

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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October 2022 Club Activities

- Every Wednesday 18:00 local – Club open House
- Saturday Oct 1 – VE testing 0930 clubhouse
- Thursday Oct.6, Contest Team 18:00-20:00
- Thursday, Oct 13, Business Meeting clubhouse and virtual 19:30
- Friday Oct 14 – Monthly Simplex Net 146.580MHz – 21:15
- Saturday Oct 15 – Club Picnic Chester State Park pavilion #2
- Thursday, Oct 20, YC ARES Meeting – clubhouse and virtual 19:00
- Thursday Oct 27 October Presentation Meeting – Clubhouse and Virtual 19:30

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 – 2nd 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 looks at cycle 25 and upcoming Dx-peditions in the "From the Hamshack with NJ4Z" column.

John Gendron, NJ4Z takes us through prepping for and executing your own Vacation DX-pedition in our Getting on the Air feature.

The question of how to get those fancy SC Amateur Radio License Plates for your vehicles is answered by Harry Mill, KZ1H. He provides all you need to do to get one of those plates, in our "Ask an Elmer" column.

For the third time in a month, YCARS is prominently featured in an ARRL magazine, website or newsletter. In this month's "YCARS IN ACTION" we reprint the article by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA from the September 22, 2022 ARRL Newsletter. The article details the club's work with the Girl Scouts this past month.

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

10/1 – California QP-
16:00UTC
10/8 – Nevada QP
03:00UTC
10/8 – Arizona QP
15:00UTC
10/8 – Pennsylvania QP
16:00 UTC
10/8 – South Dakota QP
18:00 UTC
10/15 – New York QP -
14:00 UTC
10/16 – Illinois QP 14:00
UTC
10/29 – CQWW SSB -00:00
UTC

Upcoming Local Hamfests

10/8 – Columbia ARC – SC
Military Museum Swap – SC
Military Museum – 1 National
Guard Rd Columbia, SC 0900-
1600h

10/15 – Hartwell Hamfest –
Anderson ARC Darwin Wright
Park, 106 Anderson Beach
Blvd. Anderson, SC 0800h - ??

10/22- Gaffney Hamfest –
CARES – 204 West Oneal St
Gaffney, Sc 07:00 – 15:00

11/12 - 70th 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

Greetings YCARS Family,

It is hard to believe we are in October already. Yeah, I know time flies and time really flies when you are having fun, especially with radio. I know, I have been working DX, a contest or just rag chewing and I look up at the clock and 3 hours have passed like a minute. It has been an exciting summer and now we transition into fall and the contesting season is kicking into high gear with the CQ WW DX contest late this month (Oct. 29-30) and CQ WW CW, and ARRL Sweepstakes (CW and SSB) to follow in November. The conditions for these contests should be good as we are continuing the climb to solar maximum for Cycle 25.

The fall and winter months are also full of interesting upcoming DX expeditions to some pretty rear DX locations culminating in the most anticipated expedition of the last 20-years. The trip being made to Bouvet Island, in the South Atlantic. Currently Bouvet Island (3Y) is the second most wanted DX entity. It is the most remote island on the planet and is not much more than a big glacier covered rock in the middle of nowhere.



The last team (3Y0I) that tried to activate the island in 2019 failed when weather and mechanical issues with the ship, left them just 63 miles off shore. The team had to limp back to Cape Town, South Africa on a broken boat at 3knots taking 24 days to complete the 1600-mile journey home.

The 3Y0J team of 12 operators will be leaving from the Falkland Islands and will be on island if all goes according to plan in January 2023. I wish the 3Y0J team members a safe and successful journey,

I would love to log this entity but this is one of the most inhospitable and dangerous places in the world and I know the pile-ups will be unreal if they make it on island. You can follow the planning and the trip at <https://www.3y0j.no>



I am also looking forward to an activation of my own, more about this a little later in the newsletter.

