

Charles  
County  
Amateur Radio  
Club

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# Smoke Signals



Volume 23  
issue 4

April 2020

## THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

Life has temporarily changed for all of us. A few weeks ago, as the weather started to warm, we were looking forward to getting out and mingling with friends. Then came COVID-19. While the majority of society is being asked, sometimes ordered, to self-isolate and practice social distancing, ham radio operators are lucky. Our radios give us the opportunity to stay in touch with friends without ever leaving the comfort of our own homes. So while everything on TV, including sporting events, are all reruns, and other forms of entertainment outside the home are closed, we have the unique ability to fight boredom by simply turning on our radios.

Some of you may be wondering why the COVID-19 virus is so much more dangerous compared to other illnesses. I read an article over the

weekend that answered that question. Like Ebola, COVID-19 is a bat virus that has acquired the ability to infect people. It seems that bats have extremely active and quick responding immune systems, more robust than any other mammals. As such, viruses that target bats must rapidly multiply when they enter the bat in order to survive their immune system. When they jump to another species they retain that explosive invasion ability which completely overwhelms the host's immune system. These bat diseases must also be highly contagious in order to survive and multiply within the bat population. That trait also survives the jump to a different species. So, the bottom line is as the CDC has instructed; in order to eradicate this virus it needs to "die on the vine" by not giving it

*(Continued on page 2)*

### CALENDAR

#### April

01 Net 2030

03 Cancelled

8 Net 2030

15 Net 2030

22 Net 2030 &

News articles due

29 Net 2030

#### May

01 meeting

06 Net 2030

13 Net 2030

20 Net 2030

27 Net 2030 & News  
articles due

*(Continued from page 1)*

quarter in anyone's body. To accomplish this you have to take away its ability to spread to new hosts.

As a result of the pandemic the Dayton Hamvention has been cancelled for 2020. If you've already purchased tickets, go to the Dayton Hamvention website for information about choices you have regarding your tickets. The three choices they are offering are a full refund, automatically replacing your 2020 tickets with 2021 tickets, or gifting your ticket purchase as a donation to the organization.

In addition to the Dayton Hamvention, many local hamfests have already cancelled. A few are considering postponing to a later date. You can check the status of the local hamfests on several websites including ARRL, QRZ, eHam, and CQ magazine.

For our club, our April license exam session has been cancelled as has the April meeting. We will see how things go before making a decision on our May meeting. Stay tuned for information about potential on-air or online virtual meetings.

Until this pandemic passes, which according to the most recent information from the CDC, may take another 10 to 12 weeks, remain safe and follow the CDC and Maryland Health Department guidelines. This is a good time to get on the radio and explore radio propagation, make new friends, or try new modes that you've been curious about. Perhaps even spend the time studying for an upgrade to your license, or maybe learn about a particular topic in radio electronics that you've previously struggled to understand, etc. There are plenty of learning resources on the internet through ARRL, YouTube, Lynda.com and others.



*by Bob, NW3M*

# CCARC weekly net

Charles County Amateur Radio Club will start a  
147.195 MHz, + 600 offset, PL 156.7 Hz. each  
Wednesday 2030 local time

Nets will be roundtable type with a question of the  
week for discussion. All amateur radio operators  
are welcome; please join in the fun!

Also, if you have a topic you'd like to discuss,  
please let Bob NW3M or Michelle N3YRZ know.

The next exam session is  
June 5

## Volunteer VE's Note:

Now that the political season is here, I'd like to remind everyone that LARC VEC is not a partisan political organization. We as an organization are neither Republican nor Democrat. We serve all comers, despite any political differences between us. We strive to make everyone welcome at our Volunteer Examiner sessions. In the spirit of making everyone welcome, we do not wear or otherwise display at our VE Sessions any partisan political slogans or other memes, whether in the form of tee shirts, hats, buttons, posters or any other format. We do not display at our sessions any signs or stickers supporting or denigrating any candidate for public office.

We are free, of course, to display insignia relating to amateur radio organizations, such as our sponsoring radio clubs, QCWA, ARRL, FISTS, AMSAT or other radio clubs. The J-38 code key logo of LARC VEC may be freely displayed by our VE Teams.

If your car or other vehicle has political bumper stickers, that is not an issue, because a car parked in a parking lot near the session is not identifiable with the session. The exception would be if your vehicle is connected with the VE Session, such as a VE Session held in your motor home. In those cases, please cover the political stickers until after the session is complete.

