

THE YCARS TRANSMITTER



Ham Radio News, Events and Information

YCARS Club House - 2051 Squire Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732 – Mailing Address YCARS PO Box 4141 C.R.S., Rock Hill, SC 29732

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February 2023 Club Activities

- Every Wednesday 18:00 local – Club open House
- Thursday Feb 2 – Contest / Fun Night – Logging Software Workshop 1800h
- Thursday Feb 9, Business Meeting clubhouse and virtual 19:30
- Friday Feb 10 – Monthly Simplex Net 146.580MHz – 21:15
- Thursday, Feb 16, YCARS Meeting – clubhouse and virtual 19:00
- Saturday, Feb 18 VE Testing – Clubhouse 09:30
- Thursday Feb 23 February Presentation Meeting – Clubhouse and Virtual 19:30 – Gary Dixon K4MQG- DX Presentation
- Saturday Feb 25, 2023 08:00 – 12:00 Club Participation Day

2023 YCARS Officers

- PRESIDENT – AB1CD
HILLARY RAMSEY
- VICE PRESIDENT – K4TTM
THEO MOORE
- TREASURER – K4DQP
DARCY PACH
- SECRETARY – KG9V
SCOTT PUTNUM
- CUSTODIAN – KD4RNP
WAYNE REEVES
- TRUSTEE – NJ4Z
JOHN GENDRON

YCARS Net Schedule

- 2 Meter Morning Net
Weekdays Mon-Fri
11:00 K4YTZ Repeater
147.030MHz (-) pl 88.5
- 2 Meter Evening Net
Weekdays Mon-Sun
20:30 K4YTZ Repeater
147.030MHz (-) pl 88.5
- ARES 2 Meter Weekly
Net Mondays 19:30
K4YTZ Repeater
147.030MHz (-) pl 88.5
- Monthly Simplex Net –
2nd Friday of the month
21:15

Welcome to the YCARS TRANSMITTER

Vol.3 No.2 February 2023

Hello everyone,

This month, in the transmitter, NJ4Z remembers long time YCARS member Mike Keziah, WA2TGE, who passed last fall. NJ4Z also muses about YouTube Channels in our "From the Hamshack with NJ4Z" column.

YCARS provides help to our DX'ers and paper chasers by listing this month's Radio Expedition Calls, locations and dates of operation in our monthly Radio Expedition Calendar.

And speaking of working DX, John Gendron, NJ4Z provides a guide to receive only antennas that can be used to improve your stations' ability to work DX, weak stations and increase contest scores.

Our YCARS "In Action" feature this month follows the Youth Engagement Team (YETI) as it helps Union County High School form the Buzz Amateur Radio Club, and provides in classroom presentation on science and physics utilizing experiments based in amateur radio.

This month we get a fundraising update and appeal from YCARS treasurer Darcy Pach, K4DQP. As Amazon, Inc phases out it's Amazon Smile Donation program.

And as always, we have YCARS AWARE, detailing all of the upcoming events and goings on with in the YCARS World.

Please consider writing and article for the newsletter, as the saying goes, "Many Hands Make Light Work,"

We would also like to thank those who contributed this month to the Transmitter.

Until next month, all the best and much DX....

73

The Transmitter Staff

February 2023

Contest Calendar

2/4 – Vermont QP-
00:00UTC
2/4 – Minnesota QP
14:00UTC
2/4 – BC QP 16:00UTC
2/11 – CQ WW-WPX RTTY
00:00UTC
2/18 – CQ WW-WPX CW
00:00UTC
2/24 – CQ-160M SSB
Contest 22:00UTC
2/25 – South Carolina QP
15:00 UTC
2/25 – ARRL NAQP RTTY-
28:00 UTC
2/26 - North Carolina QP
15:00UTC

Upcoming

Local Hamfests

3/10 - 3/11 – Charlotte
Hamfest – Mecklenburg ARS
Cabarrus Arena & Event
Center 4551 Old Airport Rd
Concord, NC 3/10 1500-1900h
3/11 0830-1600h

4/8 - Raleigh Hamfest – RARS
– NC State Fairgrounds,
Raleigh, NC



From NJ4Z's Hamshack

Musings from the Editor

Greetings YCARS Family,

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the passing of Micheal "Mike" Keziah, WA2TGE (SK) this past August. Licensed in 1964, Mike was a long-time member of the YCARS family, although not active the last few years due to his battle with leukemia and moving to north Charlotte. I was unaware of his passing, and did not find out until last week. I was looking for his contact information to see if he was up for another visit. Mike was a great person, with a quick wit and always had great stories. The presentation he did on his shack construction was legendary. He will be missed and remember by those who knew this fine operator.

