

Charles  
County  
Amateur Radio  
Club

Inside this issue:

activities	6
Crossword	8
Minutes	14
Practice questions	4
Special event	10

# Smoke Signals



Volume 23  
issue 10

November 2020

Meeting 6th @ 1900 EDT Zoom

## CALENDAR

### November

- 04 Net 2030
- 06 meeting Zoom
- 11 Net 2030
- 18 Net 2030
- 25 Net 2030 & News articles due

### December

- 04 Club party
- 02 Net 2030
- 09 Net 2030
- 16 Net 2030
- 23 Net 2030 & News articles due

## THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

The State is still in Phase 3, but there is still no advancement toward re-opening meeting rooms. Restaurants can currently have up to 75% capacity while maintaining six foot distancing between groups of diners. That may get scaled back to 50%, or less, as the COVID positivity rate in Maryland is steadily increasing.

The current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are having an impact on finding a place to hold a club Christmas party. We discussed that topic on our Wednesday night net a few weeks ago to get some ideas. This will be a discussion topic for our next meeting on November 6.

Speaking of our November meeting, we will once again be meeting on Zoom. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter for signing onto the Zoom meeting. Also watch your email for a link to take you into the meeting. Thank you to Jeff and Pam for hosting our Zoom meetings.

If there's one good thing to come out of this pandemic, it has pushed the advancement of video conference call technologies and how internet service providers accommodate the greatly increased bandwidth demands. Over the last seven months I've seen Zoom make tweaks to their al-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

ready well engineered platform. In fact, Zoom has really pushed Microsoft to step up their game with their Teams platform.

These teleconferencing technology advancements will hopefully trickle into ham radio. Bob, KB3KOW, is currently experimenting with the New Packet Radio (NPR) Modem. It operates in the 440 MHz band and is purported to be able to pass streaming video. I look forward to hearing the results that Bob gets with these modems. These could be a game changer for supporting emergency operations.

For those of you that pursue special event stations, November has lots of Veterans Day special event stations. There are a large number of ship and military museum special event stations planning to operate throughout the month. Some unique ones in November are the 100 Year Anniversary celebration of radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh, PA, and the 45 Anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. On November 9, there is a station commemorating Hedy Lamarr Day, and the next day a station commemorating President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. A little trivia for you about actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr; she was the co-inventor of frequency hopping spread spectrum radio communication. There should be plenty of interesting wall paper available from all of the event stations in November.

For you contesters, November will keep you busy with some form of contest almost every day of the month. The main November contest is the ARRL Sweepstakes. This is a very popular contest. The CW portion is held November 7 & 8, the phone portion is held November 21 & 22. There are several DX contests sponsored by organizations outside the USA. For those of you looking for needed US States, alas, there are no State QSO Parties in November.

Stay safe and have fun on the air.



*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!

If you have a question or topic you'd like to  
discuss please let Michelle or Bob know

Follow us on Netlogger

Download at <https://www.netlogger.org/>

## HAMFESTS

Next listed in person Hamfest is Santafest in December

The next exam session for CCARC  
February 6, 2021

# Practice questions

1. What is proof of possession of an FCC-issued operator/primary license grant?
  - A. A printed operator/primary station license issued by the FCC must be displayed at the transmitter site
  - B. The control operator must have an operator/primary station license in his or her possession when in control of a transmitter
  - C. The control operator's operator/primary station license must appear in the FCC ULS consolidated licensee database
  - D. All of these choices are correct
  
2. What component is commonly used to change 120V AC house current to a lower AC voltage for other uses?
  - A. Variable capacitor
  - B. Transformer
  - C. Transistor
  - D. Diode
  
3. When may a 10-meter repeater retransmit the 2-meter signal from a station having a Technician Class control operator?
  - A. Under no circumstances
  - B. Only if the station on 10-meters is operating under a Special Temporary Authorization allowing such retransmission
  - C. Only during an FCC declared general state of communications emergency
  - D. Only if the 10-meter repeater control operator holds at least a General Class license
  
4. Which of the following may reduce or eliminate intermodulation interference in a repeater caused by another transmitter operating in close proximity?
  - A. A band-pass filter in the feed line between the transmitter and receiver
  - B. A properly terminated circulator at the output of the repeater's transmitter
  - C. Utilizing a Class C final amplifier
  - D. Utilizing a Class D final amplifier

# Odd & ends

## LoTW New User Guide Get going with Logbook of The World

You may be wondering “Why does Logbook of The World exist? What is it for?” and “Should I bother with it?” The answer is simple. LoTW makes confirming contacts easier, quicker and cheaper than traditional QSL methods. Follow this step-by-step guide to get started on LoTW.

