

# Ham Chatter



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

## **Next Meeting - On ZOOM. May 12, 2020, 7 PM**

## **ARRL Announces New Benefits for Members**

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their latest issues. Joining QST and On the Air magazines on a digital platform will be the bi-monthly editions of QEX — The Forum for Communications Experimenters and NCJ — National Contest Journal. QEX includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. NCJ, published since 1973, targets radio amateurs active in radiosport. NCJ includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for beginners and seasoned radiosport enthusiasts alike.

“Feedback from ARRL members and our readership surveys has shown that our magazines are one of the most valued member benefits,” said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY. “Our investment in digital access provides another channel through which we can deliver content to our members across the expanse of interests and activities in amateur radio. All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership.”

ARRL’s digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues onto your mobile device or tablet for offline reading.



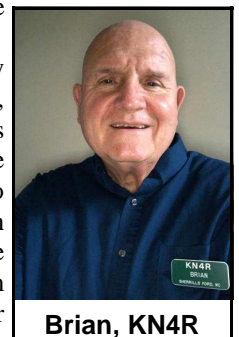
Members who have elected to receive a printed QST or On the Air as part of their membership benefits will continue to have this service. Members may not substitute a print subscription of QEX or NCJ as their delivered magazine member benefit. Print subscriptions of QEX and NCJ will continue to be available at additional cost for those who want to receive them.

All four magazines are easily accessed through any web browser from members-only links. The free ARRL Magazines app is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play. If you’re already an ARRL member and previously created an arrl.org website account, your username and password will provide you access to the digital editions, whether online or in the app. Members who have not previously registered will need to create a new account. If you’ve forgotten your password, visit [www.arrl.org/forgot-password](http://www.arrl.org/forgot-password), or email [circulation@arrl.org](mailto:circulation@arrl.org) for assistance.

Previous and prospective mem-

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7 PM. The meeting will be on ZOOM. See front page article in the April, 2020 *Ham Chatter* for details on setting up and signing in. Contact Peter Van Houten, N4PVH, for details if you are having trouble setting up.

Program by Brian Harrison, KN4R, Sherrill's Ford, about the "FCC's Radio Intelligence Division (RID) in WW2". He will be using Zoom from his home for his presentation



**Brian, KN4R**

*All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

## **Board Meeting - May 26, 2020**

**The meeting will be on ZOOM.** The next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. All members invited.

bers can join ARRL and take advantage of this and other membership benefits. -

The latest issues of all four magazines are online now The digital versions of QEX and NCJ are new benefits for all ARRL members. Members now have exclusive access to four magazines, each with their own unique content: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines>  
via [arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

## **BARC Dues**

[w4amc.com/barcnews.html#Dues](http://w4amc.com/barcnews.html#Dues)

## President's Corner, Dave Wood, W4EJ



**Dave Wood, W4EJ**

I hope this communication finds everyone doing well. It looks like shortly we will be able to back off some of our

restrictions due to Covid19. It's spring time and a great time to take on those new antenna projects and the like. As we move forward, if any members have any specific needs, please bring these to the attention of the club officers.

Our next general meeting will be on May 12th on Zoom at 7PM. Lou Demko, **W3LPR**, has again lined up a great program. Zoom is a very easy program to download and works well even with a marginal internet connection. If anyone is having issues drop a note to Peter, **N4PVH**, and he will work with you to get it working. 73 and see everyone at our next meeting! *Dave, W4EJ*

## Next VE Session

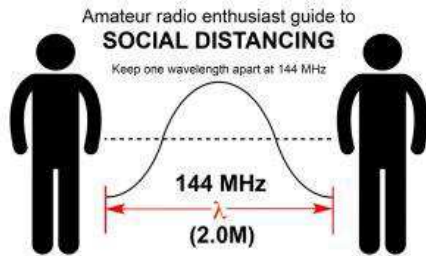
### APRIL SESSION CANCELLED

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](mailto: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.



Via MARAC "Roadrunner"  
<http://marac.org/>

## BARC MEMBERS

If you are **not** receiving *Ham Chatter* email notices from me, please send an email to

[hamchatter@w4amc.com](mailto:hamchatter@w4amc.com) so I can get your email address. I know some have said they do not receive them but they still haven't sent me their email address. You may be missing some important BARC notices including when new *Ham Chatters* are uploaded to the web site.