CQ, CQ, CQ WA2TGE... CQ, CQ, CQ WA2TGE... CQ CQ, CQ WA2TGE... Nothing heard; WA2TGE is a silent key. Rest in peace my friend and Godspeed Mike.

Another month and another YCARS Transmitter. What an exciting time to be alive and a ham radio operator in the past 10 days we have had solar flux numbers above 200, certainly they are the highest in the past ten years. The DX on the higher bands have been pouring in, with 10 meters staying open until well after sundown. Hopefully this activity will continue as we approach the spring and summer.

We also have great resources for information at our finger tips through collaborative software like teams, social media, search engines, and knowledge repositories like YouTube. As many of you know I am active on YouTube with the club channel and my channel. I have also have been a guest on a few other channels. When I started creating content, I really had no idea how hard developing and producing that content would be. I have much admiration for those who can produce on quality content on a regular basis. It can be a full-time job if you let it. That said I find it very amusing how rapidly we see a topic arise and then it is covered by so many others in short order. I watched as it was announced by Yaesu's national sales manager John Kruk announced the end of production for the FT-818 and FTM-400 radios. Within a week I believe there were no less than 4 mock funerals for both products, followed by at least 3 channels complaining that the products were discontinued from production and finally 4 more videos regarding possible replacements. I guess we maybe at a point where easy content wins out over substantive content, all kinds of information but very little knowledge. All because of the algorithm and the need to capture subscribers and views for monetization. I really hope to try and keep "From the Hamshack with NJ4Z" out of the derivative lane and find topics which will bring value to the YouTube ham community. Enough pontificating and onward.

Until next month – Best 73. Stay Passionate about Ham Radio and Be Your Best Ham!

John Gendron, NJ4Z - Editor, YCARS Transmitter

Radio Expedition Calendar

Helping you find the DX – most up to date information can be found at DX-NEWS.com

3Y0J – Bouvet Island, South Atlantic #2 requested DXCC entity. The team of 12 is in route to Bouvet and should be operating late in January. Updates to follow via E-mail and Facebook.

FH4VVK – Mayotte Jan 1, 2023 – April 1, 2024 (Marek, F4VVJ) will be active on Mayotte a French owned island off the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

FT4YM - Antarctica Jan 1, 2023 – March 2023 (David, F4FKT) will be active on the continent of Antarctica from various locations.

HR5/F2JD - Honduras Jan 1, 2023 – March 13, 2023 (Gerard, F2JD) will be active in Copan Ruinas, Honduras, Central America

C5YK - Gambia Jan 1, 2023 – Feb. 24, 2023 (Andre, ON7KY) will be active from Bijilo, Gambia, Africa.

VK9WX - Willis Island Jan 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023 (Sands, VK4WXW) will be active from Willis Island Australia

TR8CR – Gabon Jan 1, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2023 (Roland, F8EN) will be active from Gabon, Africa

V47JA – St Kitts Jan 24, 2023 – Feb. 8, 2023 (W5JON) will be active from St Kitts Island, Caribbean

7P8WW – Lesotho Jan 26, 2023 – Feb. 4 2023 (Yuris YL2GM) will be active in the African country of Lesotho

4S7DRG – Sri Lanka Jan 29, 2023 – Feb. 7 2023 (Wolfgang DK9DR) will be active from Sri Lanka

4S7KKG – Sri Lanka Jan 29, 2023 – Feb. 7 2023 (Peter, DC0KK) will be active from Sri Lanka

ZS7AFN – Antarctica Feb 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2023 (Oleg ZS1ANF) will be active from Wolfs Fang Runway Antarctica.

VP2MDX – Montserrat Feb 1, 2023 – Mar. 30, 2023 (Tjaore, W2APF) will be active from Montserrat (Island) in the Caribbean

RI1ANU Antarctica Feb 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2023 (Oleg, ZS1OIN) will be active at the Novolazarevskaya Station in Antarctica.