Quick-start If you simply can't wait to get going, and provided these two bullet points makes sense to you: 1. Download and install TQSL. 2. In TQSL, request a Callsign Certificate. Then read on. This guide has step-by-step instructions and tips on how to get going with LoTW.

The guide is published at: [g4ifb.com/LoTW\\_New\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](http://g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf)

### ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal

November 16 is the deadline to oppose FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* MD Docket 20-270. Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, vanity call sign requests or printed copy of a license. Excluded are administrative updates, such as changes of address, Amateur Service applications may be handled via the largely automated Universal License Service (ULS). The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, and the FCC stopped assessing fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

ARRL has prepared a [Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC](#) with tips and step-by-step filing instructions. using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). “talking points” include stressing amateur radio's role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications. As the FCC explained in its *NPRM*, Congress, through the Ray Baum's Act, is compelling regulatory agencies such as the FCC to recover from applicants the costs involved in filing and handling applications.

ARRL Letter SPECIAL EDITION | FCC Fees Proposal

# CCARC Activities

By Jeff – KB3SPH

**6 November 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM via ZOOM teleconference.

Join the 6 November 2020 Zoom Meeting via desktop/laptop/smartphone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89432450889?pwd=TmhqR2toOTIFT1pBRzd0R3JPQTV0Zz09>

Dial in via landline/cell phone and follow voice prompts:

301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 894 3245 0889

Passcode: 744890

Agenda: Presentation - “Raspberry Pi Basics” by Bob – KB3KOW

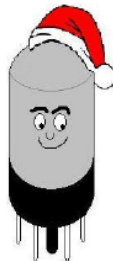
**4 December 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM

Fifth Annual American Legion PGCERA

## “SantaFest”

December 12, 2020

## Hamfest



Tables are \$20.00 Each (Includes one Admission per Table)  
Tailgating \$15.00 Per Space (Includes one Admission per Space)

Information, Table and/or Tailgate Space  
Contact: “[selbynet@hotmail.com](mailto:selbynet@hotmail.com)”

Admission is \$6.00

SantaFest 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

American Legion Youth Camp  
9201 Surratts Road  
Cheltenham MD 20623

VE EXAMS 0900 Hours to 1100 Hours  
Walk-In Must Sign In No Later Than 1030 Hours

SantaFest will take place regardless of the weather.

Talk-In K3ERA Repeater 145.230 PL 110.9

Map and Flyer: <http://pgares.org/santafest/>

Set-Up Starts at 7:00 AM

## Contests in November

North American SSB Sprint Contest	1	JIDX Phone Contest	14 to 15
Silent Key Memorial Contest	1	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	14 to 15
High Speed Club CW Contest	1	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	14 to 15
Classic Exchange, CW	1 to 4	PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	14 to 16
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2	CQ-WE Contest	14 to 16
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	2	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	15
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	3	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	15 to 16
ARS Spartan Sprint	3	Feld Hell Sprint	16
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	3	K1USN Slow Speed Test	16
QRP Fox Hunt	4	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	16
Phone Fray	4	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	17
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	4	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	17
UKEICC 80m Contest	4	QRP Fox Hunt	18
CWops Mini-CWT Test	4 to 5	Phone Fray	18
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	5	NAQCC CW Sprint	19
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	5	CWops Mini-CWT Test	18 to 19
SKCC Sprint Europe	5	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	19
QRP Fox Hunt	6	NCCC RTTY Sprint	20
NCCC Sprint	6	QRP Fox Hunt	20
IPARC Contest, CW	7	NCCC Sprint	20
RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	7	YO International PSK31 Contest	20
Day of the YLs Contest	8	RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	21
Ukrainian DX Contest	8	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	21
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	8	REF 160-Meter Contest	21
AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	21
IPARC Contest, SSB	8	SARL Field Day Contest	21 to 22
EANET Sprint	8	LZ DX Contest	21 to 22
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	9	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	21 to 23
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	9	K1USN Slow Speed Test	23
K1USN Slow Speed Test	10	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	24
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	10	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	24
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	10	SKCC Sprint	25
QRP Fox Hunt	11	Phone Fray	25
Phone Fray	11	CWops Mini-CWT Test	25
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	11	UKEICC 80m Contest	25
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	11	RTTYOPS Weeksprint	26
CWops Mini-CWT Test	11 to 12	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	26
RTTYOPS Weeksprint	12	NCCC Sprint	27
QRP Fox Hunt	13	RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	28
NCCC Sprint	13	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	28 to 29
AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	14 to 15	ARRL EME Contest	28 to 29
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	14 to 15	K1USN Slow Speed Test	30
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	14 to 15	QCX Challenge	30