At this time during the lockdown, we are not able to get *Ham Chatter* printed for mailing or distribution to members at the meetings. I print out a few on my printer for mailing for those that do not have computers. An 8 to 10 page HC cost about 50 to 75 cents for ink! - *W4YDY*

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

05-09 KD4NGW Jack Cochran  
05-20 W3LPR Louis Demko

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. If yours is missing, I don't have it! Please, please email [hamchatter \(at\) w4amc.com](mailto:hamchatter(at)w4amc.com)

## Well Wishes

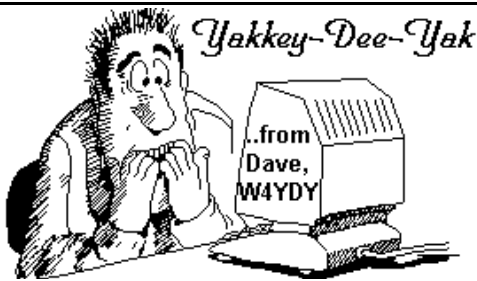
Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

John McCoy, K4KBB  
Doug Ferris, K4ROK

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



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*Yakkey-Dee-Yak*

## Greater LoTW Database Accuracy is the Goal of TQSL Update(s)

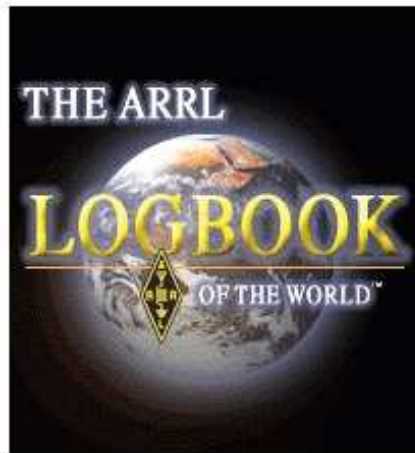
From the looks of things, it looks like we may be meeting via Zoom for a while. Hope it's not too long because when we meet in-person again, things in the USA will probably be back to normal or near normal. Like many, sure do need a haircut. If you have to do it yourself, someone said that a bad haircut only lasts for 2 weeks!

On the next page is the May 1 message from Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, NC Section Manager. All NC ARRL members received it if you are a member of the ARRL and choose to receive emails from the ARRL managers and directors. Marv mentions that only about 3000 of the approximately 4500 ARRL members from NC have signed up. There is a lot of info of interest to you that you can sign up for. If you are a member of the ARRL, you are missing out on a lot of news about Amateur Radio if you have not signed up. In one paragraph, Marv gives the info for signing up.

He is working to get NC ARRL appointees to get info to my daughter, Susan Langley Jones, WA4AKB, so she can keep the NC ARRL page updated with the latest info. I know it's hard to post the latest news and information if there is no input from others.

Been making some contacts mostly on FT8 and FT4 picking up some new counties on different bands. I use LoTW and eQSL for confirmations although I do not really need more confirmations unless they are for DX.

On March 21 worked 10 stations, 5 states and Mexico, on 6 meters and already have 9 on LoTW and/or eQSL confirmed. Six meters seems to be opening up this time of the year. I have made a total of 5780 FT8 & FT4 contacts with 4605 LoTW confirmations and 3243 eQSL confirmations. Combined there are 4887 confirmed FTn contacts. On all modes, have 265 DX confirmations of the 307 worked. Worked 2 new countries in March for the first since 2017. - W4YDY



The recently released TQSL version 2.5.2 application for uploading logs to Logbook of The World (LoTW) tightens requirements for data consistency, with the goal of improving the integrity of the LoTW database. Starting with TQSL version 2.5.2, discrepancies in submitted logs now are flagged, especially when it comes to the Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) files frequently uploaded to LoTW. This has prompted questions and concerns, however, when the system fails to accept a user's uploaded contact or log.

ADIF exists precisely to help ensure the accuracy of "data interchange" among amateur radio applications — different logging programs, for example. TQSL uses ADIF file data for cross-checks that help to keep inaccurate or incomplete information from contaminating the LoTW database, and that's where some user issues have arisen. For example, the OPERATOR field, which should be a call sign, sometimes shows up as a name. Occasionally, operators have reversed their ITU and CQ zones. Another issue is in the MY\_STATE field, which should show a US Postal Service two-letter state abbreviation. Anything else is a problem.

