

# HAM CHATTER



Volume 45 Issue 10

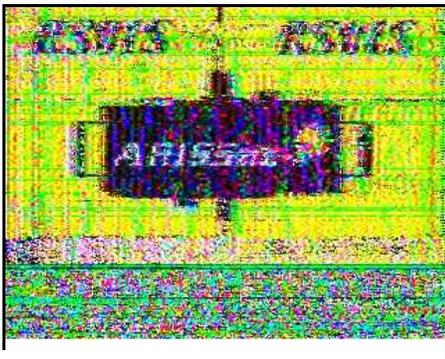
An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

October 2011

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Email: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com)

## ARISSat-1 - KV4CN



SSTV image received by KV4CN

The ARISSat-1 satellite is a follow-on project by AMSAT after the highly popular SuitSat launched from the International Space Station in February 2006. Originally intended to be released in another used space suit, it took on a "normal" satellite form when the intended suit was discarded.

The satellite was released from the ISS on August 3 and operated according to plan. ARISSat-1 transmits a voice

greeting, voice telemetry, and a SSTV image. The picture is an SSTV image received by me on August 6. Equipment was a Kenwood 2 meter FM transceiver and an M2 eggbeater antenna. Software was MMSSTV on an older IBM notebook.

Currently ARISSat-1 has suffered a battery failure and is only operating when in sunlight and at a lower power level. Still good signals are being reported. Frequency is 145.950 Mhz. Pass prediction information is available on the AMSAT web site (<http://www.amsat.org>) as well as further information on ARISSat-1. There is a web site devoted to ARISSat <http://www.arissat1.org>.

Eventually the satellite will reenter the atmosphere. There is a "Chicken Little Contest" (see page 2) to predict its reentry. Deadline for entering is October 15. Share in a piece of history and try to hear the satellite or receive the SSTV image. If you have any questions, I'll be happy to help. Dave, KV4CN.

## Next Meeting

**October 11, 2011**

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Program will be by Dave Pulver, KG4CZV. Peer awards voting will take place*

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

*The next board meeting will be October 25 at 7:30 PM at 631-B Dickinson Avenue - entrance at back of the building. All members invited.*

## ARRL Briefs White House Staff on Amateur Radio's Capabilities During Emergencies

On September 12, at the invitation of White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, the ARRL briefed several members of the National Security Staff on the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service to communicate in emergencies. "The White House is looking for ways that the great work of Amateur Radio operators can continue to support emergencies in the future with particular attention to increased use and dependency on internet based technologies," Schmidt said. The ARRL presentation, conducted by Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC -- along with President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ -- focused on Amateur Radio's current and evolving capabilities to provide Internet messaging connectivity. - via [ARRL.ORG](http://ARRL.ORG)

## The 54th annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

The 54th annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be 8 PM local Friday, October 14 through 8 PM Sunday, October 16. JOTA is officially the largest event in Scouting because it is an international event which includes Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scout alumni, leaders past and present, families, or in other words, anyone with an interest in Scouting. Over the weekend, 500,000 people are expected to get on the air worldwide. Across North Carolina, many clubs work with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and Cub Scout packs to offer badge related activities, such as the Radio Merit badge. Thanks to

groups in Wilkesboro, Shelby, Forest City and Charlotte which will be among the many that will have formal programs for Scouts that weekend. Suggested HF frequencies and activities as well as full descriptions of JOTA can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota> and at <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx> For those with D Star access, Reflector 30 will be devoted to JOTA all weekend. Even Astronaut and Scoutmaster Mike Fossum will be on the air from the International Space Station. Youth are the future of our hobby so let's show them fun and excitement. - via *NC Section News, N2COP*

## AMSAT Sponsors ARISSat-1 Re-entry Contest

AMSAT Secretary Alan Biddle, WA4SCA, said the ARISSat-1 Team is still looking for entries in the Chicken Little Contest. This is your opportunity to calculate or guess when ARISSat-1 falls out of orbit. This is defined as the time it crosses an altitude of 78 kilometers, which is considered to be the point of no return. "This involves your prognostications, calculations, guesses, darts-in-the-calendar submissions for when ARISSat-1 makes its final orbit," Biddle said. "We have a fair number of submissions from all over the world from adults, but very few from students. If you know of one who might be interested, encourage them to enter."



