



# Ham Chatter

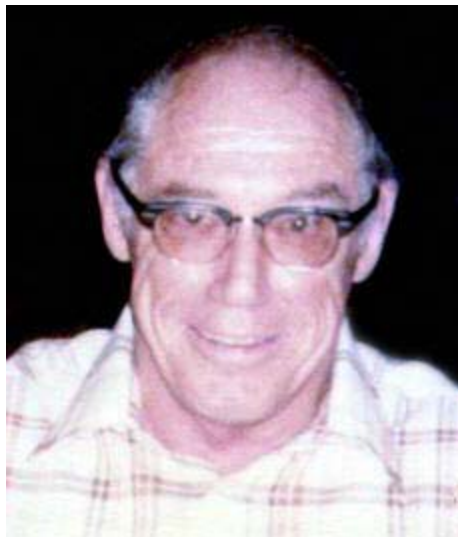


Volume XXXIII Issue 11 An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication November 1999

Editor, Dave Langley, W4YDY, Email: w4ydy@arrl.net

Contributing Editor: Murray Merner, K4MHM

## Meet The Member Charlie Wells, K4SKI



The other night I spent some time with Charlie. The stories that man can tell! His experiences would fill a book and are greatly abbreviated here. It was really an enjoyable experience filled with the amateur radio spirit. Charlie is a long time resident of Greenville - he can tell you about farming on the land where K-Mart stands now. He got his Conditional General license in 1959 and was grandfathered to General, his current license. Jack Edwards, W4DXJ and Layton Clark, W4GLI, and the Phelps family (they had 12 hams) got Charlie interested in ham radio. He learned his Morse code in the hospital after an operation with Bill Clapp, sending him text from the Count of Monte Cristo. Almost

*(Continued on page 4)*

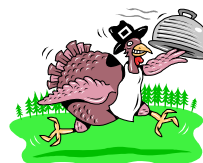
## Next Meeting

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its monthly meeting on November 9 at 7:30 PM at St. Peter's School on 5th Street. Elections will be held for Officers for 2000. It is required to renew your Amateur Radio license. A computer will be set up for ULS registration and an Amateur Radio video may be shown. All members and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting is set for November 30 at 7:00 PM.*

## Greensboro Hamfest Cancelled

The Greensboro Hamfest that was set for November 27 has been cancelled. Word was received via a friend on 40 meters. Checked the web site <http://www.greensboro.com/hamradio/> and it gave a name to contact for more information. - W4YDY



Happy Thanksgiving

## New Ham Class

Like most things around here, Floyd has take it toll on the class. Students and instructors have experienced losses. One couple had to withdraw because they lost their house and another's business was flooded out. John, K4KBB, had major damage to his business and water got into his house (and destroyed his instructor notes!) and Bill, WA4SLC had a moat around his house. We had to cancel two classes throwing the schedule into a tail spin. Students and instructors have been flexible in the schedule changes we've had to make. We're going to add two weeks to the end of the schedule to have it finish up Dec 9. Working together we're making it work.

There has been some attrition and we've had one addition, Heath Johnson an ECU student who works for John, K4KBB - thanks for the "referral". Tom, W4TEP, stimulated some interest at the Red Cross during his stay there during the recent disaster. Speaking of the Red Cross, they put us up for a session when there was another activity at St. Peter's - they even treated us to some cake after a volunteer celebration they had elsewhere. In addition to Bob, KE4UGC, Bill,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## BARC Christmas Party One Week Earlier!

The annual BARC Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 7 this year, one week before the usual time. There was a conflict with the facilities this year. It will be held at St. Peter's School in the library.

# President's Corner - Murray, K4MHM

While hurricane Irene added insult to injury with some more rain, we were saved from Jose. There remains widespread destruction in our county and a lot of misery - and this will go on for some time. They remain in our thoughts. A lot of people, including members of BARC, are helping those in need. Those efforts are appreciated by all of us.

All in all, it's been a quieter month. That's been nice. At the last meeting ballots made by Byron, KA4KGZ, were handed to those who needed an absentee ballot for the first time - we hope this will give our members more input into the democratic process of the club. The slate has been provided by the Nominations Committee, but remember you can also write in candidates. These are the people who will be leading the club next year - they need your serious consideration before you vote and your support after they are elected. Come to the November meeting to cast your vote.

Last month's meeting program was a discussion about our experiences with Floyd's wind and water. Just about all of us in that room played some important part in our community's reaction to the disaster. Our community really does need us.

Reminder, the December meeting, which will be our Christmas Party, will be held on December 7.