9U5R Burundi Feb 4, 2023 – Feb 27, 2023 (Elvira, IV3FSG) will be active from the African nation of Burundi

9U4WX Burundi Feb 4, 2023 – Feb 27, 2023 (Vlad, OK2WX) will be active from the African nation of Burundi

6W7/ON4AVT Senegal Feb 6, 2023 – Mar 31, 2023 (Willy, ON4AVT) will be active from the African nation of Senegal

YJ0A – Efate Island Vanuatu Feb 9, 2023 – Feb 23, 2023 (W7YAQ, K7AR) will be active from Efate Island in the Island nation of Vanuatu (South Pacific)

H44MS – Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) Feb 10, 2023 – May 8, 2023 (Bernhard, DL2GAC) will be active from Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon Islands (South Pacific)

C5C - Gambia Feb 14, 2023 – Mar. 14, 2023 (F5RAV, F5NVF) will be active from the African nation of Gambia

OX5DM - Greenland Feb 14, 2023 – Feb 21, 2023 (Dave, OZ5DM) will be active from Greenland in the N. Atlantic

OZ7AKT - Greenland Feb 14, 2023 – Feb 21, 2023 (Mikkel, OZ7AKT) will be active from Greenland in the N. Atlantic

Feb 18, 2023 – Feb 19, 2023 VP5K (ACOW, K0PC) will be active from Providenciales Island in the Caribbean

Feb 17, 2023 – Feb 24, 2023 VK9CVG (Noby, G0VJG) will be active from THE Cocos Keeling Islands off the coast of Australia

Feb 20, 2023- Feb 26, 2023 J79BH (Laurent FM5BH) will be active on the Island of Dominica in the Caribbean

Feb 24, 2023- Mar 5, 2023 3B7M (Team OM5ZW, OK6DJ, OM4MW, OK2ZA, OM3KAP, OM4MM) will be active from the St Brandon Islands in the Indian Ocean

Feb 24, 2023- Mar 2, 2023 T88UW (Ichiro JH7IPR) will be active from Koror Island (Palau) in South Pacific

“Getting on the Air”

Helping New Hams Advance

Improving your DX Chasing and Contesting Abilities Through Receive Only Antennas – J. Gendron, NJ4Z

Electromagnetic interference from electrical systems, electronics and lighting can create high noise environments for amateur radio operators living in most urban and suburban areas. These high noise environments can present a challenge, making it difficult to achieve low signal to noise ratios (SNR) which prevent the operator from hearing low power or distant stations. As an operator, you have probably heard the old adage “You can’t work them, if you can’t hear them.” The best way to combat these high noise environments is to increase the signal by using an antenna that provides gain, reduce the noise floor or use an amplifier to increase the incoming signal.

The use of an amplifier, like your pre-amps on the transceiver, will not only increase the signal present but the noise as well. The use of an amplifier may make the signal intelligible but it may be unpleasant to listen, or it may have little effect on the signal you want to hear. The use of higher gain antennas will provide a boost to the signal, but depending on the location of the noise source, it may produce the same results as the use of an amplifier. The reduction of the local noise floor without changing your location, can be achieved in several ways. The use of digital noise reduction, chokes and noise filters, or specialized receive only antennas are the most common methods. Most modern radios will have some

level of filtering and digital noise reduction that can help increase your received signal to noise ratio. These built-in tools can be enough of a difference maker to get the job done. Choke filters and common mode noise filters can also provide a reduction to background noise and improve the SNR for your location. The best solution I have found is to use a receive only antenna, choosing the right one for your location and need can provide you with the desired noise reduction, increased gain and even an added benefit of directivity. For those of you who contest and chase DX stations a receive only antenna can be invaluable to your endeavors.

Receive-only antennas, can be passive or active antennas that are designed to receive radio signals and reduce noise. A passive receive antenna is just that, there are no active components requiring power to use the antenna. An active antenna will require power to use the antenna. Most active antennas will have a switching component or a low noise amplifier incorporated into their operation. There are many different types of receive-only antennas that are used in amateur radio, each with their own unique characteristics and capabilities. Some of the most popular types of receive-only antennas include receive loops, beverage, flag, long wire and vertical. Each of these popular antennas have subcategories and can be found in both passive and active.

