

Ham Chatter



Volume 54 Issue 4

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

April 2020

Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY

Email: hamchatter @ w4amc.com

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

Next Meeting CANCELLED Will be on ZOOM.

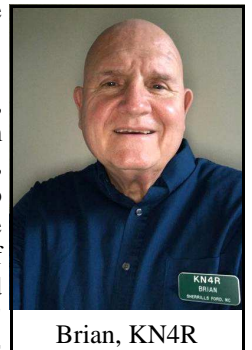
April 14, 2020, 7 PM

Very Important Information below by Dr. Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, on using ZOOM for meeting via Internet and telephone.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7 PM. The meeting will be on ZOOM. See article on left for details on setting up and signing in. Contact Peter Van Houten, N4PVH for details if you are having trouble setting up.

Program by:

Brian Harrison, KN4R, from Sherrills Ford, NC, will present "Radio and the Disappearance of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan" including Amelia's historic travels, mysterious disappearance and subsequent efforts by two separate expeditions to resolve the mystery.



Brian, KN4R

All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

Board Meeting - April 28, 2020
The meeting will be on ZOOM. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 PM Zoom. All members invited.

VE Session CANCELLED
VE Session scheduled for April 21, 2020 has been cancelled. Next session scheduled for June 16, 2020. Stay tuned!

BARC Dues - January 1, 2020
Past due March 31....

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

See Page 4 for more details.

How to deal with the Novel Biological Warfare:

It is not known exactly how this mess got started but we have figured out a few things on how to deal with this virus:

- 1: **WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**
- 2: **DO NOT TOUCH YOUR FACE** (the average person touches their face >200 times a day)
- 3: **SOCIAL DISTANCING SLOWS THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS** (preventing the medical resources from being overwhelmed, it also protects the more vulnerable population - age>50)
- 4: **SOAP AND WATER IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE REMOVER OF VIRUS** (better than bleach!)
- 5: **70% ALCOHOL WIPES KILL THE VIRUS**

There are more ideas but these are the top of the list. As it pertains to our BARC activities, we are in a unique position as communicators to the world and should continue to work our craft safely. We cannot meet in groups but we can keep on meeting virtually via the web and the app called ZOOM. We are going to try this system out on the BARC board meetings first and then if that goes well, will consider having a full membership meeting using Zoom. That is the goal of this exer-

cise. We could move the April meeting to Zoom as the speakers can be anywhere in the USA and still give the presentation. Please read the following instructions and connect either by phone, tablet or computer. We can make these days of social isolation less onerous to us all. Here are the instructions:

Hello BARC members and interested parties from Peter N4PVH:

In order to have meeting on line, we all need to download the Zoom app to our smart phones (iPhone & Android), iPads and computers (Mac or PC) and sign up with your email to get a free (AKA "Basic") membership number. I have signed up for the Pro version so I run the meetings or can set up one other to run the meeting.

Once you have your number, send me the email address you used to sign up and the member number (that looks like a phone number). There are many video tutorials on line to teach you how to use zoom. It is easy as eating pie! We have just had our first BARC Board meeting on line with 9 of us without problems. Our license allows 100 members in the group. You will need a good internet connection so do not stream Netflix or other internet things while on zoom as zoom needs as much bandwidth as it can get. A wired connection from

(Continued on page 2)

Very Important Information below by Dr. Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, on using ZOOM for meeting via Internet and telephone.

(Continued from page 1)

your computer to your router is best, wifi is second best but will do. If you hear audio or video stuttering, mute your video and audio and just listen and watch the meeting.

To do list:

- 1: decide which email you will use for zoom
- 2: download the app to your smart phone/ pad and computer from <https://zoom.us>
- 3: sign up for the basic (free) membership and note your ID number
- 4: send me an email with your ID number and email you used for Zoom
- 5: run the program and check the settings of the audio and video feeds. Do you have a camera and headphones?