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

John Gendron, NJ4Z - Editor, YCARS Transmitter

“Getting on the Air”

Helping New Hams Advance

Vacation DX-peditions – J. Gendron, NJ4Z

In 2018, for my 50th birthday Brenda and I decided to head to the islands to celebrate and recharge. Since it was my birthday, I decided to drag a radio along to have a bit of fun while on island. I had an absolute blast working from the house we rented and portable from the beaches of St John, USVI. I also learned many lessons along the way on setting up for a trip like this.



This October and November I will once again be traveling to the island paradise of St. John. I will be on island for 10 days and plan to operate from the house we have rented. This year we are on the beach so no need to breakdown and set up at the beach, like last trip. I will set up one time with 2 or 3 antennas. I am in final planning and testing for the trip. What goes into planning for a trip to operate on vacation? Depends on where you are going and the equipment you are taking.



Licensing

Once you decide on a location for your vacation, the first issue to tackle is licensing. If you are traveling within the US or its territories, it is significantly easier, than going to a foreign country. Inside the US and its territories, you will use your current license and privileges. If you are going to operate in a foreign country, be sure to check to see if you are required to have a license issued by the country to which you are traveling, or if they have an agreement like the CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations) radio-amateur license which allows US licensed Amateurs to operate from most European countries without an additional license or permit for up to 90 days. You will need to have a copy of your FCC license, a FCC Public Notice DA16-1048 and your passport with you. All the species can be found at [CEPT \(arrrl.org\)](https://www.cept.org/). Also check the ARRL website ([International Operating \(arrrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/)) for additional details for operating in other countries. If you are required to apply for an additional license or permit, make sure to do that well before your trip as it may take sometime to get it squared away.

Equipment

Once You make sure you have the correct licensing in place and understand your privileges in the country you are operating from, you can now decide on equipment. What to take, what to take? The obvious answer is radio, antenna, feedline, support, power source, and a way of logging. Make a detailed list of what you plan to take with you. While you are making you list, keep in mind if you have a failure, some places it may be more difficult to find equipment or parts if needed. Even though Amazon is pretty good at getting things places, you may not be able to get what you need when you need it. I adhere to the old adage “Two is one, and one is none.” Better to have spare cables, connectors and other parts. When you are packing to leave and return home, double check all of the items on the list.

Mode of transportation becomes important. If you are flying on an airline, weight and what are carrying for a power source can becomes issue. You will need to make sure it will fit in the bags you plan to take and will meet the requirements for the airlines and the FAA (TSA). Overweight or extra bags are expensive and there are very specific TSA and airline rules for carrying batteries with you. If you are on a ship, make sure you understand and adhere to the rules on the boat.

Transceivers

Small portable or QRP radios are a good bet to take with you. There are a host of solid QRP performance radios. The Icom IC-705, Elecraft KX3, Xegieu X90, X5105, and 6100 are all good candidates. I have a MCHF clone Rescent 918 that I travel with as a backup rig. You can also travel with a full 100watt rig the Yaesu FT-891, FT-991A, FT-DX710, FT-DX10 are all small enough to travel with as well as the ICOM IC-7300. Older rigs like the IC-706, IC-7100, Yeasu FT-857, FT-897 and the Kenwood TS-480S and TS-480HX are all solid performers for portable work. I have travelled with the IC-7300 and the FT-DX10. I will be taking the FT-DX10 with me on this trip. No matter the radio, remember if it has a lithium chemistry battery in it you are going to have to carry it with you on board. The maximum allowable carry-on batter is 100Wh or less. See the FAA website for details [Pack Safe – Batteries, lithium \(faa.gov\)](#). You will also want to make sure the radio is protected, a good hard-side travel case or protective soft-side case in another bag will work well. For hard-side travel cases, I have a Seahorse brand case. Pelican and Apache are to other reputable brands.