Loops antennas consist of a loop of wire or cable that is typically shaped into a square, rectangle, or circle. These and are often suspended in the air using a supporting structure. Suspended loops can be placed vertically or horizontally. A horizontal loop antenna will provide omnidirectional coverage and reduce the noise level. Depending on the size of the loop and the frequency in a vertical configuration the antenna can provide a gain, but that gain will also equate to some nulling of signals. A vertical loop will can provide directionally due the pattern of receive inherent to the antenna. Think about the antenna like a wheel the receive pattern (doughnut shaped) would be like the tire with a null though the center of the wheel where the axel would be. The effectiveness of a loop antenna is also proportional to the circumference of the loop versus the frequency. If you have an offending signal that want to null or reduce you can rotate the loop so that the center of the loop is facing that signal.

Another common loop antenna is the loop on the ground (LOG) antenna, consisting of a closed loop of wire placed directly on or just below the surface of the ground. They typically will have some sort of balun at the connection point and some common mode filters to help further reduce local noise. The LOG antenna can be relatively small for the low bands. One popular design by KK5JY consists of a 15 ft square (60ft in circumference) loop of wire on the ground with a binocular core toroid-based transformer (balun) and connected to 75ohm coax to the radio. A small powered pre-amp can be used to boost signals further, but is not always necessary.

Beverage antennas are a long, narrow antenna that is typically used for receiving signals on the lower frequency bands of the amateur radio spectrum, such as the 160- and 80-meter bands. They are known for their low noise characteristics. The antenna is typically arranged in a straight line, and can vary one have to several wavelengths long. Resulting a very long antenna requiring a large amount of space. The typical Beverage antenna is installed above ground at a height of six and twenty feet. The Beverage antenna is connected to the radio at one end and is terminated to ground using a non-inductive resistor, with a typical value of 400 to 800 ohms, at the far end. The receive pattern of a beverage is unidirectional with the main lobe of the pattern being low in inclination and off the terminated end of the antenna. Hence the antenna is constructed to point in the direction of the signals the operator wants to receive. There are electronic devices that can be employed to allow for the direction to be

switched and a low noise pre-amplifier can be used to improve the strength of the signal without inducing noise into the system.

As with loop antennas a beverage antenna can be installed on or just below the surface of the ground (BOG). This antenna must be made of insulated wire as a bare wire would be grounded along its length in contact with the ground rendering it useless for receive. The interaction with the ground allows the BOG to be shorter than a traditional beverage antenna. The BOG is terminated with a ground rod and a terminating non-inducting resistor with a value of 200 to 400 ohms depending on soil conditions and length of the antenna. Again, active electronics can be employed with multiple wires to allow the receive pattern to switch directions. It is recommended to use common mode noise chokes to help further reduce the noise.

Akin to the loop antenna is the flag antenna. The flag antenna is a terminated loop antenna that can provide a cardioid (heart) shaped receive pattern in a single direction. This antenna is characterized by low noise and directionality. The antenna is constructed of two pieces of wire that suspended in a inverted U and a U shape on top of one another. There is an insulator between the wires. Typically the antenna is twice as long as it is high with the bottom of the antenna a minimum of six feet off the ground. There is typically a termination box, a feed point box and a controller. The antenna typically requires some power to work. The null in the receive pattern is opposite the feed point in the direction of the termination box. Flag antenna can also be installed like a loop or beverage on the ground utilizing insulated wire.

Long wire antenna is a type of receive-only antenna that can be several hundred feet in length and require a large area to install. The long wire antenna uses a high impedance balun typically a 64:1 transformer. It is installed at a height much like a beverage being between 5 and 20ft above ground. Unlike a beverage the end of the antenna is left unterminated. The balun is usually installed lower to the ground at one foot above ground. The use of a counterpoise in the opposite direction can be used to help the receive pattern a bit. The antenna receive pattern is in the direction opposite the balun, therefore the antenna should be constructed to point in the direction of the desired signals. The greater the number of wavelengths in relation to the reception band the greater the gain on receive but the antenna will lose its directionality as the number of wavelengths increase for a given band.