The computer needs a web camera. Most laptops have one built in but the desktops are the problem as they need an accessory camera and speakers. If the PC computer is windows 7 or earlier, it may not be able to

do video. There are plug in software extensions for internet explorer and Chrome in this case or if you cannot install the app (see the Zoom web page). iPhones and iPads can do this well and have built in cameras. It helps to have a decent internet. If not you can use your cell phone to call in to a number (see meeting info) and hook up just the audio portion of the meeting. The listing "OneTap Mobile" is the phone number, two pauses, then the meeting ID that can be programmed into a memory slot in your phone so that you can connect instantly at a press of a button on you phone. Head phones are preferred especially if they have a microphone attached as it will eliminate a lot of the noise around you (iPhone ear buds w mic works well). You can mute the audio (if it is not muted already) and use the space bar like a push to talk button on a mic. when you let go, it mutes again.

If we are going to have large meetings on line, we can do this but we must follow normal Amateur Radio Etiquette of waiting to speak until recognized by me (Net Control) or the invited speaker. There is a "hand button" that when pressed, lights up a white hand in the upper left of your screen for me to see (like rais-

(Continued on page 3)

See [Zoom Installation](#)

Next VE Session

APRIL SESSION CANCELLED

Exams will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2200 Charles Blvd, ECU Greenville Center in Room 1200, in Greenville, NC. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. For more info email Gary, **KK4GC**, at ve@w4amc.com. (remove spaces) Study material at <http://www.arrl.org/courses-training>. 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. *

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



Happy Birthday

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

- | | | |
|-------|--------|-------------------|
| 04-03 | K4KBB | John McCoy |
| 04-16 | KJ4DMV | Geraldine Sanchez |
| 04-18 | WB4PMQ | Macon Dail |

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

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:



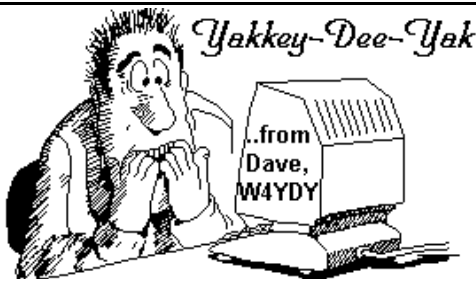
John McCoy, K4KBB
Doug Ferris, K4ROK

Please inform Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, of any changes.

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President's Corner Dave Wood, W4EJ



Dave Wood, W4EJ

Thanks very much to Peter Van Houten, **N4PVH**, for all the outstanding work and time he has put in checking out Zoom for BARC. Not only has he been helping club members and others setting up Zoom but he has written several articles concerning Zoom. There is one on the front page of this Ham Chatter about staying healthy and setting up Zoom. Sorry it had to be continued on the following 2 pages but the article as he wrote it is very important and informative. Another article on page 6 is about the concerns some might have using Zoom. Outstanding information!

You do not need a camera to use Zoom and 'log in' on BARC meetings. The camera on my laptop does not work after I upgraded to Windows 7. No Windows 7 driver. But I plugged in a microphone and can be heard with a still picture. If do not upload a picture, it just shows a square with a single initial from your name used on Zoom. So one can get on Zoom meetings with just a microphone. My Heil headset from my transceiver works just fine. So a computer with no camera gets you in the BARC meetings and you can watch and participate. Be sure to read Peter's article in this newsletter for instructions and help for installing Zoom. <<https://zoom.us/>>.

Since I will not be able to get printed copies of this newsletter because of the print shop being closed, I am only printing a few copies on my printer to snail mail for members that do not have a computer. Only the first 2 pages will be in color from a borrowed printer. The rest will be in B&W from my printer since it is out of color ink. If you want a hard copy, print it on your printer. There are 2 extra pages this month. If any members that get this newsletter from the BARC web site and do not received an email from me announcing that it is online, please email hamchatter (at) w4amc.com so I can get you on the list. - STAY SAFE! - W4YDY

Hello everyone. As we move forward dealing with our national health crisis we are shifting to using Zoom for our next meetings. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person again in the June or July time frame. Dave Langley, **W4YDY**, has put out instructions on how to Join the zoom meeting.

Brian Harrison, **KN4R**, will give a presentation about the events that happened to Amelia Earhart and Frank Noonan on their last flight. Lou and I saw this presentation at a QCWA meeting last year and it was excellent.

Peter and the rest of the board tested the Zoom platform during the last board meeting and it works very well as long as you are not located in the internet desert like I am. Hi Hi If anyone in the club needs help during these trying times do not hesitate to reach out to any of the club officers.