Ham radio, pass it on.  
73,

*Murray, K4MHM*

## New Ham Class

*(Continued from page 1)*

WA4SLC, did two classes, Gary, KU4NQ, Bernie, WA4MOK, and yours truly have all taught a class and Ken, N8FF has been to each class tapping out Morse code. I believe we're getting better at it. We have five classes to go. - K4MHM

## The Role of VY0 in ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nunavut Territory, VY0, was created in April 1999 from territories formerly part of the Northwest Territories. Within Canada, it remains a territory, not a new province. Effective January 1, 2000, Nunavut (abbreviated NU) will count as a new multiplier for contests that use political delineations--including the International DX Contest, the RTTY Round-Up and the 10 Meter Contest. In contests that use ARRL/RAC sections for scoring--including November Sweepstakes and the ARRL 160 Meter Contest--Nunavut counts for Northwest Territories/Yukon and is not a new multiplier. Field Day and the IARU HF World Championship also are not affected. For more information contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, n1nd@arrl.org; 860-594-0232. - via ARRL Letter Online 10/29/99

## Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, Featured

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, was featured with a picture in the Worldradio magazine recently. It was about his activities in Kinston during the recent hurricanes.



## Happy Birthday

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

1	WA4SLD	Bernice Turnage
1	KA4WFS	Walter Verdick
6	K7GM	Rick Niswander
7	KD4NYV	John Waters, Jr.
8	KD4NHZ	Walter Allen
12	W4OCT	Frank Tate
13	K4NBH	Charlie Knowles
13	KE4CTL	Joyce Robins
21	KF4VHH	Jim Smith
26	W4RGF	Robert Sickles

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

*Correction: Last issues birthdays should have been October instead of September.*

## Well Wishes

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club extends its condolences to Wayne Ross, WD4JPQ, on the passing of his grandmother.

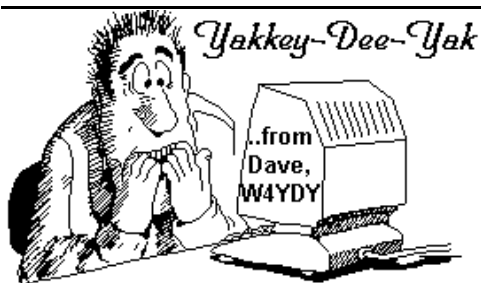
The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club extends its condolences to Johnnie Waters, Sr., KD4KLM, and John Waters, Jr., KD4NYV, for the passing of Johnnie's father, Darwin Waters on October 6. Mr. Waters was a Pitt County native, a veteran of World War II and a lifelong resident of Greenville. Memorials may be made to the Flood Relief Fund, % American Red Cross, Pitt County Chapter, 601-F Country Club Drive, Greenville, NC 27834.

## Correction

Mike Kushman, Jr., KF4RIF, should have been listed in last month's issue of Ham Chatter with hams helping with storm.

## Inside This Issue

<i>Yakkey-Dee-Yak</i>	3
<i>BARC HC Online Notification</i>	4
<i>Email Addresses Correct?</i>	4
<i>Next VE Session December 17</i>	4
<i>New Enforcement Bureau</i>	5
<i>Solar Maximum Prediction</i>	5
<i>Miss. Ham Headed to Court</i>	5
<i>K2ORS SK</i>	6
<i>Net Gets Surprise</i>	6
<i>Let's All Complain!</i>	7
<i>BARC Meeting Minutes</i>	8
<i>Ham Ads</i>	9



*Yakkey-Dee-Yak*

the news media has completely ignored the contributions of Amateur Radio. I just wonder what would have happened if Amateur Radio communications had not been used!

## VFW Post 7032 In Greenville Devastated in Hurricane Floyd & Flood

In the early days of World War II, a courageous young US Navy Seaman named Charles Gray Morgan, gave his life for his country in the waters of the Atlantic. In September, the Greenville Veterans of Foreign Wars post named in his honor was dealt a devastating blow in Hurricane Floyd and the flood that followed. Seventy-two inches of water destroyed the contents of the VFW building. The records are gone. All the bingo equipment; the income from the operation supported the post and helped in the aid we gave to veterans in the form of helping them with rent payments, utility payments, and transportation to veterans hospital facilities, is gone. We are no longer able to help our veterans, in or out of the hospitals and nursing homes, we can no longer help with contributions in our community. We are at the point where we need help ourselves!

Anyone wishing to donate to the rebuilding of our post, please send contributions to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7032 Flood Relief Fund, P. O. Box 1162, Greenville, North Carolina 27835-1162 for any help you can give us, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!- *KA4WFS*

## Chris Bremer, WI4O

Chris is not a member of BARC, but he is an amateur operator who lives in our community. A doctor at the ECU School of Medicine Family Practice Clinic, Chris again exemplifies the kind of person who is a ham. In the Sunday Reflector of Oct 24 he was the subject of a page and a half article about his trip to the Czech Republic. He's made other trips there, but this time it is as a Fulbright grant recipient. He will be there to promote the family physician model and will be teaching, providing patient care and recruiting medical students. There's a picture of Chris at his rig even though it is referred to as a "short wave radio". Chris and his wife Barbara left September 18. Good wishes from BARC and keep in touch. - *K4MHM*

Thanks to Brother Simon, KQ2V, for his contribution to BARC and Ham Chatter. This year, I think that with contributions of stamps, money and printing, the cost of Ham Chatter will be a lot less this year than it was last year.

