



Ham Chatter



Volume XXXII Issue 3 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication March 1998

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Contributing Editor: Murray Merner,

Meet the BARC Members Murray Merner, KF4FQB

I've known Murray Merner, KF4FQB, for many years and he was kind enough to share some of the more memorable events of his life. As a child in Winnipeg, Canada, Murray can remember when he and his friend Ralph experimented with chemistry sets, telephones and made crystal sets. Later he was given a vacuum tube "7 in 1" kit and made a receiver and transmitter. He and Ralph may have committed a Canadian federal law when they participated in a radio roll call of the RCMP!

Murray's serious consideration of Amateur Radio was while living in Toronto. He got a Model 19 Mk III war surplus tank radio and would listen for hours. At that time, he used the telephone line for his antenna and did ok until he found out he should ground the radio and as a result all the telephones stopped working! His mother was not pleased when the telephone man informed her of young Murray's infringement on their wiring. (One regret that he has is that there was a ham across the street that would not give him the time of day.)

Murray's family moved to Chicago. At that time you couldn't get an American Amateur Radio license unless you were a U.S. citizen which took five years residency and a test. Amateur Radio would have to wait. After graduating from high school in Columbus, Ohio he went to a technical school and got an associate degree in

(Continued on page 7)

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on March 10, at 7:30 PM at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. The scheduled program is about weather. All members and guests are invited to attend. The next board meeting will be March 26. The meeting is opened to all members.

Attention All Members

January was the time to renew your membership. Please be sure to fill out and send in or bring to the club meeting the application that was inserted in the December issue of *Ham Chatter*. For those that have Internet access, and you need an application, go to the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club web site, <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/4208/application.html> and print out a copy. The application form is needed so your information can be updated when you send in your dues.

Dues must be paid by the last week in March to guarantee that you will receive the April issue of *Ham Chatter*. A RED DOT on your mailing label means that your dues were not paid when the labels were printed! - W4YDY

Reed Whitten, AB4W, Re-elected North Carolina Section Manager

Incumbent W. Reed Whitten, AB4W, of Cary was the winner in a three-way race for the North Carolina Section Manager. Reed received 730 votes. Challengers Glenn Roger Allen, KD4MYE, of Wake Forest received 675 votes and Billy Mitchell, WB4SGA, of Mebane, received 636 votes.

The votes were counted at ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT on February 24. They posted an ARRL bulletin on the Internet with the results. The results were posted on the BARC Internet site before 5 PM the same day.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club congratulates Reed for his victory and look forward to working with him again for the advancement of Amateur Radio in North Carolina. - W4YDY

Cutting Costs on Ham Chatter Mailings

Ham Chatter is published on the Internet at the BARC web site each month. Most of the time, it is published on the web before members received their copies at home. Because of the cost of mailing, some have said they would be glad to just get it from the Internet and print it. This will save 32 cents each for mailing and if enough do this, printing costs will be lower. Anyone interested in *not* receiving the hard copy, please email me at w4ydy@sprintmail.com - W4YDY

Down East Hamfest
Kinston, NC - March 22

President's Corner - Tom,

"Spring is sprung" and a young man's fancy turns to DX, At least mine does. I have thoroughly enjoyed Dxing on 20 meters during the cold months. Just today, I waded through over an hour of pileups with the whole world to work Thailand. My patience was rewarded when E21JCN called back my letters and I was able to put him in the log. I spent over a year in Thailand with the US Army and was most happy to log this one.

All of this brought back a memory which I would like to relate for it's safety value. The Air Force in Udorn, Thailand erected a tower so we military types could call home via MARS. Well! the antenna was installed, and as the technician reached up to cut away the guide ropes, his follow through slashed his leather safety belt and he fell to his death. Every time I went to use that station the thoughts of this young man's tragic death crossed my mind. I pass it on to you as a reminder, no matter how good we are, or think we are, safety must be our number one consideration.

Those of you who have been working DX have probably noticed the increase in the number of really DX

stations, such as Australia, Japan, Indonesia, etc. I was even able to work Bagdad, Iraq. The thought kept racing through my mind, "What if we bomb them before I get my QSL card"? Fortunately the station had a stateside QSL manager and I have the card in hand. I even heard Bombay, India, but the band opening was too short, and the pile-up too long, for me to get on. All this does indicate that the sunspot cycle is

"Spring is sprung" and a young man's fancy turns to DX. At least mine does.

improving and the bands will be getting a lot better. Dxing should be high on your list of priorities. I am not a contest, but! I sure do enjoy logging those "new ones".

