

# 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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### Sept 2022 Club Activities

- Every Wednesday 18:00 local – Club open House
- Thursday, Sept. 1, Contest Team 18:00-20:00
- Thursday, Sept. 8, Business Meeting clubhouse and virtual 19:30
- Friday Sept. 9 – Monthly Simplex Net 146.580MHz – 21:15
- Thursday, Sept. 15, YC ARES Meeting – clubhouse and virtual 19:00
- Saturday Sept. 17, Club Participation Day 08:00 – 12:00 Clubhouse
- Thursday Sept. 23, September Presentation Meeting – Clubhouse and Virtual 19:30
- Friday Sept. 30, Hamfest Set Up Covenant Presbyterian Church 12:00 – 17:00
- Saturday Oct. 1, Hamfest Covenant Presbyterian Church 05:30 – 16:00

### 2022 YCARS Officers

- PRESIDENT – W3SPC  
STEVE CZAIKOWSKI
- VICE PRESIDENT – AB1CD  
HILLARY RAMSEY
- 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.2 No.1 August 2022

Hello everyone,

This month, in the transmitter, NJ4Z encourages all of us to “Be Your Best Ham” in the “From the Hamshack with NJ4Z” column.

Vicki Carnes, AD3I takes us along for her journey in to CWOps in our Getting on the Air feature.

This month’s “YCARS IN ACTION” feature details the club’s huge WIN in the Parks on the Air Summer Support Your Parks Plaque Event this past July.

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

## SEPT 2022 Contest Calendar

**9/3** – Colorado QP-  
13:00UTC  
**9/4** – Tennessee QP  
18:00UTC  
**9/10** – WAE (EU) DX - SSB  
Contest 00:00UTC  
**9/10** – ARRL Fall VHF  
Contest 18:00 UTC  
**9/10** – AL QP 19:00 UTC  
**9/11** – NA Sprint -CW  
00:00 UTC  
**9/17** – IA QP 14:00 UTC  
**9/17** – NH QP 16:00 UTC  
**9/17** – TX QP 14:00 UTC  
**9/17** – NJ QP 16:00 UTC  
**9/17** – WA Salmon Run  
16:00 UTC  
**9/18** – NA Sprint RTTY  
00:00 UTC  
**9/24** – CQ WW – RTTY-  
00:00 UTC  
**9/24** – ME QP - 12:00 UTC

## Upcoming Local Hamfests

9/2-4/2022 – Shelby Hamfest  
– Cleveland County  
Fairgrounds – 1751 E. Marion  
St. 28150

10/1 – 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Hill  
Hamfest / SC Section  
Convention – Covenant  
Presbyterian Church 1830  
Celene Rd Rock Hill, Sc  
29732



# From NJ4Z's Hamshack

## Musings from the Editor

### Be Your Best Ham...

Our new club promotional t-shirts, let people know we are different from other Ham Radio clubs, "We Are YCARS." What makes us different as a club? We want all hams to be the best hams they can be.

We, as a club, prioritize our collective membership over any one individual. It is about making sure everyone in the club is included, respected, and engaged in amateur radio. The club lives and breathes the spirit of Ham Radio. We want our members to know that over time, you will only get out of this club and in turn amateur radio, what you put into it. Where better to seek that opportunity than in a club.



All that focus on membership also provides an opportunity for each member to be "Their Best Ham..." because they are part of the community that is the club. I know there is much potential to learn from online sources like YouTube, but there is no substitute to building a bond with a person or groups of persons face to face. When a person on YouTube has a following of thousands it is nearly impossible to get one on one time with them or others within the group. Ham Radio clubs, are as Tim Duffy K3LR says, "The backbone of Amateur Radio." A club, even with virtual membership like we have, is very different from the online relationships one can form. There is personal interaction and opportunities to build a mentoring relationship and friendships. Being an active member within a club provides those opportunities far more often than everyday life. The constant exchange of ideas through the community that is a club is the catalyst for improvement of all the members involved.

We took a big step as a club, sharing our story through the QST article, and it was not to say look how great we are. It was to help other realize the potential of their clubs. For us to share ideas on building a strong, active and long-lived organization to strengthen the backbone of this thing we are so passionate about, Ham Radio. It was to Be Our Collective Best Ham....