### Sport Sort

**Across**

- 1. Internet spec.
- 4. Word with radiation
- 9. A contest meth.
- 14. Wil' Wright's bro'?
- 15. Acquired relative
- 16. Icom rig
- 17. Word with CQ
- 19. Cut loose
- 20. Western ham org.
- 21. Add 50 ohms, say
- 23. Types of cap.
- 26. DXCC awd. unit
- 27. Contester's objective, often
- 30. The end of CW
- 31. Amp. opp.
- 32. FMT unit
- 35. Wire coating
- 37. W4 state
- 38. Market type
- 39. Rock group calculators?
- 42. Coalition
- 43. QRS followers
- 44. Belonging to W1AW
- 45. Non-OMs
- 46. Game piece
- 47. Dot follower
- 48. ZL dir. from JA
- 49. Military address
- 50. Navigation acronym
- 52. Cover, as with fabric
- 56. New Englanders
- 60. Emit photons
- 61. Words with Europe or Continents
- 64. Hidden
- 65. In the ether
- 66. PY or CT saint
- 67. It's clean, in November
- 68. City in 37-across

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	63			
64							65						66	
67							68						69	

69. SWR meter label

**Down**

- 1. Kind of hall
- 2. Gator's cousin
- 3. Eastern ham org.
- 4. A hand
- 5. LA dir. from JA
- 6. Murphy's work
- 7. Puts on cargo
- 8. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
- 9. Quick test
- 10. Ain't right?
- 11. VE1 first name
- 12. JA assembly
- 13. Lot of loot
- 18. Polarized light disp.
- 22. Figure of speech

24. Footnote word

- 25. Officers, and others
- 27. Like duck feet
- 28. Collectively
- 29. Milli-micros?
- 31. 1996 Olympic flame lighter
- 32. They're entered in court
- 33. Makes waves?
- 34. All together, with en
- 36. W3 sect.
- 37. One way to C U on the bands
- 38. Cone maker
- 40. Solder target
- 41. Mike lead-in
- 46. Hoped-for response to CQ test
- 47. OK was one

49. Weather balloon unit, with radio

- 50. 9L ender
- 51. Affirmative action
- 52. IRC seller
- 53. "That was close!"
- 54. Take on
- 55. New Yorkers and others
- 57. Sat. org.
- 58. Flamboyance
- 59. Tab target
- 62. P5 authority
- 63. Diamond stat



# Special Event Calls November

<b>3905 Century Club Road Trip AE0FC, WA6LBU, W6PNY &amp; KC0MS</b>	<b>W0R, K0R, K0P, W0P,</b>	1
<b>100 years of KDKA</b>	<b>K3K, K3D, K3A</b>	1
<b>157th Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address</b>	<b>W1G</b>	10
<b>175th Anniversary Concordia UCC Church</b>	<b>K9S</b>	11
<b>2020 Stuart Air Show</b>	<b>N4A</b>	5
<b>45th Anniversary Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald</b>	<b>W8F</b>	2
<b>81st Anniversary of U.S.Coast Guard Aux</b>	<b>N5A, N4U, N5O, N2S, W8R, K1A, K6B, K1A, N4Z, K2T, W6A, W9Z, N1R, N1A, W8E, W6H, K4G, K4D, N4L, W1H, N5W, K4T, W8C, W4F, N6Z, N2G, W3T, K2N, N3G, W2G, K2B</b>	6
<b>Adoption Articles of Confederation &amp; Perpetual Union</b>	<b>W3A</b>	12
<b>Anniversary</b>	<b>K3M</b>	12
<b>Election Excitement in and around the Electric City</b>	<b>N2Y, W3T</b>	3
<b>Ham Exposition New England</b>	<b>W1A</b>	5
<b>HEDY LAMARR DAY 2020</b>	<b>N9H</b>	8
<b>Jamboree on the Air</b>	<b>K6A</b>	15
<b>KDKA Radio Pittsburgh 100th Anniversary</b>	<b>K3K, K3D, K3A</b>	16
<b>London Bridge Lighthouse Special Event</b>	<b>N7C, N7D, N7E, N7F, N7G, N7H, N7B, N7A</b>	1
<b>Mooseheart Founders Day</b>	<b>K9M</b>	7
<b>Operation Able Archer '83</b>	<b>W3A</b>	6
<b>Operation Able Archer '83 Special Event Station</b>	<b>W3A</b>	21
<b>Oscar Hammarlund's Birthday Special Event</b>	<b>W4H</b>	19
<b>SFARC OTA Trifecta</b>	<b>W6P</b>	7
<b>American Legion Salute to America's Veterans</b>	<b>N9V</b>	9
<b>USMC Birthday</b>	<b>W4M</b>	9
<b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>W7H, N5V, W2A, K5U,</b>	10
<b>WHOA weekend/SCOTA</b>	<b>W1M</b>	14
<b>Windycon Chicago</b>	<b>W9W</b>	13

# Member Column



Let the spotlight this month shine on

## John Kohansby KC3PMJ

John Kohansby KC3PMJ is originally from PG county, lives in Hughesville, and earned his amateur radio license in June of 2020. "During the COVID lockdown, I decided to exercise my brain by studying for the technician test. Before I could find a testing site, I was passing practice tests with ease; so, when I registered for testing at the Fort Washington Amateur Radio Club I decided to study for the general portion as well. And to my surprise I passed both. LOL, it had been decades since I studied hard". He has been interested in radio since pre-teen-> his brother brought home a used Lafayette radio. John promptly took it apart while his brother was in college; forcing his brother to put it back together (he was not happy). He was deeply involved in 11-meter radio before it was popular and long afterward (but not in the last 20 or so years) so he never followed up in getting a ham license.