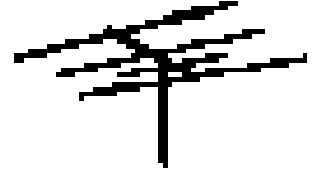
We made our first effort at code practice right before the February meeting (1900-1930). Murray Merner, KF4FQB, facilitated the class. Three members attended with the speed

determined by the attendees. As I mentioned last month, we can conduct several

sessions simultaneously if there is enough interest. Different code speeds and theory are the areas where we think we can help. Come early and tell us what you want. You can always call me at 355-2815, or e-mail to 'tparsons@greenvillenc.com' to voice your desires.

By the way! If you missed the cake and ice cream during our birthday meeting, I will have the left overs at the March meeting. Yes! I froze the cake so it's not stale (I hope). Hope to see you there.

73, Tom, W4TEP



Happy

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

3	KC4UCW	Jane Lindsley
7	W3OHF	W. R. Winfred
9	WB4RQG	Leland Tucker
9	KC4ROQ	Jeff Wainwright
13	KF4EKG	Jeremy KcKeel
14	KD4MTR	James Hoover
18	WA4DX	Donald Corley, Jr.
20	KF4FQB	Murray Merner
21	KB4RES	Linda Leighty

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - W4YDY

New BARC Member

BARC welcomes **Carlton Moseley, W4YVY**, Tarboro, NC.

WELL WISHES!!

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ for a speedy surgical recovery.

Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, and wife, Maryanne. Paul had a bad bout of the Flu and Maryanne is recovery from surgery.

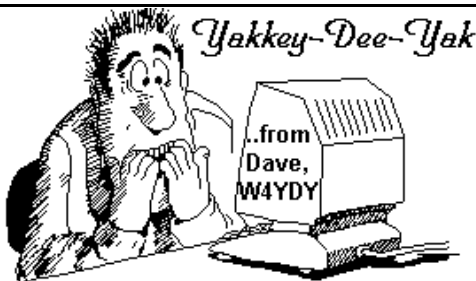
Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK's mother is slowly recovery from surgery. Also, Juanita is going through procedures for continued Intestinal problems.

Len Downing, K4LEN, recovering from a Heart Attack in January.

Dave Langley, W4YDY's sister is ill and presently at Raleigh Community Hospital. - KE4JWK

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When there is some breaking news that members of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club would be interested in, I try to put it on the BARC Internet site as soon as possible. Since the early part of December, I have been putting late breaking information at the top of the home page just below the BARC logo. For those that have Internet access, you might check the BARC Internet site at least a couple of times a week. The information stays online for about four weeks.

The types of information that has been put on the BARC site have been members' callsign changes, club activities, etc. Votes were counted by the ARRL for the North Carolina Section Manager on February 24. The BARC web site had the count on before 5:00 P.M. on the same day. Also an announcement went on the BARC site a couple of weeks earlier that indicated when the votes would be counted.

More information has been added to the ARES section on the BARC Internet site. The Monday night net now has the Net Control Station listing for 1998 on the Internet. A link to the page is provided from the ARES section on the BARC home page. It will be updated with new NCS information when it is forwarded to me by **Byron, KA4KGZ**.

Other useful information to club members is on the BARC site. There is an application that can be printed out. It will appear almost exactly like the one that was included with the newsletter a couple of months ago. The December issue of Ham Chatter on the Internet has

information about dues for different classes of members. One of my next projects for the home page will be to get the dues information there. I had an email a couple of weeks ago from someone that wanted that information. By putting it on the home page, it will be easier to find.

Steve Ayer, N2TKX, Editor of the Amateur Radio News Service Bulletin in the March edition asked the question, "Are we on your mailing list?" He was asking the editors of newsletters that are members of the ARNS. He had thirty-five Amateur Radio newsletters listed that he was receiving. There was only one of the thirty-five listed that had Internet and mail editions. That one was the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club *Ham Chatter*. It looks like BARC is becoming known in many areas now. The BARC guestbook on the web had a couple of nice comments about

BARC from **N4BWO** in Charlotte and **WB4AQK** in Salisbury after they viewed the BARC site.

The Amateur Radio News Service 1997 Publications Contest closed with a total of 71 entries. Lee Knirko, W9MOL, President of ARNS, reported that the judges are hard at work and the results are expected to be announced soon. We hope to get some good ideas on how to make Ham Chatter a better publication.