So, until next month, Enjoy the Transmitter, stay healthy, safe and of course, passionate about Amateur Radio... 73 - NJ4Z out

John Gendron, NJ4Z - Editor, YCARS Transmitter

**P.S. We have these shirts available for purchase from the club. Contact [NJ4Z@YCARS.ORG](mailto:NJ4Z@YCARS.ORG) if you want one. They are \$20.00 and there is a limited supply.**

# “Getting on the Air”

## Helping New Hams Advance

### CW – My Journey – Vicki Carnes, AD3I

Okay, so why learn CW, you might ask.

First, I noticed when the band conditions were tough, CW was still there. I also found it intriguing that dits and dahs (diddy bops) could share information across the world. Then, I swear I was hearing code randomly throughout the day and I wanted to know what was being communicated. Mainly though, I’ve read that CW activates brain cells often not used. So, given my current age, I felt it couldn’t hurt. 😊

I looked at several programs, primarily Long Island CW Club and CW Academy. Attended a couple online sessions with LICW. Finally decided that I really needed the firm structure of established meeting times and established programs to follow. Each class was 8 weeks, 16 sessions. The CW Ops instructors are phenomenal! Roger M10WWB continues to support me today. Roland K7OJL was fantastic with basically a ‘firehose’ of resource material. Mark K5GQ pushed us to do our best and remains very supportive as well to this day.

The following is my abbreviated version of what we covered in each of the three classes.

**Beginner Level:** Sept-Oct 2021 Goal: Recognize all 26 letters, all 10 digits, and the “?”

The groupings and order of characters was roughly: TEAN. OIS14, RHDL, 25?, UC36, MW0, GP, 79 FY, BV, KJ8, and XQZ

We learned that copying the letters and numbers should be your main focus. When copying, hear the letters and numbers like music, do not try to visualize or count the dits and dahs. When sending do not send faster than you can copy.

We used LCWO (Learn CW Online) Morse Trainer. I used external oscillator for practice sending. When using the trainer set character speed 15wpm with 8 wpm Effective speed (Farnsworth 15) and a tone frequency 550-650Hz

It is recommended to start out with paddles versus a straight key, it is much easier to learn the spacing and timing of the code you are sending with paddles. For most folks the left paddle operated by your thumb is dit and the right paddle operated by your index finger is dah.

While learning and practicing limit your sessions to 15 or 20 minutes at most, and breaking at least that long between session.

**Basic Level:** Jan-Feb 2022 Building upon being able to recognize and send the characters learned in the beginner level, the instructed focused on using that knowledge to begin rawchew. CW ragchew allows

you to move from just hearing the characters to actually hearing words, abbreviations and phrases, just like learning a foreign language. We learned to recognize our callsigns, names and the common abbreviations. We also learned how to correct mistakes and eventually got on the air to demonstrate our newly learned skills.

The abbreviations included: Op (short for Name), QTH (2 character for your state/ country), rig, cul, HW?, AGN. The staccato dits 5 to 8 in quick succession means correction coming. Others: 73 BK TU CQ 5NN QRL PSE NIL SRI

The course from CWOps suggests to set the LCWO Settings for character speed: 15wpm, or at a minimum 8wpm. Once you are consistently copying 15wpm or more on 5-letter words, you're ready for the Intermediate Level.

### **Intermediate Level:** June 2022

The intermediate level instructor had a strong focus on competition and speed. Although a serious jump in skill is required, do not be that deterred. Having to copy and send at higher speeds reinforces your learning and tremendously assists with ICR (Instant Character Recognition). While working on my ICR, there were challenges and frustration, but my instructor Mark, patiently guided me. Over time, I realized marked improvement, and it continues as I operate and practice.

Notice I said practice, yes practice, as with any other learned skill it is essential. We need to practice sending and copying every day, to build that ICR for copy and muscle memory for sending. Try to practice sending and copying the two state abbreviations several times during the day at the minimum.

As far as equipment goes, these are some very personal choices. Make sure you get something comfortable for you to operate, you will be spending a lot of time operating this equipment. I like my little red paddle (MFJ-564) for portable work like park activations. I have a heavy 6lb Vibroplex set of paddles on my desk. Club Members, Steve W3SPC and Andre W3PAL have been extremely supportive and helped me "tweak" the paddles so they're at the right tension. "A thin dollar bill between the contacts" is where they are adjusted.

I use a free application on my phone called "Morse Code Ninja" to help me warm up every day, once again using the US state abbreviations. Just select your preferred speed and you are off and practicing.

I love the "Parks on the Air" (POTA) program and I made my first CW QSO while hunting parks. I watched a YouTube video by Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL. While operating at Lake Norman State Park he explained the POTA CW exchange. It was a tremendously helpful video and can be found at the following link: [Parks On The Air \(POTA\) CW exchanges explained - YouTube](#).