A Yaesu FT-991a and a Diamond 2000a antenna still sit in the boxes; injuries from a fall handicap his ability to move around very well. He plans to get a Windom multi-band antenna to stretch on property to work some dx on multiple bands.

He left managing a grocery store after 20 years, drove a truck for a while and now is enjoying retirement. Along with Bonnie, his wife of 44 years, he plans on traveling to see more of our great country in a camper trailer. Plus, plans on visiting family, especially their daughter near Tampa FL. Of course, he plans on operating mobile wherever they go. He also loves saltwater fishing.

Jeff And Pam Humbert are his Elmers. He reached out often for a lot of information; they have "graciously put up with many questions" and pointed the right direction to proceed in getting on the air.

One of the many things learned so far, it is easy to exceed a budget in this hobby, "oh well, you can't take it with you".

He looks forward to interacting with everyone in the CCARC especially learning about radio and antennas. Being retired gives him a lot of time to learn about radio, to exercise his brain, and not watch tv all day long. He is studying for his extra and may try to learn CW too. He has not made any contacts yet. He listens to NA5B and our nets. He's still interested in taking things apart, but today's miniaturization makes it harder to get them back together and working again. His interest runs more towards rag chewing than contesting but might try special things like parks on the air while traveling.



# Special Event highlight

Although the special event was November 1

I want to point out the yearly

## SILENT KEY MEMORIAL CONTEST

With an objective to remember our Silent Key ham friends. held 1st November 0600 UTC to 0859 UTC every year. CW only

Contest call: CQ SKM

Bands: 80m and 40m (3510-3560 kHz and 7000-7040 kHz in )

Exchange: RST + a "Silent Key" call sign to remember in this contest; The same report is to be sent during the whole contest. Next time you can make your choice again.

<http://www.skmc.hu/en/rules.html> Contact: [log@mrasz.hu](mailto:log@mrasz.hu)

Robert "Bob" Adams W7UH .- - - - - . . . - . . . . .

Sam Bruce KB3EPA - . - - . . . . . - - . . - - - . . -

Wes Clopton W3ERU .- - . . . - - . — . . . -

Vincent Cusack WA3WGL .- - . - . . . - - . - - - - . . - ..

Carol Dunn KC3CZK/N3DMD - . . . - - - . . - - - ..

Allan Fenwick N3VIL - . . . - - . . — . . . — . .

Bill Jameson WB3KYW .- - - . . . . . - - - . - - - - . - -

Julio Macia KC3CA - . - - . - . . . - - - . - . . . -

Willie Mank W1ZX .- - . - - - - - - . . . -

William Palmer KE3RE - . - . . . - - . - - . .

Ron Peter KD4UUH - . - - .. . . . - . . - . . - . . . . .

Michael Sack Sr KB3FQE - . - - . . . . . - - . . - - - . - .

Fred Troger K8TKC - . - - - - - . - - - - . - . . .

Johnny Wilson N3SBT - . . . - - . . . - . . . -

I'm not CW proficient enough to do this, but here are the Charles County Amateur Radio Club silent keys in case someone would like to do so next year.

## Able Archer 83

### *1983 Brink of the Apocalypse*

NATO exercise Able Archer started on November 2, 1983, for a ten-day communications simulation. It spanned Western Europe and modeled a period of conflict escalation, culminating in a simulated DEFCON 1 coordinated nuclear attack. This introduced a new, unique format of coded communication, radio silences, and the participation of heads of government. The 1983 war scare is considered by many historians to be the closest the world has come to nuclear war since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The threat of nuclear war ended with the conclusion of the exercise November 11. Distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union and the anticipated arrival of Pershing II nuclear missiles in Europe, caused USSR to assume Able Archer 83 was a ruse of war with preparations for a genuine nuclear first strike so they readied their nuclear forces and placed air units in East Germany and Poland on alert. This is known as the 1983 war scare.

