD) name “.radio” is now available to the radio industry and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, and is reserved for individuals and companies with active interest in the radio sector. The .radio TLD can be used for web and e-mail addresses and will be managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) with support from other world broadcasting unions. Visit the .radio domains registration site to request a .radio domain.

Individuals or entities in these categories will be accepted for the use of a .radio domain:

Radio broadcasting stations  
Unions of Broadcasters  
Internet radios  
Radio Amateurs  
Radio professionals (journalists, radio hosts, DJs, etc.)  
Radio-related companies selling radio goods and services  
Radio products and services  
One or more .radio domain name(s) can be requested during the launch period, which ends on October 31, 2017. The cost

for individual radio amateurs is about \$30, including tax.

“The EBU believes radio stations should be the focus of this new space on the internet, and considers them our highest priority,” the announcement said. “However, other categories of applications from the radio sector will also be considered during this phase.”

EBU’s .radio TLD Manager Alain Artero suggested that those in the radio community may want to consider securing the integrity of their web presence by requesting appropriate .radio domains “for defensive reasons, initially.”

“The TLD will be focused on content and matters specific to radio, and we want to prevent speculation and cybersquatting in this TLD; therefore, this extension will rapidly become a high-value internet space for websites, mail systems, and other internet applications,” he continued. The launch process will not be first come, first serve. “The .radio team will seek to optimize

domain name allocation to solve contentious issues and prioritize existing radio services,” the EBU announcement said.

Starting in November, first come, first serve rules will apply, although eligibility requirements remain the same.

For more information, visit [www.nic.radio](http://www.nic.radio).

## August 2017 BARC VE Session Results

On the August 15, 2017 BARC VE session, one candidate passed the Technician Amateur Radio exam.

**Donald Bradshaw**, Winterville, NC, passed the Technician exam. The FCC granted Donald his new call sign, **KN4FKM**, on August 21, 2017, the solar eclipse day! Congratulations Donald.

The VE’s that attended were VE Liaison Gary Coriell, **KK4GC** (16), Morris Lewis, **AK4MU**, (24), Dan Wallace, **K4HMY**, (30) and Dave

Langley, **W4YDY**, (124). (Note new call sign for Gary, **KK4GC**, formerly **KE5ACR**.)

The numbers after the VE list are the number of ARRL sessions attended by each; not including this session. Counts are at <http://www.arrl.org/ve-session-counts?state=NC>.

The next regular BARC VE session is scheduled for October 17, 2017. - W4YDY

The next  
BARC VE  
session is  
scheduled for  
Oct 17, 2017

# Ham Ads

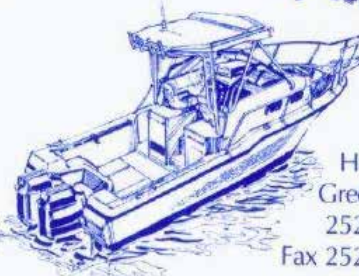
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**Ham Ads will be run, free of charge in Ham Chatter for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue.**

**Send ads to:  
Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387,  
Greenville, NC 27835, ATTN: Joe Jeansonne  
or email to: [hamchatter@w4amc.com](mailto:hamchatter@w4amc.com)(no spaces)**




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- Battery & light bulb recycling
- **FREE** laptop battery testing
- Business accounts welcome

\*with purchase of car/light truck battery on most vehicles at participating locations

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Store Hours Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-7, Sun 11-6 [tp167@batteriesplus.net](mailto:tp167@batteriesplus.net)

[www.batteriesplus.com](http://www.batteriesplus.com)

## Nominations for BARC Officers for 2018

The following nominees will be presented to BARC members at the September club meeting.

- President, Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**
- First Vice President, Dave Wood, **W4EJ**
- Second Vice President, Peter Van Houten, **KG4WEZ**
- Treasurer, Jeff Meyer, **K4DKW**
- Secretary, Bill Dawson, **WA4SLC**
- Trustee, Pat Williams, **KG4NSC**
- Trustee, Bernard Nobles, **WA4MOK**

If anyone wishes to run for a position, make your wishes known at the September meeting before the nominees are accepted.