It is interesting to note that almost forty percent of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members assisted with emergency communications during Hurricane Floyd and the floods that followed. It included several members that had heavy losses of their own. There were members that

**...almost forty percent of the BARC members assisted with emergency communications...**

helped in other areas such as assisting in the shelters, transporting food and water, using boats for rescue and most anything else that needed attending to. From my own experience, I know that Ed Petrie, KB4IPD, was helping in the shelters. He assisted me in taking equipment in one of the shelters when it had to be moved. Also, Mac Manning, KD4AFL, (Sheriff of Pitt County) was very busy with his operation.

The Amateur Radio operation lasted about a week and a half passing traffic for the EOC and Red Cross to the shelters. Also, doctors and nurses had to use Amateur Radio for their third party traffic.

It's been a mystery to me why

As you may note, a story on page five of this issue states that the solar maximum will peak out about mid 2000. The bands are very good now. The CQ World Wide DX Contest ran the last weekend in October and the bands were hot. I heard stations on 40 meters about 7 AM from Hawaii and Australia. They were both about S7 and really had the pileups. I did get the Hawaii station using my inverted vee on 40 meters. I worked twenty two stations from Japan on 10, 15 and 20 meters. Many of the signals were S6 to 10 DB over S9. My antenna had been down for over a week waiting for parts. I installed a 12-17 meter element on my Mosley TA-33 and

raised it back up at 6 PM on Friday.

The contest started at 8 PM, so that was running close!

The SWR is higher than it should be but it works. I haven't had much time to put in the contest, because of other duties that needed to be taken care of, such as finishing up Ham Chatter. Something had to give! Guess it was the contest. Anyway, it's still on while writing this column. Three hundred contacts were made with four new countries landed. A quick count shows that about 70 to 80 countries were worked and all continents. Don't know if I will be able to operate anymore before it ends. About two or three hours a session is long enough for me. - *W4YDY*

## Midland Recalls Weather Radios

Midland Consumer Radio Inc reportedly has recalled 9000 incorrectly programmed weather radios. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says the error can cause users to miss impor-

tant information about approaching severe weather, putting lives and property at risk. Only model 74-200 radios that have serial numbers beginning with 904 or 905 are being recalled. For more information, call Midland Consumer Radio, 877-302-1904.--from press reports - *via ARRL Letter Online 10/29/99*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC, P. O. BOX 8387, GREENVILLE, NC 27835 □ NON COPYRIGHT MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE REPRINTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THIS PUBLICATION □ PRESIDENT - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ FIRST V. PRESIDENT - GARY GASPERINI, KU4NQ, 758-8101 □ SECOND V. PRESIDENT - JIM SMITH, KF4VHH, 355-0407 □ SECRETARY - LILY FAINTER, KV4AW, 355-5542 □ TREASURER - BOB FAINTER, KE4UGC, 355-5542 □ BOARD MEMBER - TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 □ BOARD MEMBER - WAYNE ROSS, WD4JPQ, 756-7719 □ HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY, 321-2525 □ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - MURRAY MERNER, K4MHM, 757-3429 □ OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BARC.

# Meet The Member, Charlie Wells, K4SKI

*(Continued from page 1)*

from the moment he got his license, Charlie was interested in DX.

In World War II became a paratrooper for the \$50 more a month in jump pay. After WW II he used the GI Bill to get his pilot's license. Most of Charlie's employment has been close to electronic maintenance. At one time he went to Chili, South America to help wire a power station. He used phone patch while there to help keep the other Americans in touch with their families.

He is an honorary citizen of Liberia conferred upon him by the President of Liberia. This was in recognition for his humanitarian effort to assist in the identification and treatment of Lassa Fever which had killed many people. He used amateur radio to set up communication between many international government and health agencies resulting in the development of a vaccine to combat the disease. This feat also resulted in him being on the TV show *To Tell the Truth* filmed in New York.

Amateur radio was used by Charlie to come to the rescue of an Israeli teenager in Ghana who had suffered a concussion from a car accident. Charlie again linked international agencies resulting in five doctors going the young man's aid.

As a result of these experiences, Charlie took a trip to the African continent. He visited Serria Leon, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Lomi, Dahomi, Niger and Mali. He spent 16 days on the trip and talked to Bob Knapp, W4OMW, who was in Charlie's radio shack in Greenville, every day except the two days he was flying enroute. He notes he ate termites there at a dinner - they taste something like bacon (watch our turkey bacon, here come the termites).