I'm always looking for input from BARC members. There are a few that contribute and that is very helpful. Thanks to Murray Merner, KF4FQB, for his assistance in writing the Meet the Members column. He needs your support with your input. With about 80 to 90 members and more joining every year, we should never run out of members for the column. - *W4YDY*

Twenty-Four Years Ago

From April 1974 RARS News

BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A highlight of the March meeting was a discussion of 2 meter FM operation and repeaters. It was pointed out that Greenville amateurs are keeping up with the new trend of VHF, and to date BARC has the following members operating on two meter FM -W4DXJ, W4NXY, W4OMW, WA4BVA, WB4HEW, W4AMC (Robersonville) and K4AJR (Washington). Also two YL members sometimes can be found operating on the Grifton repeater; Mary Knapp, W4UTO of Greenville and Connie Hackney, WB4ZWZ in Washington, N. C.

Others heard on 2 meters, and at one time or another were members of BARC are: WB4PMQ, K4BGD, W4JVP and W4EYZ (Aurora). Dennis Dough, W4EYZ now his his own repeater, WR4ABQ in operation 24 hours a day on 146.34/94. This repeater along with the E. N. C. Repeater, WR4ABP, makes a good combination for any emergencies that may happen in the east North Carolina area.

Most of the above mentioned amateurs as well as operators on the lower frequencies will be attending the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society HAMFEST in Raleigh on Sunday, April 21.

ATTENTION!!

Will the Member that paid their dues with Check # 2265 in Dec., please call Juanita, KE4JWK at 355-1051. You may receive a Red Dot on your label in error. - KE4JWK

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New ARRL Book--*RF Exposure And You*--Now Available

If you're worried about how to comply with the FCC's new RF exposure requirements, then you'll want a copy of the new ARRL book by ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. *RF Exposure and You* became available just this week.

As ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, put it: "The new RF exposure rules are now a part of the regulatory landscape and are likely to remain so." *RF Exposure and You* is the best way available to ease the transition, Sumner said.

This book communicates one simple message: For the vast majority of Amateur Radio operators, the RF exposure rules are *not* difficult to understand and follow. At 320 pages, *RF Exposure and You* contains all the background information, suggestions and worksheets you'll need to help you comply with the new RF exposure rules and to operate your station legally and safely.

Hare said that preparing the book was "a real challenge and a real collective effort." The result is a book that's probably the first of its kind. "I have never seen this information pulled together in one place before," he said.

ARRL Headquarters staff and volunteers (including the ARRL RF Safety Committee) participated fully with the FCC as the Commission determined the best advice to give amateurs on how to meet the new requirements. The League was able to persuade the FCC to reconsider its rules, and to rewrite them so that amateurs would be less affected. Hare says it took a lot of teamwork between Headquarters staff and outside volunteers to have the book printed and available in just three months.

A. J. Kruger, K7CMM, of Arizona, placed the first advance order for *RF Exposure and You* early this year. This week, Hare personally autographed the first copy out of the box--indicating it was the first copy purchased from ARRL Headquarters. The order went out this week.

RF Exposure and You is \$15 (plus shipping and handling). Order Item #6621. To order your copy, visit your local Amateur Radio retailer or the ARRL Web, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6621>, or call toll-free 888-277-5289. - via *ARRL Letter Online*, 2/27/98

"The new RF exposure rules are now a part of the regulatory landscape and are likely to remain so."

Cushcraft Continues in Ham Market; Hires New Veep

Cushcraft says reports of its demise in the ham radio market have been greatly exaggerated. Cushcraft Production Manager Art Hambleton, K1ART, says the New Hampshire antenna manufacturer is still very much a part of the Amateur Radio antenna industry. Rumors that Cushcraft was exiting the ham market apparently mushroomed when word spread of some layoffs at Cushcraft.

Hambleton confirmed that a couple of people had been let go and that Cushcraft had cut back on its advertising in ham radio publications, and he attributed the moves to budgetary cutbacks. But he said "1997 was not a bad year" for the company. And Cushcraft has just hired another ham in a key position.

Hambleton announced this week that Cushcraft has hired Adam Alevy, N1FXT, of Amherst, New Hampshire, as its vice president of engineering. Alevy was previously with Atlantic Microwave of Bolton, Massachusetts. At Atlantic he designed VHF through millimeter wave antennas for communications and tracking applications.