"The value of the checks added to TQSL is that it lets operators know when the data they're handling in their computer-based logs is correct," said TQSL Developer Rick Murphy, K1MU. "Just as most hams would not knowingly send out a QSL card with the wrong de-

tails, it's important to make sure that when a ham submits a log to LoTW that the content of that log accurately captures the details. It also prevents operators from uploading logs that contain incorrect information."

Some help is on the way. Murphy soon will release TQSL version 2.5.3, which, among other things, skips over the OPERATOR field check. "We have found that some of the checking performed for TQSL 2.5.2 was incomplete in some cases — for example, allowing incorrect zone information to pass, and overly strict in other cases — for example, the STATION\_OWNER tag," Murphy said. "We've taken feedback from users and made great strides in improving the way logs are checked to ensure that checking is more complete while not raising false alarms."

The problem is not always with the user. The initial implementation of cross-checks in TQSL 2.5.2 revealed that not all logging applications conform to the ADIF standard, which is maintained and voted on by the 22-member ADIF group, which includes ARRL. TQSL 2.5.2 has offered support for operations from several locations, as well as the ability to detect uploads that contain incorrect location data, and the field used for checking location has been in the ADIF standard since 2004.

Some commenters have suggested that ARRL has not defined the ADIF fields appropriately, but this represents a misunderstanding of how the ADIF standard is developed and maintained. Logging applications are obliged to follow the standard, if they generate files that claim to be ADIF compatible.

"Operators have a right to insist that the logging applications they use conform to the standards agreed upon by the ADIF collective," said Greg Widin, K0GW, the chair of the ARRL LoTW Committee. "Those who find that their logger is out of conformance should demand an update, or, if the logger is unsupported or the developer is unwilling to update, should investigate switching to an application that is a cooperative member of the universe of amateur radio logging applications." - *via arrl.org 04/16/2020*

## Greetings from Northwestern North Carolina, referred to locally as the High Country.



Marv, WA4NC

Each of us knows that North Carolina has several different geographical zones: Coastal Plain; Sandhills; Piedmont; and Mountains. The weather, and to some degree, the climate differs in each zone. My friends in Raleigh and Charlotte tell me that they are already past the Spring blooms; not so up here in the High Country, where Spring is always slow to arrive.

My home is at 3850 feet above sea level and the mountains around here are relatively high. I can see Grandfather Mountain (5945'), Beech Mountain (5506'). Our local repeaters are located on Rich Mountain (4400'). Mount Mitchell tops out at 6684', the highest peak east of the Mississippi River, but I cannot see it because the local mountains lock my view of Mt. Mitchell. Flatlanders may be surprised to know the area that repeaters up here can cover. Mountaintop repeaters often cover up to 100 miles unless blocked by other mountains. The Mount Mitchell repeater on 145.190 can reach parts of seven states (WV, KY, VA, NC, SC, TN, and GA).

So, the mountains are very different than the rest of the state. If you look me up on qrz.com, you can see the view from my deck when the leaves are changing colors in October. In the picture, Boone is down in the valley and Rich Mountain is what you see in the picture. You may be surprised to know that today, on May 1, there are very few leaves that have come out on the trees above 4,000 feet in elevation.

I want to highlight for you some activities that are occurring, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic quarantine.

a. Several clubs have invited me to participate in the virtual club meetings. Drop me an email if you would like me to visit with your club over Zoom or WebEx.

b. Likewise, as you plan Field Day, if you have access to video meeting capabilities during Field Day, I will virtually visit with you since it seems unlikely I will

be traveling across the state for in-person visits.

c. COVID-19 is affecting planning for upcoming hamfests. As I write this, no decision has been made by the organizers whether to hold or cancel the Salisbury Fire Cracker Hamfest or the Waynesville WCARS Hamfest, both of which are scheduled for July. Once a decision is made information will be sent to you.

d. Net control stations are still needed for the Tarheel Emergency Net which meets each night on 3923 KHz at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday is still open as is the position of Net Manager. We are still working on setting up training sessions that will be announced when the details are worked out.

e. Much of the information posted on the NC ARRL webpage (ncarrl.org) had been allowed to become outdated. Susan Langley Jones (WA4AKB) is busy posting the updated information that Tom Brown (N4TAB, SEC) and I are sending to her. Thank you, Susan, for the time you are investing in getting accurate and current information out to the ham community. Thanks also to Tom for his work on updating the ARES® and Auxcomm information. Each of you will soon be able to see the results of their many hours of work.