Charlie's many pictures reveal his herculean efforts at building antennas and rigs. One picture is of his car which had most of the dash covered in radios and other electronic gear, the trunk half full and a generator extended from the back bumper. He speaks of how he had the car wired for antitheft protection - it was a shocker.

There are many pictures of his beam antennas. One story is of his attempt to break into a QSO to make a contact with a South American country. They would never acknowledge his CQ. He built a bigger antenna, still they wouldn't come back. Then he built a 12 element beam and with the help from another ham on the air was able to make contact. During his QSO he asked them if they had heard him before and they said yes, but they didn't acknowledge other calls since they only had a short time at lunch for their QSO - they had heard him all along. One beam was so large he built two other towers at each end to hold it up in times of bad weather. His one regret that he hasn't been able to have a QSO with China. After one CQ, he did find out that they had heard but that this Chinese ham "didn't talk to Americans." Right now he's not as interested in large antennas.

Charlie has a Swan CX500 in the neighborhood of 25 years old - he notes that it is unstable for the first thirty minutes, but after that it is steady as a rock. He has a home brew amplifier driven by the Swan which is capable of around 13,000 (that's no typo) watts. While he doesn't use all this power, I think it's safe to say he has no problem getting to the legal limit.

You don't see Charlie at our meetings too much, but when he's there you know it. He's put in his time in support of the club. He was once president of the Greenville ARC and was vice president of BARC.

It may be unknown to some that Charlie is an ordained minister. He pastored in the same church his father had pastored. He's married to Doris and they have six children, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren (there's a six meter joke in there someplace). His grandson, Jerry McKeel, KF4EKG, is the only ham Charlie has "propagated". Gerry may get Charlie on two meters so they can keep up with each other.

The time I spent with Charlie flew by. I hope he comes to our meetings more often and that you too have an opportunity to meet him and hear about his

adventures in ham radio. He truly is a one of a kind ham radio pioneer. Charlie, thanks for all you've done for BARC and ham radio. - *K4MHM*

---

## BARC Ham Chatter Online Notification

If anyone is interested in getting a monthly notification via email when the latest Ham Chatter Online goes on the web, please let me know. The notification is sent out as soon as it goes up and it is usually two or three days before the hard copy edition is received. They are a different format but have the same information on both. Some financial information is not put on the Internet site.

To be removed from the notification, just email me and it will be done. - *W4YDY*

---

## Is Your Email Addresses Correct?

Some email addresses listed on the BARC site may not be correct. If you have an Internet connection, go to the BARC web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/> and go to the email address page. Check to see if you address is okay and if it is not, let me know at [w4ydy@arrl.net](mailto:w4ydy@arrl.net). One is not able to click on the address to send a message. You must copy and paste or type in the message. This is done to keep down spam from using the BARC addresses. Also, let me know if you want your address on the web site and of any changes. - *W4YDY*

---

## Next VE Session December 17

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on December 17. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 4th Street. Exams will start promptly at 6:30 PM. - *KQ2V*  
Please bring the following:

- ◆ Photo ID (drivers license)
- ◆ Original Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Copy of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Original CSCE's
- ◆ Copy of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$6.45

## New Enforcement And Consumer Information Bureaus Official

It's now official! The FCC will create two new bureaus--the Enforcement Bureau and the Consumer Information Bureau--effective November 8. FCC Chairman William Kennard made the announcement during testimony October 26 before the House Telecommunications Subcommittee on the FCC's Five-Year Strategic Plan.

"Our decision to establish bureaus devoted exclusively to enforcement and consumer information signals the enormous importance of these functions in our transition from an industry regulator to a market facilitator," Kennard said. "This reorganization is the first step in a larger effort to streamline and modernize the FCC."

As expected, FCC Deputy General Counsel David H. Solomon was named to head the Enforcement Bureau. The new bureau will consolidate enforcement functions--including amateur--and personnel from the Commission's existing Common Carrier, Mass Media, Wireless Telecommunications and Compliance and Information Bureaus. Solomon has been Deputy General Counsel since 1994.

Current FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he hopes the reorganization eventually will permit him to increase the amount of time he's able to devote to Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth will get a new title as part of the reorganization: Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement.

In a surprise move, Kennard announced his intention to name Lorraine

C. Miller to be Bureau Chief of the new Consumer Information Bureau. Miller now directs the Office of Congressional Relations at the Federal Trade Commission. Current Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard Lee had been expected to become the new CIB chief. Instead, Lee has been appointed Senior Director of Licensing Analysis in the Chairman's office. In that role, he'll advise the FCC on consolidating licensing functions across the agency.

The new CIB will consolidate the FCC's Gettysburg Call Center (to be renamed the Consumer Center) as well as staff from various bureaus who handle consumer complaints and public information requests.