This email applies to our volunteers, and is not intended to limit our applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Coordinator or Diane Zimmerman AA3OF Chairman, Laurel Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

# Condolences

Condolences to Art (AA3RT) on the death of his wife, Brenda after a brief fight with leukemia. Brenda was interred March 20th, at the Shiloh Baptist Cemetery in De Ridder / Dry Creek, Louisiana within view of where her parents are buried. Her obituary can be found at:

<https://www.raymondfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Brenda-Audley/#!/Obituary>

Art commented on Facebook "Brenda always remarked to me that rainy, dreary days reminded her of Louisiana. I'm hoping that the rain prior to and during Brenda's service was the Lord's way of letting her know that she was home. We( Art & Robert) are back in southern Maryland trying to carry on, with a big hole in our hearts and missing Brenda every waking hour."

Art, our sympathy is with you in your time of grieving



# Odd & ends

Parks on the Air (POTA). POTA is when hams go out to a State or National park and operate portable HF stations and make contacts. If you are at a park operating then you are an Activator. If you are at your normal QTH working the hams at the parks then you a Hunter.

To activate a park, all one has to do is go on the POTA website, <https://parksontheair.com/> go to POTA Map and find a park to activate. Once you find a park, note it's designation, all parks in the US are K-####. For example, Ceaderville State Forrest is K-4763. Then go out to the park, setup a portable HF station and start calling CQ parks on the Air. It helps to spot yourself with the POTA Spots application on their website which you can get to with a smartphone. Once the activation is complete, you can email your log to the local coordinator and that's it!

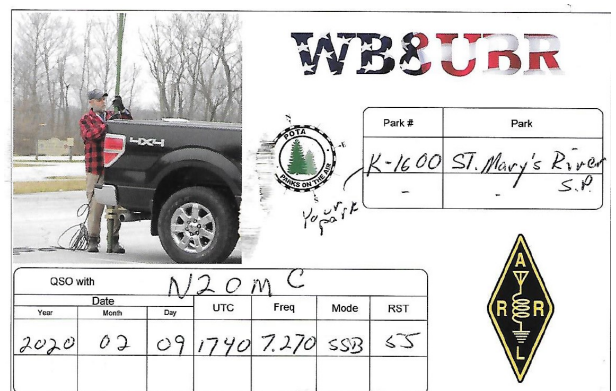
On the other side of it, it's very easy to tune around from home and work the hams out activating the parks. Once again the POTA SPOTS application comes in handy. Just go to the SPOTS part of their site, which updates real time, and look for an activator and their freq, tune to the freq and see if you can hear them. If so, work them by exchanging your state and signal report and that's it. When the activator uploads their log, your call sign gets listed in the database and the site keeps track of how many parks you worked. You will get a certificate for working 10, then 20, 30, etc parks. You can check your award status on the site under My Stats and Award Progress.

I activated four parks so far: Cedarville, Salem State Forrest, Greenwell State Park, and St. Mary's River State Park. I made 33 contacts from Cedarville operating QRP with the FT-817. I made 16 from Greenwell, 14 from Salem, and 24 from St. Mary's River all using 50 watts.

I don't have a special QSL card but some people do. See the QSL scan attached, this is a card I received from my St. Mary's activation, his card has a POTA symbol on it and a pic of him operating portable.

If anyone in the club would like help activating a park just let me know, would be glad to help :)

73, Rob - N2OMC



## Special Event Calls April

Missouri QSO Party	KOE, KOO, NOU, NOS, KOI, WOU, WOM, NOH, WOW, NOM, WOR, WOH, WOS, KOM, NOW	01 to 10
BW Wells Heritage Day Radio Activity (GOTA)	N4C	03 to 5
Missouri QSO Party		03 to 6
Florida State Parks On the Air	K4F	04 to 5
155th Anniversary of Lincoln's Assassination	K9L	08 to 15
Georgia QSO Party	N4K, K4M,K4R,K4A,N4L,K4L ,K4N,N4F,K4F, N4A,N4N,N4C, N4I, N4R	09 to 13
New Mexico QSO Party	K5V	10 to 13
World Amateur Radio Day	W7W, W2W	15 to 19
Moonshine Heritage Month - Franklin County, VA	W4M	15 to 20
RMS Titanic	K6B	15 to 20
Texas State Parks on the Air	N5C	17 to 19
Wood County OH Bicentennial	W8C	17 to 19
Michigan QSO party - Keweenaw County	W8K	17 to 20
50th anniversary of recovery of Apollo 13 crew	K7T	18 to 19
Michigan QSO Party	W8M	18 to 19
International Marconi Day Special Event Station	N6M, W4S, K2S, K1S	22 to 27
International DX Convention	K6V	24 to 26
Florida QSO Party	N4J	25 to 26

# Practice questions

If your license has expired and is still within the allowable grace period, may you continue to operate a transmitter on Amateur Radio Service frequencies?