**ARRISat-1 deployed from the ISS**

There are three categories in this contest: Student category for Kindergarten through grade 8, Student category for high school (grades 9-12) and Adults. "In addition to individual students, we encourage classes or organizations, such as science

clubs, to make group submissions," he explained. "Please give the UTC date in the format of day, month, year, hours, minutes and seconds. Submissions are limited to one per person or group. Members of a group making a submission may not submit a second individual entry. Adults and individual students should include their name and amateur call sign, if they have one. Individual students should also give their grade in school. Student groups should include the name of their group or class, school and which category they represent. Finally, we would like to know your city, state, province or region, and your country."

Submissions will close on October 15, 2011 at 23:59:00 (UTC). Biddle said that the closest predictions in each category will be recognized for their achievement. Send your submissions via email. <[chickenlittle@arissat1.org](mailto:chickenlittle@arissat1.org)> - via [ARRL.ORG](http://ARRL.ORG)

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held **Tuesday, October 18**. VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Ted Bertrand, **KI4PWX**, 756-3734. [bertrandf@ecu.edu](mailto:bertrandf@ecu.edu). 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.

## NC ARES Internet

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

## Pitt County ARES

<http://www.pittares.com/>



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**Happy Birthday**

## Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

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

28 K4BMH Byron Highland

31 K4ZYD Terry Monday

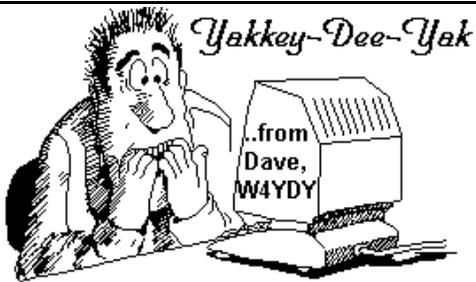
**Charlie Wells, K4SKI**  
**Tom Parsons, W4TEP**  
**Bob Moore, N4USB**  
**John Prokop, N8MPX**  
**Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZW**  
**Phyllis wife of, Bernie Nobles,**  
**WA4MOK**



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

Please inform **Richard Campbell, W4JNC**, [campbellerecu@embarqmail.com](mailto:campbellerecu@embarqmail.com) of any changes.

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** - JOHN PROKOP, **N8MPX**, 321-4044 \* **FIRST V. PRESIDENT** - RICHARD CAMPBELL, **W4JNC**, 758-1244 \* **SECOND V. PRESIDENT** - JOHN McCOY, **K4KBB**, 758-1719 \* **SECRETARY** - BRENDA BERTRAND, **KJ4GDS**, 756-3734 \* **TREASURER** & VE LAISION - TED BERTRAND, **KI4PWX**, 756-3734 \* **BOARD MEMBER** DAVE PULVER, **KG4CZV**, 353-7161 \* **BOARD MEMBER** - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY, 321-2525 \* PUBLIC RELATIONS, TAYLOR MILLAR, W4WTM, 756-2192 \* PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR & BARC HISTORIAN - PAT WILLIAMS, KG4NSC, 752-9281 \* W4AMC/W1VOA/W4UHS TRUSTEE, TOM PARSONS, W4TEP, 355-2815 \* HAM CHATTER & WEB SITE EDITOR - DAVE LANGLEY, W4YDY, 321-2525 \* **OPINIONS BY WRITERS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BRIGHTLEAF ARC.** \* CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE. \* **BOARD MEMBERS IN BOLD** \*



When I first got on the air in 1952, the FCC required keeping a log of your radio transmissions. Years later, the logging requirement was dropped but I was in the habit and kept logging my contacts. Looking in the old logs with the notes I made, I recall some of the interesting contacts.

