

# 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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### March 2023 Club Activities

- Every Wednesday 18:00 local – Club open House
- Lunch Bunch 1130h local – locations vary
- Thursday March 2 – Contest / Fun Night –
- Saturday March 4 – Sand Blast Rally – Cheraw, SC
- March Thursday Mar 9, Business Meeting clubhouse and virtual 19:30
- Friday Mar 10 – Monthly Simplex Net 146.580MHz – 21:15
- Thursday, Mar 16, YC ARES Meeting – clubhouse and virtual 19:00
- Thursday Mar 23 Presentation Meeting –Virtual only 19:30 – Kyle Krieg AA0Z – Node Red

### 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 –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month  
21:15

# Welcome to the YCARS TRANSMITTER

Vol.3 No.3 March 2023

Hello everyone,

This month, in the Transmitter, editor NJ4Z tackles many subjects like, Winter Field Day, VOTA, POTA, Hamcation and you may need asbestos underwear because he is fired up about the actions on certain operators during the Bouvet expedition in his "From the Hamshack" column.

Want to better performance from your transceiver on receive that will help you in contesting, DX hunting and in general, NJ4Z provides a crash course on running the receive side of a transceiver in our Getting on Air feature.

The DX Radio Expedition Calendar is really heating up, even with Bouvet being over, there is plenty of rare DX out there to hunt.

We also have the YETi team in action again, this time the YCARS clubhouse plays host to the Providence High School Naval Junior ROTC.

As always, our contest corner and local hamfest announcements are here on page 2 and we have YCARS AWARE, detailing all of the upcoming events and goings on with in the YCARS and Ham Radio 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

## MARCH 2023

### Contest Calendar

**3/4 – ARRL -DX - SSB**

**00:00UTC**

**3/11 – Oklahoma QP**

15:00UTC

**3/11 – Idaho QP**

19:00UTC

**3/12 – NA Sprint RTTY**

00:00UTC

**3/12 – Wisconsin QP**

18:00

**3/25 – CQWW -WPX –**

**SSB 00:00UTC**

**BOLD TEXT INDICATES**

**MAJOR CONTEST**

**(WORLD WIDE)**

## 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

4/15 – Winston-Salem Spring  
Fest – Forsyth ARC -  
Robinhood Rd Baptist Church  
– 5422 Robinhood Rd. 07:00 –  
11:00



# From NJ4Z's Hamshack

## Musings from the Editor

Greetings YCARS Family,

Wow the last 5 weeks from the end of January to the end of February just a dichotomy of emotions and actions.

The last week of January started off with the annual Winter Field Day exercise/contest. While participating in my sixth Winter Field Day (WFD) with team K4YTZ, I realized how Parks on the Air has permeated and changed amateur radio since I earned my ticket. What started off as an offshoot of the ARRL's National Parks on the Air yearlong event in 2016, has become the dominate force in amateur radio. As the contest team finalized plans for WFD, it was decided to operate from local POTA entities to increase our ability to log QSO's (Q's) and score more points. We thought that operating from a park might up our score bit, well, upping it a bit us an understatement. We found that most people were hunting us for the park and did not care about Winter Field Day. It was eye opening for me. I am a casual POTA hunter and activator, so I thought I understood the influence that POTA was bringing to bear on amateur radio. I had underestimated it severely. With better than 50% of our team's 1165 contacts asking for the park number and not WFD, it seems people were more interested in POTA than WFD. To add to that experience, all the buzz at Hamcation the weekend of 2/10- 2/12 was all Parks on the Air. With little in the way of new equipment hitting the market or announcements regarding products, POTA was dominating the conversation. Parks on the Air has radically changed amateur radio and energized it bringing a younger and more active population to the hobby. As for Winter Field Day results, the club as a whole did an amazing job. We had eight logs turned in so far with a total of 2,005 q's and a raw score of 30,722pts. A job well done by all YCARS members participating.