Vertical receive only antenna come in many varieties from a single element to multiple element steerable arrays. For the most part single element vertical receive antennas are the least effective in reducing noise and are omnidirectional. They can be constructed to fit into a very small space using coils and traps, but that does degrade performance of the antenna. Most vertical receive antenna are constructed of as many as eight elements. These arrays require less space than beverage and long wire antennas but are still large and complex to build but very effective. They provide great noise reduction and exceptional directivity. They use active components to reduce noise and increase signal.

In conclusion, receive-only antennas are a crucial tool to employ in amateur radio as they allow radio operators to receive pull out weak signals from other operators around the world. As listed and described there are many different types of receive-only antennas, each with their own unique characteristics and capabilities. It would benefit almost any station to employ even the simplest of these receive antennas to help you work the stations in a contest or while hunting DX. More information can be found by consulting the ARRL website and books like "ON4UN's Low Band Dx'ing", The ARRL "Antenna Book" and the ARRL "Receiving Antenna" book.



YCAR S Youth Engagement Team (YETi) in full swing. – Vicki Carnes, AD3I

Union County High School - JROTC Engagement and formation of “Buzz Radio Club – KQ4EIX.”

In late September 2022, I emailed the Colonel at the JROTC of Union County High School in Union, SC. I requested the Colonel to allow our club to make a presentation of ‘What is Amateur Radio?’ along with several hands-on STEM to his students. He agreed and we set a date.

On November 4th YCAR S’ YETi (Youth Engagement Team) conducted two 90-minute back-to-back presentations. The experiments included (a) several homo-polar motors consisting of neodymium magnets, AA battery, piece of wire; (b) Lenz’s law (copper tube and neodymium magnets); (c) the balancing bird demonstrating center of mass; and (d) small Stirling engine on hot cup of coffee to explain entropy. We had a few videos demonstrating sound waves and propagation, etc. My favorite as was the Colonel’s: the Ruben’s tube, which is designed to be set on fire. Each presentation included our outside set-up, making contacts on a VHF 2-meter rig using a jack-ite extendable mast.

Accompanying were two other YETi members: Steve KO4ICI and Theo K4TTM. Also, Sheila Dills KQ4DOU, the school’s geometry teacher and also YCAR S member helped tremendously to coordinate this. In addition, during open House Wednesdays at YCAR S, several others help tweak and test our experiments.

Results: approximately all 18 students were incredibly fired up! Asking questions about everything. One in particular was looking around outside, apprehensive to ask his question. When I encouraged, he asked: Can we use that chain link fence as an antenna? Another was so intrigued with CW. He had previously begun teaching himself! We donated 3 Technician study books to their library, which have remained check-out ever since. I’d say ‘twas a resounding success.

Principal Farmer gave approval for the school’s first Amateur Radio Club. The ‘Buzz Radio Club’, KQ4EIX has been established. Sheila, soon to be co-trustee of the club is now a licensed General. YCAR S members along with other hams in the local area have donated a two VHF rigs and a keyer, and other material needed. Local maintenance as the school is assessing two existing masts atop the building for repurpose. And we have a soft date of mid-March for another session to the new class of students.

A special mention for his invaluable support goes to Mark Reep of the Falcon Radio Club N2FRC in Cherryville, NC. I visited this afterschool club of 4th and 5th graders as they initiated their first time calling ‘CQ’. Unbelievable.

Fort Mill Schools – STEM Conference prestation and Pleasant Knoll Middle School Sessions

The YCARS YETi team provided a presentation to the Fort Mill School District STEM educators on Dec 1, 2022. During the thirty-minute presentation, Scott Putnum, KG9V and Vicki Carnes AD3I were able to spark interest from several of the educators in the room. An invitation was extended to the YETi Team to provide in class presentations to approximately 400 students at Pleasant Knoll Middle School. January 9, 12, 17 and 18 were the dates set for the in-classroom presentations. A curriculum was developed by the YETi team to demonstrate science and physics concepts and laws to the students through hands on experiments based on principles used for amateur radio transmissions. Included in the curriculum was an opportunity to allow the students to try communicating on air with amateur radio.



Fundraising Update

Amazon Smile Donations to YCARS Ending

On January 18th, Amazon announced that it would discontinue the Amazon Smile project that donated a portion of purchases made to eligible charities. YCARS was a beneficiary of this program and in 2022 received over \$400. Worldwide, the program donated over \$440 million dollars to non-profits.

