October 2018

The Connector

To promote the technical craft of amateur radio through training, mentoring and enhancing fellowship among radio amateurs.

From the President

There are times when everything just seems to fall into place and today’s meeting, I am happy to say, was one of those times. As you may know, October is the month when we nominate new officers to run for election next year. Those nominated and running unopposed are as follows:

- President: Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
- Vice President: Mike Miranda W4DXL
- Secretary: Susan Nosko N4PSN
- Treasurer: Joe Ducar KJ4QFV

My decision not to continue as president of the club was based upon my increased workload this year at my place of employment. I didn’t feel that I was able to devote enough time to the club and accomplish all that needs to be done. In talking with Jeff, I believe he has some really good ideas on how to take the club where it needs to go. I want to be there to support the effort — both as past-president and vice president.

More than just the slate of new officers, I could sense more energy in the room than in the past. In the future, we want to cut down the length of the business meeting and get right into the fun stuff faster. This will give more time for topics, discussions, and maybe even the occasional field trip. These are all things the club once did which went over well — but somehow we got away from.

Let me say a big thank you to our Secretary this year, Marge Fowler KI4JCK. Marge was always there to keep me

You are Invited...

to visit our club. We are the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club, a general interest ham radio club serving the Charlotte area. We meet at the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters, our served agency, located at 501 Archdale Drive in Charlotte (near I-77, Exit 4). The club conducts its business meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am. On Thursday evenings at 7:30pm, we host an open house for anyone interested in amateur radio or the club. We invite you to visit us! (We meet in a secured facility, so please be on time to ensure entry.) We hope to see you then!

Please visit our website for more information: www.w4cq.org

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on track and took better notes than I could. (Something that I became painfully aware of when she was out.) Marge has been having a tough time lately with her hip so please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks also to Gary Christian W4GDC and Ted Williams KE6QEY for the high point of our adventures this year working on top of the Salvation Army Building. We got some good work done up there, had a good time, and we probably could have done more if some fool hadn’t sliced his finger (me). Lucky for me Mike Patterson was there. I believe Mike actually enjoyed the experience of patching me up!

In case you haven’t heard, the repeaters located on Spencer Mountain have been turned off by the repeater owners in voluntary cooperation with the FAA and FCC. They are looking into some kind of interference complaint. That’s all I know right now. It’s doubtful that any of these repeaters are causing the problem.

I’ll probably think of a dozen other things I wanted to say after I finish this, but they will just have to wait till next time. For now let me just say thanks for hanging in there I have a feeling 2019 will be very interesting (at least I hope so)!

I hope you each have a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for.

73, Mike W4DXL, Charlotte Amateur Radio Club (W4CQ) President

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**Upcoming Events!**

The shortwave station will be in the Gold Assay office at the Mint Hill Historical Society on **Saturday, November 17. Setup is at 0830.** You’ll see the W4CQ sign displayed outside to advertise our club. The Historical Society is an ideal location for the station to be situated, where there is a good flow of people of all backgrounds.

My purpose for having the station there is to inform the public about amateur radio and to encourage people to get into the hobby. (I have a lot of ham related things to give away. Any thing I can do to promote the hobby.)

We have been successful in generating interest. Our first new ham was Larry Howard; our latest ham was Steve Hill this month. He got his license at the Rock Hill Hamfest.

Our Mint Hill event gives Techs a chance to get some supervised experience talking on the HF bands. This experience should help encourage them to get their General Class license.

I hope to see you there. 73, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV

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**W4CQ Christmas Party!** Stay posted for more information about this year’s Christmas Party!
The Geek Fest takes place this year on **Thursday, November 8, 2018**, at the Central Piedmont Community College - Levine Campus in Matthews.

**THE Geek Festival (TGF)** is an exciting and eclectic annual celebration of the "geek" in all of us; an event designed to educate, energize, and inspire the minds of our students and the community through highlighting the constant creative innovations in technology, media, and industry. It not only recognizes the imaginative efforts made by individuals and companies in their respective fields but also provides a venue through which we can explore the technologies that have become so integral in our everyday lives as well as those that are new and foreign. Geek is chic; not only that, it is everywhere. [https://www.thegeekfest.com/](https://www.thegeekfest.com/)

We cater to a young technology-focused audience — CPCC students, instructors, and community visitors. Last year, groups of high school and home school students stopped by.

Obviously, much innovation has been enabled by the computer, and in keeping with that theme we usually exhibit computer-enabled digital ham radio including PSK, packet radio messaging, and this year maybe also some of the "JT’s." (The geeks are probably more computer savvy than we are.)