Once recurring theme when learning anything in the realm of operating is to listen, listen and listen some more. You want to get a feel for what is going on and how the activator or calling station is operating.

The general exchange between an activator and hunter is similar to the following:

Activator: "CQ CQ CQ POTA DE (Their Call sign) K"

Hunter: "AD3I"

Activator: "AD3i TU or GM UR 5NN 5NN NY NY BK or 73"

Hunter: "RR TU UR 5NN 5NN SC SC BK"

Activator: "RR TU ES AD3i DE (Their Call sign) TU 73 EE"

Hunter: "EE"

Sometimes if the op recognizes you, they'll reply with your call and your name. Be ready to TU and send their name. Courtesy is paramount.

Hunting is one thing; you are only having to deal with the operator you are hunting... Activating CW is another story all together. Don't be afraid to try it, even if it is a failed activation you will learn from the experience. We all know that amateur radio is all about learning. My first CW activation was a very intimidating, frustrating and stressful experience. I had not gotten my radio set up properly, so my rig was running full power on a good antenna set up, meaning I was getting out really well. Getting out really well means you are going to get people calling you back, and I built a pile up. I also had my filters set to 3000Hz and was hearing everything in that range signals and noise versus a very narrow filter. It was a very wild ride. Please note if you are a hunter, when the activator sends QRS, he is asking you to slow down, do so. Again, I learned from this wild ride and completed my first CW activation at Andrew Jackson State Park. It was a great feeling to have the first one done.

Another great way to improve skills and speed is to try contesting. There are several International and national CW only contests every year. You may consider trying to operate in them as a hunter. Some of the contests require a serial number or have an exchange that can be complicated. Operators will use short hand to speed up the contact and try to keep the hourly run rate up. They will use the character N as shorthand for the number 9, or the character T for zero. So just be aware, and listen before you join the fray. That said most of the exchanges are simple a signal report and you state, zone or name. Again, listen for a while and once you have it figured out jump in and pound that brass.

In closing, one additional resource I found invaluable was Kurt Zoglmann, AD0WE's YouTube Channel [Kurt Zoglmann - YouTube](#). He has provided a huge library of copying practice video content on his channel. It is an amazing resource.

Look for me on the air and I will be glad to have a CW QSO with you...

---.. ---"

Vicki Carnes AD3I



## **TEAM K4Y TZ - Does it again!!! The York County Amateur Radio Society wins the Parks on the Air - 2022 Support Your Parks Summer Plaque Event for the second straight year. - J Gendron, NJ4Z**

For the second year in a row Team K4Y TZ wins in the Club Activation category for the Support Your Parks Plaque Event. With 13 Operators in 6 park locations YCARS completed 5,268 QSO's in 48 hours. The club operated under two callsigns to eliminate potential issues with the spotting clusters.

Team K4Y TZ was led by Vicki Carnes, AD3I and Theo Moore K4TTM, and included operators Andy Moran, AA0AM, Harry Mill, KZ1H, Jack Armstrong, KJ4BKI, Sherry Parker, KO4IVQ, Wade Parker KO4IVS and Bill Yoos KW4DN, all of who operated at Chester State Park K-2889. This park has been activated many times by the club and its members. Team K4Y TZ logged an impressive 1,351 QSO from K-2889. The team at Chester utilized two stations, a Yaesu Ft-891 paired with a DX Commander Classic and Xiegu G-90 QRP rig paired with a second DX Commander Classic.

Late Sunday afternoon, as the sands in the hourglass were running out, Vicki made a strategic decision to head to Landsford Canal K-2904. The move paid off as Vicki and Jason Faulhefer K4HEF logged an additional 189 contacts for the team using a FT-891 and the DX Commander antenna.

Wade KO4IVS and Sherry, KO4IVQ also helped Jonathan Panzica, KF7BBU complete his first activation as a ham under the K4Y TZ callsign at the Draper Wildlife Management Area K-3894 before inclement weather forced the team to cease operations. Jonathan logged 25 contacts for the team.

The second team was running under call N4Y TZ consisted of 4 operators. Jim Warren KY4JG logged 33 contacts using an FT-891 from the top of Crowders Mountain, K-3894. It was a strenuous climb and with the heat and humidity of the day, Jim had to cut the activation short for safety reasons.