Speaking of sending you information, I need your help. There are approximately 15,000 licensed amateur radio operators in North Carolina and approximately 4500 of them belong to the ARRL. According to the ARRL information available to me, only 3000 or so have set their ARRL preferences to receive emails sent by the Division Director Bud Hippisley (W2RU) or Vice Director Bill Morine (N2COP) and me. This limits our ability to let you know what is going on and to share information about future events.

Remember, if you have concerns are about proposed changes in Tech privileges, on line license exams, band plans or Field Day and Contest rules and similar topics, those comments should go to Bud and Bill because these are policy questions handled by the ARRL Board of Directors. Operational concerns about publicizing hamfests and club activities, ARES and Auxcomm programs, exemplary operator recognition and similar topics that focus on NC should come to me.

Because some of you may receive this from other sources (such as a club newsletter), please check your ARRL profile (and ask your friends to check theirs). If you log into arrl.org, at the top of the page, you can edit your profile and you can go to "Edit Your Email Preferences". Choose the option to receive emails from your Division Director and Section Manager. This will expand Bud's, Bill's and my ability to get information out to North Carolina amateur radio operators.

In other matters, plans are underway to produce a monthly NC ARRL Newsletter which focuses on the variety of ham activities across the state. If you want to know more about what is going outside your locality, the Newsletter will need contributors. I would like to be able to publish columns about Contesting, SOTA and POTA, Satellites, Mesh net activities, DMR and other topics.

The proposed NC ARRL Newsletter will only be worth the effort YOU put into it to make it interesting. I once worked for a county commissioner who told me that it was a heck of a poor frog that wouldn't croak about his own pond. Don't be bashful, brag a little about what you are doing, write up something and we will get it edited, posted and shared with others.

Severe weather season is going to be here soon. On the first Monday of each month, Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, gives a presentation focused on weather over the Tarheel Emergency Net on 3923 khz. Tune in because Virginia knows her stuff! NC State University forecasters have predicted 22 named hurricanes for this year, which would make it a very active hurricane season. Are you ready for bad weather? Check your backup power, work on your Go Box station, improve your antenna system and get ready for a busy year.

I am still learning about being Section Manager, like anyone would in a new job. Your comments, complaints and suggestions will help me do my job better..

Hopefully each of us does something this coming week that makes your community and ham radio better because of your efforts.

73 and best wishes, Marv, WA4NC  
NC Section Manager

## Remotely Administered Amateur Exam Systems Showing Promise



Facing a growing demand for amateur radio exam sessions in a time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, sponsors of some Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams have risen to the challenge and are developing systems to remotely proctor test sessions.

“Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been working on remotely proctored exam session ideas, employing both video and in-person components — following social distancing protocols,” ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. “We have been receiving interesting and innovative suggestions, and we appreciate the dedication and ingenuity our examiners have shown.”

The Spalding County Amateur Radio Club in Georgia is among those that have come up with plans to remotely administer amateur exams while complying with ARRL VEC testing standards during COVID-19 stay-home mandates and social distancing guidelines. Current systems leverage Zoom video-teleconferencing technology, the “Fill & Sign” feature of Adobe PDFs, reliable email, appropriate computer equipment and internet connection, and no volunteer examiners (VEs) present at individual remote test sites. The Georgia club collaborated and shared ideas with the Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) in Hawaii, which has successfully conducted sessions since 2011 with its own remote testing system, initially with paper exams with a proctor on site and now with fillable PDFs, with no on-site proctor.

The Georgia club obtained ARRL VEC approval to administer video-supervised exams. The club’s David Robinson, K4WVZ, said the first exam session took place this week, with another set for next week, and “many more in the pipeline” going forward.

“We have started with testing just one candidate at a time but are planning to ramp up to multiple candidates — probably two or three — simultaneously,” Robinson told ARRL. “Before we do that, we want a few more single sessions under our belt and a few more Video VEs trained. It also gives us an opportunity to garner les-

sons learned from each test session and upgrade our procedures accordingly.” Robinson said this week’s session went “exceedingly well,” and the candidate passed the test.

The club’s procedures entail a pre-exam video interview with candidates to ensure they understand all the requirements and procedures. “This also allows us to test the candidate’s ability to work with the video and computer technology before the actual exam,” Robinson explained. “Training sessions were conducted for VEs to make sure they understood their role and how to use the technology.”