The greatest catalyst occurred in a May 1981 meeting of KGB officer Brezhnev and Soviet leader Andropov announced US was preparing a secret nuclear attack on the USSR. To combat this threat, Andropov announced, the KGB and GRU military foreign intelligence arm would begin *Operation RYaN* (Russian acronym for Nuclear Missile Attack). This comprehensive peacetime intelligence-gathering operation monitored those who would decide, personnel who would implement, and the facilities which would originate so they could preempt first *intent* of a nuclear attack.

The use of psychological operations (PSYOP) that began soon after Reagan took office played on a potentially lethal combination of Reaganite rhetoric and Soviet paranoia. Brezhnev and Andropov (were very old-fashioned) influenced by Communist dogmas and a historical parallel between 1941 and 1983, truly believed Reagan would push the button send the Soviet Union-> ash heap of history. March 23, 1983, Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars). While Reagan saw a safety net against nuclear war, Soviet Union viewed it as a an escalation of the arms race into space.

Psychological operations (PSYOP) included a series of clandestine naval operations near the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap, and Barents, Norwegian, Black, and Baltic seas. Demonstrating how close NATO ships could get to critical Soviet military bases. American bombers also flew directly towards Soviet airspace, peeling off at the last moment. These near penetrations were designed to test Soviet radar vulnerability as well as demonstrate US capabilities in a nuclear war One of these, FleetEx (April 1983), the largest exercise in the North Pacific with a conglomeration of 40 ships, 23,000 crewmembers, and 300 aircraft and ships attempted to provoke the Soviets into reacting, allowing the U.S. Intelligence to study Soviet radar characteristics, aircraft capabilities, and tactical maneuvers. April 4 six U.S aircraft flew over Zeleny Island; the Soviets ordered an overflight of the Aleutian Islands. USSR issued a formal diplomatic protest & accused the US of repeated penetrations USSR airspace.

*(Continued on page 14)*

Pershing II missiles in Western Europe that could be deployed to counter Soviet SS-20 intermediate-range missiles on the USSR's western border, represented a major threat to the Soviets. The Pershing II could destroy Soviet "hard targets" such as underground missile silos and command and control bunkers. Because the missiles could be placed/ launched from any surveyed site in minutes, had a self-correcting guidance system, and could reach targets in the western Soviet Union within four to six minutes of their launch; it gave the US a genuine "first strike capability". These capabilities led Soviet leaders to believe that the only way to survive a Pershing II strike was to preempt it.



Pershing II missile



Soviet SS-20 missile

On September 1, 1983, Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet interceptor over the Sea of Japan while flying over prohibited Soviet airspace. All aboard were killed, including Congressman Larry McDonald.

September 26, 1983, Soviet missile early warning system reported a single intercontinental ballistic missile launch from the US. Lt Col Stanislav Petrov, correctly dismissed a computer error (ground radar did not detect)

Able Archer scenario began with Orange (the hypothetical opponent) opening hostilities with use of chemical weapons prior to the start of the exercise & Blue (NATO) declaring a general alert. The purpose of the exercise was to test procedures for transitioning from conventional to nuclear operations. (Orange advance & use of chemical prompted a request for use of nuclear weapons on Day 1 of the exercise (7 November 1983). Soviet intelligence services were attempting to detect the early signs of a nuclear attack, NATO began to simulate one. Able Archer involved NATO allies and simulated NATO's Command, Control, and Communications (C<sup>3</sup>) procedures during a nuclear war. Soviet leaders, with the recent events and realistic nature, feared that the exercise was a cover for an actual attack

Because Able Archer 83 simulated an actual release, it is likely that the personnel active in the exercise (Prime Minister Thatcher, West German Chancel-

lor Kohl, President Reagan were likely ones watched by USSR agents. Another indicator noticed by Soviet analysts was a high rate of ciphered communications between the United Kingdom and the United States one month before Able Archer may have nuclear consultations and preparation. It was about the US invasion of Grenada as the sovereign was Elizabeth II.

Soviet intelligence reported NATO was using unique, never-before-seen procedures as well as message formats more sophisticated than previous exercises, which possibly indicated the proximity of nuclear attack. During Able Archer 83, NATO forces simulated a move through all alert phases, from DEFCON 5 to DEFCON 1. While these phases were simulated, alarmist KGB agents mistakenly reported them as actual, considered that war is inevitable and may start at any moment.

The Soviet Union, believing its only chance of surviving a NATO strike was to preempt it, readied its nuclear arsenal. The CIA reported activity in the Baltic Military District and in Czechoslovakia, and it determined that nuclear-capable aircraft in Poland and East Germany were placed "on high alert status with readying of nuclear strike forces. Soviet fears of the attack ended as the Able Archer exercise finished on November 11. Upon learning of the Soviet reaction to Able Archer President Reagan commented, "I don't see how they could believe that—but it's something to think about.