The FCC required that every transmission be logged, including time on, time off, band, mode and power. Even calling CQ required a line in the log. The ARRL log had two columns named, "Station Called" and "Called By". On the inside front cover of the log, information was entered by the operator for his station. The last line in that information stated that the call would be indicated by an X to keep from writing your station call down on every line. If I called a station, his call would be under "Station Called" and the X would be under "Called by". You also had to put down the beginning and end of each transmission unless you were talking to the same station. Every station had to have a beginning and ending time on each line.

My first entry, WN4YDY, dated 12/25/52 was a CQ on 3.723 (crystal controlled Novice band) starting at 1445 EST and ending at 1447 EST probably at a blistering speed of about 3 to 5 WPM! In the "Other Data" column is the note "No luck" I have a lot of them in my first log! WN4YHI called me at 1450 EST, but due to my poor CW, I could not copy much after I got his call. I called CQ 3 more times. At 1530, my first QSO started with WN4YHI and it lasted 1 hour, 45 minutes. My CW was so poor that we only got our names and QTH exchanged. WN4YHI was George in Fremont and we had many QSO's after that on the Novice and 75 meter AM after we both upgraded to General. Went by to see him once.

I'm sure I have over 99% of my contacts in the ARRL log books and it totals almost 90 of them now. They cost 50 cents in 1952 but are now almost 16 times

more at \$7.95 each. But that was when it cost 2 cents to send a QSL card. I was still in high school when I received my first QSL card in 1952. It was addressed "AMATEUR RADIO STATION WN4YDY, CHIEF OP. DAVID, AURORA, N.C." It's a good thing the postmaster knew me or it might have put in the trash!

I was very glad I had all my paper logs when I decided to put them in a computer log. Because of a very good recommendation, I tried PDA LOGic and decided to get it. For me, it is an outstanding logging program. I had 14,308 contacts in the paper logs when I moved to Pitt County. Over a period of about a year, doing about 5 to 15 hours a week entering data, I finally got all the paper logs entered. I was still keeping up with the contacts when operating so when I had all contacts before 1992 loaded, it was up to date. Since moving to Pitt County, there are over 80,500 additional contacts for a total of almost 95,000. But with the quick search feature, I can type K4KBB in it and instantly find a contact we made in 1957 when he was in South Carolina and I was in Raleigh.

I don't think many operators keep logs any more on paper. Most logging is done for contests and DX and are kept on computers only. Many are uploaded to the ARRL LoTW.

In 1952, the Amateur Radio license were good for 5 years and renewal was just not mailing the application in and receiving a renew license. You had to make at least 3 contacts on CW the last 6 months of the term. Voice didn't count.

Mobile or portable operation was not as simple as it is now. Anytime you operated mobile and would be gone for more than 48 hours, you would have to send written notice to all FCC areas you would be in. In 1956, I went to Florida for a week to a family reunion at a camp. I wrote and notified the Tampa FCC office of the dates I would be there.

Logging does not take much time when you keep it up to date. But if you get behind, then it takes time. You can answer QSL cards correctly, but I think the best thing is that you are keeping a history of your activities on the air. I enjoy looking back in my old paper logs and reading the notes and remembering the fun contacts. - W4YDY

## HB9DRV Sells Rights to Ham Radio Deluxe

Simon Brown, HB9DRV, has sold the rights to his popular Ham Radio Deluxe software package to a group consisting of Mike Carper, WA9PIE, Randy Gawtry, K0CBH and Rick Ruhl, W4PC. All three principals have more than 25 years of experience with radio data communications. Rick Ruhl is the president of W4PC Software, Inc whose products include the PakRatt, PKTerm and Radio Operations Center software suites. Randy Gawtry is the president of Timewave Technology Inc whose products include the PK and DSP families of data controllers and other commercial data products. Mike Carper is an experienced Fortune 500 technology executive, educator and featured speaker in the areas of wireless technologies and IT Service Management.

"Simon has done a fantastic job with this software," Carper said. "His vision for integrating rig control, rotor control, logging, digital modes, and satellite operations into a single integrated feature-rich software suite has captivated the ham radio community...."