Following the exam, the VEs score the test and sign off on the paperwork, with the VE Team Leader submitting the application online and by mail, per ARRL VEC instructions. Application and successful exam are first accepted and then submitted to the FCC for processing.

New England Amateur Radio Inc (NE1AR), an affiliate of New England Sci-Tech, (NESciTech), has taken it one step further, Somma said. It got the approval of ARRL VEC to begin trials of what it describes as “completely online testing with strict rules and protocols for maintaining the integrity of the testing environment.” NE1AR is limiting candidates to one exam per candidate, due to the current candidate backlog and the “difficulty of administering exams online.” Candidates must agree to a list of protocols, which include no visitors (or pets) in the exam room and a cell-phone camera scan of the entire room and exam area “to show that there are no materials or people [in the room] that could aid in taking the exam.” If the VE team suspects the possibility of cheating, the exam may be terminated and the candidate barred from future online exam sessions.

“We began a series of trials on April 1 under ARRL VEC review and have now been asked to help train more VE Teams on the process,” NE1AR President Bob Phinney, K5TEC, told ARRL. “We have now tested 12 applicants and are still working on streamlining the process. We are working with the software developer of the exam delivery system to help them adapt the system for video-supervised testing.” At present, Phinney said, only one person at a time can be tested. Another

time-related issue is how long it takes a candidate to go through the NE1AR security protocol. “Sometimes, the setup and follow-up for an exam take far longer than the exam itself, in order that we provide complete integrity of the exam session,” he said.

With pressure continuing to build to provide testing compatible with COVID-19 guidelines and stay-home orders, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, has asked the amateur radio community to be patient. “Please remember that with the introduction of significant new processes such as these, that there should be proof of concept, establishment of protocols and procedures, and beta testing, before expanding to a larger audience,” she said this week. Somma said video-supervised exam sessions require a different skillset than in-person exam administration, and not all teams will be equipped to deliver video exams right away.

“ARRL is pleased to be one of the leaders in providing an opportunity, although limited initially, for video-supervised exams in this time of social distancing and isolation required by the current health situation,” Somma said. - *via arrl.org*

### FCC Providing Flexibility to Volunteer Examiners in Developing Remote Testing Methods

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

“The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place,” the FCC said in an April 30 news release. “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots.” - *via arrl.org 05/03/2020*

More at <http://www.arrl.org/news/>

## New Volunteer Monitor Program is Up and Running

After kicking off on January 1, the new Volunteer Monitor Program has ramped up to operational status. A “soft rollout” of the program began on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report — and what to ignore, based on their training. The VMs not only will be looking for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. The VM program has, at least for the moment, put Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, back in the center of amateur radio enforcement as the Volunteer Monitor Coordinator (VMC). He was brought aboard to get the program up and running, and ARRL will eventually take over the VMC function.

Hollingsworth is using a system called VMTRAC — developed by a VM — to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. Hollingsworth reported that during March, the 165 active VMs logged upward of 2,300 hours of monitoring on HF, and nearly 2,000 hours on VHF-UHF and other frequencies.

“I am extremely pleased with the number of hours devoted to monitoring this early in the program,” Hollingsworth

said. No stone is being left unturned. Two VMs constantly monitor FT8 watering holes and have developed programs that alert them if a licensee is operating outside of privileges accorded to that license class or if a license has expired. “That has occurred in a half dozen cases so far,” he said.



“We have 30 open cases, five of which are good operator cases,” Hollingsworth said. “Regarding open cases relating to rule violations, none have yet had to be referred to the FCC.” He said he’s experimented with letters, telephone calls, or emails to the subjects of discrepancy reports where they could be identified. While he’s still waiting for replies to his written correspondence, he has received responses to his calls and emails, and the violations have either

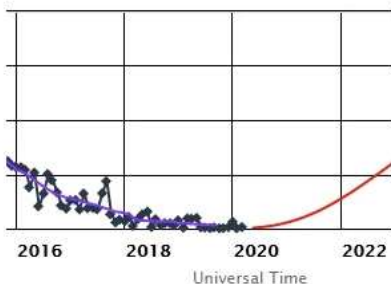
stopped or were explained. “They were violations such as expired licenses, Technicians operating on General frequencies, unauthorized use of a call sign, and deliberate interference,” he said.