If you wish to nominate someone, please get their permission first. Nominations will be closed after all nominees are accepted at the September meeting.

If there is more than one nominated for a position, a vote will be held at the November meeting with paper ballots.

Absentee ballots may be requested by anyone not attending the November meeting may be requested and turned in to an officer of the club for counting at the November meeting. The ballot can also be mailed to BARC, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835, no later than a week before the November meeting.



**Solar Flares Spark Radio Blackouts, Auroral Displays Possible**

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) has issued a strong (G3) geomagnetic storm watch for September 7 through September 9. The SWPC said the watch for September 7 remains in effect due to the arrival of a coronal mass ejection (CME) and the effects of a CME on September 4.

"Additionally, a G3 watch is now in effect for the 8 and 9 September UTC days in anticipation of the arrival of another CME associated with the X9.3 flare (R3 — strong radio blackout) on 6 September at 1202 UTC (0802 ET)," the SWPC said early on September 7. "Analysis indicates likely CME arrival late on 8 September into early 9 September." The September 6 flare is being called the strongest in more than a decade.

Its effect on HF radio propagation has adversely affected the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), currently operating on 20 and 40 meters as Hurricane Irma sweeps through the Caribbean.

As of September 7 at 1400 UTC, the solar flux index stood at 127, the sunspot number at 27, the A index at 11, and the K index at 4. All HF conditions are being deemed as no better than fair. The possibility of extended auroral displays could work to the benefit of VHF and UHF operators who aim their antennas north to take advantage of "buzz" mode. SWPC posts a 30-minute forecast of visible aurora.

The SWPC said the September 4 CME arrived at the DSCOVR spacecraft on September 6 at 2308 UTC, and "a sudden impulse was observed at several of Earth's magnetometers" at 2348 UTC due to the effects from the shock arrival at Earth.

"While solar wind speed initially reached speeds of around 600 km/s and total interplanetary magnetic field strength (IMF) increased to around 14 nT, the Bz component [of the Sun's magnetic field] was directed northward in the early stages of the event — an unfavorable orientation for escalating geomagnetic responses," the center said. "However, the potential for geomagnetic storming still exists as the CME continues passing over Earth.

An S1 (minor) radiation storm warning has been extended to September 8 at 0600 UTC. This could have a minor impact on polar HF propagation. The SWPC has observed S2 conditions over the past day or two.

The September 6 X9.3 flare followed an X2.2 flare (also R3) at 0910 UTC. The source region for both flares was Region 2673 on the Sun.

-Read More: <http://bit.ly/2wMQeY9>

**NETS VHF/UHF**

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Newport SkyWarn Tues. nights 2100E Grifton-146.685-88.5 tone
- ◆ Newport-145.450..... IRLP 8561 links to Columbia
- ◆ Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone
- ◆ Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone
- ◆ 444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone
- ◆ Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone
- ◆ Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25

**HF**

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

**NTS CW Nets**

- ◆ 3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/ North Carolina

**Greenville repeaters**

147.09/69 - 145.35/144.75

444.8/449.8

All use 131.8 tone

## BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 1/2/3 .....	Shelby Hamfest	Nov 18/19 .....	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
Sept 12.....	Regular Meeting	Nov 19 ?.....	Benson Hamfest
Sept 23/24 .....	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	Nov 25/26 .....	CQ WW CW DX Contest
Sept 6 .....	Board Meeting	Nov 28.....	Board Meeting
Oct 10 .....	Regular Meeting	Dec 2/3 .....	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Oct 17 .....	BARC VE Session	Dec 9/10 .....	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Oct 28/29.....	CQ WW SSB DX Contest	Dec 12 .....	BARC Christmas Party
Oct 31 .....	Board Meeting	Dec 19 .....	BARC VE Session
Nov 4/5 .....	ARRL CW Sweepstakes	Dec 26 .....	Board Meeting
Nov 14 .....	Regular Meeting	Jan 1 .....	BARC Dues DUE

**Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM**  
**Board Meeting - Last Tuesday**

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS  
**W1VOA-W4AMC-W4UHS**



**September 2017**  
**Next Meeting**  
**Sept 12, 2017**

To:



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