Able Archer 83 profoundly affected President Reagan, "genuine anxiety" that a regular NATO exercise could have led to an armed attack - turned from a policy of confrontation to a policy of rapprochement These war games brought home the fantastically horrible events that would surround such a scenario. It was clear that the Soviets were unnerved and could cooler heads prevail - everything would happen so fast -six minutes to decide how to respond to a blip on a radar scope and unleash Armageddon! Reagan eventually met Mikhail Gorbachev in leading to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and later treaties.

A **special event** 21 Nov 1300UTC -22 Nov 1500UTC will recognize the sacrifices of military, signal corps, & clandestine services during this critical time. Operation will be holiday style, on 29.65 mc FM, 51.00 mc FM, 75, 40, 20,18,10 meters, USB They will operate from Fort Miles Historical Area using only period style military radios and antennas to make the contacts. Fort Miles was a key in coastal defense from WWII - 1970's and highly classified missions in the cold war to protect from Soviet Subs Contact Walt Skavinsky (KB3SBC)

[kb3sbc@arrl.net](mailto:kb3sbc@arrl.net) for questions

<https://www.destateparks.com/FortMiles>

<https://sites.google.com/site/ablearcher1983w3a/able-archer-additional-videos> [https://](https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/nuclear-close-calls-able-archer-83)

[www.atomicheritage.org/history/nuclear-close-calls-able-archer-83](https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/nuclear-close-calls-able-archer-83)

Recently I presented "The History of Trans-Atlantic Radio Communications" to the Redwood Empire DX Association. The presentation briefly covers contest related personalities and technologies.

Their video of my presentation is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvANpw-F6QPAe8T41tzK3w/>

73 Frank W3LPL

## Radio first voice Special event.

I have approval for use of the special event call N3V for the commemoration of the first voice transmission that happened on Cobb Island. Approval is for December 20 to January 2, 2021. Since the first one was December 23, 1900, I'm looking for a spot on Cobb Island to set up a station Dec 23. I have a couple of emails out...but so far no luck. If you know someone...ask and let me know.

Otherwise, here's an invite to join me at home.

Thanks Michelle N3YRZ



## How to Work Split

I have a TS-2000, but most radios made in the last 35 or 40 years (maybe more) should work similarly... and after you figure it out once, and play with it a bit to get used to it, split operation is fairly easy to do. You do need to keep your wits about you.

Here's how to do it... assuming you have a VFO "A/B" and a "SPLIT" button on your radio. Make a mental note of where the "SPLIT" and "A/B" buttons are - probably close to each other - because you'll need to find them quickly and easily when you need them.

Use the "A/B" button to switch between VFO A & VFO B  
Use the "SPLIT" button to turn split ON or OFF.

On VFO A set the net frequency.  
On VFO B set the split (DX) frequency.

Once you've made the appropriate VFO settings, the following is how you use them...  
For normal operation, it's VFO A and SPLIT OFF  
For split operation, it's VFO B and SPLIT ON.  
So work the net normally with VFO A and SPLIT OFF until you want to call the DX or it's the DX station's turn and he might be calling you. Then you want to be on VFO B with SPLIT ON to call him or answer his call to you.

After working or just listening to the DX, don't forget VFO A and SPLIT OFF to go back to normal (simplex) operation on the net frequency.

That's all there is to it.  
It's page 31 in my TS-2000 manual. It seems to me that Kenwood's explanation was written by an engineer who isn't a ham. It describes well how the radio works, but describes somewhat poorly how to actually use it for split operation on the air. Others' mileage may vary.

I hope that helps.

73 de Jim, KB3PU



# Charles County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Oct 3, 2020

## Officers Present:

President – Unable to Attend  
Vice President – Bob Davison KB3KOW  
Treasurer – Pamela Humbert KB3SWS  
Activities – Jeff Humbert KB3SPH  
Secretary – Charles Hallock AA3WS

## Members Present:

Bill Luyster W8BL  
Patrick Hinman KB3UYZ  
Michelle Sack N3YRZ  
Joe Boswell KB3HNP  
Jay Howard KC3MUV  
Tom Abernathy W3TOM  
Joseph Leone KA3LXM  
Thomas *Marongell* N2HLj  
Craig Verkerke KB3YQG

## Visitors:

none

## **Meeting opened 1900 Hours.**

Activities Manager Jeff Humbert KB3SPH opened the Zoom Meeting by welcoming the members. Jeff turned the meeting over to Charles who gave a demonstration of “Low Pass Filters.”

## **New Business**

### Vice President:

Bob Davison reported: This Wednesday, October 7, will be the first bi-weekly HF transmissions of various Digital Modes for your enjoyment and entertainment. The url of HF Digital software program websites will be sent out on reflector.

### Treasurer:

Pamela Humbert KB3SWS, gave the Treasurer’s Report. The October’s Treasurer Report was approved.