Hollingsworth has agreed to be detailed from the new Enforcement Bureau to the new Consumer Information Bureau to handle the Consumer Center at Gettysburg after the new bureaus become effective November 8. The temporary duty will last four to six weeks. Hollingsworth says Amateur Radio enforcement will be his priority, and, by agreement between the two bureaus, amateur enforcement will continue at its present pace. Hollingsworth's current duties also include Land Mobile Service enforcement.

For more details on the reorganization plan, visit [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/News\\_Releases/1999/nrmc9072.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/News_Releases/1999/nrmc9072.html) -- FCC news release - via *ARRL Letter Online 10/29/99*

## Hollingsworth Reiterates Pledge

During the Southwestern Division Convention October 1-3, FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth reiterated a pledge to undertake two amateur enforcement initiatives in the coming months: encroachment of unlicensed activity on 10 meters and improper or illegal marketing of HF amplifiers--especially those capable of 11-meter operation. He said that problems on VHF no longer would take a back seat to HF enforcement. He also ad-

vised attendees to adhere to the basis and purpose stated in Section 97.1 of the FCC rules. In response to a question during a convention forum, Hollingsworth clarified that jamming a station thought to be breaking the FCC rules on a repeater is never justifiable and always illegal. "We have never suggested--let alone authorized--jamming as a way to keep certain people off," he said. - via *ARRL Letter Online 10/29/99*

## Solar Maximum Prediction

Solar physicist David Hathaway at the Marshall Space Flight Center says he expects the current solar cycle to peak by mid-2000. "The projected peak is comparable to, but lower than the peaks of the last two maxima--1989 and 1978," Hathaway says. One thing is for sure: As the geomagnetic activity increases so do the chances of more geomagnetic storms. While there will be more disturbances, those in the mid-latitudes will have the unique opportunity to see some spectacular sights that are normally visible during these times only in the higher latitudes.-- NASA via The Daily DX/Bernie McClenny, W3UR - via *ARRL Letter Online 10/22/99*

## Amateur Vanity Call Sign Site Debuts

A new site devoted to vanity call signs has appeared at <http://www.carroll-usa.com/vanity/>. Among other things, the site lets users find out if a call sign already has been submitted to the FCC, lists soon-to-be-available call signs, and includes a list of "creative" call signs. Michael E. Carroll, AA4BP, Huntsville, Alabama, is the Webmaster.--thanks to J. D. Delancy, K1ZAT - via *ARRL Letter Online 10/22/99*

## Mississippi Ham Headed to Court Over Phone RFI

According to press reports, Bennie Stewart, KJ6TY, of Meridian, Mississippi, was arrested September 10 after neighbors complained to the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department that his signal was interfering with their telephones. Stewart is headed to Justice Court October 26. He reportedly could get six months in jail. Mississippi state law prohibits intentional interference with telegraph or telephone lines. Stewart has maintained the state Justice Court has no jurisdiction.--thanks to Ray Brown, KB0STN - via *ARRL Letter Online 10/15/99*



# Radio Legend Jean Shepherd, K2ORS, SK

Jean Shepherd, K2ORS--the man once described by media critic Marshall McLuhan as "the first radio novelist" and by others as "Mark Twain for the radio"--died October 16 in a hospital near his home in Sanibel Island, Florida. He was 78.

One of the original radio "talkers," Shepherd gained a loyal following of overnight listeners during his more than two-decade tenure at powerful WOR in New York during the 1950s, 60s and early 70s. Shepherd was first licensed as W9QWN in 1938. He served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II, then attended Indiana University before doing radio in Cincinnati and Philadelphia and finally New York.

On the air, "Shep" worked without a script or reliance on telephone callers spinning yarns--typically with a sardonic edge--often based on his boyhood years in Hammond, Indiana and his time



in the Army and occasionally mentioning ham radio. Among the characters he created was alter ego Ralphie Parker, who appeared in his 1983 film classic "A Christmas Story," which he wrote and narrated.

The banquet speaker at the 1985 Dayton Hamvention, Shepherd also provided the introductory narration to the Morse code instruction tape included with the League's Tune in the World license manual. Several hams wrote ARRL

Headquarters to say that Shepherd had provided inspiration for their early interest in Amateur Radio.

In addition to live appearances, Shepherd penned numerous articles and several books, including *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* in 1966 and *Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories* in 1971. His TV works for PBS include *Jean Shepherd's America* and *The Great American Fourth of July and Other Disasters*.

In later life, Shepherd remained active on HF SSB and occasionally on 2-meter FM, sometimes operating from his boat in Florida. He also had an interest in classic automobiles. His third wife, Leigh, died last year.

"He captivated a generation with his stories," said vintage radio buff John Dilks, K2TQN. "He is survived by Schwartz, Flick, Bruner and all of the other wonderful characters he created."