As director of engineering at Cushcraft, Hambleton said, Alevy, 34, will manage the engineering group and design antennas in both commercial and amateur radio markets.

Cushcraft recently announced its X7 and X9 tribanders as part of its "Big Thunder" series. - via *ARRL Letter Online*, 2/13/98

Next VE Session April 17

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on April 17. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Please bring the following:

- Photo ID (drivers license)
- Original Amateur Radio License
- Copy of Amateur Radio License
- Original CSCE's
- Copy of CSCE



50 Years For W6OWP Practice Sessions!

Fifty years ago (in February), Bart, W6OWP, began the West Coast code practice and qualifying runs. The first official announcement appeared in the June 1948 edition of *QST*. Congratulations, Bart, and thanks! - via *ARRL Letter Online*, 2/13/98

Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, is Hamvention Speaker

Country music legend Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, will be the 1998 Dayton Hamvention banquet speaker. This year's Hamvention is May 15, 16, and 17, and the banquet will be the evening of May 16. Milsap also will serve as the evening's entertainment.

Blind since birth, Milsap discovered a connection to music while attending the North Carolina State School for the Blind. He learned to play piano, guitar, clarinet, violin and cello, and developed his vocal talents.

Milsap began performing professionally in the 1960s and has won numerous awards, including Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year (1974, 1976 and 1977) and CMA Album of the Year (1976, 1978 and 1986). In 1983, the Academy of Country Music voted Milsap Best Male Vocalist. He won Song of the Year in 1986 for *Lost in the Fifties Tonight*. He also received the only gold Braille album ever awarded. Today,

Milsap can be seen regularly at The Ronnie Milsap Theater in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Hamvention 1998 banquet will be held at the Nutter Center at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. The Nutter Center has free parking for banquet attendees, no steps, and handicapped access. The banquet also will feature the awards presentation for Amateur of the Year, Technical Excellence, and Special Achievement.

Banquet tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 (if available) the day of the banquet. Seating is limited. Tickets for the concert only are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available by fax, mail, at the Hara Arena box office or at the Nutter Center box office. There's a \$3 charge for concert parking.

For more information, visit <http://www.hamvention.org/>. - via *ARRL Letter Online* - 1/9/98

Hams Help in Aftermath of Florida Tornadoes

Hams pitched in to help in the aftermath of intense storms and tornadoes in Central Florida that killed more than three dozen and injured hundreds of others. The tornadoes and heavy thunderstorms struck early Monday while most people were asleep, surprising the residents of the affected areas between Daytona Beach and Orlando. Many were left homeless by the storms, now being called the deadliest and most destructive in Florida's recorded history. Weather observers blamed the tornadoes on the El Nino weather system. Some families lost their homes and everything they owned. In one tragic incident, a tornado wrenched an 18-month old toddler out of its father's arms; the child later was found dead. In another miraculous one, the storm picked up a youngster on his

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Twenty-Five TV Guide Crossword Goof Years Ago

"Charlie Wells, K4SKI, from Greenville, N.C. presented an interesting talk and movie presentation on his trip to nine African countries to visit his friends there who he talks with regularly on the radio." *From March 1973 RARS minutes. via RARS News April 1973*

A crossword puzzle in the popular weekly *TV Guide* January 17 badly blurred the distinction between ham radio and CB. In the puzzle, "CBER" was given as the answer for the clue "ham radio user." ARRL Public Relations Specialist Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, wrote *TV Guide* after several members brought the error to the League's attention. In a

follow-up call, she was told that the appropriate staff people were made aware of the mistake and that the magazine may run a brief item telling readers that letters were received on the issue. Gagne said it was unlikely that the puzzle would ever be reprinted. - via *ARRL Letter Online*, 2/20/98

ELMER

BY RICH REGENT, K9GDF



Via ARNS Bulletin - January 1997

The Bet

A programmer and an engineer are sitting next to each other on a long flight from LA to NY. The Programmer leans over to the Engineer and asks if he would like to play a fun game. The Engineer just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks.

The Programmer persists and explains that the game is really easy and a lot of fun. He explains: "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5." Again, the Engineer politely declines and tries to get some sleep.

The Programmer, now somewhat agitated, says "OK, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$50!" This catches the Engineer's complete attention, and he sees no end to this torment unless he plays, so he agrees to the game.