- A. No, transmitting is not allowed until the FCC license database shows that the license has been renewed
- B. Yes, but only if you identify using the suffix GP
- C. Yes, but only during authorized nets
- D. Yes, for up to two years

What is the current through a 100-ohm resistor connected across 200 volts?

- A. 20,000 amperes
- B. 0.5 amperes
- C. 2 amperes
- D. 100 amperes

What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on 10.140 MHz?

- A. 200 watts PEP output
- B. 1000 watts PEP output
- C. 1500 watts PEP output
- D. 2000 watts PEP output

What sets the minimum detectable signal level for a direct-sampling SDR receiver in the absence of atmospheric or thermal noise?

- A. Sample clock phase noise
- B. Reference voltage level and sample width in bits
- C. Data storage transfer rate
- D. Missing codes and jitter

# CCARC Activities

**1 May 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**5 June 2020** - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**26 - 28 June 2019** ARRL Field Day 2020 – (4th full weekend in June). Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), 5300 Turkey Tayac Place, Nanjemoy, MD 20662. Details pending.

**3 July 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM. 2M Yagi building

**7 August 2020** - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**16 August 2020** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Connector Workshop with linked dipole antenna build. 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, QTH of Jeff – KB3SPH and Pam – KB3SWS. More information in the document, 2020-08-16-Connector Workshop.docx, available for download at [www.smas.us/ConnectorWorkshop](http://www.smas.us/ConnectorWorkshop).

## HAMFESTS

Hamfests (even Dayton) have been cancelled or postponed due to social distancing for Covid 19 pandemic.

### DAYTON HAMVENTION QSO PARTY

Let's celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention. We also want to remember Ron Moorefield W8ILC who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to our club until his recent death. Let's light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamventions of the past! See you on the air! K3LR, Tim Duffy and W8CI, Michael Kalter. Here is the deal: 12 hour event, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDST on Saturday of Hamvention May 16, 2020. Operate CW or SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Exchange is a signal report & first year you attended Hamvention. If you never attended Hamvention send 2020. Send your score (number of QSOs) to [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) within 5 days of the event. You can print a certificate on line via [www.HVQP.org](http://www.HVQP.org). More details will appear on the Hamvention QSO Party web site being set up now.

Special bonus: W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by designated DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band/mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (like having 120 additional QSOs). For the details for this event:

<https://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?! =POyvm&m=i2D06S69Ov08Pns&b=pkdpr8O7bboxNJFnSiyKkA>



MDC Section Members,

It is unfortunate and frustrating but reassuring to know our MDC Section ARCs, ARES®, VECs, Event Coordinators and members are making informed and rational decisions to protect fellow Hams and our communities by avoiding possible COVID-19 contact.

Consequence management is what is going on in your community and how are they reacting. You know your community and you manage your group effectively so let us work together to achieve clear perception of current changes and then project a successful outcome.

Have clear-lines of communication and identifying the methods and frequency (not kHz/MHz) you plan to use to communicate with your members, State & County & Community Partners and public facing correspondence (e.g. Social Media and Web-sites). Consider using Telecom or Ham radio or a 'knock-on-the-door' to reach participants not using digital information.

As we share situational information, then apply consequence management, we will have a full picture of our readiness; additionally, to better support our served agencies and community leaders.

Call your local EmComm partners to identify any unmet needs. Please review your Action and Continuity Plans for connection with Emergency Support Function #13 – Public Safety. Suggest that your team brief-up on NIMS and the National Planning Frameworks. More information is found on the FEMA website.

During these fluid situations be mindful of disinformation, Phishing, Scams and attempts to gain access to your Personally Identifiable Information [PII] or Social Media accounts. Do not discuss your medical info or personal-info on-the-air.

Continue to show community support by halting Hamfests, Radio Training and VE Testing - find alternate methods to meet your expectations. Our sincere thanks for canceling your events already.

Until the all-clear returns to the MDC Section – Staff will not attend Ham related activities.