For detailed information on Jean Shepherd, visit <http://www.advanix.net/~jsadur/shep.htm> or <http://www.spacelab.net/~bkaye/Shep.html>. Via ARRL Letter Online 10/22/99

Copyright © 1998 by Greg Trook



"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."

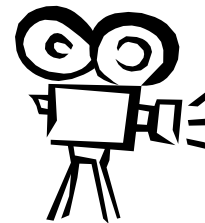
Thanks to Greg Trook, N0UJR  
<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/>

## Hurricane Watch Net Gets Surprise Check-in

The Hurricane Watch Net got a surprise check-in October 20 as it activated on 14.325 MHz to track the course of Hurricane Jose.

"Riley Hollingsworth checked in to tell us that they were monitoring and would handle any interference problems," said Hurricane Watch Net Manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW. "Needless to say, the little bit of interference we were getting almost immediately ceased. His call sign and his presence on frequency had a positive effect."

Hollingsworth--who's K4ZDH--was equally impressed. "Those guys did a wonderful job," he said. "I was very impressed and very proud!" - ARRL Letter Online



*Editors note:* For those that have not seen the 1983 film classic "A Christmas Story," written and narrated by Jean Shepherd, K2ORS, you have really missed an outstanding Christmas movie. It has been on TV several times every December because it is a classic. We always look forward to seeing Ralphie fighting off the school bullies and figuring ways to get a Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas. It is an outstanding comedy that everyone will enjoy. Ralphie's family consists of a little brother and his mother and dad. His dad is played by Darin McGavin and he has a time with the neighborhood dogs bothering him.

The movie is usually on TBS or TNT on cable every December. If you see this movie once, you will look forward to seeing it every Christmas. You will laugh all the way through it! - W4YDY

# Let's All Complain!

\*For those of you who stayed awake with me 24 hours before the storm hit, to answer the telephones and staff the shelters **please complain.**

\*For those of you who prayed as the water came down and were separated from your family because your job required that you be there for the community that you serve **please complain.**

\*For those of you who stood beside me while we cooked food and handmade hot ham and cheese rolls for 450 shelter residents who did not have food **please complain.**

\*For those of you who received thousands of telephone calls the morning after the storm hit for people trapped inside of their attics that needed rescued and tried desperately to calm the horrified voice on the other end of the line, while frantically calling the appropriate rescue officials to air lift them to safety **please complain.**

\*For those of you who brought your children out to help in the relief efforts and neglected their needs for the needs of the community **please complain.**

\*For those of you who got up off of your comfy couch and sacrificed sleep, food, and emotional stability as you tried to better a horrible situation **please complain.**

\*For those of you who lost it all but were compassionate enough to come out to help thy neighbor in their time of need **please complain.**

\*For those of you who stayed in a shelter just to calm the weak and

weary even though your home was not affected **please complain.**

\*For those of you who went to Wal-Mart at 2:30 AM when the electricity was gone to buy breakfast bars and pop tarts and car batteries to keep communications open between shelters and the Red Cross **please complain.**

\*For those of you who manned our phones lines and listened to the pleas for confirmation of family members safety 24 hours a day **please complain.**



\*For those of you who unselfishly took vacation time to help the people of this community when they had nothing to look forward to **please complain.**

\*For those of you who realized 17 days after the storm that your home sustained \$25,000 worth of damage because you were focused on the community at large and not your family **please complain.**

\*For those of you who sacrificed your college education to meet the needs of your community and may have to extend your graduation date or receive a less than favorable GPA for future placement **please complain.**

\*For those of you who stood up to the establishment even though it was not politically but morally correct **please complain.**

\*For those of you who hugged a flood victim and cried with them as they told their story **please complain.**

If you were not standing elbow to elbow with me and walked my journey from day one for the worst disaster to hit the east coast then do everyone involved a huge favor and


## DON'T COMPLAIN!

Thoughts, trials and tribulations from a RED CROSS worker

*Contributed by WD4JPQ*

**K4KBB**

## J & P Machine Works, Inc.



4291 US 264 East  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-758-1719 Fax 758-9031

Manufacturer of Swiss Screw Machine Products.  
Pins, Shafts, Rods and Spacers.

# BARC Monthly Minutes - October 1999

## BARC Minutes, 10/12/99

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Murray Merner, K4MHM. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

The treasurer reported \$1474.17 in checking account. \$33.00 was spent for stamps.

The secretary noted that newsletters from Kinston, Pamlico and Greensboro clubs were available.

Committee reports

**Special Events**--JOTA is Oct. 16/17 and will be held at Waldren's Pond off the Wesley Church Rd. near Farmville. The W1VOA call sign will be used.

**Health and Welfare**--Juanita, KE4JWK, told us that Johnny Waters', KD4KLM, father Darwin has passed away. In spite of his father's illness, Johnny served in Ayden-Grifton shelter during Floyd. Our sympathies go to him and his family.