The Programmer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The Engineer doesn't say a word, reaches into his wallet, pulls out a five-dollar bill and hands it to the Programmer. Now, it's the Engineer's turn. He asks the Programmer: "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The Programmer looks at him with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references. He taps into the Airphone with his modem and searches the Net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends E-mails to all his co-workers and friends he knows. All to no avail.

After over an hour, he wakes the Engineer and hands him \$50. The Engineer politely takes the \$50 and turns away to get back to sleep. The Programmer, more than a little miffed, shakes the Engineer and asks, "Well, so what IS the answer?" Without a word, the Engineer reaches into his wallet, hands the Programmer \$5 and goes back to sleep.

From "The Feedback", 11/97, Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Mark Doore-N3NTQ Editor via ARNS Bulletin, 2/98, Steve Auyer-N2TKX Editor.

Tower Law Success: Chalk One Up For Amateur Radio

Hams in Mason County, Washington, won't be encumbered by a telecommunications ordinance that would have restricted the height of ham radio towers to 70 feet and imposed other regulations. Andrew Forsberg, WV7M, of Grapeview, reports that several hams in the largely rural Western Washington county (population approximately 30,000) cited federal preemption over local regulation of Amateur Radio activities as well as the hobby's public service dimension to get the County Board of Commissioners to exclude ham radio from the new law last month.

Forsberg says that, as originally drafted, not only would tower heights have been limited to 70 feet, but building-mounted towers could not have been more than 20 feet tall. It also would have held the height of vertical antennas (called "whips" in the proposed regulations) to 15 feet. In addition, the proposed law would have required landscaping to hide a tower and lot setbacks equal to a tower's height--something often impossible on a small, residential lot.

Forsberg said that, at first, the drafters of the new ordinance "seemed to be unmoved by Amateur Radio considerations." In addition to federal preemption, the county hams pointed out the connection between a good antenna system and ham radio's public service contributions--in an area subject to floods, earthquakes, power outages during winter storms, and even volcanic activity). Commissioners "began to soften their position," Forsberg said.

"By the time the vote was taken, the commissioners were well-informed of our position and were commending Amateur Radio for its outstanding contributions to the community," he said. *via ARRL Letter Online, 2/6/98*

Coastal Emergency Linking System Net Wednesday @ 2100

Location	Freq.	Pl	Tone	Up/Down
Hatteras	145.15	131.8		51/50
link radio 443.3				
WA4ACY				
Manteo	146.94			131.8
942/943				
Remote Base 145.11 pl 131.8				
KB4TOH				
Columbia	145.11	131.8		11/10
M/W UHF Rep. 443.3				
K4ROK				
Farmville	145.27	131.8		71/70
KA4KNU				
Williamston	145.41	131		41/40
M/W UHF 444.35				
KA4ZGQ				
Ahoskie	146.91	131.8		91/90
Link Radio 444.35				
WN4Z				
Rocky Mt.	146.12			21/20
Link Radio 444.35				
KD4ITB				
Rich Square	443.4	131.8		341/340
Link Radio 444.35				
K4SPS				
Franklin VA	147.3	131.8		731/730
Link Radio 444.35				

Mike, KB4TOH, 10/24/97

YLRL Web Site Moves

The Young Ladies' Radio League Web site has moved to <http://home.earthlink.net/~tenmtryl/ylrl/>. The pages will be redesigned and new ones will be added, including information on the upcoming convention, how to join YLRL, and links to other sites. For more information, contact YLRL Editor Margaret Dunn, KC7LXS, at her new e-mail address, tenmtryl@earthlink.net. *via ARRL Letter Online, 2/6/98*

Meet the BARC Members - Murray Merner, KF4FQB

(Continued from page 1)

electronics about the time transistors were breaking on to the scene - it was there the tank radio was stolen. Shortly after becoming a citizen he was drafted and was in Viet Nam for all of 1969. After discharge, Murray attended Ohio State University where he got his BS in Psychology. For the three months before starting graduate school, he was a prison guard at the Ohio State Penitentiary.

Murray dragged his wife and two kids (ages 2 and 4 at the time) to graduate school at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi (home of MFJ) a small town in deep rural south. He got his masters in psychology in 1973. He got a job working in a seven county mental health center as coordinator of the day program and did that for eight years while working on his Ph.D. At the time of his graduation in 1981, he also became the executive director of that same mental health center. The center was about to go bankrupt, but with a lot of hard work from everybody, when he left for Greenville, NC in 1986, it was very solvent.