When visitors see the feedlines and antennas over the patio, and see real-time communication on the screen, it captures their attention and illustrates what we can do when infrastructure is damaged or overloaded. It’s an ah-ha moment when we use packet/RMS to deliver an email to a visitor’s cellphone within seconds. They see the radio text, hear the chirps, and then hear their cell “text received” tone.

The afternoon before Geek Fest we need at least two installers to hang antennas from the roof across the patio. Then all day on Thursday, we need a few operators comfortable with digital radio, and a few interpreters to translate from geek to common (everyday language), or from common to geek.

It’s a busy — but fun — day where we can show our stuff to the community. If you would like to participate, please contact me at wb2nhq@arrl.net.

73 — John White WB2NHQ

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The next MARS-sponsored sessions will be on **Saturday, November 10, 2018**, at 9:00am at the St. Giles Presbyterian Church gymnasium (2027 Emerywood Drive, Charlotte, NC). Registration will begin sharply at 9:00am; testing will follow. The VEs will conduct all exam levels.

Please bring the following to the exam session: $10 for the testing fee (cash preferred), a photo ID (driver’s license, etc.), and if already a licensed ham radio operator, your original license and a copy to leave with the examiners, any active CSCEs and a copy of each that you will be using.

If you have any questions about the exam session, please contact me at ki4faq@gmail.com or 704-641-0959. 73, Steven Burke KI4FAQ, MARS-WCARS VEC Liaison

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**State QSO Parties**

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<th>State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>11/10/2018</td>
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Thoughts & Prayers

Let’s keep Marge Fowler KI4JCK in our thoughts and prayers for her physical recovery. And all those who were hit by Hurricane Florence. Let’s also remember those in uniform — especially as the holidays draw near.

Radio Matters

By Urb LeJeune W1UL
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No-Test Upgrading to General from Technician Plus

Prior to March 21, 1987, the theory test for both the General and Technician exams were one and the same. The only difference between Technician and General class was that those testing for General had to take a 13 WPM code test, while people testing for Technician took a 5 WPM code test.

When the code requirements were dropped from amateur licensing requirements, the Technicians licensed before March 21, 1987, were officially called “Technician Plus” license holders. Holders of Technician Plus licenses are eligible for an automatic, no-test upgrade to General. If you are in this category you must do the following:

1) You must be currently licensed as a Technician Plus.
2) You must provide proof you were licensed before March 21, 1987.
3) You must attend a VE session and fill out all paperwork and pay the $15.00 fee (since this is an upgrade).

I have an old call book and can supply you with the necessary information to satisfy Requirement #2 above. If you’re not local, send me a stamped self-addressed number #10 envelope at this address: Urb LeJeune, 15 Hunter Drive, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.
73, Urb W1UL, urb@ham-cram.com

When not writing newsletter articles, Urb can usually be found working on his ham radio test preparation website, http://ham-cram.com. The site has three distinguishing characteristics:

- We don’t study incorrect answers.
- We only study the questions most likely on the FCC test.
- It’s free.
Business Meeting Minutes

Charlotte Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the October 2018 Business Meeting
Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters, 510 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC

DATE: October 20, 2018
CALL TO ORDER: 9:39am by President Mike Miranda W4DXL
WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS: Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. The State’s car show last weekend went well, although it seemed the number of cars was somewhat less. W4CQ had several people stop by and inquired what we were doing. We had amateur radio material available and Joe KJ4QFV had his “go boxes” on static display. Mike KE4EHC had his TV club filming the car show.

Treasurer’s Report (Joe Ducar KJ4QFV): Joe gave his Treasurer’s Report. He stated nothing was coming in or going out.

OLD BUSINESS

Club Website: Joe KJ4QFV and Jeff KA4WYC asked about the status of the website. Ted KE6QEY stated that he has the password for the website. Some new content has been added. Shawn K4RSG has a little website programming on his private website, but not ready for primetime use yet. Jeff KA4WYC brought up having an outside source to help do the website programming. The members present didn’t have a problem with that idea. Joe KJ4QFV stated maybe we could be able to pay for this service, on an “as needed” basis. Jeff KA4WYC will seek an outside source.

Jeff KA4WYC brought up the need for a better way to commutate with members. A discussion on having a newsletter was considered by members. Susan N4PSN stated she would be willing to head this up. Already an extremely talented editor for the MARS Club, all members present agreed to Susan being our club newsletter editor. Susan stated she would just put together content provided by the membership. (She won’t go out looking for newsletter material.) She’ll gather material and send out a newsletter the next month.