73 and look forward to seeing you next Tuesday night. *Dave, W4EJ*

Some Countries Permitting "STAYHOME"-Suffix Call Signs during COVID-19 Pandemic

Some countries around the world are allowing radio amateurs to use special "STAYHOME" call sign suffixes. For example, listen for 8A1STAYHOME from Indonesia, and A60STAYHOME/# call signs from the United Arab Emirates.

In Canada, Michael Shamash, VE2MXU, is using VC2STAYHOM "to raise awareness for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic." Canada limits call sign suffixes to seven characters.

Zoom Installation

(Continued from page 2)

ing your hand in class), and when there is a break in the conversation, you will be recognized and can ask questions. Press and hold the space bar until you have asked the question and then let go (just like a PPT button on your radio). The zoom meeting number and connection password is in the invitation that was sent out by email. If you did not get it, contact Dave, **W4YDY**, as he does not have your good email address.

It is the goal of the BARC Board to continue to have "Socially Distant" meetings that are safe and should be interesting. I view this pandemic akin to being in a biological war so we must adapt but still "carry on with a stiff upper lip" (What the Brits would say in WWII while London was being bombed by the Nazis!)

Contact me for necessary Zoom IDs and phone numbers if you didn't receive email with that information from W4YDY
- Peter, **N4PVH**

BARC Board Meeting on Zoom.

The BARC Board meeting was held on March 31 at it's usual time using Zoom. There were as many as nine signed in a one time and it seemed to work fine. Peter, **N4PVH**, was the meeting host. Zoon can have up to 100 participants.

The meeting was conducted by President Dave Wood, **W4EJ**. He was on his telephone. Except for W4EJ and W4YDY, the others had cameras and could be seen very clearly. W4YDY did have a microphone plugged in to his old computer so they could hear him. - W4YDY

Australia has permitted the Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA) to use the special call sign AX2020STAYHOME. At 14 characters, that may set a record for world's longest call sign. Also look for 9K9STAYHOME from the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society; TC1STAYHOME, the COVID-19 special event call sign from Turkey, and HZ1STAYHOME from the Saudi Amateur Radio Society. - via arrl.org 04/02/2020

To All ARRL Members and ARRL VEC Accredited Volunteer Examiners

We know many examiners have canceled amateur radio license exam sessions to meet the requirements and recommendations of national and local government and of health officials. The health and safety of examinees and our Volunteer Examiners (VEs) is first and foremost in any decision-making process. The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) does not offer video-supervised online amateur radio licensing exams at the present time. We are aware, however, that some VE teams are exploring alternative formats on a local basis. Please use ARRL's License Exam Search to find the scheduled exam sessions in your area and verify with the local exam team that the session is still being held.

The ARRL VEC is continuing to process license examination materials from VEs who have completed exam sessions, although some delays may occur under the circumstances. The ARRL



VEC electronically forwards all required data to the FCC for qualified examinees.

We understand that some examination candidates are continuing their studies toward new amateur radio licenses and license upgrades. We also know some will be frustrated that, at this time, the ARRL VEC does not offer online licensing exams. Amateur radio is not alone in this challenge, though.

While each of us continues to respond to the immediate evolving crisis, we also know that we must keep an eye on the future. Throughout its decades of service, the VEC system has served the FCC as a shining example of the successes of a privatized system. The ARRL VEC and our VEs are recognized throughout the Amateur Radio Service for our integrity and efficiency. Adapting our all-volunteer license examination administration will be a challenge, but it's a challenge we are committed to undertake

in order to advance the program and improve service.

While we face unprecedented challenges, opportunities also await. We are grateful to support radio amateurs in our common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery. ARRL and the ARRL VEC remain steadfast in serving the amateur radio community. We will provide updates as they become available. - *via arrl.org 04/02/2020*

Editors note: The BARC VE session for April 21 has been cancelled.

May QST Going Out to Members on Time, W1AW Adjusts Its Schedule



ARRL wants to assure members that the COVID-19 shutdown of ARRL Headquarters will have little or no impact on publication schedules. The print edition of May QST is now off the presses

and will enter the mail stream next week, and the US Postal Service anticipates no delivery disruptions.

Digital QST and the pending digital debuts of QEX and NCJ are expected to be posted on schedule. May QST will include more details on the QEX and NCJ digital editions — a new member benefit — as well as an intriguing cover article on “The Lightbulb QSO Party.”