Murray became the Adult Services Coordinator at the mental health center here. He stayed there for 6.5 years before joining the hospital as the director of the Employee Assistance Service.

In November 1995, Murray was talking to **Henry Peszko, WB4DWC**, who told him about an Amateur Radio class being conducted by **Simon**

Jaworski, KQ2V, - he went. He got his Tech in January, '96, his Tech Plus in February '96, and his General in October '96. He's working on his Advanced and has passed the 20 wpm test. It was his honor to be elected First Vice President of BARC for 1998.

With Simon's help he got his Kenwood ST 520 S at the Raleigh hamfest in April '96. The 80 meter dipole was erected with the help of Simon and **John McCoy, K4KBB**. His equipment also includes a MFJ-490 keyer and an AEA keyer. He prefers CW, but contrary to popular belief, he does have a mike.

Murray and Mary have two children Michelle who lives in Raleigh and Mark who is married and is attending graduate school at Wake Forest.

As you can see, Murray never got any where alone. Family, friends, hams and dedicated teachers and employees always played an important part of his success. He will always be indebted to those who have helped him in Amateur Radio and he is sure there will be many more in the future. Ham radio, pass it on!

Editor's Note:

The above was written by KF4FQB. He left out that he is one of the most helpful BARC members and always willing to go the extra step in making BARC a better Amateur Radio Club and volunteering for many projects. - W4YDY

New Carolinas Slow Net Manager

Ken Rape, AE4UB, of Jefferson, SC has been appointed as Net Manager of the Carolinas Slow Net (CSN).

Ken replaced Ed, AE4EC, who asked to be replaced after several years of service. Under Ed's leadership, CSN prospered and grew. He still remains active in CSN and other NC Section Net. Thanks, Ed!

CSN meets nightly at 6PM Local time on 3715 Khz. It serves both NC and SC. It is CW and runs about 5 to 8 WPM. Please QNI and show Ken your support.

Other NC Section NTS Nets:

Net	Time	Freq Khz	Net Manager
NCMN	0745 Local	3927	KI4YV
CSN	1800	3715	AE4UB
NCEN	1830	3923	KB4FWL
CN (early)	1900	3573	K4IWW
CN (late)	2200	3573	K4IWW

73,
Will, K4IWW - NC STM

Florida Tornadoes

(Continued from page 5)

mattress and placed him gently on an oak tree.

ARRL Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Nils Millergren, WA4NDA, said the tornadoes mostly affected Florida's East Central District, while the West Central District--Sumter County in particular--experienced flooding. At least three Red Cross shelters were reported open in the days right after the storms struck. Millergren says amateurs were providing communications for shelters and had put in hundreds of operator-hours in Sumter County alone. Seminole County ARES/RACES member Allen Wilson, WB7BCI, was among dog-handler hams activated to assist in the search and rescue effort. Other hams were involved in damage assessment and in providing backup communication to relieve

(Continued on page 8)

New Satellite Handbook Available

The ARRL's new *Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook* by Martin Davidoff, K2UBC is off the press. This brand-new edition contains valuable information on satellite operating, types of antennas (including how-to articles on building your own), software, satellite Internet sites, profiles of all the current active satellites and much more. This new edition includes 376 pages of information, such as getting ready for the new Phase 3D satellite and information about Amateur Radio operation from the

US space shuttles (SAREX) and the Russian *Mir* space station. It contains thorough appendices covering profiles of computer programs, Internet sites, FCC Rules, and a complete history of amateur satellite and space operations. The new *Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook* is available from ARRL Publications. Order Item #6583. It's \$22 (plus shipping and handling). To order your copy, visit your local Amateur Radio retailer or the ARRL Web, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6583>, or call toll-free 888-277-

BARC Monthly Minutes - February 1998

BARC MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 1997 1930HR. ST. PETERS SCHOOL

1. Call to Order by Tom Parsons, W4TEP.
2. Introductions / Rollcall / Welcome Visitors.
3. 50/50 Invitation.
4. January Meeting Minutes per motion of Gary Gasperini, KU4NQ, 2nd by Murray Merner, KF4FQB, and approved by group as published in the Ham Chatter.
5. Reports from Officers / Committees:

A. Treasurer's Report by Alex Macklin, KC4PHJ. Current Balance \$1387.19 with \$670.00 set aside for equipment. Alex presented a proposed budget for 1998.