Steve Czaikowski W3SPC, Darcy Pach K4DQP and John Gendron NJ4Z activated a two'er in North Carolina as N4Y TZ. Setting up camp almost 5000ft in elevation at the Mt Pisgah campground K-4510 on the Blue Ridge Parkway K-3378 with two tow-behind RV's. The team logged 1,837 contacts from each park for the weekend for a total of 3,674 Q's using a Yeasu FT-DX10 and N9SAB off-center fed dipole.

It was an impressive showing for the club more than doubling second place team W5SSV the Jefferson County ARC's (Texas) effort with 2,531 contacts and the third-place team W3GH the SkyView Radio Society from Western Pennsylvania with 1,916 contacts. The club is excited to bring home it's second plaque in two years and to be considered the dominate POTA club in the country. If that weren't enough of the 20 top individual activators in the contest five (25%) of those were YCARS members and part of TEAM K4Y TZ, just an outstanding effort all the way around.

[Award Events](#) / [POTA Plaque Event](#) / 2022 Club

# Club

*Sponsored by N9UNX*

Primary Callsign	QSOs	Parks	Modes	Bands	Operators
K4Y TZ	5268	6	3	5	13
W5SSV	2531	9	2	4	11
W3GH	1916	27	5	8	17
WW3AAA	1783	11	4	7	12
KP4RK	1643	9	3	4	5
WE4DX	1362	9	4	6	8
EA1URP	1301	10	3	5	8
W4BOC	1274	11	5	8	4
W2HRC	525	11	1	5	5
KA1GG	314	1	3	4	6



# YCARS News and Updates

Be YCARS Aware

## **YCARS Supporting the Girl Scouts with Amateur Radio for the Annual "Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend" September 10 – 11, 2022**

Every year, Girl Scouts explore the natural wonders found across our country during the Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend. Girl Scouts nationwide, along with their troops, friends, and families, celebrate our shared love of the outdoors.

This year on September 10-11, 2022 YCARS (York County Amateur Radio Society) is coordinating with rangers from several of South Carolina's parks to perform amateur radio Parks on the Air activations. Confirmed sites are: Andrew Jackson State Park K-2883 and Lee State Park K-2905. There are tentative plans to do the same at Sesquicentennial SP K-2913 and Oconee SP K-2980.

The theme for the girls this year is: "Stewardship, Let's Show The **LOVE!**" YCARS will be provided the first shelter as you enter Andrew Jackson. The park is providing a large screen along with a projector. We'll have laminated maps on the walls, an oscillator for CW, a couple of rigs for the girls to 'Get on The Air'.

The ARRL has a Radio & Wireless Technology Patch Program for Girl Scouts from Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, Seniors, and Ambassadors. There are specific activities they are to complete. Check it out at [www.ARRL.org/Girl-Scouts-Radio-Patch](http://www.ARRL.org/Girl-Scouts-Radio-Patch). Vicki Carnes, AD3I is closely working with Laura Ledford for a couple of simple slides illustrating the girl's requirements for the patch.

If you have any questions, reach out to Vicki at [AD3i@ycars.org](mailto:AD3i@ycars.org)

## **YCARS Fall Club Participation Day**

The fall Club Participation Day is scheduled at the clubhouse Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 08:00 until 12:00. Club members will gather at the club house Saturday morning at 08:00. There are several projects that need completed, including brush removal from the road front hill and additional A/V cabling in the meeting room. You can reach out to Tim Garren, K6FNV [K6FVN@YCARs.org](mailto:K6FVN@YCARs.org) or Hillary Ramsey, AB1CD [AB1CD@YCARS.org](mailto:AB1CD@YCARS.org) for details.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Hill Hamfest to Host the 2022 ARRL SC Section Convention

The 70th Annual Rock Hill Hamfest is fast approaching. We will be hosting the ARRL SC Section Convention this year. On Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> we will need volunteers to help set up the venue and move vendors into the space. We will also need all hands-on deck for the hamfest, to help with ticket sales, parking, vendor relations, food sales, general hospitality and the club table. An e-mail detailing the positions and times will be sent the first week of September,

## YCARS – Welcomes **6** new club members in August and 24 for 2022 – continuing to grow.

Please extend a very warm welcome to all of our new members from August 2022

Name	Call Sign
Brian Smithson	N8WRL
Arthur Neiderfinger	K1LWC
Jerry Brinson	KQ4CUM
James Ridenour	KG4UDW
David Palmer	KG4CSK
Morgan Williams	KB4GFJ

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The York County Amateur Radio Society

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