ARRL also anticipates that The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News, the ARES E-Letter, The ARRL Contest Update, and the Eclectic Technology podcast will be available as usual.

Although ARRL Headquarters is closed, W1AW continues operating, but on a slightly altered transmission schedule. Morning code practice and qualifying run transmissions have been suspended; evening transmissions, including qualifying runs, will go on as usual. W1AW remains closed to the public, however.

Members should direct questions via email hq@arrl.org. ARRL Interim CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY, thanked members for their patience during this adjustment period. - *via arrl.org 03/25/2020*

2020 Membership Dues

It's that time of the year once again. Membership dues for BARC will be due January 1. Membership dues are as follows and are the same as 2019:

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

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

Please give the application and dues to the Treasurer at the meeting or mail your dues, along with the member application form to:

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 8387
Greenville, NC 27835

Those who have not renewed their dues by March 1, 2020 will be removed from the roster and the Ham Chatter mailing list. Membership will be reinstated upon receipt of 2020 dues.

If there are any questions concerning membership status or dues, please contact Jim Lowe, AC4JL, (2020 Treasurer) at treasurer@w4amc.com or (252) 320-6545.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in BARC.

Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt



Many individuals and groups organizing events for Field Day 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).

Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.

Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND - *via arrl.org 03/27/2020*

Tarheel Emergency Net Email from ARRL NC Section SM

As part of our program to revitalize the Tarheel Emergency Net and to increase net participation, some changes are being made.

The first of these changes is to assign the first Monday of each month to the topic of Severe Weather. Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Central Skywarn Coordinator, will offer a brief discussion of the weather issues of the month, whether it is tornado season, droughts, hurricanes, summer storms or severe winter weather. She will talk briefly about the SKYWARN program and answer your questions. Since the net covers the entire state, this is a great opportunity for you to learn more about weather and how our weather is affected by North Carolina’s topography. I hope you will tune in and hear Virginia’s talks on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. on 3923 khz. Better yet, ask her a question.

You will receive additional messages detailing other changes designed to make the Tarheel Net more useful as a training venue for hams preparing for emergency operations.

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

Official Bulletin Station Plaque



In March, 2020, a surprised Susan Langley-Jones received an Official Bulletin Station plaque from the ARRL for her 17 years as an OBS. She is the editor of the North Carolina ARRL web site, <http://www.ncarrl.org/>. Congratulations Susan!

The plaque was presented by Karl Bowman, W4CHX. Karl was the ARRL NC Section Manager from 2014 to 2020. Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, Boone, NC, began as NC SM on April 1.

Zoom Safety Information — by N4PVH



There have been multiple messages from members about the flaws of using zoom app for our meetings. I would like to address the valid concerns and appreciate everyone looking out for the safety of the group. Here is the situation as I can gather from multiple news outlets and IT experts:

1: About a year ago someone got into an open (no pass word) meeting and interrupted the meeting by making sounds or drawing on the screen obscene figures. They were kicked off of the meeting. This news story keeps re-surfacing on the internet when it is very old news and should have died a long time ago.

Remedy: Have a pass word to prevent unwanted attention. Send invites only to membership. We have that on our meetings.

2: Other hackers got into a meeting un-invited more recently.

Remedy: Have a virtual “waiting room” and admit members from there to the meeting by the administrator of the meeting. We have that on our meetings.

3: Some malicious individual with serious hacker skills send a chat message to another member in the same organization that had malicious code causing that person to leave the meeting.

Remedy: There is no remedy for malicious behavior but the damages were minimal (left the meeting or was sent to a malicious web page where the individual could click on something they should not, to download a virus on a PC). This action needed the following events to be able to do this: 1: the malicious individual needed to be registered to the same organization as the first individual (in other words be part of the same corporate internet with the same email server). 2: Needed to know the victim’s email and

password. 3: Needed to be registered in the same meeting as the victim. This sounds like a feud between two corporate employees. This is not likely in our meeting as none of these conditions apply.

4: That installing the zoom software also puts an internet server secretly into the background processes of the MAC computers so that if you delete the app, it re-installs itself without your permission.