### Activities Manager:

Jeff KB3SPH reported on the following upcoming activities:

**6 November 2020** – Monthly CCARC Meeting at 7:00 PM.

**December 2020** - The status of the December Christmas party is “Pending.”

**12 December 2020** – “SantaFest”: The Hamfest is held at the American Legion Youth Camp, 9201 Surratts Road, Cheltenham, MD 20623. Flyer: <http://pgares.org/>

Secretary:

Minutes for the September Meeting are published in the Monthly New Letter. The September Minutes were approved.

## Old Business

None.

Closing: A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed at 2113 Hours.

Charles Hallock AA3WS Secretary

*the*  
**MINUTES**



## The not yet named area zoom get together for radio operators

The Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Association is hosting a monthly, informal ragchew session via Zoom for hams in the surrounding counties. The idea is to just get together to chat about what's going on, activities, etc. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month 7:30 PM Eastern Time

### AGENDA:

- Everyone is invited from anywhere in the MDC area (southern Maryland, Northern Neck, eastern shore of Maryland, etc.)
- Open chat – who is doing what, club news from all areas, how can we work together better to keep ham radio a growing, viable hobby, sharing of news about upcoming ham events, meet new people!
- Please keep all discussions related to ham radio activities!

### JOINING THE GROUP (there are 3 different ways to join in on the meeting):

1 – Click on this QUICK LINK:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8673965998?  
pwd=Q2lUL05PTVB3RnEvUkZPNmlKUFJ3QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8673965998?pwd=Q2lUL05PTVB3RnEvUkZPNmlKUFJ3QT09)

2 – Open up the ZOOM app on your computer or device and:

Select 'Join Meeting' button and type in the meeting ID and password:

Meeting ID: 867 396 5998 Meeting Password: 1460464

3 – Use your regular telephone (no computer needed, voice only, no video):

Dial 1-301-715-8592 (US) – Follow the voice prompts... enter the Meeting ID followed by the # (pound) symbol; then enter your participant ID (if applicable) followed by #; then enter the meeting password followed by #

Contact information: Rob Hoyt, N2OMC – SMCARA President/ host [rob-hoyt32@yahoo.com](mailto:rob-hoyt32@yahoo.com)

# Odd & ends

You can listen to oldest known song (3,400 years old) [listen to the song here](#), performed on lyre by composer Michael Levy. Clay tablets of "Hurrian Hymn No. 6." was excavated in the ancient city of Ugarit (in today's Syria) in 1950 interpreted by Dr. Richard Dumbrell.

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-oldest-known-piece-of-music>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpxN2VXPMLc&ab\\_channel=DamianMusicChannel4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpxN2VXPMLc&ab_channel=DamianMusicChannel4)



"The History of Trans-Atlantic Radio Communications" Their video of my presentation is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvANpw-F6QPAe8T41tzK3w/>

73, Frank W3LPL

## Youth news and events

Scouting is currently recruiting...contact Bob Davidson KB3KOW for information

## Advanced Technical Information Online

*By Bob, NW3M*

I'm going to stretch the definition of "Advanced" this month. In fact, I just going to throw out any semblance to the column title.

I frequently hear hams I talk to wishing there was a convenient way to learn electronics. Oh sure, we all had to learn the basics to earn a license, but most admit they simply memorized the answers to the questions. Now they want to actually learn.

The trouble is, what most of the license manuals teach us about electronics is only sufficient to get us to pass the tests. They don't teach us the practical knowledge, and they certainly don't teach us how to apply what they have taught us.

Most of us don't learn by simply reading text books. We do much better with hands-on experimentation. Getting from what the license study guides taught us to actually building and troubleshooting circuits is a steep learning curve. I was lucky that I had encouraging parents that somehow found friends and coworkers that could coach me when I hit roadblocks. As a teenager, the guys at a local TV repair shop took me under their wings when I would stop in to order tubes and those newfangled transistors to repair broken radios people gave me. They would invite me back to the shop space and encourage me to assist with troubleshooting much more advanced equipment.

Ironically, none of those people taught me the basics or practical knowledge of electronics. That was actually a self-teaching process accomplished by a unique Christmas gift. Recognizing my interest in electronics, my parents gave me a 20 in 1 electronic project kit. It came with a handful of components, a piece of pegboard and circuit wiring diagrams that fit on the pegboard. Spring clips were pushed through the holes at wire/component lead junction locations. The parts and wiring was assembled directly above the diagram. Many of the 20 possible projects also included experiment suggestions to demonstrate the effects of changing resistor, capacitor and inductor values.

*(Continued from page 22)*

While the kit I had is no longer made, there are plenty of choices that provide similar learning experiences. Below is a short list of some that you might consider slipping into your Christmas wish lists that you share with the family members who never know what to give you.

These kits are an excellent way to learn electronics. They give you the text and a means to experiment and learn, hands-on, the concepts they are teaching you. All of these are available from Amazon.com. None of these kits require soldering.