One case “being groomed for FCC referral,” he said, involves longstanding interference to a repeater in the Philadelphia area by someone using an unauthorized call sign. Hollingsworth said he worked with net control operators of nets on 75 and 40 meters that had been suffering serious interference, and so far the solutions are working.

“It is becoming apparent that if informal contact can be made by the VMC with a known offender, the problem can sometimes be stopped,” Hollingsworth said. “If this continues to work, it will minimize FCC referral and make those we do refer more worthy of FCC resources and more severe action. We do not want to call upon the FCC unless absolutely necessary, but when we do, the subjects should understand that FCC action will be expedited. I think our own enforcement outreach may resolve all but our very worst cases. At the present time, we have only one in which we do not have a suspicion as to who is causing the problem.” - *via arrl.org 04/10/2020*

## NOAA Updates Solar Cycle 25 Prediction

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, notes that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) has published its official updated prediction of Solar Cycle 25 in new, interactive Solar Cycle Progression graphs. The updated prediction is based on the results of NOAA’s Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel.

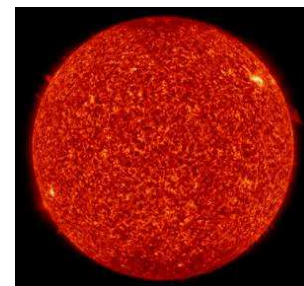


“SWPC forecasts a solar maximum between 105 and 125, with the peak occurring between November 2024 and March 2026,” Donovan said. “There is broad consensus that solar minimum is ongoing this year — or may have already occurred — and that Cycle 25 will have no major change in the level of solar activity compared to Cycle 24.”

As Donovan explained, for many years the SWPC’s solar cycle predictions have used the Royal Observatory of Belgium’s International Sunspot Number. SWPC’s official solar cycle prediction now uses the SWPC sunspot number. The International Sunspot Number is typically about one-third lower than the SWPC sunspot number.

“While this is SWPC’s official

Cycle 25 prediction, it’s important to note there is still divergence among various



forecasting methods and members of the space weather forecasting community,” Donovan said. “Most forecasts and forecasters

agree that the Cycle 25 peak is likely to be within  $\pm 20\%$  of Cycle 24 and is likely to occur between 2024 and 2027.”

More information is on the Springer Nature website. — Thanks to The Daily DX - *via arrl.org 04/22/2020*

## ARRL Suggests Taking a Creative Approach to Field Day 2020

This year, ARRL Field Day promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. These are just a couple.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who

can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.



Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with

participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page.

For the latest news and updates, visit the Field Day webpage. — Thanks to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 04/22/2020

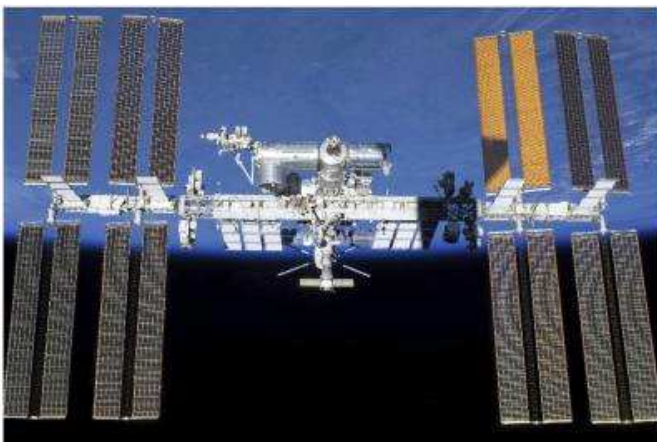
## Fresh Crew Arrives on ISS

Astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, and two Russian cosmonauts arrived on April 9 as the Expedition 63 crew on the International Space Station, temporarily restoring the orbiting labora-

tory's population to six people. A Soyuz spacecraft transported Cassidy, Anatoly Ivanishin, and Ivan Vagner on a four-orbit, 6-hour flight after launching from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The Expedition 63 crew will live aboard the station for a bit longer than 6 months, with Cassidy as commander.