"After many years writing the Ham Radio Deluxe software it's necessary to take a break and hand the whole project over to another team," said Simon Brown, HB9DRV. "The support effort required has become more than I can realistically manage, with many thousands of users, new radios and other hardware appearing all the time and unexpected changes to the infrastructure used by Ham Radio Deluxe such as QRZ.com, I no longer have any time at all for other projects. As some of you will know, I have formed a company called SDR-RADIO.com GmbH and I am now working in the Software Defined Radio arena with RFspace. This is the technology of the future; a future I want a part of. In 2012 I plan to return to England and get back on the air, something I haven't done much during the last 25 years."

The new owners are in the process of building a development environment for Ham Radio Deluxe and they plan to begin by addressing some of the bugs in the existing "To Do List" for an upcoming version 5.1 release. The 5.1 release will be made available at no charge to registered users when completed. - via ARRL.ORG

## Stanford University Researchers Announce Sunspot Breakthrough

Imagine forecasting a hurricane in Miami weeks before the storm was even a swirl of clouds off the coast of Africa -- or predicting a tornado in Kansas from the flutter of a butterfly's wing in Texas. These are the kind of forecasts meteorologists can only dream about. Could the dream come true? A new study by Stanford University researchers suggests that such forecasts may one day be possible -- not on Earth, but on the Sun. In the August 19 issue of *Science*, Stathis Ilonidis, together with co-workers Junwei Zhao and Alexander Kosovichev, announced that they can see some sunspots while they are still submerged, before they are visible to the naked eye. "This could lead to significant advances in space weather forecasting," Ilonidis said.

Most Amateur Radio operators are aware of sunspots, those dark blemishes on the surface of the Sun. This is because sunspots influence propagation. They can be a boon to hams interested in HF propagation, as sunspots are the sites of ultraviolet or extreme ultraviolet radiation that creates our ionosphere. But sunspots can also be destructive. They are the source for disturbances, such as flares, and the roots of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that can hinder propagation. When a CME hits the Earth's atmosphere, the low bands will be depressed and signals will be weaker the lower the frequency. The absorption rate will be most severe on 160 meters, less on 80 and somewhat better on 40 meters. The maximum usable frequency (MUF) -- the highest frequency by which a radio wave can propagate between given terminals by ionospheric propagation alone, independent of power -- will be lower and auroral propagation on the VHF bands is quite possible.

"Astronomers have been studying sunspots for more than 400 years, and they have pieced together their basic characteristics: Sunspots are planet-sized islands of magnetism that float in solar plasma," explained NASA's Tony Phillips. "Although the details are still debated, researchers generally agree that sunspots are born deep inside the Sun via the action of the Sun's inner magnetic dynamo. From there, they bob to the top, carried upward by magnetic buoyancy; a sunspot emerging at the stellar surface is a bit like a submarine emerging from the ocean depths."

Phillips explained that the trio's analysis technique, called "time-distance helioseismology," is similar to an approach widely used in earthquake studies: "Just as seismic waves travel-

ing through the body of Earth reveal what is inside the planet, acoustic waves traveling through the body of the Sun can reveal what is inside the star. Fortunately for helioseismologists, the Sun has acoustic waves in abundance. The body of the Sun is literally roaring with turbulent boiling motions." This sets the stage for early detection of sunspots.

Instruments onboard two spacecraft -- the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) and the newer Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) -- constantly monitor the Sun for acoustic activity. Submerged sunspots have a detectable effect on the Sun's inner acoustics -- namely, sound waves travel faster through a sunspot than through the surrounding plasma. A big sunspot can leapfrog an acoustic wave by 12 to 16 seconds. "We can't actually hear these sounds across the gulf of space, but we can see the vibrations they make on the Sun's surface," Ilonidis told Phillips. "By measuring these time differences, we can find the hidden sunspot." Ilonidis cautioned that there are limits to the technique: "We can say that a big sunspot is coming, but we cannot yet predict if a particular sunspot will produce an Earth-directed flare."

According to Phillips, the technique seems to be most sensitive to sunspots located about 60,000 km beneath the Sun's surface. The team isn't sure why that is the "magic distance," but Phillips noted that it's a good distance because it gives the team as much as two days' advance notice that a spot is about to reach the surface.