Seahorse Case packed for travel

Power Source(s)

If you are staying in a house that will afford you mains power for operation, a small lightweight switch power supply will work fine. The Powerwerx SS-30DV(DM) and the Alinco DM-330MVT are good choices. I carry a Powerwerx ss-30DV. For portable work small lithium batteries like the 6AH 12v batteries from Dakota Power or Bioenno Power are good but will not drive a 100w rig for long. If you bring a battery don't forget the charger. Another option is if you have a vehicle available, you could always make up a well fused cable that will attach the car battery and then to radio and accessories. When I was on St John in 2018, I contacted the local ham club and asked if I could ship in a couple of gel-cell 20AH batteries, that I could leave on island for them to use at the end of the trip. They agreed, so I sent two 20AH 12v gel-cells and a charging unit to the island used them for 2 weeks. The day before I left, I took them by the club and donated them.

Antenna(s)

Small lightweight antennas are a must for vacation DX trips. I have had super luck with simple wire antennas and verticals. In 2018 I took a prototype of the DX Commander Expedition antenna and worked it from several different beaches. Even with less than fair propagation I was successful in putting many Q's in the log. I also took a 6-40 Carolina windom antenna and it worked fairly well. There were serious amounts of electrical noise where I was operating that antenna so it was not as prolific as the Expedition. This trip I am taking the Expedition, a new 10-40meter OCF dipole and a 10-40 half-wave end fed antenna, both produced by Tim Ortiz, N9SAB. Link to Tim's store [N9SAB HF Ham Radio Antenna | eBay Stores](#). This guy produces some great antennas. I also have the 135' OCF dipole that is 10-80meters and we used that antenna for both field day and the Parks on the Air plaque event this summer. To support the end fed and OCF dipole I am also taking a very light weight and small package 7-meter telescoping mast from SotaBeams. [Tactical 7000hds 23ft \(7m\) compact heavy duty antenna mast \(sotabeams.co.uk\)](#) it worked great in the islands in 2018.



N9SAB HW end-fed 10-40M and OCF dipole 10-40M

Just be sure, whatever antenna you take you have a plan and the material for setting it up and securing it. In 2018, I found out how hard it is to anchor a vertical mast in the sand with tent stakes. Setting up and testing all of your equipment before you leave is key.

Feedline

As the case with most portable operations, you can use short runs of lightweight and small diameter coax. Since I am traveling via airline weight is a concern so I use fifty-foot runs of RG-58 coax with UHF connectors. Make sure to have to a spare cable, because it may be the most difficult thing to replace, besides your radio. Also be sure to have an array of couplers, adapters, etc. to make connections.

Supports and Accessories

Most modern radios have a built in ATU that will match most antennas that present a 3:1 SWR. The need for an external tuner is minimal, if you are using good antennas. Also as stated earlier testing of your antennas and set-up will tell you if you should need an external tuner. I would suggest unless absolutely necessary for go that extra weight and bulk.

Make sure to have your hardware and cordage to secure your antenna. Paracord, stakes and maybe an arborist throw bag to get antennas into trees are good ideas to take. You may even procure the cordage and stakes at your destination to minimize what you are packing.

I like to operate with a headset when on vacation. It minimizes the noise to others around you and it helps to knock down noise that will make it difficult to copy stations. My preference is the Heil PSE 6 headsets, they are small enough to travel with, comfortable to wear and do a good job knocking down ambient noise. They also rock on TX audio. Dr. Bob builds some great stuff.

I also carry a small noise filter and homebrew common mode current choke. The noise filter is a Palomar Engineers CMNF-500 [Home - Palomar Engineers® \(palomar-engineers.com\)](http://palomar-engineers.com). The Common Mode choke is an 18inch piece of RG-8X coax with six type 31, snap ferrite beads secured to it with self-amalgamating tape.

Logging Equipment

Most of us travel with a laptop or table along with our phones, so just make sure to have logging software like N3FJP, N1MM, Hamers, LogOS, etc. loaded. Also, you can go old school and use paper and pencil/pen.