TU es 73, Marty Pittinger KB3MXM Maryland/DC Section Manager, ARRL  
443-326-1783 | [KB3MXM@ARRL.net](mailto:KB3MXM@ARRL.net)



# Charles County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

## March 6, 2020

### Officers Present:

President – Bob Curran NW3M  
Vice President – Unable to Attend  
Secretary – Charles Hallock AA3WS  
Treasurer – Unable to Attend  
Activities – Jeff Humbert KB3SPH

### Members Present:

Pamela Humbert KB3SWS  
Patrick Hinman KB3UYZ  
Leslie Couehenour N3RFO  
Timothy Velasquez KB3OSF  
Art Audley AA3RT  
Michelle Sack N3YRZ  
Terry Venicasa KC3EIY  
Bill Koustenis WB3CII  
Joe Boswell KB3HNP

### Visitors:

Ray Simpson WI3A

### **Meeting opened 1900 Hours.**

President Bob Curran NW3M welcomed the members and recognized the guests. Subsequently, the President asked the members present to tell the group their favorite part of the Newsletter as they introduce themselves.

The President reported Bob Davison KB3KOW was willing to serve as Vice President and subsequently nominated Bob for Vice President. The President requested the Secretary conduct the election. The following members were elect to the ensuing term: President – Bob Curran NW3M, Vice President - Bob Davison KB3KOW, Secretary – Charles Hallock AA3WS, Treasurer – Pamela Humbert KB3SWS, and Activities – Jeff Humbert KB3SPH.

Jeff Humbert KB3SPH and Bob Davison KB3KOW (remotely) gave a D-RATS demo. First Jeff had the member's present download the D-RATS software. Then, Jeff gave a primer on how the software worked. Subsequently, the members communicated with Bob who was in Norfolk.

### **New Business**

President Bob noted to the Club members of future APRS equipment testing to determine equipment needs to support the Indian Head 100 Bike Ride on September 7, 2020.

Charles AA3WS reported the February 19, Arduino class at Marbury Baptist Church was successful. Sixteen people were at the session. President Bob noted he and VP Bob are would like to have regular Arduino Programming sessions in the future.

President Bob advised the next Amateur Radio Exam Session will be 1730 Hours on April 3, prior to our Club Meeting.

#### Activities Manager:

Jeff KB3SPH reported on the following upcoming activities:

**3 April 2020** - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**26 April 2020** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Connector Workshop with linked dipole antenna build.  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, QTH of Jeff – KB3SPH and Pam – KB3SWS.

**1 May 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM. Activity: 4 element, 2M Yagi building.

*(Continued on page 11)*

**\*3 May 2020** – \*Estimated Date - March for Babies Communications Support – 7:30 AM – 11:30 AM, area of Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf. Hmmm, will the weather cooperate for a bicycle mobile operator this year?

**5 June 2020** - Test Session at 5:30 PM followed by Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**26 - 28 June 2019** - ARRL Field Day 2020 – (Fourth full weekend in June). Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), 5300 Turkey Tayac Place, Nanjemoy, MD 20662. Details pending.

**3 July 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

We're always looking for presentations, demonstrations, guest speakers, etc., on various topics to be presented in conjunction with our club meetings. If you have a request for a specific topic, a point of contact for a presentation, and/or you would like to make a presentation yourself, please let Jeff – KB3SPH know at [humbert1js@gmail.com](mailto:humbert1js@gmail.com).

Secretary:

Minutes for the Meeting are published in the Monthly New Letter.

**Old Business**

None.

**Members Comments:**

Joe Boswell KB3HNP reported on the Stem Session in St. Mary's County.

Art Audley AA3RT advised "LaPlata Days" was April 25.

Bob Curran NW3M reported the May meeting will be Yagi Antenna Building Session.

Closing:

A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed at 2017 Hours.

Charles Hallock AA3WS

Secretary



*the*  
**MINUTES**

# MARYLAND QSO PARTY

This year, the Anne Arundel Radio Club, sponsor of the MDC QSO party, is offering a new prize for MDC radio clubs. The success of the MDC QSO party depends largely on the degree of participation in the contest by Maryland-DC operators- if there are no MDC operators participating, there is no MDC contest. To provide some incentives for participation & solicit the assistance of the 43 amateur radio clubs in the MDC region; we are presenting is a club “trophy”, which will be awarded to the MDC radio club with the highest number of “**membership participation points**” for the MDC QSO party. We have worked out a formula for determining participation points, which we think will give both large and small clubs an equitable opportunity to win the trophy.

First leadership of each club should promote the MDC QSO party, and encourage all your members to participate. Members identify your club on their summary sheets when reporting their QSOs for their individual certificates or plaques. If they belong to more than one club, indicate how they desire their points to be apportioned among their clubs for the purposes of calculating the participation score. For example, someone belonging to AARC and PVRC might decide to apportion their club score 75% to AARC and 25% to PVRC. We will calculate the total participation points for each club and award the trophy to the club with the most points.