The Expedition 62 crew of Jessica Meir, Drew Morgan, KI5AAA, and Oleg Skripochka, RA0LDJ, returned to Earth on April 17. - via [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) 04/13/2020



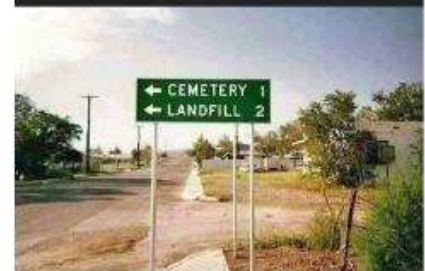
### BARC MEMBERS

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### County Hunting the Back Roads Provides Interesting Humor!

By Kerry, W4SIG

My wife said when I pass she would go the extra mile to give me the burial I deserve...



From the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club newsletter "Roadrunner"

# 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.

## Online Registration Opens for Free Virtual Contest University



Contest University (CTU), a staple of Dayton Hamvention, will take place online this year through the Zoom video platform, and all sessions will be free. Visit the CTU website to register. Live CTU sessions via Zoom will get under way on Thursday, May 14, 1245 UTC, and will be recorded and archived. — Thanks to CTU Chair Tim Duffy, K3LR - via *arrrl.org* 04/28/2020

## RSGB's RadCom Magazine May Edition Available to All Online



As another facet of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) "Get on the air to care" campaign <<http://www.rsgb.org/gota2c>>, the May edition of RadCom magazine is being made available to radio amateurs around the world online as a sample edition.  
<<http://www.rsgb.org/sampleradcom>>

A number of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-societies have taken similar steps. — Thanks to RSGB

General Manager Steve Thomas, M1ACB, via IARU — via *arrrl.org* 05/04/2020

### 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/>

## Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size

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Send ads to: **Ham Chatter,**

**PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835**

Help support *Ham Chatter* and the club. **Donations accepted!**

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**FCC Adopts a New Official Seal in Anticipation of Relocation**

In anticipation of its upcoming move, the FCC has adopted a new FCC seal. The redesigned seal is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The winning design, submitted by Umasankar Arumugam, was selected by a vote of the agency's employees and contractors.

The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies currently transforming our world; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission seal; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current

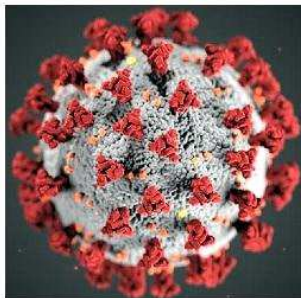


number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency.

Over the next few months, the FCC will incorporate the new seal on official stationery, business cards, publications, and other materials, including on its website and throughout its new Headquarters. Official use of the new seal will begin following completion of the agency's move from the Portals to its new Headquarters. The date of the move is to be determined and has been delayed due to COVID-19. — FCC news release - via [arrrl.org](http://arrrl.org) 05/01/2020

**COVID-19 Net Now Running Wednesdays on 40 Meters**

The Medical Net, a special COVID-19 net, is running Wednesdays, 0130 UTC, on 7.222 MHz. The net deals with correct data on COVID-19 epidemiology care, care issues, and more. Net control will be Dr. Harry Przekop, WB9EDP, a past president of the Medical Amateur Radio Council Organization (MARCO) and now a director at large.



Przekop is a specialist in infectious diseases and biomedical physics and is board-certified as an expert in HIV care.

Participants do not need to be physicians or medical providers to check in, ask questions, and otherwise take part, but no diagnoses can be rendered. The regular MARCO Grand Rounds Net is held on Sundays, 1500 UTC, on 14.342 MHz. - via [arrrl.org](http://arrrl.org) 04/20/2020

**UN Amateur Radio Club's 4U1UN Gains Limited Remote Operation Capability**



The president of the United Nations Amateur Radio Club, James Sarte, K2QI, reports that during the UN Headquarters building lockdown as part of the "Stay Home" mandate, the club's 4U1UN has been granted permission for "very limited" remote operation on FT8, only running low power. Fox/Hound mode is part of the mix. Operation on 40 and 20 meters was reported on April 12. — Thanks to OPDX via Southgate Amateur Radio News - via [arrrl.org](http://arrrl.org) 04/13/2020

**BARC MEMBERS**

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**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

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  
 Oct 27..... **Board Meeting - 7PM**  
 Oct 31..... Ham Chatter **Deadline**  
 Nov 7/8..... ARRL CW Sweepstakes  
 Nov 10..... **Regular Meeting - 7PM**  
**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  
May 12, 2020 - 7 PM

**May 2020**

To:



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