**Instructors' group**--There are now 12 people taking the ham course.

**Programs**--Jim Smith, KF4VHH, reported that the Christmas party will have to be moved, either by date or by room. With Br. Simon's agreement, the **CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DEC. 7, IN ST. PETER'S LIBRARY**. This is the first Tuesday in December.

**VE Group**--There will be a VE session on Friday, Oct. 16 at 6:30PM.

**Equipment**--Wayne, WD4JPQ, has a couple of people looking into grants for us for a trailer.

**Ham Chatter**--please note the birthdays are really October birthdays and not September ones.

**Nominating Committee--absentee ballots are available.** If you won't be able to come to the November meeting, please let me know and I will get an absentee ballot to you. e-mail at [lfainter@brody.med.ecu.edu](mailto:lfainter@brody.med.ecu.edu) or call 355-5542. Thanks to Byron, KD4KGZ, for bringing them to the meeting since he couldn't stay.

**Donation**--Joe Melton, WB4SLF, has very generously donated a Yaesu 2200 FTM radio to the club. Joe volunteered at a shelter and purchased this radio for use there. He doesn't need it, so he do-

nated it to us. Many thanks, Joe!! And thanks for serving during Floyd, too.

**ARES**--Wayne, WD4JPQ, expressed thanks to everyone who participated in Floyd and also to those who participated by not interrupting the traffic being passed. Byron, KA4KGZ, also expressed his thanks to all.

Comments relating to ham operations during Floyd will be found at the end of the minutes.

**Old Business**--none

**New Business**--none

**Program**--Jim, KF4VHH, suggested that we use this time to make remarks about experiences, good and bad, during Floyd and suggestions for future planning for disasters. Gary, KU4NQ, moderated the remarks.

The following is a list of comments during this time.

Murray, K4MHM,--President of hospital told of ham participation.

Wayne, WD4JPQ,--need more jump kits and antennas at more shelters and maybe churches.

Marlin, KF4MHV,--the officer at North Pitt did not want to let him and Brian into a locked room where the antenna was and took some persuading to open the door. There is a need for communication to avoid this kind of thing.

Gary, KU4NQ,--the whole operation went quite smoothly and efficiently in spite of the lack of training. He believes the medical community appreciates the efforts of the hams. Transportation to the shelters was difficult until physicians were asked to sign off on requests. Suggests that hams get established early with MD's to facilitate this. Thanks to Tom, W4TEP, for his work at the Red Cross and his diligence.

Tom, W4TEP,--ran two and one half days on a tank battery he got from Mike, KD4MTT. Then shifted over to the battery outfit that was Wayne's, WD4JPQ, idea and this also worked very well. Use of the tactical call sign was good. Feels net control probably not really necessary. Note that equipment from Lincoln was lost during this time. Red Cross bought 6 automobile batteries for use in shelters, etc. One is still missing as of 10/12. He

thanks all who helped.

Suggested in future to think of using 35 for third party communication, leaving 09 for other transmissions. Or use 440 for third party. This is because MD's tend to talk at length.

Wayne, WD4JPQ, said that this might be bad for overall communications; also personal radios often do not have 440 capability (Mike, KD4MTT).

Tom thanked Joe Melton, WB4SLF, for going to Farmville shelter and getting communications reestablished.

Juanita, KE4JWK,--asked who is in charge of shelters, Health Division, Social Services, Red Cross? Evidently it may depend on the shelter and needs to be clarified.

Mike, KD4MTT, noted that hams are looked on as authorities and therefore for guidance.

Tom, W4TEP, Stokes shelter badly handled; Red Cross National difficult here.

Gary, KU4NQ,--the Hardee family did a fantastic job.

Marlin, KF4MHV,--has experience in getting out in bad weather. Took him 2 hrs to get from Conley to Ayden; cell phones in and out. This was son Brian's first emergency and he did an outstanding job. Hams very professional. Shelter people did not want responsibility, but passed it to the hams. North Pitt shelter very bad.

Patrick, KD4NNA, Ayden-Grifton and Ayden Middle shelters did not know how to utilize hams and had problems with meal coordination because of this.

Tom, W4TEP,--sometimes National people caused problems.

Juanita, KE4JWK,--is the county going to have a review session? Need to have one person in charge. Juanita and Walt, WA4SKF, helped to get transportation for hams. Notes lack of communication; difficult to get supplies from hospital to the shelters.

Question on why special needs at Welcome Middle rather than Rose? Answer: because people on the Rose side of the river could go to PCMH whereas those on the other side were cut off.

Food: school meals are for shelter use,

*(Continued on page 9)*



# 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@arri.net](mailto:w4ydy@arri.net)

**For Sale:**

Butternut "Butterfly" beam, HF-5B - 20,17,15,12,10 meter operation. Have manual. Lightweight, survived hurricanes on pushup mast. Asking \$150 or best reasonable offer. Gerry, K4IDD, 756-4102 evening or weekend. Also [gclayton@greenvillenc.com](mailto:gclayton@greenvillenc.com).