Elenco 300 in 1 Electronic Project Lab - \$159.99. This kit includes parts needed to build 300 project circuits, including radios.

Elenco 50 in 1 Electronic Playground - \$19.99. This kit has fewer components and projects but still has the parts necessary to build a working AM radio.

Elenco Snap Circuits Classic SC-300 Electronics Exploration Kit - \$59.95. This kit has over 300 projects you can build, including a radio. While the Snap Circuits line is intended for kids 8 and up, these will work fine for learning electronics and maybe spending some quality time with your own kids or grandkids.

Elenco Snap Circuits Pro SC-500 Electronics Exploration Kit - \$76.44. This kit has over 500 projects and 75 circuit parts to build plenty of projects. This kit allows you to build more advanced things such as a digital voice recorder, an AM radio, and a digitally tuned FM radio.

Elenco Snap Circuits Extreme SC-750 Electronics Exploration Kit - \$100.65. This kit has over 750 projects and includes software and a PC interface cable to allow you to see waveforms and frequencies displayed on a computer screen.

Tronex Circuit City - \$84.95. This kit builds over 300 projects including AM and FM radios.

# Hams in Action

## Boulder (Colorado) ATV Group Transmits Video of Cal-Wood Fire

Colorado, California, and Oregon have been experiencing major forest fires for the past few months. October 17 mid-day Cal-Wood Fire broke out in the mountains north-west of the City of Boulder and moved rapidly during Saturday afternoon. By October 18, 8 AM the fire had consumed over 7,000 acres of forest.

The Boulder ATV repeater, W0BTV, has been transmitting views of the forest fire. The camera is located at the home of KH6HTV, south-east of the city of Boulder, and 13-15 miles from the fire. Using a long telephoto lens, the KH6HTV TV camera was able to view the fire along the Front Range as it approached the first ridge of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The images were received and displayed on a large screen video at the Boulder County ARES (BCARES) command post in the Boulder County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Fortunately, now there is nothing to be seen since a cold front rolled in and suppressed the fire. -- *Boulder Amateur Television Club TV Repeater's REPEATER*, October 18, 2020, issue



# ANSWERS

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

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

WANT ADS, FOR SALE, &  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

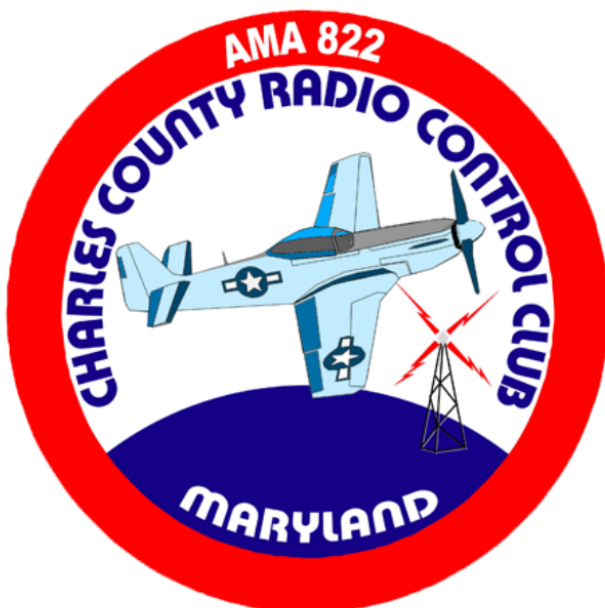


**Southern Maryland  
Astronomical Society**

Explore the night sky with us at our observatory, or use your own telescope.

New to astronomy? We'll help you learn.

For information, visit us at <http://smas.us>



Interested in joining the fascinating hobby of RC airplanes?

The Charles County Radio Control Club is ready to help you get started.

Visit us on the web:  
[charlescountyrcc.com](http://charlescountyrcc.com)

K3SMD



Charles County Amateur  
Radio Club

Service Club

We're on  
the web

[http://  
k3smd.net](http://k3smd.net)

## 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](mailto:flyingham@verizon.net)
- Vice-president: Bob Davidson [rdavidson@aceweb.com](mailto:rdavidson@aceweb.com)
- Secretary: Charles Hallock AA3WS [selbynet@hotmail.com](mailto:selbynet@hotmail.com)
- Treasurer: Pam Humbert KB3SWS [humbertpj@gmail.com](mailto:humbertpj@gmail.com)
- Activities: Jeff Humbert KB3SPH [humbert1js@gmail.com](mailto:humbert1js@gmail.com)
- Newsletter Michelle Sack N3YRZ [msack@verizon.net](mailto:msack@verizon.net)
- VE Coordinator Bob Curran NW3M

# Leave laughing

What is the most expensive video-streaming service these days?

# College