The last day of January the much anticipated 3Y0J expedition to Bouvet Island disembarked from the transport vessel to the island. It was a harrowing 13-day journey from Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands to Cape Fie Bouvet. Bouvet is the most remote uninhabited island and one of the most inhospitable places on the planet. The weather and condition of the beach were very difficult. It made for a very bad start to the expedition. The 3Y0J Bouvet Island expedition team managed to begin operations early in February. The team risked their lives lighting up the #2 most wanted DX entity. These men, braved frigid and rough seas to wade from the Avon inflatable boats 30 meters to the shore while floating the barrels of equipment to get on island. If you have not seen the



video, you can find it on YouTube and Facebook. The beach and weather caused damage to the boats and contributed to the loss of equipment into the sea, so the offloading of equipment and supplies was limited. After reaching the beach there was a severe climb and about an 800ft trek up to the primitive encampment on an outcropping of rocks. They were only able to bring one large, single room tent to the camp. This single tent was the only shelter on island and served as sleeping quarters, operating area and cooking station. They had no cots or chairs to sleep or sit upon. There was no indoor lavatory. They also were able to bring only 2 small suitcase generators and limited amounts of gasoline. They did not have enough power for heat and if they had wet clothes, they had to dry them outdoors by wind. They were about to set up 3 wire antennas and operate 2 radios on SSB, CW and FT8 logging about 18,000 QSO's.

It never ceases to amaze me, how callous and spiteful some people are in the world, I thought the Ham community was better than this, but that assumption was wrong. I was horrified to see the number and actions of the people who were deliberate bad actors that affected this expedition. During the times when 3Y0J operated, there were numerous pirate operators mimicking their call, leading operators to think they had logged a very rare DX station. These folks will not make the logs and I feel terrible for them. Many operators were purposefully QRming their signal on all the operating frequencies. Also,



there were many operators who did not read the published contact plan the team had provided on how to make contact with them, which complicated the matter further. I was severely disappointed that the times I was able to copy 3Y0J the intentional QRM and inexperienced operators made it impossible to log the station. It is still hard for me to stomach all these people who were deliberately ruining this expedition for the entire ham community. These people, and I use that term loosely, are just a-holes in my book (excuse my use of vulgarity), there is just no other way to describe them in something that can be published. Additionally, the people who were complaining online and using the spotting clusters to levy complaints were just as bad. They have no idea what these folks went through, risking their lives and spending their money (\$ 20,000 USD per operator) to provide a contact to people sitting in their nice warm shacks on their butts in comfortable chairs. It is ridiculous for people to criticize these operators executing an expedition which very few people on earth, let alone amateur radio operators, have the resources, skills, determination and quite frankly the balls to pull off. It just makes me sick to see them treated this way. Am I disappointed I did not get them in my log, sure, but I applaud their efforts and congratulate those operators that were able to log this rare DX entity. I will take one other exception with certain hams that made multiple contacts with 3Y0J. The team requested that if you had contacted them on once regardless of band or mode to not try to work them again so that others would be able to get that "ATNO" (all time new one). But I have heard several operators brag that they made contacts on several bands and modes. I guess their personal goals were put ahead of other operators' opportunities. I would also assume they just contributed to the cacophony of noise that was the produced on the bands.

**Link to first hand account of the 3Y0J team's experience- [3Y0J by WD5COV | DX-World](#)**

Enough of my rant, on to better things. Let's talk Hamcation. It was a wonderful event. A cadre of YCARS members were in attendance. Almost the entire officer corps and many of the contesting and YETi teams members were there. While circulating the grounds it was wonderful to see how many people knew exactly who YCARS is and what we have been doing. It was a source of great pride when someone would stop look at our shirts and say I know who you guys are. The swaps and flea market were full and quite a bit of gear was displayed. Many YCARS members went home with some treasures. There were quite a few vendors in



*YCARS/YouTubers Campground Hospitality at Hamcation*

the vendor buildings and several new vendors I had not seen before. The event was well attended, my estimate would be in the 20,000 people range. Steve, Darcy and I dragged two RV's on the 510 mile trip to Hamcation. Our campsite quickly became the host site in the campground to most of the YouTubers and YCARS crowd that attended Hamcation. It was fun to hangout with those folks and let them see what YCARS hospitality is all about.



Also, during February, I was honored to be part of the W1AW/4 (SC) team. Many of our YCARS members were tapped to be part of the team. This yearlong ARRL Special Event/Contest honors those who volunteer to serve fellow amateur radio operators by being part of the ARRL field teams. Each of the 50 states will have an operating team and each team will have 2 weeks during the year to operate

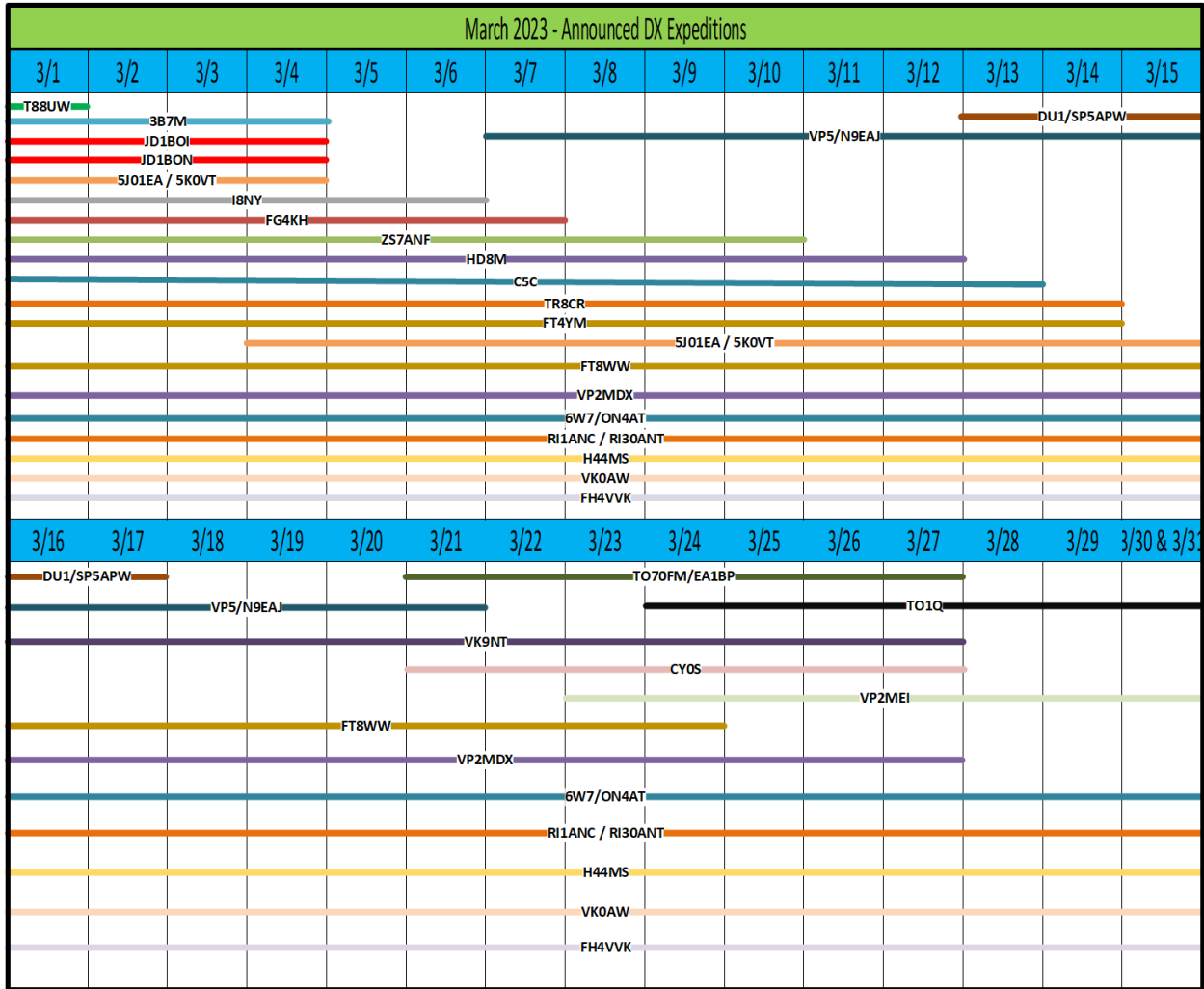
and provide contacts to those hunting the W1AW/# VOTA stations. The next operating period for W1AW/4 (SC) will be in July. It was a fun event and I was able to log 735 contacts for the week with some very special contacts. Operating these kinds of special events, can be stressful, but they are so rewarding. The Swamp Fox Contesting Group were leading the effort for South Carolina as they do with 13 Colonies. The YCARS members who participated logged 3,857 Q's and were 23% of all the Q's logged for W1AW/4 (SC) February operations.

So here we are entering March and I am getting very excited for Summer Field Day, 13 colonies and the Support Your Parks Plaque events this summer, as well as spring contesting season which is arriving very quickly. I hope you are as well, until next month... Stay passionate about Ham Radio and be your best Ham!

John Gendron, NJ4Z

# Radio Expedition Calendar

Helping you find the DX – most up to date information can be found at [DX-NEWS.com](http://DX-NEWS.com)



### See table below for Details

CALLSIGN	LOCATION	DATES
T88UW	Palau, South Pacific	3/1
3B7M	St. Brandon Islands, Indian Ocean	3/1-3/5
JD1BOI / JD1BON	Chichi Jima Island, Japan	3/1 – 3/5
5J01EA / 5K0VT	Providencia/ San Andreas Providencia, C.A.	3/1 – 3/5
J8NY	St. Vincent Island (Caribbean)	3/1 – 3/7
FG4KH	Guadeloupe	3/1 – 3/8
ZS7ANF	Antarctica	3/1 – 3/9
HD8M	Santa Cruz Island – Galapagos Is.	3/1 – 3/11
HR5/F2JD	Honduras, Central America	3/1 – 3/13
C5C	The Gambia, Africa	3/1 – 3/14
TR8CR	Gabon, Africa	3/1 – 3/15
FT4YM	Antarctica	3/1 – 3/14
FT8WW	Crozet Island, Africa	3/1 – 3/24
VP2MDX	Montserrat, Caribbean	3/1 – 3/27
6W7/ON4AT	Warang Senegal, Africa	3/1 – 3/31
RI1ANC / RI30ANT	Antarctica	3/1 – 3/31
H44MS	Solomon Islands, South Pacific	3/1 – 3/31
VK0AW	Antarctica	3/1 – 3/31
VK9WW	Willis Island	3/1 – 3/31
FH4VVK	Mayotte Island (Fr.) Africa Indian Ocean	3/1 – 3/31
VP5/N9EAJ	Turks and Caicos, Caribbean	3/7 – 3/21
DU1/SP5APW	Palawan Island, Philippines	3/13 – 3/17
VK9NT	Norfolk Island Oceania	3/15 – 3/28
CY0S	Sable Island	3/20 – 3-29
TO70FM / EA1BP	Martinique, Caribbean	3/21 – 3/28
VP2MEI	Montserrat, Caribbean	3/23 – 3/31
TO1Q	Guadeloupe	3/34 – 3/31

# “Getting on the Air”

## Helping New Hams Advance

### Running a HF transceiver for better receive – J. Gendron, NJ4Z

As amateur radio operators, we want to get the most from our radios on transmit, but in reality, running a radio comes down to how well we can set up the receive to help us pullout weak signals from the noise and mitigate QRM.

There are several controls on modern transmitters that help us do all the filtering and noise reductio, knowing how to use them is the trick. Also, if you understand the nomenclature and what they do, you can sit comfortably in front of any radio and run it as long as you know where to find the adjustments. That is where the manual or nifty guide come in. If you never used a nifty guide or don't have one for your rig, get one, they will save you myriads of time and frustration.

Let's get to running a radio – the **AF adjustment** is the audio level or volume control. It allows you to increase or decrease the volume of the speaker(s) or headphones attached to the radio. You can use this to make low volume signals louder, but keep in mind this adjustment increases all of the audio from the radio and listening at high volumes can damage hearing.

The AF adjustment is usually close to or nested with the **RF Gain adjustment**. This adjustment can also be used as a squelch adjustment on some radios. It will be defined in the settings of the radio. We will get to squelch in the next section.

The RF gain adjusts the amount of pre-amplification of the incoming signals before the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the radio. You can reduce the overall noise signature of the received signal by reducing the RF gain. This is a control that you should be using all the time especially on SSB or CW. When using digital modes, you will leave this adjustment wide open as the decoding software will filter out the noise.

You can use the RF and AF gain adjustments together, by reducing the RF gain and increasing the AF gain you may be able to pull out weaker signals.



**Squelch adjustments** are used to set the level of required signal to activate the speaker(s) on the radio. If the level is set too high no signals will be heard, if set too low that speaker will be crackling with static the entire time the radio is on.

**Passband Tuning** manipulates the amount of frequency the receivers tuning circuit can hear. On some radios there are hard values set for the passband tuning and you select a value. The Passband tuning on Yaesu and Kenwood rigs are listed as width. You can narrow or widen the width of the passband. On the Icom brand they have what is call Twin PBT. This allows you to set each side of the passband independently to help filter out unwanted signals or noise. It is a really nice feature to have.

Along with Passband tuning you have the **Shift adjustment** on some brands of radios. Icom addresses the shift using the adjustments in the Twin PBT, where others use the width and shift. The shift adjustment allows you to me the passband up or down in frequency without changing the receive frequency you are on it is useful in reducing QRM on the edges of your passband. Also, very useful in receive tuning is the **Receiver Incremental Tuning or RIT**. On Yaesu rigs the RIT and XIT are listed as Clarifier options (Clar RX and Clar TX). The RIT adjustment allows you to change the receive frequency away from the transmit frequency. This feature can help if the receiver drifts or the signal is you are trying to hear is away from the transmit frequency. The RIT function can be used in working split as well, but changing what frequency you are listening to versus where you will transmit. Most transceivers will have a **Transmitter (Xmitter) Incremental Tuning (XIT)** circuit as well which allows the transmit frequency to be moved away from the receive frequency and can also be used for split operations

**Roofing filters** are hardware filters typically crystal type. These reduce the passband of the receiver to the first IF of the radio and help reduce distortion in the system. They can vary in width, and can be added to transceivers after purchase. In modern SDR based radios these filters can be listed as “front-end filters or preselect filters” and are software algorithms applied to the digital stream from the DAC’s. Typically, you will see values in most modern radios 12KHz for AM/FM receive, 3KHz for SSB / Digital receive, 600Hz, 300HZ and 250Hz for CW receive. Good roofing and preselectors make a world of difference in working weak signals.

When dealing with man-made pulse type interference, think ignition noise or similar, most modern rigs will have a **Noise Blanker (NB)**. The noise blanker will reduce those pulsating interfering signals, although they will not help with naturally occurring noise sources (QRN). The noise blanker will typically have three adjustable settings in their menu in the transceiver. You will have options to level of noise required to engage the blanker, the depth to which the noise attenuated and the width which is how long the blanker is effective. The most crucial setting is the width, just use enough to remove the offending signal. Keep in mind that a noise blanker may introduce some distortion to the signals, especially on SSB. It does help with the copyability of a signal.

**Notch filters** are very important in crowded band conditions link in a contest or field day. They also help with shenanigans like internal QRM (turning up to jam you receive). There are typically two types of notch filters on a transceiver. A manual notch and an auto notch. The auto notch is just that it automatically attenuates unwanted signal, usually the strongest signal in the bandpass. So it can be detrimental to you receive if you have strong stations. I prefer not to use it when I operate, but nice to know it is there should you need it. I tend to use a manual notch when I need to get rid of some offending signal. Most rigs will have adjusts for how wide the notch will be, and how deep the notch (attenuation). The manual notch allow you to move the notch to anywhere in the passband.

Some radios, have what is called a **Contour adjustment**, this is a very handy adjustment. It can be operated like another notch filter by setting a negative value in the menu. It is adjustable in its width and where it can be placed in the passband. The contour adjustment can also be set with a positive value in the menu making it act like a amplifier for a certain part of the bandpass. I use this feature quite often. It helps greatly on SSB conversations. It can help take a weak signal and make it pop right out of the noise so you can work the station.

To help with weak signals and to tone down strong signals we can use the **Preamp/ attenuator selections**. Most radios made today have two separate selections for the Preamp and the Attenuator. The Preamp selection on most modern rigs is off, Pamp 1 and Pamp 2. With the case of Yaesu the off position is IPO (intercept point optimization). The Pamp 1 position is a 10dB gain and Pamp

2 is a 20dB gain. The one draw back to using the preamp is it will increase everything in the bandpass including the noise. But to work weak stations you can use the preamp and RF gain in concert to knock down as much noise as possible. The attenuator is used to quell very strong signals. Most radios will have four positions, off, 6dB, 12dB and 18db. 6dB reduces the incoming signal by 50%, 6dB is 75%, and 18dB is a reduction of 87.5%. Using the attenuator on the low bands like 40, 75/80 and 160 will help reduce naturally occurring interference (QRN), especially when you have strong signals in conjunction with the QRN.

Another great tool in helping reduce background noise for receive is **Digital Noise Reduction (DNR)**. The DNR system is designed to reduce the level of ambient noise (static and white noise). This system is especially helpful in SSB operations, as the human voice can be affected greatly by white noise. Each manufacturer approaches DNR a little different, but most will have multiple selection of settings which equate to differing algorithms to combat differing noise profiles. It will take some time and experimentation to learn differences between the setting and how to apply the correct one to each situation. It is a safe bet that you will use this feature quite a bit, as some of these algorithms can make a noisy band sound good and a good band sound like 2m FM for an HF SSB contact.

The last adjustment to help with receive is the **Automatic Gain Control (AGC)**. The AGC adjustment is to help with fading (QSB) and flutter in signals you are receiving. It is designed to produce a constant audio level output from the transceiver. Most rigs will have two levels of inputs here a setting for OFF, Slow, Mid and Fast. Each of these will in turn have an adjustment in the menu for the duration of the ACG. For the most part you will use slow AGC for SSB and AM operations, mid for your digital modes and fast for CW and FM operations.

I would encourage you to sit with your transceiver, find a signal and then work with each of these settings. Observe how each change in setting affects the incoming signal. It is like anything else in life, practice will improve performance and understanding your radio will improve your chances of success in you HF endeavors. Good luck and all the best, if you have questions on the subject feel free to reach out to me at [NJ4Z@ycars.org](mailto:NJ4Z@ycars.org).



### Hillary Ramsey – AB1CD

The Providence Road High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (Naval JROTC) recently visited the York County Amateur Radio Society (YCARS) club house, where students had the opportunity to experience the world of amateur radio and technology.

The visit began with a brief history of amateur radio and how it applies in today's world. We also had Captain David Biggers / K1DVB from the Rock Hill Police Department give a brief presentation on the application of radio in public safety and how local amateur radio operators have



*Captain Biggers, K1DVB talks about the application of radio in public service and safety*

assisted Rock Hill Police Department with radio communication. After the presentations, there was a tour of the club house, where students were introduced to the various equipment and technologies used in amateur radio. This included radios, antennas, and other communication devices. Theo Moore / K4TTM demonstrated how to properly operate the equipment and explained the different frequencies and modes used in amateur radio communications.

After the tour, the Naval JROTC students had the opportunity to get on the air and make their first amateur radio contact. Under the guidance of YCARS

members, the students were able to communicate with other amateur radio operators around the area. This was a thrilling experience for the students, as they were able to make real-life connections with people through the radio.

The students also participated in several science experiments related to amateur radio and technology. These experiments included testing Lenz law with a copper tube and magnets, building homopolar motors with wires and batteries and trying their skills at morse code. These hands-on activities helped the students understand the concepts behind amateur radio and technology in a more interactive and engaging way.



*Vicki Carnes, AD3I conducting experiments with the students*



*Theo Moore K4TTM explains Lenz's Law governing magnetic fields*

The visit also included a discussion about future careers related to amateur radio and technology. The YCARS members shared their own personal experiences and discussed the various career opportunities available in the field. This included roles in the military, engineering, communications, and

emergency management. The students were able to ask questions and learn more about the different paths they could take in the future. Finally, the Naval JROTC students were introduced to the various opportunities available for

youth to get involved in serving their community through amateur radio. YCARS members discussed the various community service projects we participate in, such as providing communications support during natural disasters and volunteering at public events. The students were able to learn about the impact that amateur radio can have on their local community and the importance of giving back.

Overall, the visit to the YCARS club house was a valuable experience for the Naval JROTC students. They were able to learn about the world of amateur radio and technology through hands-on activities and real-life connections. They also gained an understanding of the different career opportunities available in the field and the impact that amateur radio can have on their community. Our YCARS members did an excellent job of showcasing the opportunities that amateur radio can provide for youth and encouraging them to get involved in serving their community.



# YCARS News and Updates

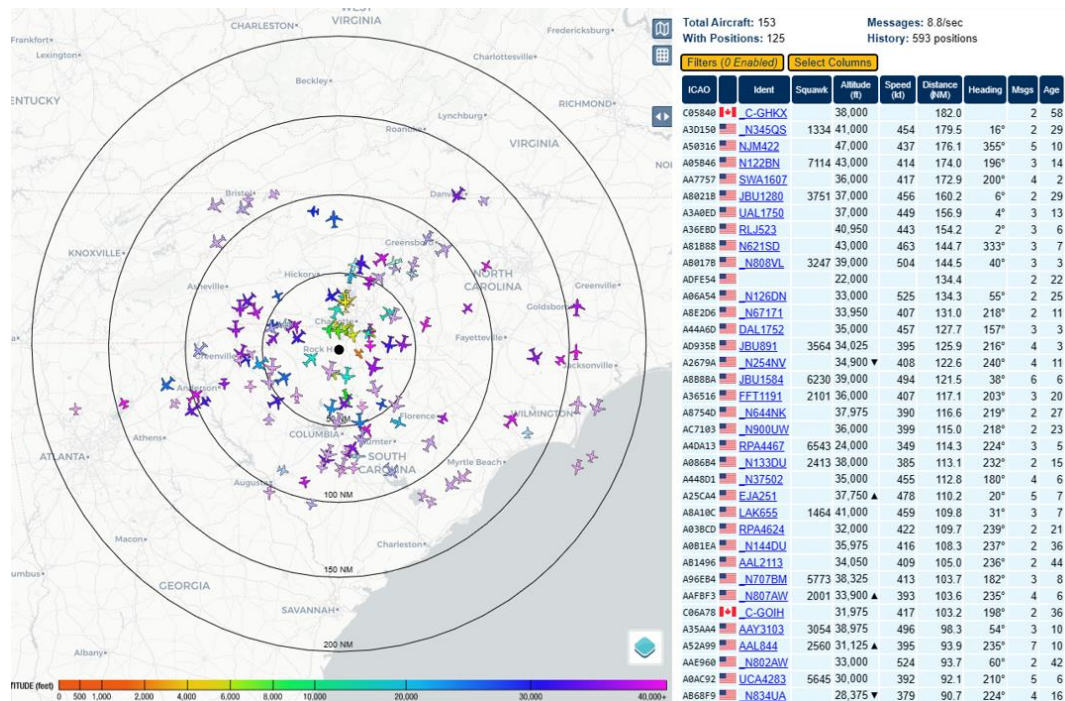
Be YCARS Aware

## YCARS ADS-B antenna moved to the east tower of the clubhouse.

### YCARS ADS-B Antenna Moved Onto Tower

As you may know, FlightAware ([www.flightaware.com](http://www.flightaware.com)) donated a professional grade ADS-B receiver to YCARS. This week, the antenna was installed outside on one of the towers. Thank you to Andre (W3PAL) and Georgii (WW4ZZ) for getting the antenna up. It is now receiving detailed aircraft signals from over 200+ miles away!

ADS-B data feeds directly into Flightaware where people can see live tracking of aircraft all over the world. Each receiver provides a multitude of data and scores against one another. You can see YCARS stats at <https://flightaware.com/adsb/stats/user/YCARS>.



## YCARS – YETi team in action for Thinking Day on the Air-

Two YCARS YETI teams were out at Andrew Jackson and Chester State Parks 2/18 – 2/19 for Thinking Day on the Air. The Naval JROTC from Providence High School came out to help and learn. Andre W3PAL provided a lesson for CW. There was a presentation on Amateur Radio History, ARES, Maidenhead grid system, and more.



## YCARS Contesting Meeting – Discussing Parks on the Air Plaque Event – Planning Discussion Thursday Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Wade Parker, KO4IVS and John Gendron, NJ4Z will be leading the planning discussion of YCARS defense of the Support Your Parks plaque event during the monthly contesting presentation on Thursday evening February. Bring your thinking caps because we are going to run through some stuff on this one. We are in every other teams sights and they all want to take that plaque away!

## March Presentation Meeting Special Guest – Kyle Krieg, AA0Z.

Our special guest for the March (3/23/23) presentation meeting will be Kyle Krieg, AA0Z. Kyle lives in St Louis, Mo and holds an extra class license. Kyle's presentation will be centered around Node Red. Node Red is a programming tool that has many applications, but is extremely useful ham radio and station control. Kyle recently presented to a large crowd at the Orland Hamcation event in February this year. This presentation will be 100% virtual on the ZOOM platform. An e-mail with the meeting invite will be out in the next few weeks.





## **Major Announcement by Parks on the Air, there is a new event for 2023 it will be called the Parks on the Air Plaque Event.**

Announced on 2/22/2023, the new event will be a separate event from the "Support Your Parks" (SYP) events. There will be one SYP event for each quarter of the year, hence a new event and date. The date for the POTA plaque event is June 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. Running time will be 0000h UTC June 3 until 2359h June 4. There are some new categories for the event including a rookie category for those folks who are new to the program. The other 2 big changes were the elimination of the "X-fer" contacts. Each contact from a location, even those being in 2 park entities will only count for one contact and the WARC bands cannot be used for contacts (12,17,30 and 60m). Team YCARS will be out running at various locations for this event.

### **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](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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:KX4UV@YCARS.ORG)

## YCARS – Welcomes **4** new club members in February 2023– continuing to grow. **12** total for 2023

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

KI4NCV	Rob Evosevich
<b>KB4JYC*</b>	<b>Gene Merklein*</b>
KQ4GIY	Kevin Cashman
KT4WGR	Barry Norman

\*Returning past Member

### SAVE THE DATES –

**May 13, 2023 - YCARS will be supporting communications at the 2023 Mike Doty Run**



**June 3 – 4, 2023 – Parks on the Air – SYP Plaque Event**

**June 23 – 25, 2023 – Summer Field Day**

**Oct 6 – 7, 2023 – Rock Hill Hamfest**

### 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](http://www.YCARS.org)

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