NEW BUSINESS

W4CQ Club Officers for 2018
President: Mike Miranda W4DXL
Vice President: Gary Christian W4GDC
Secretary: Marge Fowler KI4JCK
Treasurer: Joe Ducar KJ4QFV
Spencer Mountain Repeaters: Mike W4DXL brought up the situation on Spence Mountain; he made reference to several repeaters being off the air, due to an FCC investigation of interference. This being to the possible interference to FAA radios at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. This was a volunteer shutdown of these repeaters.

There was a question how Marge KI4JCK is doing. Her shoulder is doing ok, but she has more of a complaint of pain in her hip. There was a motion brought up by Jack K4LRH, which was seconded by Mike W4DXL, to provide her with a fruit basket from the club. He will check Harris Teeter and a dollar amount was stated. The motion passed unanimously. Jack will deliver it to Marge.

Nomination of 2019 Club Officers: David WD4DDC asked to open the nominations of club officers.

1. Mike W4DXL called the nominations open, and asked for nominations for President. David WD4DDC nominated Jeff KA4WYC. Mike W4DXL moved nominations be closed. It was seconded by Gary W4GDC. The nomination was approved unanimously.

2. Next Mike W4DXL called for nominations for Vice President. Jeff KA4WYC nominated Mike W4DXL and someone seconded the nomination. Jeff KA4WYC called for nominations to be closed. The nomination was approved unanimously.

3. Joe KJ4QFV accepted to run as Treasurer, running unopposed. The nomination was approved unanimously.

4. Next Mike W4DXL asked for nominations for Secretary. Mike KE4EHC stated he may take it, but after some consideration, decided to let Susan N4PSN take it. She stated that the job of Secretary complements the job of newsletter editor. The nomination was approved unanimously.

5. This is your Slate of Officers for 2019:

   President - Jeff Blythe KA4WYC  
   Vice President - Mike Miranda W4DXL  
   Treasurer – Joe Ducar KJ4QFV  
   Secretary – Susan Nosko N4PSN  
   Newsletter Editor – Susan Nosko N4PSN

6. Mike W4DXL asked twice if there were any more nominations or challenges for the officers elected. None noted, Mike W4DXL closed the 2019 Elections.

Christmas Party: Mike W4DXL stated the W4CQ Christmas Party will possibly take place on Thursday, December 13, 2019, at The Salvation Army Headquarters. More info will be coming soon!

HF Rig Donation: Jack K4LRH stated he has a HF rig he’d like to donate to the club for members to use in the club room. The rig is a Kenwood TS 520.

ADJOURNMENT
Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff made a motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44am. All members got up to meet at Sonny’s BBQ for lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Blythe KA4WYC, for Marge Fowler KI4JCK, Club Secretary
**W4CQ Repeaters**

147.06 (-600 KHz) WB4ETF On the air at Well Fargo II (400 ft)

444.675 (+5.0 MHz) – W4WBT
400 ft Charlotte

444.45 (+5.0 MHz) PL 82.5 W4CQ
Channel 36 tower in Dallas. (1500 ft)

222.420 (-4.0Mhz) – PL 82.5 KA4WMZ
Channel 36 Tower in Dallas (1500 ft)
Joint project with KA4YMY

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**MARS METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™**

The MARS (Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society W4BFB) Metrolina 2-Meter Emergency Net™ is held every night at 9:00pm. The primary frequency is the 146.94 repeater and the alternate backups are the 145.29 repeater or 146.52 simplex.

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**Other Local Nets**

Sunday — Mecklenburg Simplex Net, 8:30pm (147.505)
Wednesday — Mecklenburg ARES Net, 7:30pm (146.94- PL 118.8)
Wednesday — Union County Skywarn Net, 8:30pm (145.39- PL 94.8)
Thursday — UCARS 2m Net, 8:00pm (145.390- PL 94.8) (444.425+ PL 94.8)
Saturday — Union County ARES Net, 8:00pm (145.39- PL 94.8)
Saturday — The Dixie Radio Pirates, Weekly Net, 8:30pm (145.410- PL 136.5)

**Nightly**
The Piedmont Spotter Group Net, 8:00pm (145.230- PL 118.8)
Rock Hill Net, 8:30pm (147.030+ PL 88.5)

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**The Connector**

is the official newsletter of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club. It’s published monthly.