## BARC Members Help With Communications

At least 36 or almost 40 percent of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members assisted with the recent hurricanes and flood providing emergency communications. There were several other club members assisting with emergency operations and were not able to help with communications.

## Carolinas Slow Net Moves

The Carolinas Slow Net (CSN) moved time and frequency on November 1, 1999. It has been meeting at 6 PM ET on 3715 KHz. On November 1, 1999 the net now meets at 8 PM ET on 3695 KHz. All Stations are invited to check-in. This NTS Traffic Net runs at 5 to 8 WPM and is a good place to start for handling traffic on CW. Carl Starnes, W4EAT, acting Net Manager. - via Email from Will Harper, K4IWW, NC STM



## October Minutes

*(Continued from page 8)*

but hard to get cafeteria personnel to the shelters.

Some shelters were opened unofficially.

Need to know what characterizes life threatening and what doesn't.

Todd LeMoine, KG4CCX, at Wintergreen and Ayden-Grifton shelters.

Brian Hardee, KF4MTL, at North Pitt he was unloading helos, running radio and acting as person in authority

Thanks to Brian Hardee, KF4MTL, and Todd LeMoine, KG4CCX, two outstanding young hams.

Ken, N8FF, assisted at shelters as well as the hospital.

Murray, K4MHM, had hard time getting to North Pitt and then couldn't get out because of lack of transportation. Problems with cambros (red food lockers)--Hardees retrieved them from North Pitt when helos wouldn't.

Dave, W4YDY, suggested antennas at all schools; jump kit antennas hard to get set up in good places. He e-mailed channels 7 and 9 to listen in on .09 for information. Juanita, KE4JWK, called hams on the county list to get them involved.

Other observations on conditions were made by Marlin, KF4MHV, Wayne, WD4JPQ, and Mike, KD4MTT, all of whom were involved in transportation, rescue throughout the emergency.

Tom has Red Cross t-shirts for all listed in Ham Chatter (67 hams!) who worked the emergency.

Also during the meeting Br. Simon, KQ2V, was presented with a check for \$100.00 from the club as a token of our appreciation for letting us use St. Peter's facilities. Br. Simon thanked the club and returned the check, saying that he would like to donate the money to Ham Chatter. He also thanked everyone for a great job.

Br. Simon reminded us that as of next year your call sign will not be sufficient to renew your license. You will need a license number issued by the FCC. He is making the computer in our meeting room available to us, so that we can log on to the FCC's home page and get a number. Thanks!

Respectfully submitted,

*Lily Fainter, KV4AW*

## 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,  
ATTN: Dave Langley**

or email [w4ydy@sprintmail.com](mailto:w4ydy@sprintmail.com)  
Help support *Ham Chatter*. Get some ads to offset the higher printing and mailing costs. Donations accepted!

## NETS

### VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz. (131.8 Hz 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.
- ◆ New Bern Amateur Radio Club/ Eastern NC 220 Association for the WD4JMS & WA4DAN 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.

## NTS CW Nets

- ◆ 3.695 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

# BARC

November 6-8. . . . .	ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest	January 11 . . . . .	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
November 9 . . . . .	<b>Regular Meeting - Elections</b>	January 25 . . . . .	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>November 21. . . . .</b>	<b>*Benson Hamfest</b> (Wrong date earlier)	January 29-30. . . . .	CQ WW CW 160M Contest
November 20-22. . . . .	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest	January 29 . . . . .	Ham Chatter <b>Deadline</b>
November 27-38. . . . .	CQ WW CW DX Contest	February 8 . . . . .	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
November 30 . . . . .	<b>Board Meeting</b>	February 19-20. . . . .	ARRL CW DX Contest
December 4 . . . . .	Ham Chatter <b>Deadline</b>	February 26-27. . . . .	CQ WW SSB 160M Contest
December 3-5. . . . .	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	February 29 . . . . .	<b>Board Meeting</b>
December 7 . . . . .	<b>Christmas Party - Club Awards</b>	March 4 . . . . .	Ham Chatter <b>Deadline</b>
December 11-12. . . . .	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	March 4-5. . . . .	ARRL SSB DX Contest
December 17 . . . . .	BARC VE Session	March 25-26. . . . .	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest
December 28 . . . . .	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>April 2 . . . . .</b>	<b>Down East Hamfest - Kinston</b>
January 1 . . . . .	Straight Key Night		
January 1 . . . . .	Ham Chatter <b>Deadline</b>		

**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM  
**Board Meeting** - Last Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

## W 4 A M C - W I V O A

BARC Elections

Meeting Nov 9

November 1999

To:



PO Box 8387  
Greenville, NC 27835

Ham Chatter