Additional Advice

First and foremost, have fun, it is vacation after all. Spend time with your love ones and friends, see the sites and enjoy where you are. Don't let radio become the trip. The pile-ups are fun, but that walk on the beach at sunset or through the woods, that tour of a historic site or just a meal with others is way more important than the rig and Q's.

If you are going somewhere rear and unique, let other hams know. You can build some monstrous pile-ups for a rear DX entity, island or park. The park I am activating is K-0066 Virgin Island National Park. It has only been activated seven times by myself (5) and two other hams.

It should gain me some great pile-ups to work. Additionally, K-0968 US VI Coral Reef National Monument has never been activated and I may try it late in the trip. There is one place the park and monument meet. There are plenty of social media pages and websites dedicated to DXpeditions and activations.

One last piece of advice, while you are packing make a list of the contents of your equipment in your luggage and carry-ons. Also have a copy of your license, with that list in all bags. If you are carrying electronics, wire coax and other items chances are the TSA or customs is going to look in that bag, expect it. You will get a nice note that it was inspected. That will let them know what it is and why you have it. If TSA or other security asks questions be polite and answer them nicely.

That's it for now, I look forward to hearing you on the air from St John (K-0066) USVI de NP2/NJ4Z... from Francis Bay. 73 and great DX.



Maho Beach, St John USVI View from Operating Position

"Ask an Elmer"

Ham Radio Advice and Answers

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 –

Harry Miller, KZ1H answers the question of how to obtain your Amateur Radio Vanity license plate in SC.

After getting my amateur radio license and joining YCARS, I noticed that a good many club members had vehicle license tags displaying their radio call sign. As a result, I decided to obtain one myself. I entered this endeavor with some trepidation, given that I'd be dealing with the SC DMV. To my surprise, I found the process to be fairly easy and very inexpensive. This article is for those of you who haven't yet gotten your own Ham vanity license plate. Here's the process for South Carolina:

First go to <https://www.scdmvonline.com/Forms-And-Manuals>. Once there, scroll down to the section labeled "License Plate Forms". Find Form MV-96, entitled "Application for Personalized License Plate", click on it, and a copy will be downloaded to your computer. Print it out and follow these steps:

Place a check mark in the box labeled "Specialty Personalized". Then complete the section just below it labeled "Customer Information". The "Total Fees" box in this section should be filled in with "\$2.00". (Yes, the fee for an SC Amateur vanity plate is only \$2.00. In my case, I did not have to pay the additional "Regular Registration Fee" because my property taxes had been paid and my current license tag was still valid. I think the same would apply to you, but if that's not so, I'm sure the DMV will let you know.)

Next complete the sections labeled "Vehicle Information", "Donate Life SC" (optional), and "Insurance Information". Then sign in the "Certification" section. Finally, go to the last section, labeled "Personalized Plate Information", where you MUST "...explain the meaning or relevance of text requested". On my application I wrote, "The requested text is my amateur radio call sign, as issued by the FCC." Finally, check the box beside "Amateur Radio Call Letters" and fill in your call sign.

You MUST attach an official copy of your FCC license and a check for \$2.00 made out to SC DMV. That's it.... Just mail it all to the address at the top of the form.

Once the DMV approves your application, they'll mail you your new vanity tag, registration card, and decal. However, there's one last step you'll need to complete:

AFTER you receive your vanity tag, go back to <https://www.scdmvonline.com/Forms-And-Manuals> and once again scroll down to the section labeled "License Plate Forms". Find Form 452, "Application to Replace License Plate or Expiration Year Decal". Click on it and a copy of that form will be downloaded to your computer. You can then print it and follow these steps:

Fill in the required information in Section I. Then go to Section II and place check marks in the boxes marked "License Plate", "Registration", "Exchanged for Special Plate", and "Voluntary Turn In (owner retained plate)". (Note that there is no need to physically return the plate, but I suggest that you send in your old registration card with the form.) Skip Sections III and V (there is no Section IV) and go to Section VI, where you'll print your name, then sign and date. Mail the completed form and your old registration card to the DMV address at the top of the form.