"This is the first time anyone has been able to point to a blank patch of Sun and say 'a sunspot is about to appear right there,'" said Ilonidis' thesis advisor Dr Phil Scherrer of the Stanford Physics Department. "It's a big advance."

So far, Ilonidis, Zhao and Kosovichev have detected five emerging sunspots: four with SOHO and one with SDO. Of those five, two went on to produce X-class flares, the most powerful kind of solar explosion. "This encourages the team to believe their technique can make a positive contribution to space weather forecasting," Phillips said. "Because helioseismology is computationally intensive, regular monitoring of the whole Sun is not yet possible, but Ilonidis believes that it is just a matter of time before refinements in their algorithm allow routine detection of hidden sunspots." -- Thanks to Dr Tony Phillips for the information - *via ARRL.ORG*

# 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: [barc@w4amc.com](mailto:barc@w4amc.com) (no spaces)

**FOR SALE:** Acer Model D255E, 10.1" screen with carrying case. --\$200.00 N455 Processor 1GB DDR memory, 250GB hard drive, 3 USB ports, 1 VGA, Headphone and microphone ports, Microsoft Home & Student 2007 loaded, Yaesu FT 897/857, FT8800R software loaded --\$200.00. Bernie Nobles,

**WA4MOK**, [wa4mok@embarqmail.com](mailto:wa4mok@embarqmail.com)

**FOR SALE:** TH3MK3 Hy-Gain 3 element 10-15-20 meter beam antenna, older antenna but never assembled - \$150. Hustler CGT-144 2 meter collinear mobile antenna, 5.2 db gain, 200W, trunk lip mount, 7 ft. high - \$35. Bob Workman, **WA4ZZN**. [WA4ZZN@ARRL.net](mailto:WA4ZZN@ARRL.net) or (252) 726-8828.

**FOR TRADE ONLY:** TS-520 and/or FT-101E for trade. both rigs working ok. Need HF beam of some type. David Gaytko, Washington, NC, [wd4kpd@suddenlink.net](mailto:wd4kpd@suddenlink.net): Ph# 402-6765

# Heathkit's Amateur Radio Plans Taking Shape



**Unopened Heathkit**

Heathkit Educational Systems hopes to reenter the Amateur Radio market by the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit announced its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.

Ernie Wake, director,

Marketing/Sales, told the ARRL:

“When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market. The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don’t want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories.

“We are working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. Initially, the kit line will include a few ‘accessories’ like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Cantenna. Once we are a little more ‘settled’ I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won’t rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I’m hoping to have one-two kits by the end-of-the-year.” - via ARRL.ORG

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patrick.williams@tax.hrblock.com  
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## NOTICE TO VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held **Tuesday, October 18**. VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road and will start promptly at 6:30 PM.

*Monday & Monday, CPA's, PA*  
Certified Public Accountants

TERRY A. MONDAY, CPA, CVA, EA  
**K4ZYD**

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# BARC Meeting Minutes - September 2011



Brenda, KJ4GDS  
Secretary

## BARC Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 13, 2011

**Call to Order:** 7:32pm

President John Prokop, N8MPX, opened the meeting.

There were 26 members and 3 guests present as recorded in the sign in book.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** was lead by Mike Langley, KD4MTT.

**Visitors:** Mike Cahoon, KB4TOH, Matthew McGowan, and Camilla Dawson.

**New Members:** Sherry Frye, KE4LZE, and Jack Frye, KG4SAA, of Goldsboro.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the August Board Meeting were approved as published in Ham Chatter.

**Secretary's Report:** Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS, had nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, gave the report. Further information regarding the Treasurer's Report is available to members upon request.

**Equipment:** Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, had nothing to report.

**VE:** Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, reported that the next VE session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at the VFW hall. Further information can be found on the BARC website.

**Health and Welfare:** Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, reported that the Well Wishes are as published in the Ham Chatter.

**Ham Chatter:** Dave Langley, W4YDY, reported having computer woes and as a result, has requested if you have not been receiving notification of the newsletter, that you contact him.