B. Secretary's Report by Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK: See Newsletters. The annual BARC Dues are due. Please fill out the applications for updates when paying dues. Red Dots will be placed on the labels of unpaid members at the end of Feb. Members will be dropped before the April Issue of HAM CHATTER is mailed, if dues not paid by the March meeting. Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, is back home recuperating his recent surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery!!

C. President's Report by Tom, W4TEP, voiced Wayne, plans to update the Club tonight via radio concerning the Repeater changes coming about.

D. VOA Site C - Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, noted that the current VOA Committee has been disbanded and a new Committee will be formed by the County and the City. See article in this past Sunday's newspaper. There is a proposal to take down most of the towers and the satellite dish. Lots of possibilities for the site.

E. Absentee Ballot, Special Service Club status - No report due to Paul Fletcher's, KS4YF, absence due to illness. We all hope Paul is well soon.

F. Club Equipment - Mike Langley, KD4MTT, noted the Trailer is in need of tires. Also, we need to think about getting Microphone Headsets to go

in the Trailer for Special Events and Field Day due noise and limited room. Mike also voiced need of money budgeted specifically for maintenance of equipment and the trailer. Bernie recommended purchasing an All-Band Vertical Antenna. Mike questioned whether a Screwdriver-type Antenna would be more suitable since it can be mounted to the Trailer. After a discussion by the group, no decision was made to purchase any equipment at this time, but will look in to the costs and details of each.

G. Special Events Committee Chairman, Gary, KU4NQ, looking for individuals to organize a Special Event Station for the Dogwood Festival. All other Events have tentative organizers.

H. Silent Key Committee - Joe Melton, WB4SLF, noted that the passing of Chuck Tucker, AD4ZJ, and John Harper, K4IHS. Joe asked if anyone knows the address of Chuck's family to send condolences.

I. On another note, Brother Simon, KQ2V, received a call from Honorary Member, Jack Kear, K4MI, and said to tell everyone hello and has a new hobby, Square Dancing. Also, Jack will attend the Charlotte Hamfest this year and hopes to see some BARC HAMS there.

J. Field Day Chairman - Bernie, WA4MOK, asked for committee volunteers. Murray, KF4FQB, Juanita, KE4JWK, and Mike, KD4MTT, has volunteered thus far. Also, asking for all members to get involved and give ideas for Field Day operations and set-up.

6. Outstanding Business:

A. The Plaque for 1997 Outgoing President Award for Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, will be presented to him at the next meeting due to his absence tonight.

B. The Budget - approved by the group present after discussion and motion by Bob Fainter, KE4UGC, second by Murray and Brother Simon. Mike had concerns about Ham Chatter cost and finding ways to reduce it. Dave Langley, W4YDY, noted the Chatter costs about 57 cents an issue per person. Juanita noted that one of the reasons dues were

last increased was to counteract cost of the Chatter. In the interest of saving money, if anyone would like to received the Ham Chatter via the Internet only, then please let Dave and/or Juanita know.

C. CW Training Classes are being held at 1900hrs. before each BARC Meeting. See Murray if interested.

D. Unable to reach Wayne about the Repeaters, Bernie gave an update on Wayne's behalf. The 145.35 Repeater's Autopatch is back up with *911 programmed in. The Tone frequency 131.8 will eventually be put on "35" and the 147.09 Repeaters.

7. New Business:

A. Next VE Session - Feb. 20, 1998 at 6:30 pm, in the Science Classroom at St. Peter's School.

8. 50/50 Drawing: \$16.00 collected, with \$8.00 won by Jim Smith, KF4VHH in which he donated \$3.00 back to the Club.

9. The Meeting was adjourned at 2020hr. by motion of the group.

10. Happy 31st Anniversary BARC.

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Florida Tornadoes

(Continued from page 7)

already-congested commercial systems. Net operations on 2 meters continued this week, and volunteers still were being solicited in Northern Florida.

Osceola County--the only county in the Southern Florida section affected by the storms--was said to have been hardest hit. Osceola County EC Christopher Hammock, KE4DUJ, spent several days at the county Emergency Operations Center. Osceola has a small ham population. Southern Florida SM Rip Van Winkle, AA4HT, reports hams from outside the county--particularly from Polk County--were helping out. Van Winkle said Osceola ham operations in support of the emergency wrapped up February 26.