Remedy: I have gone into “Terminal” (Unix shell commands) and poked about to find the specific location of this “supposed server app” and found nothing. It does not behave in the way it was claimed. Possibly false news as it was made public by the media that is owned by Microsoft. OK, we can get into conspiracy theories if you want but lets let it die there. Zoom has constantly upgraded the software like all software companies as their lifeblood is good experiences for the users. Not to find problems and improve the product would be suicide for a software company. Get the latest version and you will have the best protection you can have as nothing is absolutely secure on the internet. The only way to be absolutely secure is not to connect to the internet.

5: Zoom gave the school systems unlimited access as a gift to allow them to continue to teach our children at home away from Covid19. The unforeseen growth of this and others jumping on zoom is that their user group grew by 200 million users suddenly. This puts a very significant strain on resources for them and they are trying to deal with this. “No good deed goes un punished?”

I investigated many of the other meeting apps and have attended many other on line seminars and have found that none are secure and that zoom seems to be the best at it and simple to maintain. The other programs that are “free” are only that way for 3 months or have other agendas like they want you to use their other apps (spread sheets and the like that we do not need.) Also we are not talking about proprietary information, most of

this is freely available on the internet anyway so it has no profound risks.

Summary: I cannot and will not guarantee anything and you are taking your own risks (just like going to the grocery store to get food is a risk that might kill you) but you have two choices: 1: Do not install the software and do not attend or go on the internet or 2: keep your anti-virus software up to date and the other apps up to date. Enjoy the meeting and participate. Viruses of all kinds are evil whether they be biological or logical, this is the real world!

Hope to see you at the meeting as the preview of the Amelia Earhart presentation on Zoom was very interesting and thorough. Enjoy it whether we have problems or not.

73 Peter Van Houten , N4PVH
BARC 1st VP - (ex-KG4WEZ)

Spain Grants Unlicensed Individuals Permission to Use Amateur Stations During Lockdown



Spain’s International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society URE has obtained temporary permission from the country’s telecommunications regulator for unlicensed people to use amateur stations during the coronavirus lockdown.

“The main objective of the request is to disseminate and promote amateur radio among schoolchildren who must be confined at home,” the announcement from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Infrastructure said. “This activity offers young people the opportunity to gain practical experience in telecommunications technology, promotes education in technological subjects, and is a socially enriching family activity.”

The temporary authorization would be in place while the state of alert and mandatory confinement measures are in effect in Spain. Non-licensed individuals could operate an amateur station only under the direct supervision of the licensee, under current amateur radio rules and regulations. - [via arrl.org](http://via.arrl.org) 04/02/2020

A Message for ARRL Member Volunteers for Responding to COVID-19

Dear Member Volunteer,
March 26, 2020

The ARRL staff team has received many inquiries from our members seeking guidance or offering suggestions during the current crisis. We hope everyone is adhering to CDC and local health department guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following sanitary practices. Many radio clubs have canceled upcoming meetings, exam sessions, hamfests & conventions. ARRL has established a web page with news, information, cancellations, and resources of interest to ARRL members and our global amateur radio community. Visit www.arrl.org/COVID-19.

With many radio amateurs staying home there are opportunities to get on the air and call CQ or meet on the local repeater. We certainly don't need a reason to get on the air, after all, that's what hams do.

In terms of ham radio preparedness, this current crisis has not disrupted communications on a national scale. We know many of our members practice and train for a personal radio communication capability that can be called on when disaster strikes. Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) volunteers and our partners in providing emergency communications already routinely monitor the information and requests from Emergency Coordinators and the like. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service – and this current crisis hasn't changed this.

If you are a radio amateur serving your community through ARES or by volunteering with any of our partners in providing public service communications, thank you. ARES members routinely monitor the information and requests from their ARES Emergency Coordinators. We are grateful for all the ways you stand-ready to support the emergency service personnel in your communities when disaster strikes.

Again, we encourage all member volunteers to remain safe, and to follow

the guidelines and requests of your national and local government officials and public health leaders. For those members who are healthy and safe at home, we can encourage you to get on the air:

Get on the air. As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our "new normal," being on-air will introduce variety into our communication practices. As many of us are now homebound or working and studying from home, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be welcome respite!



Radio Clubs. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage our club's members to get on the air. Move (short) meetings to the club's repeater, and encourage check-ins. Organize skeds, nets, and challenges. Try different bands (HF, VHF, UHF...) and modes. This will also help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience.