As Editor of *The W4CQ News*, I welcome pictures (.jpeg), articles, and any other member contributions. Please send your submission to W4CQSecretary@gmail.com. As Editor, I reserve the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month’s newsletter is the third Friday of that month. Anything received later may be held for the next month’s publication.

As the W4CQ News Editor, I am honored to serve the good people of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club.

73,

P. Susan Nosko N4PSN
Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

2018 CHARLOTTE HAMFEST/ARRL NC SECTION CONVENTION, CONCORD, NC (3/9-10) – The Charlotte Hamfest will be held on Friday, March 9th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM, and on Saturday, March 10th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, in Concord, NC. The location for the event is the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4551 Old Airport Road, 4571 Hwy 49 North, Concord, NC 28025. In addition to the commercial vendor exhibits and flea market, the 2016 Charlotte Hamfest will have raffle prizes and VE testing by WCARS. The forum sessions will include presentations on FT8; end-fed, half-wave antennas; digital radio; and, the ARRL and Charlotte Area Club forums. The 2016 Charlotte Hamfest is sponsored by W4BFB – Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society Inc. For further information, see https://charlottehamfest.org/ (source: Charlotte Hamfest website)

POSTPONED DXPEDITION TO DISPUTED SPRATLYS RESET FOR MARCH – An international Amateur Radio team that postponed a December 2017 DXpedition to the disputed Spratly Islands now plans to be on the air in early March from Layang Layang Island – also known as Swallow Reef – under Malaysian call sign 9M0W, with CW, SSB, and digital operation on 160 through 6 meters. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/postponed-dxpedition-to-disputed-spratlys-reset-for-march (source: ARRL website)

REMEMBER! ARRL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR SIX AWARDS (DEADLINES, 3/15 – 4/30) – ARRL invites nominations for awards that recognize educational and technological pursuits in Amateur Radio. Nominations are also open for the League’s premier award to honor a young licensee – the Hiram Percy Maxim Award. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-invites-nominations-for-six-awards (source: ARRL website)

2018 DAVE KALTER MEMORIAL YOUTH DX ADVENTURE HEADING FOR CURACAO (DEADLINE, 3/17) – The 2018 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure (YDXA) destination this summer will be the PJ2T contest station site in Curacao. During the week of July 19-24, three young radio amateurs between 12 and 17, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (no license required), will make the trip. All travelers must have a valid passport and reside in the US. … The application deadline is March 17. – Thanks to YDXA Team Leader Jim Storms, AB8YK, and Ron Doyle, N8VAR. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/2018-dave-kalter-memorial-youth-dx-adventure-heading-for-curacao (sources: AB8YK, N8VAR, ARRL website)

NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE IN LATE MARCH TO INCLUDE AMATEUR RADIO SESSION (3/26-29) – The annual National Hurricane Conference is set for March 26 – 29, in Orlando, Florida. The theme this year is “Improving Hurricane Preparedness.” Some 1,500 attendees are expected. The Amateur Radio session will take place on Tuesday, March 27, at 1:30 PM. Presenters will address various aspects of the Amateur Radio response to hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. … The Amateur Radio session is typically open to hams, free of charge. – Thanks to The ARES E-Letter. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/national-hurricane-conference-in-late-march-to-include-amateur-radio-session (sources: ARES E-Letter, ARRL website)

REMEMBER! NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR PHILIP J. MCGAN MEMORIAL SILVER ANTENNA AWARD (DEADLINE, 5/19) – Nominations are open for ARRL’s annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, which recognizes and honors the efforts of individuals who create greater awareness and understanding the services and benefits that Amateur Radio provides to the general public. The deadline to submit a nomination is May 19, 2018. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/nominations-sought-for-philip-j-mcgan-memorial-silver-antenna-award (source: ARRL website)

FOXES AND HOUNDS – FT8 DXPEDITION MODE IS IN THE WORKS FOR WSJT-X – Speaking on behalf of the WSJT-X Development Team, Joe Taylor, K1JT, has issued a progress report on the team’s efforts to develop FT8 DXpedition Mode. … – Thanks to Joe Taylor, K1JT. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/foxes-and-hounds-ft8-dxpedition-mode-is-in-the-works-for-wsjt-x (sources: K1JT, ARRL website)