That's all you need to do to get your own SC amateur radio vanity plate! This process worked for me, and I trust it will work for you as well. I hope these instructions help you to successfully complete the process.



Girl Scouts Receive ARRL Radio and Wireless Technology Patches – reprinted from ARRL 9/22/22 Newsletter

Steve Goodgame, K5ATA.

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, the York County Amateur Radio Society (YCARS) in Rock Hill, South Carolina, helped 22 Girl Scouts earn their ARRL Radio and Wireless Technology patch.

Created in 2016, the [Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program](#) offers Girl Scouts opportunities to learn about wireless technology, including amateur radio. Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in activities that help them gain knowledge and skills in careers and subjects that involve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The program activity was part of the Girl Scouts Love State Parks annual event. YCARS Outreach Coordinator Vicki Carnes, AD3I, and six other club members presented the program. Other amateur radio operators were available to help the Girl Scouts get on the air and communicate using amateur radio.

Carnes said some of the most enjoyed activities included a hands-on demonstration of Lenz's law that used copper tubing and a magnet, making and using tin cans with string telephones, and coding and decoding words using the phonetic alphabet. The breakdown for the Girl Scouts participating were: 11 Brownies, four Juniors, four Cadettes, two Seniors, and one Ambassador.

Carnes said YCARS is very involved in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), and it was an honor to play a small part in these Girl Scouts' journeys through Girl Scouts of the USA. Engaging their members by getting involved with ARES, Girl Scouts, and other charitable organizations is just one way that YCARS serves its community. Read "Club Station" in the September 2022 issue of QST for



Girl Scouts listen to information about amateur radio at YCARS event. (Vicki Carnes, AD3I, photo)

more information about how YCARS has rebuilt itself into being an active club, and other ways that they engage their membership by way of public service.

"ARRL is eager to encourage opportunities to involve scouts with ham radio," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. "Congratulations to YCARS and the Girl Scouts for an outstanding activity," he added.

YCARS News and Updates

Be YCARS Aware

YCARS Club Picnic

The YCARS Club Family Picnic will be held October 15th noon until 3pm at Chester State Park pavilion #2. Club members are asked to bring a side to share. The club will be providing soft drinks and meats. More details to follow in an e-mail to members in the next few days. Please save the date and bring the family out to enjoy a day with the YCARS family.

POSTPONED: 70th Annual Rock Hill Hamfest to Host the 2022 ARRL SC Section Convention until November 12, 2022

The 70th Annual Rock Hill Hamfest is fast approaching. We will be hosting the ARRL SC Section Convention this year. On Friday Nov. 11th 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 on the 12th.

YCARS member Linda Fox, KM4GSF featured in ARRL's On the Air Magazine...

YCARS's very own Linda, KM4GSF was featured in the "Up Close" column for the Sept/Oct 2022 issue of On the Air. It was a great article and provides insight into one of our great members. As a bonus Vicki, AD3I was also pictured with Linda during a joint POTA activation. Congratulations Linda, what a great write up.



Linda, KM4GSF left and Vicki, AD3I right

YCARS – Be Your Best Ham Shirts – still a limited number available.

The club still has a limited number of the “Be Your Best Ham” t-shirts available for purchase at a price of \$20.00. Please see John Gendron, NJ4Z, e-mail nj4z@ycars.org. to purchase one.



YCARS – Welcomes 7 new club members in September and 31 for 2022 – continuing to grow.

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

Name	Call Sign
Devin Holland	KQ4DAE
Richie Lax	KJ4IEP
Walter Corbett	KQ4CTU
Steven Capper	K9SMC
Edward Cheek	KM4MMD
Anthony Cardarini	N7PWN
Marty Anzalone	KC2WWZ

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