Readiness. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

Every day, we draw inspiration from members who share our passion for radio communications. We are grateful to support radio amateurs in our common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery. ARRL remains steadfast in serving you.

Thank you. We hope that you and your loved ones remain safe. - via <http://www.arrl.org/read-a-message-for-member-volunteers>

There is a lot of information at www.arrl.org/coronavirus or www.arrl.org/COVID-19. It includes news and information of interest to ARRL members and our global amateur radio community. It has many links to news, cancellations and other ARRL resources.

Problems with Headquarters Mass E-mailings to Yahoo and AOL Addresses

Starting sometime Wednesday evening, March 5th, mass e-mailings sent from ARRL Headquarters have been refused by e-mail servers at Yahoo. This means that recipients with yahoo.com or aol.com addresses have not been receiving the ARRL Letter, DX News, the Section Manager newsletter, renewal notices, and ARRL marketing offers.

Individual e-mail communications with ARRL Headquarters have not been affected.

This issue coincided with an upgrade to the Headquarters internet service, which necessitated a change in IP addresses of the servers. The Headquarters Information Technology department is aware of the problem and is working with Yahoo and AOL to resolve this issue. - via [arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) 03/06/2020

Annual Intrepid Spirit Award Goes to the VP8PJ DXpedition Team

The annual Intrepid-DX Group Intrepid Spirit Award will go to the Perseverance DX Group's VP8PJ South Orkney Island DXpedition team for its "superb activation" from Signy Island.

"This DXpedition was extremely well planned and executed from this very remote, cold, and harsh Island," the Intrepid-DX Group said in announcing the award. "This award is to recognize the entire team's collective effort to activate these challenging and much-needed entities on behalf of a grateful global DX community. We acknowledge the team's pursuit of operating excellence in making these difficult activations."

The award normally is presented at the April International DX Convention in Visalia, California, which has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The award recognizes and honors individuals or teams that "boldly activate rare entities where their own personal safety is secondary to their pursuit of providing contacts to the DX community," the Intrepid-DX Group said. - via [arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) 03/26/2020

Ham Ads

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

FOR SALE: Yaesu Vx5 and Icom IW32A the Icom radio is a true dual band radio. \$75 for each radio. Richard Campbell, **W4JNC** (252) 758-1244 or richardecu@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: BUDIPOLE ANTENNA - A complete budipole antenna system, with extra parts to make a 3 ele 2 mtr, or a 3 ele 6 mtr beam. All contained in one carrying bag. \$375.00. Email Bernie Nobles, **WA4MOK** <wa4mok @ embarqmail.com>

Classic Collins station FOR SALE

KWM-2 Transceiver, Serial # 149 - Winged Emblem. Original box, 3 "KWM-2" Instruction books, dated Aug 1959, Oct 1959, Apr 1960. One "KWM-2 and KWM-2A" Instruction book dated Feb 1969. Collins Service bulletins and modification, Collins cables, mod records. Set of spare tubes and a spare relay. Heathkit Q Multiplier GD-125, used as peak and notch filter on KWM-2. \$500. One owner. See the station at <https://www.qsl.net/w4ydy/>.

512F-2 Power Supply, Serial # 2200 - Winged Emblem. Original box. Parts list and schematic in KWM-2 instruction books. Replaced tubes and all of the electrolytic capacitors in May 2018. One owner. \$250. Both: KWM-2 & PS, \$650.

GREAT PRICES! Internet prices **higher!**

30L-1 PARTS: New plate transformer in OEM box. \$200. New fan \$60. Email **w4ydy @ arrl.net**
Will consider best offer for all above.

Pitt County Repeater Association

<http://www.pcra.us/>

BARC on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/w4amc/>

Facebook and Group details

<http://www.w4amc.com/barcnews.html#BARC>

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!**

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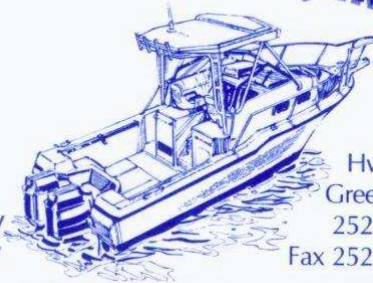
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ARRL Headquarters Closed by Connecticut Governor



ARRL Headquarters will comply with an executive order from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont that all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities reduce in-person workforces by 100% no later than March 23, 2020, at 8 PM. ARRL will equip as many Headquarters staffers as possible to work remotely.