Amazon is officially ending the Smile program in February 2023, with a one-time final gift to charities before closing it down. I have not worked out what the final donation will be, but the club certainly appreciates those who signed up and participated in this program in the past.

That being said, there are still plenty of opportunities to generate fiscal donations for YCARS. Our in-house fundraising team is working on lists of potential corporate and other types of donors.

One thing you can do is to check with your employer about matching donations or other donations based on charitable work. We have several members who have signed up for these and are actively donating to YCARS through their employer.

For example, Duke Energy has both programs where financial donations made to YCARS by Duke Energy employees are matched dollar-for-dollar. Another program pays an hourly amount based on the number of hours worked at a non-profit, charitable organization. Both of these programs have a cap on the annual amount. Your employer may have a similar program.

YCARS continues to fulfill our mission and vision both internally and externally to the community. Our recent Youth Engagement Team (YETI) is a great example of YCARS reaching into the community to promote Science, Technology, and Math (STEM) to the younger generation of future Amateur Radio Operators in local schools and organizations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at K4DQP@YCARS.ORG. I can provide any necessary documentation, or paperwork you may need to provide to your employer.

de K4DQP

YCARS News and Updates

Be YCARS Aware

YCARS Contesting Meeting – Logging Software Workshop Thursday Feb 2nd, 2023

Wade Parker, KO4IVS will be leading a Logging Software Workshop during the monthly contesting presentation on Thursday evening February. Bring your laptop, table or other device. The team will explain differences in software and help you select on that works for you. They will also help you install it on your device.

YCARS YETi Team hosting World Thinking Day on the Air February 18-19 at Andrew Jackson State Park

World Thinking Day is an annual day of celebration in honor of the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and of Lady Olave Baden-Powell. Established in 1926, this day was initially celebrated by girl scouts and guides. International in scope, it is now celebrated by over 10 million young people.



Thinking Day on The Air has its origins from late 1990 or so. It sprang from the well-known Jamboree on The Air.

YCARS is sponsoring an event at the local Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster County, SC. It will be on Saturday February 18th and Sunday Feb 19th, from 1pm to 5pm each day. Vicki Carnes, AD3i will have a portable station set up at Shelter #1. Local Park Ranger Extraordinaire, Laura Ledford is coordinating several activities for any and all the young folks that attend. Special QSL cards will be available for any young person making on-air contacts, VHF or HF. Special Event Station "N4P".

The event is free of charge. Although its origins are with the girl scouts, ALL are welcome to participate. For details contact Vicki AD3I, AD3I@YCARS.ORG

YCARS VE Team will host a testing session Saturday Feb. 19, 2023, 09:30h Local.

YCARS welcomes a DX legend Mr. Gary Dixon, K4MQG to the clubhouse for a DX presentation on Thursday February 23, 2023.

Local DX legend Gary Dixon, K4MQG has kindly agreed to provide the YCARS family with a presentation on DX and meeting the King of Jordan (JY1). Those of you follow DX news or chase DX may know Gary. Originally licensed in 1957 with the call K4MQG, he has navigated the DX propagation becoming a member of the International DX Association's (INDEXA)DX Hall of Fame and the CQ DX Hall of Fame. He is one of the few that can say he worked them all and with almost every mode. Gary holds ARRL #1 DXCC Honor Roll (working each DXCC entity), 8 Band DXCC Honor Roll, 10 Band DXCC, 10 Band Worked all States, 8 Band Worked all Zones and was the first person in North America to earn CQ Magazine 5 Band Worked all Zones (Award #2, 1980). Gary has also been a member of and operated with many DX Expeditions.

Aside from operating Gary gives back to the Ham Community by his service. He is currently a director at INDEXA and served as a past president. He currently serves as the ARRL Roanoke Division Member to the DX advisory Committee (DXAC). Please come out to the clubhouse so you can meet this legend in person. We will be virtual as well.

YCARS Club Participation Day scheduled for Saturday 25th, 2023

Our next Club Participation Day is Saturday Feb, 25th from 08:00 until 12:00. We have several projects to undertake, besides general cleaning and outdoor upkeep. We will be repairing the exterior security lights, changing the oil in the club generator, completing door trim on the side door interior. Please plan to join us for the event.