There are two ways for your members to participate in the MDC QSO party, and both will contribute to your club’s overall participation points. First, your members can participate at a club site, using a club call sign, and entering the contest as a club station. In this case, all the points earned by this station (“club station points”) will count toward the trophy.

The other way to participate is to operate using a personal call sign, usually as a single operator. In this case, the person submitting the contest summary sheet can specify which club will benefit from their participation points, which will be the total score (“club member points”) of the station submitting the summary sheet. As mentioned above, if the owner of the call sign belongs to more than one club, they will have an opportunity to apportion their score among the clubs in which they have membership. Finally the club station points will be added to the club member points of each participating club member to determine the final participation score for the club.

This is the way the points will be calculated: First we will determine the total membership of your club as of the date of Field Day 2020. Then after the QSO party is finished, we will add all the points of all your participating club members to the club station points, and this will be the raw participation score. Then we will determine the 2-digit percentage of the members of your club which participated in the contest and take the first digit of that percentage and add “1” to it for the multiplier. Examples: for 09 percent, the multiplier is 1. For 27%, the multiplier is 3. This will give smaller clubs a chance to equitably compete against the larger ones, since smaller clubs should find it easier to encourage a high percentage of their members to participate.

We are excited to be able to introduce this new prize to the MDC QSO party, and we hope that it will provide a little extra incentive for participation among your club members. We plan to send a delegation from AARC to the club which wins the trophy to present it personally to the club, and we hope that lots of the club’s MDC QSO party participants can be present at this event!

The MDC QSO party is YOUR party, and we hope you will encourage all your members to participate and fill the airwaves with MDC QSOs during the party. You can find the all-new copy of the MDC QSO Party rules at this web address: [https://www.w3vpr.org/sites/default/files/mdcqsoparty/Documents/Maryland-DC\\_QSO\\_Party\\_Rules\\_2020-03-04.pdf](https://www.w3vpr.org/sites/default/files/mdcqsoparty/Documents/Maryland-DC_QSO_Party_Rules_2020-03-04.pdf)  
Enjoy!

Anne Arundel Radio Club, Davidsonville, MD. W3VPR sponsor of the MDC QSO Party!

Joseph C Dorffner Jr KC3KFG MDC Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, ARRL

## Fifth Annual Connector Workshop

(Red-Righting, Tongue-Upping the World since 2016) to be held at the home of Pam - KB3SWS and Jeff – KB3SPH on

**This year's festivities will also include a Linked Dipole (40M-75M-80M) Antenna Build.** For planning purposes (group buy of components in advance), please let me know if you're interested in building an antenna at the workshop.

**The cost for each antenna is roughly estimated at \$40.00** to include center dipole connection (Budwig), ~130' of wire, insulators, PowerPole connectors, and other miscellaneous parts. More information on ideas to customize your linked dipole on your own will be demonstrated at the antenna build to include paracord/bungee extensions, staking out the ends, hoisting, coax feedline examples, etc.

**If you are interested in attending the workshop, please let me know via return email ([humbert1js@gmail.com](mailto:humbert1js@gmail.com)) & include the number of people you're bringing with you.**

### Details:

**Who:** Any interested person. This email is being sent to local area Hams. **Please feel free to forward this email to any individual/group that may have an interest.**

**What: Free Connector Workshop** (except for the Antenna Build portion 😊) focusing on learning about and constructing power cable assemblies using Anderson PowerPole connectors and other crimp-on connectors, PL-259 connector installation, fellow Ham interaction, etc. **No experience or bringing of equipment is necessary**, come and learn from others!

**When:** changed to 8/16/2020

**Where:** Pam - KB3SWS and Jeff - KB3SPH location in Indian Head, MD (South of Smallwood State Park). Specific directions to be provided to attendees later.

**How (To):** Briefs on how to use Anderson PowerPole connectors (the ARES/RACES standard) and demonstrations on various configurations to assemble Hands on use of PowerPole crimpers and insulated connector crimpers to assemble cables

Briefs and demonstrations on preparation of cables and soldering various connectors and Crimp-the-Shield/Solder-the-Pin connectors

Hands on use of soldering equipment

**Note:** If you have a situation where you need assistance in getting a connector/advice on equipment, please bring that equipment to the workshop and let the "Brain Trust" have a crack at solving the issue.