WIAW bulletin and code practice transmissions will continue. Customer service representatives will be available to take calls, although response times could be longer than usual. Opera-

tions at the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) will also continue, and the best way to receive a timely response is via email, as call volume has been heavy. The ARRL publication schedule will remain unchanged.

The ARRL warehouse will be working with a reduced staff, so orders will be delayed, and ARRL will not be able to respond to expedited shipping orders. ARRL Headquarters will remain open until 5 PM on March 23, as managers and staff prepare for the shutdown.

ARRL will keep members posted on this situation. - *via arrl.org 03/23/2020*

International Marconi Day 2020 has been Canceled



The annual International Marconi Day (IMD) ham radio operating event that was set to take place on April 25 has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 24-hour amateur radio event celebrates the birth of

Marconi on April 25, 1874. Sponsored by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, which operates as GB4IMD, International Marconi Day features participating stations operating at sites having a personal connection to Marconi, including places where he set up transmitting and receiving stations. - *via arrl.org 03/31/2020*

FCC Levies \$18,000 Fine on Louisiana Amateur Radio Licensee



In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed a \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the NAL, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12 Forfeiture Order (FO).

As the FCC recounted in the FO, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing that the NAL should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating

on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the NO. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be cancelled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the NAL. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the NAL.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement. - *via arrl.org 03/18/2020*

NETS

VHF/UHF

♦**BARC Net**, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.

♦**Down East Hospital Net**, 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon

Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone N4HAJ

Fountain 444.425 MHz, 88.5 Tone N4HAJ

♦Newport SkyWarn Tues. nights 2100E Grifton-146.685-88.5 tone

♦Newport-145.450..... IRLP 8561 links to Columbia

♦Jacksonville-147.000- 88.5 tone

♦Oriental-147.210-151.4 tone

♦444 Newport-444.825- 88.5 tone

♦Swansboro-146.760- 88.5 tone

♦Grantsboro-145 230 - 85.4 tone.

♦Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.

♦Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.

♦Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.

♦ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.

♦Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.

♦Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25

HF

Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

NTS CW Nets

♦3.571 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net

♦3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20wpm)

♦3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

National Traffic System

Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (ENCTN) 146.685 (146.085 in) Mhz (PL 88.5) 2030E

BARC Email Addresses

*President @ w4amc.com

to Dave Wood, **W4EJ**

*Treasurer @ w4amc.com

to Jim Lowe, **AC4JL**

*VE @ w4amc.com

to Gary Coriell, **KK4GC**

*Hamchatter @ w4amc.com

to Dave Langley, **W4YDY**

*QSL @ w4amc.com

to Richard Campbell, **W4JNC**

*BARC @ w4amc.com

to Mike Monteith, **KM4OLT**

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 14. **Regular Meeting via Zoom - 7PM**
 Apr 21. **BARC VE Session Cancelled**
 Apr 28. **Board Meeting via Zoom - 7PM**
 May 2 **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 May 12 **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 May 26 **Board Meeting - 7PM**
 May 30 **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 May 30/31. **CQ WW CW WPX Contest**
 Jun 9. **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 Jun 16. **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**
 Jun 27/28 **ARRL Field Day - ?**
 Jun 30. **Board Meeting - 7PM**
 Jul 4 **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Jul 11/12 **IARU HF World Championship**
 Jul 14. **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 Jul 28. **Board Meeting - 7PM**

Aug 1. **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Aug 11. **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 Aug 18. **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**
 Aug 25. **Board Meeting - 7PM**
 Aug 29. **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Sep 8. **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 Sep 26/27 **CQ WW RTTY DX Contest**
 Sep 29. **Board Meeting - 7PM**
 Oct 3 **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Oct 13 **Regular Meeting - 7PM**
 Oct 20 **BARC VE Session - 6:30 PM**
 Oct 24/25. **CQ WW SSB DX Contest**
Regular Meeting - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Board Meeting - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
 Contest Calendar: All the rules.
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone
 Down East Hospital Net - 2nd Tuesday at noon - Greenville 444.725 MHz, 91.5 tone N4HAJ
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

W 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S



Next Meeting on ZOOM
 April 14, 2020 - 7 PM

April 2020

To:



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