NBC NEWS LEFT FIELD REPORT SAYS HAMS “COULD SAVE OUR LIVES” IN A DISASTER – A team from NBC News’ nascent digital news unit Left Field was in Hawaii to visit with some radio amateurs to produce a report when the false nuclear missile alert happened on January 13. Left Field’s report points out how much we rely on cell phones and 21st century technology… and what we would do if these suddenly were no longer available. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/nbc-news-left-field-report-says-hams-could-save-our-lives-in-a-disaster (source: ARRL web-
ARRL ANNOUNCES MOBILE DXCC OPERATING AWARD – ARRL this week announced a Mobile DXCC Operating Award, available to radio amateurs who have contacted at least 100 DXCC entities from a working vehicle, with antennas and power source capable of operating while in motion. ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, advised those pursuing the award to put safety first. “Distracted driving is a serious concern, so we hope all mobile operators exercise care when operating from a moving vehicle,” he said. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-mobile-dxcc-operating-award (source: ARRL website)

3Y0I BOUVEY ISLAND DXPEDITION REVIVED – Peripatetic Polish DXpeditioner Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, and four other operators announced over the weekend that their postponed plans to mount the 3Y0I DXpedition to Bouvet Island are back on. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/3y0i-bouvet-island-dxpedition-revived (source: ARRL website)

ARRL RELEASES TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2 QUESTION POOL ERRATA #2 – For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-releases-technician-element-2-question-pool-errata-2 (source: ARRL website)

GREAT CLUB LOG HARDWARE SHUFFLE COMPLETE – Club Log author Michael Wells, G7VJR, announced on February 13 that he has completed the “Great Hardware Shuffle” for the online service. The free, web-based tool can produce DXCC league tables, expedition tools, log-search services, and most-wanted lists. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/great-club-log-hardware-shuffle-complete (source: ARRL website)


AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE TRANSITIONING TO NEW ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM – The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will phase out the traditional ARES report forms later this year in favor of an online system called ARES Connect, a volunteer management, communications, and reporting system. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-emergency-service-transitioning-to-new-online-reporting-system (source: ARRL website)

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are included in this month’s newsletter:

On February 5, 2018, an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) contact occurred with Moore Square Magnet Middle School in Raleigh. A webpage from the Moore Square Magnet Middle School provides background information on this ARISS event, including the list of participants, see https://www.wcpss.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=154&ModuleInstanceID=68031&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=118015&PageID=360 Thanks to John Brier, KG4AKV and his colleagues, and Thanks to Rosalie White, K1STO, ARISS International Secretary, for providing information and media hits on this event! (sources: Wake County Public School System website, K1STO, N2COP)


The following report was received from Hal London, WB4ZIQ: “Stanly County Traffic Class. … I am pleased to report that the introductory traffic handling class on Feb 3 sponsored by the Stanly County Amateur Radio Club in Richfield, NC was a success. Twenty-one attendees brought different levels of experience to the class, which made for animated and interesting discussion. All were tasked with creating a radiogram (including an ARRL number) and voicing that radiogram to the group. In the beginning, the group was challenged to avoid that old childhood exercise where an adult tells the first kid in line “Mary had a little lamb” and the last kid in line repeats, “Mary ate lamb chops”. Fortunately in our class, the lamb was safe! The attendees mostly hailed from central NC and from the Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh areas. Lane WK4WC and I thoroughly enjoyed the class and look forward to repeat sessions in years to come. We are very appreciative of having the use of the Mt Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Richfield, NC. This is an excellent facility for traffic training. … 73, Hal London WB4ZIQ.” Thanks to Hal London, WB4ZIQ, Official Relay Station, for providing this report! (source: WB4ZIQ)

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: James W. (“Jim”) Fleischhauer, Jr, KM4DCJ (SK) of North Raleigh; Charles Thomas (“Charlie”) Klutzz, Jr, W4TM4R (SK) of Winston-Salem; The Reverend Dr. John Thomas Newton, Jr, K4VCQ (SK) of Montreat; and, Clifford (“Cliff”) Teague, K4SWSH (SK) of Cary. Please note: it is not possible to post information about an amateur radio operator that has become a Silent Key without confirmation via a copy of an obituary or death certificate.
SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS – No Special Event Stations have been posted for the NC Section on the ARRL website through May 2018. Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a Special Event Station. Thanks! (source: ARRL website)

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –


It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club’s upcoming hamfest! For more information, see http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events (source: ARRL website)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to provide input on our Section. I can be reached via email at w4chx@arrl.org or via cell phone. As always, thank you for sending your emails, photos, and club newsletters – they keep me informed about your activities and programs! Thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community. 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)