**\*Again, if you are interested in attending, please let me know via return email ([humbert1js@gmail.com](mailto:humbert1js@gmail.com)).** Cell: 301-848-8043 (leave message, if no answer

73 Jeff / KB3SPH

## Contests in April

1	RP Fox Hunt + Phone Fray + UKEICC 80m Contest	15	+ NAQCC CW Sprint + Phone Fray + RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
1 to 2	CWops Mini-CWT Test	15 to 16	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test
2	+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest + SARL 80m QSO Party + SKCC Sprint Europe	17	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint + NCCC Sprint
3	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint + QRP Fox Hunt + NCCC Sprint	17 to 18 18	+ Holyland DX Contest + ES Open HF Championship + Feld Hell Sprint
4	+ LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest + PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	18 to 19	+ Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest + YU DX Contest + QRP to the Field
4 to 5	+ Nebraska QSO Party + Florida State Parks on the Air + Missouri QSO Party + Mississippi QSO Party + Louisiana QSO Party + SP DX Contest + EA RTTY Contest	19	+ CQMM DX Contest + Texas State Parks on the Air + Michigan QSO Party + EA-QRP CW Contest + Ontario QSO Party + ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB + Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
5	+ North American SSB Sprint Contest + UBA Spring Contest, 6m + RSGB RoLo SSB	22	+ SKCC Sprint + Phone Fray + 432 MHz Spring Sprint + CWops Mini-CWT Test
6	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW + 144 MHz Spring Sprint	22 to 23 23	+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data + NCCC RTTY Sprint + NCCC Sprint
6 to 12	+ IQRP Quarterly Marathon	24	
7	+ ARS Spartan Sprint		
8	+ Phone Fray	25 to 26	+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital
8 to 9	+ CWops Mini-CWT Test		+ SP DX RTTY Contest
10	+ NCCC RTTY Sprint + NCCC Sprint		+ Helvetia Contest + Florida QSO Party + BARTG Sprint 75
11	+ QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	26	
11 to 12	+ JIDX CW Contest + FTn DX Contest + F9AA Cup, PSK + SKCC Weekend Sprintathon + OK/OM DX Contest, SSB + New Mexico QSO Party + Georgia QSO Party	27 27 to 28 29	+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series + QCX Challenge + Phone Fray + UKEICC 80m Contest + CWops Mini-CWT Test
	+ North Dakota QSO Party + Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest + WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes + International Vintage Contest HF + Hungarian Straight Key Contest		
13	+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint		
14	+ 222 MHz Spring Sprint		

## Radiogrammar

### Across

1. Sea eagles
5. 1950s car maker
9. Face-to-face exams
14. Ham's OM
15. Director Preminger
16. Come again
17. N N, on 7.007, say
18. Start of a conclusion
19. It might be airtight
20. Four and four ninths?
23. Coax adapters
24. Rcvr ckt
25. Squirrel food
28. KH6IJ (SK)
30. Smart or Bond
33. QRS sending, not
34. FD abode
35. Joint with a cap

36. 1, 13, 53 and 56-down, and a puzzle sub-theme

39. Swimming power supplies?
40. Bit of trivia, slangily
41. A Czech Republic prefix
42. Driller's deg.
43. Tiny parts
44. Plates
45. W7 sect.
46. Flower tower?
47. Two-hundred ten?
53. Jeered
54. Surf sound
55. TA-33 part
57. Kazakhstan prefix
58. Gawk at
59. Dipole terminators

60. Dings
  61. SU river
  62. Compass symbol
- Down**
1. FB RST., in the DX test, say
  2. Easy antenna place
  3. Smaller than a micro
  4. Popular beef cuts
  5. Meaning of 17-across
  6. Monk Apollo's QTH
  7. R followers
  8. Nozzle site
  9. Three on a resistor
  10. Museum piece
  11. Label on a DC supply, say
  12. Garage job

13. Apologize, on 30m, say
21. Big gain
22. Bob Marley fan
25. Flashed over
26. Crowed
27. Milky gems
28. V4 place
29. "Put a lid \_\_\_!"
30. Hair net
31. Edible tubes
32. C C, on 7007, say
34. Be inclined
35. KM, on 7.007, say
37. VU physicist and Nobel Prize winner
38. Copier stuff
43. SM ops

44. AM
45. Special \_\_\_\_\_ station
46. Play for time
47. Kind of wave
48. Like some piano keys
49. High-tech suffix
50. Cartoon bear
51. Start of a conclusion
52. What a long element does
53. Not bad, on 7.007, say
56. Word with QSL

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
	20			21						22				
			23					24						
25	26	27					28	29			30	31	32	
33						34				35				
36					37					38				
39					40					41				
42				43				44						
			45					46						
	47	48					49	50				51	52	
53							54				55			56
57							58				59			
60							61				62			