Damage was reported to be in the tens of millions of dollars. Curfews were imposed in some areas to deter looting.--thanks to Nils Millergren, WA4NDA, Rip Van Winkle, AA4HT, and others. - via ARRL Letter Online, 2/27/98

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, ATTN: Dave Langley** or email to: w4ydy@sprintmail.com

FOR SALE:

QST - June 1946 - December 1990
CQ - April 1946 - December 1990 (most issues)

HAM RADIO - Some issues

73 - Some issues

Contact Carlton Moseley, W4YVY

1612 Colony Drive

Tarboro NC 27886

Phone: 919 823 4757 (2)

For Sale: These items are from the estate of Chuck Tucker, AD4ZJ. The items are all in good condition and the prices are negotiable:

- 1 1 Kenwood TS-450 HF transceiver, \$800.00
- 2 1 Yaesu FT 840 HF Rig, \$800.00
- 3 1 Kenwood TM 241A 2 meter rig, \$175.00
- 4 1 Icom Model 322 EH VHF/UHF Dual Bander, \$400.00
- 5 1 JPS Noise Eliminator NIR-10 \$100.00
- 6 1 Astron 12V Power Supply 20 ampere Model RS/VS 20, \$100.00
- 7 1 MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II Model 949E, \$100.00
- 8 1 MFJ Versa Tuner Model 941E
- 9 2 York Speakers, \$20.00 each
- 10 1 AB Coaxial Switch Box, \$10.00
- 11 2 Radio Shack SWR Power Tester, \$15.00 each
- 12 1 MFJ 812B SWR meter, \$15.00
- 13 1 CB meter 21-520A 3 Range Power SWR tester, \$??

Please contact Brother Simon Jaworski OSF, KQ2V, at 752-3529 (w) or 752-3901 (h) for further information. (2)

FCC Computer NETS System Back on Line

The FCC got its errant Amateur Radio licensing computer system back on line February 21 and began processing the backlog of applications. The system went down February 10, and no paper or electronic applications were processed for nearly 11 days as FCC personnel in Gettysburg attempted to troubleshoot the problems with the system.

Gettysburg personnel first processed data submitted on February 11 and 12 by VECs and had an updated file available for the Internet call sign servers on February 21. Since the initial processing went well, VECs then sent on the applications they'd been holding back at the FCC's request. By February 26, it was business as usual. Gettysburg had caught up with the backlog and ran a batch of vanity applications, although a number of applications remained in the work in process (WIPs) stack.

The FCC offered no explanation for the computer breakdown--its longest ever. The situation frustrated those who have been hoping to learn their new call signs or to check on updated licensing status. Call sign servers on the Internet also were affected. The FCC apologized to VECs for the inconvenience. - *via ARRL Letter Online, 2/27/98*

BARC MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 1997 1930HR. ST. PETERS SCHOOL

(Continued from page 8)

Cake and Ice Cream served.

11. Tonight's Program: RF Safety presented by Dave Langley, W4YDY. See new FCC Form 610. As of January 1, 1998 everyone must sign a statement declaring that you are complying to the new Safety Regulations.

Minutes by **Juanita Humbles, KE4JWK**

VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/ Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WD4DAN Net, Monday, 2000 on 146.61 and 224.84 MHz
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 on 145.11 MHz and linked repeaters.
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

HF

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

The Cat

A dog thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me, and take good care of me...

They must be gods!

A cat thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me, and take good care of me...

I must be a god!

The above appeared in the January 1998 newsletter of the Peconic Amateur Radio Club, Ralph Grover-NS2S Editor. Via ARNS Bulletin, March 1998

BARC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1	Ham Chatter Deadline	April 25	Farmville Dogwood Festival
March 7-8	ARRL SSB DX Contest	April 25	Teddy Bear Safe Walk
March 10	Regular Meeting	April 30	Board Meeting
March 22	Hamfest at Kinston	May 2	International Festival
March 26	Board Meeting	May 3	Ham Chatter Deadline
March 28-29	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest	May 12	Reg. Meeting - Farmville Cook Out
April 4	Grifton Shad Festival	May 28	Board Meeting
April 5	Ham Chatter Deadline	May 30-31	CQ WW CW WPX Contest
April 5	Raleigh Hamfest	May 31	Ham Chatter Deadline
April 14	Regular Meeting	June 9	Regular Meeting
April 17	BARC VE Session	June 25	Board Meeting
April 18	Purple Pigskin Pigout	June 28	ARRL Field Day

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATION

W 4 A M C

March 1998

RED DOT on label?
 Have you paid your dues?

To:



PO Box 8387
 Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter