

# 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 CLUB EVENTS

Feb 11, 2021 – Business meeting 19:30 (7:30pm) (virtual MS Teams)  
 Feb. 12, 2021 – Simplex Net 146.580MHz following the YCARS 2m Evening Net, approx. 21:15 (9:15pm)  
 Feb. 20, 2021 VE Test Session 09:30 YCARS Clubhouse  
 Feb, 25 2021 Program meeting 19:30 (7:30pm) Youtube Live stream – WD2DW with SKYWARN

### 2021 YCARS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – W3SPC  
 STEVE CZAIKOWSKI  
 VICE PRESIDENT –  
 KM4WLS PHILIP  
 CHANDLER  
 TREASURER – K4DQP  
 DARCY PACH  
 SECRETARY – KN4KCD  
 RON PRYOR  
 CUSTODIAN – KD4RNP  
 WAYNE REEVES  
 TRUSTEE – NJ4Z  
 JOHN GENDRON

### CLUB 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  
 KD4EOD (W4FTK)  
 147.255 (+) PL 110.9  
 Hoodlum Friendship Net  
 Saturdays 22:00  
 10meters 28.340 USB

# THE YCARS TRANSMITTER

Welcome to the YCARS Transmitter Vol1. No2 for Feb 2021.

## FEBRUARY CONTEST CALENDAR

**Feb 6 - VT QSO  
Party - 00:00 UTC**

**Feb 6 - MN QSO  
Party - 14:00UTC**

**Feb 6 - BC (Can.)  
QSO Party -  
16:00UTC**

**Feb 6 - NA CW  
Sprint - 23:00UTC**

**Feb 13 - CQ WPX -  
RTTY - 00:00UTC**

**Feb 20 - ARRL DX -  
CW 00:00UTC**

**Feb 26 - CQ 160  
SSB - 22:00UTC**

**Feb 27 - SC QSO  
Party - 15:00UTC**

**Feb 27 - NAQP  
RTTY - 18:00UTC**

**FEB 28 NC QSO  
Party - 15:00UTC**

Hello everyone,

We hope you found the first issue of the YCARS Transmitter informative and entertaining. In the February issue, we will explore the Ham Coal that Santa left in our stockings in 2020 for 2021, as well as some upbeat news from the NJ4Z's Hamshack. Since we mentioned 2020, one lesson we should have all learned is PREPAREDNESS is essential. TP hoarders, grocery shortages, cleaning supply shortages, lockdowns, etc., we all need to be prepared now more than ever. This month, we are adding a new column by a very sharp member. Jack Wiles, N3NSA, is going to offer us advice on preparedness as Hams and rugged individualists. If there were two things that go together better than Ham Radio and preparedness it has to be either peanut butter and jelly, or peanut butter and chocolate.

On the Workbench this month, Andy Kunick, AE8J presents a fun build project to help sharpen many skills and expand our knowledge of CW, soldering and electronics. Speaking of expanding knowledge, helping our new licensees and less experienced hams, our Getting on the Air column is about Elmers and finding one. Speaking of Elmers, our Ask the Elmer question comes from K4DQP about wire antennas.

Joe Avampato, W8DKR, serves up a piece of Pi, as in pi networks in Octogenarian Observations, while the Wild Yella Chicken, Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC serves up some gems from the trash... you will see what I mean in this month's Chicken Coup.

Please check out the YCARS Boneyard to find your next ham treasure and see the Club, Contests and ARES updates for this month.

Please help us keep this newsletter rolling along. You can e-mail, [NJ4Z@YCARS.org](mailto:NJ4Z@YCARS.org) with submissions and questions. Deadline for March Submissions is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



# FROM NJ4Z's HAM SHACK

## Musings from the Editor

Welcome to Level 2 of Jumanji 2021...

Hey folks we made it through January 2021 and what a January it has been. Don't we all wish we could go back to the way things were in January 2020 and keep that way of life. Well to say the least, for us in United States, 2021 has started off with a glimmer of hope and then, well, the wheels got a bit wobbly. So, let's just leave all the politics out of this and just talk Amateur Radio, because that is our common bond, no matter how our political views vary.

Santa decided to leave us some lumps of coal in our stockings to start out 2021. The news that the FCC, in their ultimate wisdom, found that Amateur Radio is not an exempt Communications Resource was a bit difficult to comprehend. They reasoned it is a voluntary service and not a required service, therefore, it should not be exempt from licensing fees. Well at least, they did say that they were appreciative of the service Ham Radio Operators have provided in the past. Isn't that just typical government. FCC to Ham Operators: thank you for what you have done; and oh, by the way, our thank you gift is a new fee, oh goody!!! Thanks FCC. So now in addition to any testing fees, all new licenses and upgrades will be charged \$35.00 fee. This \$35.00 fee also applies to the renewals of current licenses and vanity callsign applications. The fee is less than the \$50.00 fee proposed, but still in my opinion, it is a slap in the face of Amateur Radio's emergency services. I believe this will have a negative effect on people wanting to join this hobby and it will affect the pace for upgrades. I have listened to many folks saying it is not a big deal and it is a small fee, since it is a ten-year license, but still for some, it may hold them back from an upgrade or a license in the first place. I only see two silver linings from this decision, one, it may keep some of the BAD operators and those who do not hold true to the values Amateur Radio (think 14.313 MHz, 7.200MHz and some of the folks on 75M) from getting into the hobby or renewing their licenses. The other silver lining is, it did reduce the cost of a GMRS license to \$35.00, that is a 50% reduction. For those of us that hold both licenses, it is a nice savings over having to pay \$70.00 for GMRS and \$35.00 for an Amateur License.

Another lump of coal from Ole Saint Nick, was the cancelation of both Hamcation and Hamvention. It is understandable for those organizations to cancel due to the pandemic and the logistics required to conduct those events. It just sucks for us who love those events. Hamcation will be virtual this year and that takes a bit of the sting away. It still sucks eggs not to be able to go to that amazing show. We have not heard if Hamvention will have any virtual presence or not. I fear these cancelations, as well as the hundreds of other small hamfest cancelations will have a major impact on hamfests post pandemic. Some the fallout has begun as Ham-con, a very large hamfest in the Dallas, TX metroplex has shut their doors, not just cancelled for 2021. I fear this may only be the first domino to fall with many hamfests no longer being held.

The third lump of coal brought to us by the jolly head elf is the shortage of DAC (Digital to Analog convertor) chips which, combined with other Covid-19 supply chain issues, are making it difficult to purchase new gear. Manufacturers cannot get parts to build product. There are now waiting lists for certain radios, electronics, and other Ham gear. This issue seems to be subsiding some. It is still hard to believe that there is not enough equipment to go around. (Cont. Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Lump of Coal #4 from ole St Nick comes via the FCC issuing an Enforcement Advisory to ALL RADIO USERS, licensed and unlicensed not to use radios or frequencies to commit crimes. Well DUH? It really is a head scratching moment, that they felt it necessary to warn law abiding operators not to commit crimes... there has got to be more to the story, but then again, it is the government.

Aside from the coal in our Ham Stockings, there is some good news. There light at the end of the tunnel, we have two vaccines that are being distributed across the world to hopefully and finally end the pandemic and draconian lockdowns. Sometime later this year, probably late second quarter we may see life returning to something close to normal, we can hope.

The other bright spot for 2021 is our old friend, SOL is waking up from solar cycle minimum and we are seeing propagation picking up across the bands. Late in 2020, the sunspots returned and we saw some of the best propagation since 2016. It will only get better from here as the sun's magnetic power gears up and provides us both proton flux and UV radiation to charge the ionosphere. Let's hope this solar cycle is generous to Hams, but not too hard on earth with large flares that may cause issues with the electrical grid.

So, until we meet again in Level 3... everyone please stay healthy and safe... and stay passionate about Ham Radio. All the best to you and yours.

John Gendron, NJ4Z

## Octogenarian Observations – Joe Avampato – W8DKR

Many years ago, I had no test equipment so I put a 60 watt light bulb at the output of my Heathkit AT-1. As I adjusted the plate current (yes it was a tube) I noticed the light bulb was brightest when the plate current was minimum. Why?

<https://www.edn.com/pi-network-and-dipping-the-final/>

# Getting on the Air Helping New Hams Advance!

**So, you have earned your Ticket, what is next?**

## ***What the Heck is an Elmer, and where can I get one? - John Gendron, NJ4Z***

With a subject so deep and so wide as Ham Radio, there is no one that knows it all. That said, there is an abundance of information available with a few strokes of the keyboard. Forums, reviews, Facebook groups, YouTube videos, and many other sources on the internet are a wealth of knowledge and free to most people.

As a new Ham four years ago, I was a sponge, sucking up as much information from the internet as I could to improve my operating skills. I was doing fine, but once I got to know a few other Hams and was comfortable enough to ask questions of people, my skills took off. The people answering those questions were acting as an Elmer. An Elmer is a mentor to a new or inexperienced Ham operator. After spending some time with Darcy K4DQP, Andre W3PAL, Andy AE8J and others I became a solid operator and a fairly good contester. Spending time with folks like Bill K4VSV, Steve WB4QNI, and Steve W3SPC set my mind on fire thinking about antenna design.

In the modern age of Ham Radio, most newcomers have the ability to engage multiple Elmers both in person and online. People like Jim Heath W6LG, Josh Nass KI6NAS, Calum McCormick M0MCX and many others have produced first class educational YouTube channels and websites. As great as the internet is for information, in my opinion, there is no substitute for one on one in-person learning. The ability to ask real time questions, discuss in detail observations, and the personal bond provide such an enriching experience. Finding Elmers in your local area or club is important to your development as an operator and will provide you the opportunity to build lifetime bonds with others. It also affords you the education and experience to become an Elmer yourself.

One of the most important traditions and pillars of amateur radio is passing along your knowledge to others and new hams. We all have the ability to help others, even new hams helping more seasoned operators with newer operational modes. Some of my most rewarding moments in amateur radio have come from being an Elmer to other hams.

If you are having trouble finding a local Elmer, look no further, the YCARs Family is here to help Hams advance and grow. Reach out to the club at [YCARS@YCARS.ORG](mailto:YCARS@YCARS.ORG). Also, we have an "ASK an ELMER" column where your question can be answered by one of the club members who excels in that subject. So, for now – stay passionate about your radio and get on the air!!!



## YORK COUNTY ARES & SKYWARN

Congratulations to Daniel Boyer, WD2DW on his appointment to Emergency Coordinator for York County ARES.

### **SKYWARN TRAINING CLASSES – ONLINE**

BASIC Spotter Training

Wednesday Feb.13, 2021 – 13:00-15:00

Advanced Spotter Training

Tuesday Feb. 9, 2021 – 18:30-20:30

Thursday Feb. 11, 2021 – 14:00-16:00

Info: [PowerPoint Presentation \(weather.gov\)](#)

### AREA CLUB NEWS

Cabarrus County Amateur Radio Society – CCARS is holding in person License classes in January, February and March. They will have a tech class starting Jan. 26 – every Tuesday and Thursday evening , thru Feb 11<sup>th</sup> with a test session on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin at 19:00 and 90mins in length.

A general class will be held starting Feb. 23 each Tuesday and Thursday Evening until March 11<sup>th</sup> with a test session on Mar. 11. Classes begin at 19:00 and 90mins in length.

For more information contact David Whitely W4DPW  
Hospiceforcars@windstream.net

# ASK AN ELMER

## HAM RADIO ADVICE AND ANSWERS

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*This column will be a forum to ask questions and seek knowledge of amateur radio. We are looking for someone to help answer these questions for members. If you would like to volunteer to help answer or have a question, please email [NJ4Z@ycars.com](mailto:NJ4Z@ycars.com).*

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We had a great submission in January from Michael Siward KO4HTK and Tom Mikkleson WA0POD has agreed to address that question in our March Edition.

The Question for this month is from **Darcy Pach, K4DQP**

**Darcy asks... "I hear lots of people talking about building their own wire antenna. Which one should I build? Where do I buy the materials?"**

Darcy, thank you for the question. Wire antennas are as numerous in design as one can imagine. I like to think of wire antennas in groups or families. The most common families are Dipoles (Doublets), Loops, Long Wire, and Verticals and what I call Exotics. All of these families have variants and can be used for differing purposes. Let us view the families individually.

Wire Dipoles are a two-wire element antenna with a common feed point. The most common is the  $\frac{1}{2}$  Wave resonant. This antenna is made up of 2 equal lengths of wire very close to a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength of the intended frequency. It can be fed either with ladder line or directly with 50ohm coax. It typically will present a 37 – 75ohm load to the radio at the feed point when correctly trimmed. It typically presents two radiation lobes broadside to the long axis of the antenna. The standard  $\frac{1}{2}$  dipole will present about a 2.15dBi gain over a theoretical Isotropic radiator. The basic  $\frac{1}{2}$  dipole can be installed in a flat top configuration, vertical, inverted Vee or as a sloper.

A very popular variant of a simple monoband dipole is a fan dipole. Using a common feed point, several monoband  $\frac{1}{2}$  dipoles are fed with coax. The individual radiating elements are spaced six to twelve inches apart to minimize any interaction. These antennas are very simple to build and are highly efficient. Many other variants of dipoles include "Off Center Fed" (OCF), where the dipole is fed at a point where the sides are  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the length of the antenna. The OCF dipole can be used as a multiband antenna on harmonics of the lowest frequency it is designed to operate on. An example would be an OCF dipole with element lengths of 45ft and 90ft. It is constructed with a 4:1 balun at the feed point due to the characteristic presented load of 200 ohms. This antenna can be used on 80/75m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. There are also multiband doublet antennas like the G5RV and ZS6BKW which are ladder line fed and very easy to build.

Wire Loop Antennas are just what they sound like, a loop of wire cut to a specific length for a specific frequency. Loops are amazing antenna systems because of the differing configurations in which they can be installed. Horizontal, vertical and sloping installations can vary your radiation pattern, take off

angle and polarization. They can be fed in many ways using ladder line or coax and a balun. A very popular configuration is the delta loop, installed either vertically or horizontally, fed with coax via a 2.5:1 or 4:1 balun or directly fed with 300- or 450-ohm ladder line. This antenna is broad banded and can be used multiple bands. I currently have an 80meter horizontal loop up (256ft of #13 insulated antenna wire) and it works with a 3:1 antenna matching system (ATU) on 2m, 6m, 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 40m, 80m and can even work on some of the 160m band. My guess it will also work on 30 and 60ms, but that has not been tested on my system.

Another popular wire antenna is the Half Wave End Fed (HWEF) long wire. These are typically 134 ft long and fed with coax into a 9:1 balun. It is either fed against a counterpoise wire or a wire connecting to ground and sometimes both. These antennas can be good performers, if set up the correct way.

One of my favorite wire antennas is the vertical, usually a 1/4 or 5/8 wave length in length and fed with coax off of a ground radial system. It is a very simple antenna to construct and install, with or without a supporting mast. This antenna can provide very low angles of radiation making for a great DX antenna, especially near the presence of saltwater bodies. They can be built in monoband or multiband configurations. I would recommend using an RF choke, 1:1 balun or ugly balun between the feed point and your shack or operating position just to limit any RF imbalances from riding the shield back to you and your equipment.

And finally, you come to the family I call exotics – wire antennas like the Hexbeam, Cobweb, Curtail, and Rhombic antennas. All fine antennas, but require advanced building skills and expensive materials.

The beauty of simple wire antennas is that they can be combined to build Yagi and Arrays capable of great gain and fantastic radiation patterns. I know of one local ham who built a Log Periodic antenna utilizing vertical delta loops for 20m. Bill K4VSV built the antenna to make sure he could communicate with a friend in New Zealand no matter what the conditions. It is an amazing design and installation.

I have built both vertical Yagi and triangle arrays using simple monoband verticals. These antennas provided great results for our club at past field days.

In my opinion, the best antennas for those just beginning into the antenna building world are the simple dipole, OCF Dipole, delta loop and the monoband vertical. Very easy to build, inexpensive and they perform well. You can get most of the materials for your antenna building from the Original Wireman, DX Engineering, Tower Electronics and of course Amazon or EBAY. I will provide links below for those of you needing sources for components. The wire for an antenna can be picked up at any local home improvement store. If you are going to build an antenna with a balun you can build it yourself obtaining components from the aforementioned vendors. The other option is to purchase the balun from DX Engineering, EBAY, Balun Design and others. For a little more advanced build, I would recommend a Fan Dipole, ZS6BKW or Multiband Vertical. Dr Marc Tarplee N4UFP and ARRL SC Section manager and Brad AE4VJ, Technical Director for the ARRL SC Section did an amazing YouTube video on the ZS6BKW antenna. It is very strong performer.

There are many great YouTube Channels out there with antenna building ideas. Here are some of my favorites.

YCARS - [York County Amateur Radio Society - YouTube](#)

DX Commander - [DX Commander - YouTube](#)



AE4VJ - [AE4VJ - YouTube](#)

Stan Gibilisco (W1GV-SK) [Stan Gibilisco - YouTube](#)

Links for materials:

The Wireman - [Shop - The Wireman](#)

DX Engineering - [DX Engineering | Ham Radio Equipment & Supplies](#)

Balun Designs - [Balun Designs LLC - When Performance Counts](#)

Talented Balun - [AG6IF Talented Balun for build HF Ham radio Sky Loop antenna, 160m 80m & 40-10 | eBay](#)

Don't forget, the YCARS family is here to help our members achieve their Ham Radio goals. If you need help reach out to the club or me personally. I will be glad to help or point you in the correct direction. Best of luck with your antenna project.

John Gendron, NJ4Z

# THE WORKBENCH

HAM RADIO PROJECTS, TIPS AND TRICKS

This Month's Workbench Article is by Andy Kunik, Jr., AE8J

## CW Keyer for FM transceivers

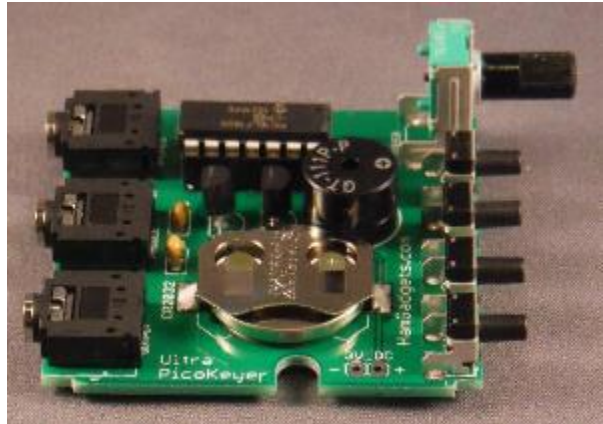
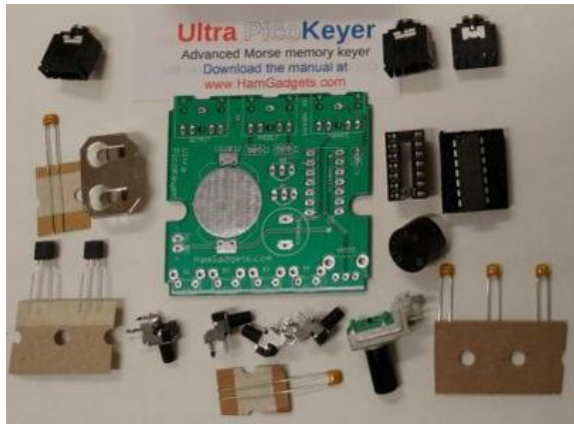
Even though the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement for obtaining an amateur radio license back in 2007, CW remains one of the most popular communication modes. The technical reasons for this are many; simple and inexpensive transmitters that can be built from kits or homebrewed, more reliable communications even in poor conditions and the ability to communicate beyond language barriers just to name a few. In addition to technical reasons, I would add the personal satisfaction of learning a new skill. Why limit yourself to using only half of the HF amateur bands that are available?

Learning Morse code has been compared to learning a new language or learning to play a musical instrument. Learning any new skill can be challenging and frustrating. It requires a real commitment and **practice, practice, practice**. We can make learning CW less tedious by making practice more fun. There are many online teaching tools that use game-like methods to help. Another way to make learning CW more fun is to practice in groups. However, in this Covid-19 era getting together in groups isn't always possible.

The obvious choice that comes to mind is to start a local CW practice net on one of the HF bands. Unfortunately, many new general class hams just starting out and technician class licensees don't always have HF radios and/or the low band antennas needed.

A better approach is to use the equipment and resources most hams already have. Practically every ham owns at least one 2 meter / 70cm mobile or handheld transceiver. Trouble is, these radios are designed for FM voice communication only.

In this article I describe how to build an electronic CW keyer / interface to send Morse code using an FM transceiver. Any FM mobile or handheld transceiver can be used. No modifications to the radio are required. Any key style; dual paddle, single paddle, bug or straight key can be used. The design incorporates the popular Ultra Picokeyer module.

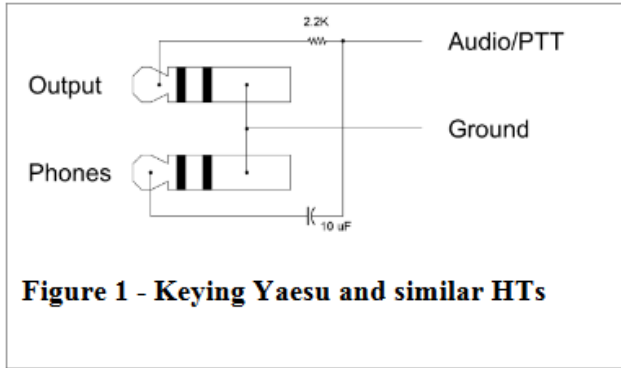


The Ultra Picokeyer is a full featured electronic memory keyer. For a complete description of features and functions visit: <http://www.hamgadgets.com/ham-radio/ULTRAPK-KEYER/ULTRA-PICOKEYER>

The Ultra Picokeyer can be purchased in kit form or completely assembled. Options include a plastic case and a 3.3 volt power supply to replace the on board coin cell battery if desired.

One of the many Ultra Picokeyer modes is MCW (Modulated Continuous Wave). MCW is not really a modulation mode. It simply means sending audio tones into the FM transceivers microphone input. In this mode the Ultra Picokeyer keys the transmitter at the beginning of the first character sent and keeps the transmitter keyed until the end of transmission. Then, after a time delay, the transmitter is un-keyed. It works like VOX on single side band.

The most challenging part is how to interface the radio. This will depend on what radio you have. Most handhelds have a remote microphone jack that can be used.



In Figure 1, we see the most common method that will work with many handheld transceivers from Alinco, Yaesu, Icom and others that use a similar combined audio/PTT scheme. This value of the capacitor is not critical, and can be several times smaller or larger. A 2.2 kΩ or 2.7 kΩ resistor (3.9 kΩ for some ICOM handhelds) is used in series with the PTT line to key the rig. In most cases, GROUND is connected to the sleeve (barrel) of a 2.5 mm stereo plug, and PTT/Audio is connected to the tip – but again, be sure to consult your rig’s manual.

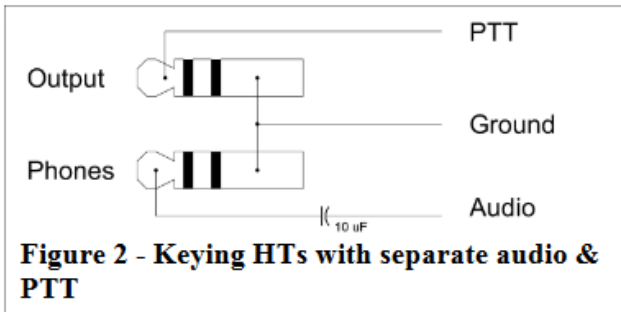


Figure 2 shows the method for using with separate audio and PTT lines. Consult your rig’s manual for the correct plug and wiring to use.

Most mobile FM transceivers will have an accessory jack or packet interface connector on the back that can be used. Check the rig’s manual to determine which pins are audio in, PTT and ground.

With enough participation we could conduct a weekly slow speed CW net through the YCARS repeater or even on FM simplex.

## Let’s make learning CW fun!!!

### Welcome to the Hobby

**Hams that have earned their Technicians through our testing program (DEC 2020 – Jan 2021)**

Alex Eyssen	KO4KIZ
Harry Miller	KF4HMM
Jeffrey York	KO4KJB
Mark Colmogram	KO4KJR
Michael Martin	KO4KJA
John Eichorn, II	KO4LAT



## KA4WYC's Wild Yella's Chicken Coup

### Trivia from The Trash - Jeff KA4WYC

This Article is **EXACTLY** what it says! One day I'm writing a book on, *'Things I've Found, While Looking for Other Things!'* I found this by accident, but found it FASINATING! What do Pricilla Presley, Andy Devine, Arthur Godfrey, and James Stewart have in common, other than Entertainment?? They're HAMS, yep, Amateur Radio Operators, licensed by the FCC. Now, as I continued my 'Research', **almost** every license has lapsed, or expired, or they are Silent Keys. I checked them on QRZ.com, but sadly most, but NOT all, weren't in the Database.

Some I knew, like: Marlon Brando, Ronnie Milsap, Chat Akins, and Patty Loveless, Walter Cronkite, Art Bell, and Barry Goldwater. But stated above, I didn't know people like: Burl Ives, Donnie Osmond, James Stewart, Jim Croce (one of my favorite singer/song writers, with songs like, 'Time In a Bottle', 'Operator', 'Bad, Bad LeRoy Brown'!!) His call was WN3OQW, and he died at the age of 30, in a plane crash on Sept. 20 1973. So Jim may have had a Novice License, for a short period of time. Some Operators are very active, like: Singer/song writer Joe Walsh, WB4ACU, of The Eagles fame. Look at Joe's QRZ web page!! Of course, who doesn't know Joe Taylor, K1JT, and use one of his many Digital programs?

But more to the 'Unknowns'; General Curtis LeMay, famous Military Legend, W6EZV, SK, Jean Shepard, Actress/Author, 'In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash', 'A Christmas Story', K2ORS, SK on Sept. 25 2016, at the age of 82. At the time of her death, she was the longest living member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Boy, I could go on, but why don't you look some up yourself! Go to (<https://www.qsl.net/w5www/famous.htm>), Ron, W5WWW, has a most interesting website. Give him a 'thumbs up' while you're there! I requested permission to use his content for the research for this article. Other info came from Wikipedia. Maybe I'll make this list... no, I didn't think so either...!

73 Jeff KA4WYC

# THE PREPARED HAM

Insight into preparedness from Lt. Col. Jack Wiles (RET), N3NSA

Several times during the rag-chew portion of our nets, I've mentioned a couple of prepper tips. I've been practicing various aspects of preparation for an unplanned disaster for about 25 years now.

John (NJ4Z) asked me to put a few of my suggestions on paper so-to-speak and add them to our newsletter. There's no way to cover everything in one article, so let me just begin by laying some groundwork, and then giving you a little homework to read or watch on YouTube.

I've always enjoyed making prepping a hobby in addition to Ham Radio. The two hobbies really do have a lot in common. In fact, I've seen several prepping presentations go into the use and value of Ham Radio as a very useful part of being prepared to always stay informed of what's possibly going on in nearby areas. Several of these YouTube channels have had licensed Hams provide information about our hobby and how to get licensed.

## WHAT ARE WE PREPARING FOR?

The short answer is: "Just about anything that would disrupt your ability to continue your life as whatever you consider to be normal."

Things such as:

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- Water Main Breaks
- Disruptions of our food supply chains.
- Labor Strikes
- Power Grid Disruptions
- Shelter In Place Requirements
- Etc., Etc., Etc.

## WHEN SHOULD I START?

Yesterday!

Well, It's not quite that bad. It is a good idea to not try to look at just the end-game of preparing as you start. The most important thing is to plan to do a little bit every week, or as I sometimes do, on most days. This is truly an example of the statement "Every little bit

helps". Each day that you are a little bit more prepared will make you feel like you have accomplished something to get you closer to your end-game. You have accomplished something, enjoy the feeling.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER AS YOU DEVELOP YOUR PLAN?

It's a long list, but the basics are food, water, medical needs, communication, lighting and weather-related needs.

I'll plan to go a little deeper into each of these in future articles. In the meantime, here are a few links to some of my favorite information sources discussing this topic.

Stay safe out there - N3NSA 73

The Provident Prepper

#### [The Provident Prepper - YouTube](#)



### [The Provident Prepper - YouTube](#)

Emergency preparedness, self-reliance and provident living education. Kylene and Jonathan are the authors of The Provident Prepper--A Common-Sense Guide to Preparing for Emergencies - Visit [www ...](#)

[www.youtube.com](#)

Guildbrook Farm

#### [Guildbrook Farm - YouTube](#)



### [Guildbrook Farm - YouTube](#)

In 2015, following a series of events that included job loss and a 7.8 earthquake that shook us out of our complacency, we decided to get out of the rat race and live a more grounded lifestyle ...

[www.youtube.com](#)

## Rain Country

### [Rain Country - YouTube](#)



### [Rain Country - YouTube](#)

Living frugal, natural, healthy, and as self sustainable as possible. Sharing what we do and what we have learned along the way plus healthy recipes, herbal remedies, gardening tips, wood working ...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

## Prepsteaders

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The Knowledge, Wisdom & Provisions needed to survive the days ahead & eternity after that. If we are wise, we will learn from the past to prepare for the future . . . mentally, physically ...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

# THE YCARS BONEYARD

A Place to Sell, Trade or Find Ham Related Equipment

NU4S – “Shep” Shepard is looking for a Chuscraft R-9 or similar Vertical [rtoller1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rtoller1@cfl.rr.com)

NJ4Z – John Gendron has two Kenwood TH-F6A handhelds with accessories \$ 530.00 for the pair. Contact [NJ4Z@YCARS.ORG](mailto:NJ4Z@YCARS.ORG) for details.

WN4DVJ – Bill Wells is listing a TYT-MD9600 DMR Mobile unit for \$200.00 and a TYT-MD380 DRM Handheld for \$60.00 Contact Bill for details at [Bwells@comporium.net](mailto:Bwells@comporium.net) or 803-417-7117

W3SPC – Steve is listing a Yaesu Ft-991A for \$ 850.00 – contact Steve @W3SPC @YCARS.ORG for details.

# Club Updates and News

BE YCARS AWARE

Call to committees!

The YCARS committees are launched! We need your help. While not required, membership on a committee is highly encouraged. Have your voice heard. Help shape the future of the club.

We have six committees. Each member can be a member of only one committee at a time.

WHI - Wellness and Happiness. This committee is responsible for getting the pulse of the club. Listen to members. Grow our membership. What do we do too much of? What do we do too little of? What are some common things that our members want to see? If you're passionate about the future of the club and the well-being of our membership, this is the committee for you!

Fundraising - "SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!" Almost everything we want to do as a club takes money. We can no longer rely solely on donations from our members, dues, and Hamfest to provide our club operating capital. We MUST get creative and try new ways to raise funds. How can we raise money? We don't know - that's why we formed the committee. Let's figure it out and put the days of operating on a shoestring and bubblegum budget behind us!

Community Service - How can we serve our community? How can we get our name out in the community? What can we do to give back and show the value of ham radio and our club to our neighbors? These are questions that the community service committee is going to help answer.

Facilities - We've got an acre of land. We've got a 1600+ sq ft clubhouse. We've got a retired ambulance that needs periodic maintenance to ensure it's a deployable asset of the club. Cleaning, painting, edging, making things look more attractive, signage, property maintenance. Wayne can't do it all! We have a committee behind him to help ensure that our facilities will be around for many years to come.

Communications - To keep our members engaged and up to speed with what's going on with the club, we need communications. To let people know that we're around as a club and entice them to join, we need communications. Website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Slack, emails, and newsletters, OH MY! If you love talking about this club and are excited to share what this club is doing with our members, the greater ham community, and the public at large, this may be the committee for you!

Hamshack - 4 operating stations, 8 computers, a video production system, two towers, two beams, multiple wire antennas, multiple VHF/UHF antennas, lots of coax, grounding, bonding, lightning protection, a hambulance to build out. Yeah, lots and lots of awesome radio gear and we've got to ensure it's maintained and ready to be used at all times. It's a TON to plan for and that's why we're dedicating a team to help determine what all we need to do to ensure we can operate any band, any mode, any time.



PLEASE consider volunteering for a committee. We'd like to let our members gravitate to the committee that aligns with their personal interests and capabilities to maximize individual member impact. To join a committee, please reach out to the respective committee chair and let them know you're willing and able to help!

Community Service - KX4UV - David McLaren, [KX4UV@ycars.org](mailto:KX4UV@ycars.org)

Communications - NJ4Z - John Gendron, [NJ4Z@ycars.org](mailto:NJ4Z@ycars.org)

WHI - AB1CD - Hillary Ramsey, [AB1CD@gmx.com](mailto:AB1CD@gmx.com)

Fundraising - KM4GSF - Linda Fox, [lfox368806@yahoo.com](mailto:lfox368806@yahoo.com)

Facilities - WB4QNI - Steve Kelly, [WB4QNI@comporium.net](mailto:WB4QNI@comporium.net)

HAM Shack - W3PAL - Andre Ivanov, [aeivanov@comporium.net](mailto:aeivanov@comporium.net)

YCARS Driveway Repairs – A huge thank you to the Falls Landing, LLC for beginning work on repairing our driveway and the recurring water issues on the property. Please see the photos of the progress, we do not have a total scope of the work nor a completion schedule but this is great progress.



Also, The Hamfest Committee has reserved New Kirk Baptist Church for 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Hill Hamfest, Saturday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Please mark your calendars as we need help setting up, running and tearing down the event.

Soon to happen, an Antenna repair/refurbishing weekend. Look for an update on this soon from the Hamshack Committee.