# Hams in Action

January 11, 2020, 4:45 AM, a Tornado Warning was issued Desoto County (Mississippi). Ricky Chambers, KF5WVJ activated the emergency net on the 146.91 MHz repeater and began taking check-ins. Ten minutes into the net, the repeater was off the air and the net was switched to simplex followed by a subsequent move to the 147.35 MHz repeater. reported to the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Communications Room to start the SKYWARN® weather watch. At 5:01 AM, the team received the first report of downed trees blocking roads and an eyewitness report of a possible tornado southwest of Hernando. The ARES team at the EOC began taking damage reports, answering phone calls, and monitoring and taking calls from public safety dispatch. Assisted with assessment of road conditions & traffic control. welfare checks & windshield damage assessments. 16 members helped over ten days (514 man-hours. Chambers attributes our training on a monthly basis for their success. <http://www.arrrl.org/ares-el?issue=2020-02-19#toc01>

2020 Field Day Adjustment for COVID-19 MDC EchoLink Meeting for April 18th @ Noon

It is very likely our MDC Section 2020 Field Day will be impacted, postpone or cancelled due to novel Coronavirus Pandemic and Governor Hogan's & D.C. Mayor Bower's restrictions on public gatherings are in effect. Please join us at the EchoLink Conference to share suggestions, comments and solutions for MDC 2020 FD. All MDC FD2020 ARCs & Coordinators, please read the ARRL posting about ARRL Field Day 2020 <http://www.arrrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>

MDC EchoLink Meeting on April 18th @ 12 Noon until 1 PM ET \*WASH\_DC\* Node 6154 and linked repeaters

I will be first with a suggestion:

Since 2m Simplex is divided into two groups –

- Lower portion of 146.400 to 146.595
- Upper portion of 147.405 to 147.585 FM
- w/o Natl. Calling on 146.520MHz.

I would like all Maryland/DC Field Day sites to use one Simplex TALK-IN frequency for FD2020 – something easy to remember e.g. 147.480 (mnemonic: 1+4+7. = 12 & 47 + 1 = .48]. Let us agree on "ONE MDC FD VHF FREQ." Those FD sites in close proximity (if FD2020 occurs) might hear and encourage traveling Hams to visit your FD site, too. . . . something like this might work?

I will see & hear everyone on MDC Section-wide FD 2020 EchoLink Net via \*WASH\_DC\* (and linked repeaters) on April 18th at Noon (12PM ET) 73, Marty Pittinger KB3MXM Maryland/DC Section Manager, ARRL 443-326-1783 | [KB3MXM@ARRL.net](mailto:KB3MXM@ARRL.net)



# Member Column



**Les Couchenour**  
**N3RFO**



Les Couchenour was born in Sutersville, PA; an area with strong German & Italian roots, where coal could be found everywhere just digging a few feet into the ground. His family moved to Indian Head, MD in the 1930's for his dad to join the war effort at the base. He is married to Diane, has 2 sons (both in their 50's), 1 brother (3 have died) and 1 sisters.

Les served in the military and did a tour in Vietnam 1968 to 70. He also traveled at their behest. not often in one place for long. Places like Alaska, Japan and Hawaii were short-Guam & Mississippi were a little longer. His awards are for safety and military service.

Les got his first license in 1992 and was assigned N3RFO. He passed extra in 2018 at a CCARC VE session.

A memorable contact occurred when his niece Dorthea age 8, wanted to talk on the radio. He got on 10 meters SSB and called CQ. An answer came from a guy on a 2 watt QRP radio who was backpacking in California (the state not the town in MD). The fellow ham spent some time talking with her and asking about her school.

Another was a contact on his own 5-watt QRP radio to Italy.

He didn't have a specific Elmer and is mostly self-taught. He grew up watching and listening to his dad do electronics. While he was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, a friend's dad made a transistor-built walkie talkie in a cigar box. He introduced Les to some chemistry, electronics, and experimentation (on a CK 722 transistor). But when he learned symbols & schematics...he was hooked. Then he convinced a local TV shop operator to give him a job in the shop. Les is now retired from a career in electronics & HVAC.

His favorite part of radio is building and fixing. He's currently working on a world war II transmitter and a dipole. So, as you can guess, that is what folks come to him for help with...fixing electronics or answering questions on that or AC. Also leads to the question he finds most annoying..."when will it be ready".



His other interests include reading, history of radio, toy trains, and astronomy. He likes muscle cars, but has less interest than he did when he was younger. He is a member of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International group, the Antique Wireless Association and is joining the National Radio Association.