YCARS will be participating in the SC QSO Party Saturday 25th, 2023 – Details coming soon

YCARS will be supporting communications at the 2023 Sandblast Rally Race in Cheraw, SC



The Sandblast rally is a GO for 2023! If you've been to a rally event in the past, you know how exciting this is. This is one of the best ham radio support events of the year! If you are unfamiliar, here is a short video from last year.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUPZdiWM_Sk This is not a Club Sponsored Event, but a lot of fun to participate in and a great group gathering for those that attend Friday and Saturday Nights. <https://www.sandblastrally.com/>

The event is located in and around Cheraw, SC. It is scheduled for Saturday, 03/04/2022 however they require us to meet online a few days before and possibly a meeting the evening of the 3rd to brief. Lodging is available in the area to include Cheraw State Park nearby. A few Club Members have reserved camp spots already. We recommend getting in early if you want a room or camping spot.

If you are interested in signing up to volunteer then go to this link and sign in (if you did it last year) or create a profile if your first time, <http://nasarallysport.com/main/volunteering>.

For our ARES folks, this will count for ARES event. The Rally will recommend an HT and extra batteries however, from experience, certain positions required a log periodic antenna and 50w mobile to be successful. This would be a great chance to try out your portable 2m/70cm set-ups.

Questions should be directed to David McLaren, KX4UV@YCARS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE - YCARS will be supporting communications at the 2023 Mike Doty Run – May 13th 2023



YCARS' Rock Hill Hamfest awarded ARRL SC Section Convention for the second straight year. SAVE THE DATE – OCT 7, 2023!

The 71st Annual Rock Hill Hamfest will be held Saturday October 7, 2023 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We are honored to be the host for the ARRL SC Section convention for the second year in a row. We will be celebrating the club's 75th Anniversary. Details will be forthcoming.



YCARS CARES team completes successful food drive benefitting Covenant Presbyterian Church community food program.

On Saturday January 14, 2023, the York County Amateur Radio Society (YCARS) organized a food drive to benefit the Covenant Presbyterian Church’s Covenant Food Bank, Plentiful Harvest

Kitchen and Covenant Community Fridge programs. The event was very successful with generous help of club members and the community YCARS collected over 800 pounds of food and \$125.00 in monetary donations on site.

Pastor John Nowaczewski of Covenant Presbyterian Church was incredibly thankful for the donations and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the YCARS CARES team. He stated that this effort will make a huge impact in the lives of those in need served by these programs. He also stated that the amount of food collected will provide for several months of service.

As an organization and amateur radio operators we are always looking to be of service to our community and make a positive impact We look forward to our next community service project. Thank you to all how supported this endeavor.



(L-R) Hillary-AB1CD, Theo- K4TTM (holding Nora), Afton, John- NJ4Z, Jack KJ4BKI and Sherri

YCARS – Welcomes **8** new club members in January 2023– continuing to grow.

Please extend a very warm welcome to all of our new members from January 2023

KO4DVK	Kevin Black
KE4YMS	Mark Pritchard
KQ4FEH	Richard Hatch
KM4GSF*	Linda Fox
KO4UBZ	Alex Simms
KQ4CSO	Chris Morgan
KQ4EOC	Carson Caskey
KB2SNW	Doug Bleinstein

***Returning past Member**



**Members of the YCARS
contesting team have been
selected to be part of the
WA1AW/4 operating team for
the ARRL Volunteers on the Air
Operating Event.**

In recognition of our extraordinary efforts in supporting K2L during last years 13 Colonies Event Station, several members within the YCARS contesting team have been tapped by the Swamp Fox Contest Group and SC section leadership to be part of the W1AW/4 SC operating team for VOTA. W1AW/4 will be on air twice in 2023. For our ARES folks, this will count for ARES event. The Rally will recommend an HT and extra batteries how, the first scheduled operations will be 00:00 UTC Feb 1, 2023 (Locally 1900h 1/31/23) through 23:59 UTC Feb. 7, 2023. The station will be active again later this year in July.

Don't Forget the YCARS – NEW SWAG SITE

The YCARS store has branded T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, mugs and more you can purchase. Proceeds go to the general operating fund of YCARS.

YCARS SWAG store is <https://www.printful.com/dashboard/sync?store=8966314>

The York County Amateur Radio Society

www.YCARS.org

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