**Publicity:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM, reported tonight's meeting was announced in Sunday edition of Daily Reflector and he will make arrangements to advertise the next VE session in the Daily

Reflector.

**Pitt County ARES:** Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, expressed thanks to those who participated in the recent hurricane net. There was further discussion among the members who participated in the net communications during Hurricane Irene.

**Future Programs:** John McCoy, K4KBB, reported that the October program will be presented by Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, topic to be determined, November – elections, December – Christmas party. Anyone with program ideas for 2012 is encouraged to contact John.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported that the Nominating Committee met in August, and has put forth the following nominations for 2012 Club Officers: President – Richard Campbell, W4JNC, Past President - John Prokop, N8MPX, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – John McCoy, K4KBB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Terry Monday, K4ZYD, Secretary – Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS, Treasurer – Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, Board Member – Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK. Bernie further reported that according to club bylaws, tonight is the final opportunity for additional nominations, of which he subsequently requested from the floor. None were put forward.

Mike Langley, KD4MTT, reminded members that voting for peer awards will occur at the October club meeting.

**Announcements:** Mike Langley, KD4MTT, reported that the Pitt County Fair is October 3 to 8 and encouraged members to attend.

**50/50 Drawing Winner:** Paul Fletcher, KS4YF.

**Adjournment:** 8:59 pm

**Program:** Vern Wenger, owner of Batteries Plus, presented a program on types of batteries and battery applications.

Respectfully submitted

*Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS.*

# BARC Board Minutes - September 2011

## BARC Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 27, 2011

**Call to Order:** 7:28 pm

**Board Members Present:** President John Prokop, N8MPX; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Richard Campbell, KG4SNE; Trustee Dave Langley, W4YDY; Trustee Dave Pulver, KG4CZV; Secretary Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS

**Others in Attendance:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM

**Minutes:** The minutes from the August Board Meeting were approved as published in Ham Chatter.

**Secretary's Report:** Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS, had nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS gave a report on behalf of Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX. Further information regarding the Treasurer's Report is available to members upon request.

**VE:** Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS gave a report on behalf of Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX. The next VE session is scheduled for October 18 at the VFW Lodge at 6:30 pm. Cheryl McGuire,

KJ4RGP, and Bill Dawson, WA4SLC, have indicated that the Washington's Ham Radio Club VE's have some interest in conducting VE sessions in coordination with the club in the Washington area. It was suggested that the club discuss this at a future club meeting.

**Equipment:** Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS stated there was nothing to report on behalf of Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX.

**Health and Welfare:** Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, reported that the Well Wishes are as published in the BARC newsletter.

**Ham Chatter:** Dave Langley, W4YDY, has requested an assistant editor for the Ham Chatter. Please contact Dave if you are interested in this opportunity.

**Publicity:** Taylor Millar, W4WTM, will continue running the announcements for upcoming club meetings and VE sessions in the Sunday editions of the Daily Reflector that precede the meetings.

**Pitt County ARES:** Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, had nothing to report.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## BARC Board Minutes - September 2011

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Programs:** October – Dave Pulver, **KG4CZV**, topic to be determined, November – elections, December – Christmas party. Anyone with program ideas for 2012 is encouraged to contact John McCoy, **K4KBB**.

**New Members:** No new members.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Announcements:** Nothing to report.

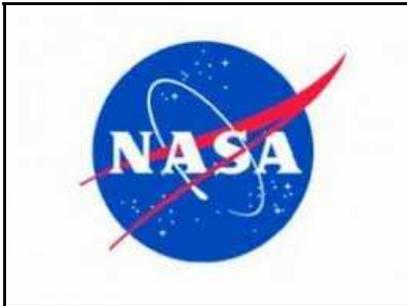
**Adjournment:** 7.51 pm

Respectfully submitted by

*Brenda Bertrand, KJ4GDS.*

## Report Calls on NASA to Hire More Astronauts

Even as the space shuttle era has come to a close, a NASA-commissioned report says the space agency needs to hire more astronauts to maintain its presence on the International Space Station and prepare for the next generation of spaceflight. The report warns that “the Astronaut Corps appears to be sized below the minimum required” and that the current corps size “poses a risk to the US investment in human spaceflight capabilities.” NASA commissioned the report from the National Research Council, part of the National Academy of Sciences, to examine the agency’s astronaut and astronaut training needs in the post-shuttle era.