His advice: figure out who you are and what you really want.

You can usually find him on 1.975 in the evenings from 1900-2000m and on 80 meter ~3.705 in the mornings. He does AM, SSB and is learning FT\*, whisper, SDR with spectrum, and computer modes. He doesn't do contests. He likes the space nebula QSL card he has received.



# The Origin of "73"

*This account by L.R. Moreau first appeared in the SPARK GAP TIMES, the journal of the Old Timers Club of the USA. I feel it might help put an end to those "73's," "Very best 73's," and "Seventy-thirds" used on the bands by "them wot don't know no better."*

The traditional expression "73" dates from early land-line telegraph days. You can find it in the earliest editions of the "numerical codes," with definitions that are variations on the same idea. "73" indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up.

The *National Telegraphic Review Operator's Guide*, first published in April 1857, shows "73," meaning, "My love to you"! Succeeding issues continued to give this definition. Yet some of the other numeric codes in use back then had the same meanings as today.

Before long, the meaning of "73" drifted away from "My love to you." Another publication, the *National Telegraphic Convention*, defined "73" as a vague sign of fraternalism—just a friendly greeting between operators. It was so used on all wires for many years.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the "92 Code," a list of numerals from 1 to 92 that referred to a series of prepared phrases for use on the wires. In the 92 Code, "73" changes from a fraternal sign to a flowery "Accept my compliments"—in keeping with the florid language of the era.

Telegraphy manuals published between 1859 and 1900 show variations of this more straightforward meaning. Dodge's *The Telegrapher Instructor* shows it as "compliments," but Theodore Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* reports a return to "accept my compliments." Finally, a 1908 edition of the Dodge manual gives today's definition, "best regards," though a backward look in another part of that work also lists "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained the literal definition of "73" ever since, but more recently "73" has re-acquired overtones of a warmer meaning. Amateurs use it today as James Reid intended so long ago—as a friendly word between operators.

*submitted by H. Pain, G3ATH to (and appearing in) the Southwestern Virginia Wireless Assoc. March '93 "Groundwave". Bill Svec, WA4BKW, edits "Groundwave."*

# ANSWERS

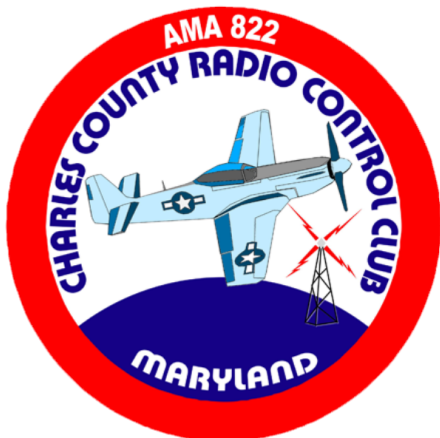
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C	W	A	B	B	R	E	V	I	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	E	L	S		A	N	I	T		O	L	O	N	E
D	D	S		S	M	D	S		A	N	O	D	E	S
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G	I	B	E	D		R	O	A	R		T	R	A	P
U	N	O	N	E		O	G	L	E		E	G	G	S
D	E	N	T	S		N	I	L	E		R	O	S	E

Answers to practice questions  
1A 2C 3A 4B

WANT ADS, FOR SALE, &

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

One of my neighbors was house cleaning and had a pile of old wall warts, audio cables, computer cables etc etc etc. I needed some small wire to extend some wall wart cords so I took the whole bunch from her. I took what I need. If anyone wants some or all of it it is sitting here. I can bring it to the next meeting when we have one. I figure Charles might be interested :) Maybe for the connector workshop ? Let me know, Bill WB3CII



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K3SMD



Charles County Amateur  
Radio Club

Service Club

## Meetings, nets, & contacts

● First Friday- Monthly meeting @ 7 PM/1900 Charles County  
Rescue Squad 2 Calvert Street, LaPlata, MD

● Net-Wednesdays 8:30 PM local: 147.195 MHz, + 600 offset,  
PL 156.7 Hz.

● PO BOX 169, La Plata, MD 20646

● President: Bob Curran NW3M flyingham@verizon.net

● Vice-president: Bob Davidson rdavidson@aceweb.com

● Secretary: Charles Hallock AA3WS selbynet@hotmail.com

● Treasurer: Pam Humbert KB3SWS *humbertpj@gmail.com*

● Activities: Jeff Humbert KB3SPH *humbert1js@gmail.com*

● Newsletter Michelle Sack N3YRZ *msack@verizon.net*

● VE Coordinator Bob Curran NW3M

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