NASA Spokesman Michael Curie said that the report “offers helpful advice about the appropriate size of our astronaut corps as we enter this exciting new era of space exploration and crew transport operations.” Beginning in November 1983 with Owen Garriott, **W5LFL**, on board **STS-9**, Amateur Radio has been an integral part of NASA missions in space. More than 100 NASA astronauts have received their Amateur Radio license.

Today, NASA has 59 astronauts, down from 150 a decade ago. According to The Washington Post, observers expect the agency to lose another half-dozen before the end of the year. While the report does not recommend a specific number of astronauts, it does point out that the extensive

training required, non-spaceflight tasks and the medical demands of long tours of duty on the ISS could lead to astronaut shortages within five years.

In 2009, NASA hired nine astronaut candidates and hopes to add nine more in 2012 and six in 2014, according to Peggy Whitson, chief of NASA’s astronaut office at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Wayne Hale, a former space shuttle launch director, reviewed the report. “New astronauts are needed in the pipeline,” he told The Washington Post. “It takes quite a while to train people for human spaceflight.” According to the report, basic space station training takes 2.5 years, with 31 weeks of that spent in Russia training on the Soyuz and learning Russian.

Medical issues can keep otherwise qualified astronauts grounded. In January 2011, according to the report, the astronaut office needed to choose two crew members for future space station missions. Of the 63 on the roster, only six were medically qualified and available. The reports notes that astronauts who go to the ISS often cannot return to space for three years or more as they recover from lost bone mass. Also, of 15 ISS crew members examined by NASA physicians, seven had developed a vision problem called papilledema that disqualified them from further flights until the problem was resolved. - *via ARRL.ORG*

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**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.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Thursdays @ 2000 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Tuesday, 2100 on 145.21 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 (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

### Pitt County Repeater Association

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

# BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                |  |                |  |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| Oct 9.....     | <b>Maysville Hamfest</b>                 | Dec 27.....    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                           |
| Oct 11.....    | <b>Regular Meeting</b>                   | Jan 7/8.....   | ARRL RTTY Roundup                              |
| Oct 18.....    | BARC <b>VE</b> Session – <b>TUESDAY</b>  | Jan 10.....    | <b>Regular Meeting</b>                         |
| Oct 25.....    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                     | Jan 20/22..... | CQ WW CW 160M Contest                          |
| Oct 27.....    | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>              | Jan 31.....    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                           |
| Oct 29/30..... | CQ WW SSB DX Contest                     | Feb 2.....     | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>                    |
| Nov 5/6.....   | ARRL CW Sweepstakes                      | Feb 11/12..... | CQ WPX RTTY Contest                            |
| Nov 8.....     | <b>Regular Meeting - Elections</b>       | Feb 14.....    | <b>Regular Meeting</b>                         |
| Nov 19/20..... | ARRL SSB Sweepstakes                     | Feb 18/19..... | ARRL CW DX Contest                             |
| Nov 26/27..... | CW WW CW DX Contest                      | Feb 21.....    | BARC <b>VE</b> Session – <b>TUESDAY</b>        |
| Nov 29.....    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                     | Feb 24/26..... | CQ WW SSB 160M Contest                         |
| Dec 1.....     | <b>HAM CHATTER DEADLINE</b>              | Feb 25/26..... | NC QSO Party ? (Date tentative)                |
| Dec 3/4.....   | ARRL 160 Meter Contest                   | Feb 28.....    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                           |
| Dec 10/11..... | ARRL 10 Meter Contest                    |                |  |
| Dec 13.....    | <b>Regular Meeting - Christmas Party</b> |                | <b>Regular Meeting</b> - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM |
| Dec 20.....    | BARC <b>VE</b> Session – <b>TUESDAY</b>  |                | <b>Board Meeting</b> - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 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 8:30 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

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



Next Meeting  
October 11

**October 2011**

To:



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