



# CARS CONNECTION

CHEROKEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MAGAZINE  
JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE 29



**Warm Up For Winter Field Day!**





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Marty Buehring - KB4MG**

Welcome to the new year for the CARS Club! 2025 was certainly a great year for this club, and as members we have the opportunity to make 2026 even better!

The Holiday Party was terrific. A huge thanks to **James James (KE4HMS)**, who organized the event and took great care to provide the main course and drinks. Congratulations to those who received an award for your service and/or participation for 2025. Lee Hall has an article in this issue covering the event, so be sure to read it.

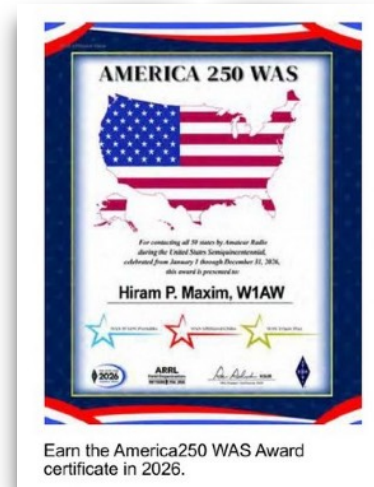
The technical training for 2026 may look a little different. Based on your feedback we have pursued some guest speakers that we feel would continue to grow the base of knowledge of this club. Last year we had a focus on some deep topics that gave us a better appreciation for the many skills we should have as amateur operators. When you think about it, we have to be knowledgeable about propagation, antennas, operation of our rigs, computers, programming our rigs, understanding both voice and digital modes, as well as on-air etiquette. Our programs in 2025 fulfilled most of these goals with our monthly presentations and optional workshops.

Skills separate "operators" from "appliance users". CARS is all about

building the skills you need to be the best operator possible. In 2026 we want to continue with speakers that will help you understand more about how our radios perform and how they are programmed. Further we want to expand on the use of small computers for amateur radio projects and applications. We have looked for guest speakers that will add new knowledge to our club. As always, we will work in some ARES training topics that are informative and useful to everyone.

We will be looking for a new antenna project for this year. A big part of this hobby is being familiar with antennas. This can be as simple as choosing the right antenna for your situation to actually designing and building your own. There are many more skills to be learned, so we will continue this learning path in 2026.

## YEAR OF THE CLUB



As we told you last year, ARRL has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club. The January issue of "QST" explains more about what this means. Our participation will be to enter both our club website and newsletter in the ARRL contest. We think we excel in both categories and hope we are chosen to be featured club. Winners will be announced in

May and awards given in August at the Huntsville Hamfest.

The "league" is also sponsoring a Worked All States (WAS) contest honoring the 250th Anniversary of the USA. You must work all 50 states in 2026 to qualify for the award. They need to be uploaded to LoTW for credit.

## WINTER FIELD DAY

I encourage members to attend Winter Field Day this year. We hope the weather will be warmer, but if it is not, we will be prepared. This is an event that stresses emergency communications and thus only allows modes that can interchange traffic. In that vein, FT4 and FT8 are not allowable modes, however JS8CALL is allowed. We will talk more about the event at the January meeting and provide more details. If you are a new ham or just inexperienced, this is a good chance to build some skills. The dates are January 24-25 and the exchange is like the ARRL summer Field Day. Stations that operate as class "O", which stands for outdoors, have a bigger multiplier. Our location in the barn qualifies for this category.

I'm excited about 2026 and the opportunities before us. There are conversations happening with other clubs in the metro area about what should be done with ham fests, tech fests and the like, so that all clubs can participate and make them a huge success. We are also working to interest schools in Cherokee County to support an ARISS contact. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Make it a New Year resolution to learn more about amateur radio, participate in the club and its activities, and help others where you can.

73,  
Marty - KB4MG



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CARS Calendar

- Jan. 10** CARS monthly meeting. 10am.  
William G. Long Senior Center, Woodstock.
- Jan. 17-19** [January VHF Contest](#)
- Jan 24-25** Winter Field Day at Rob Long Farm in Taylorsville, Georgia
- Jan. 31** [GARS TechFest](#), Gwinnett Co. Fairgrounds, Lawrenceville
- Feb. 14** CARS monthly meeting and New Hams Luncheon
- Feb. 13-15** [ORLANDO Ham-Cation](#)
- Feb. 21-22** International DX Contest - CW
- Mar. 7-8** International DX Contest - SSB
- Mar. 14** Georgia State ARES Meeting, Forsyth, Ga.
- April 18** World Amateur Radio Day
- May 15-17** Dayton HamVention, Xenia, Ohio
- Jun 27-28** Field Day (Location TBA)
- Aug 22-23** Huntsville HamFest, Huntsville, Ala.

## Recurring events:

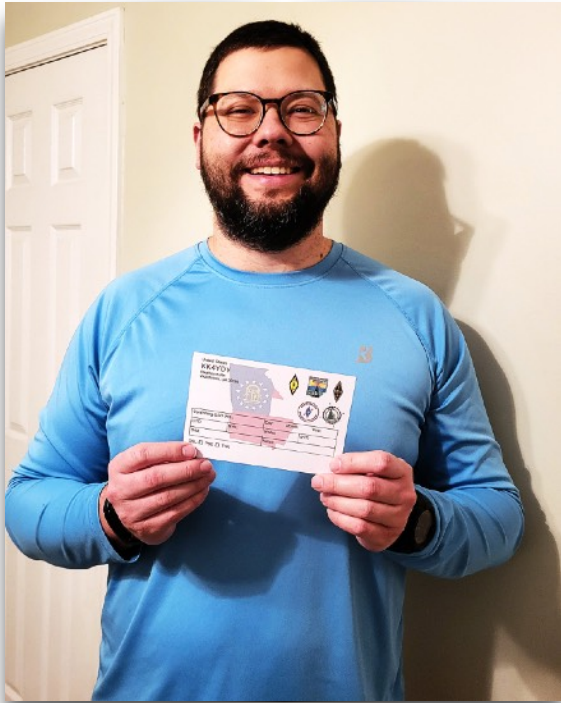
**Mondays @ 8pm.** Cherokee ARES net on WA4EOC repeater (145.19, non-standard plus offset of 2.26. PL tone 173.8). Backup repeater is K4SJR (146.70, minus offset. PL tone 123.0) Check in via voice, D-STAR, DMR, Winlink, D-RATS.

**Thursdays @ 8pm.** CARS Net on KG4VUB repeater (145.27, minus offset, PL tone 100.0)



# KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE: THE CASE FOR MAILED QSL CARDS

By Stephen Kuhn - KK4YDY



QSL Cards are a long-standing tradition in ham radio. However, just like everything in the 21st century, the practice has been “enhanced” by computers and the internet. Today, many ham radio operators trade QSL cards digitally via online services.

I will admit that I grow tired of everything being on the internet or somehow connected to it. So I posed the following question to myself: “Is it worth sending QSL cards the old-fashioned way, through the mail?”

I had an exciting opportunity this year, recording a full sweep on the 13 Colonies Special Event, which meant I was eligible to request all of the QSL cards from each station, including ones in Great Britain and France. I decided after the event that I would try and get all of the QSL cards.

## ME FIRST

First, I needed to create a card for my own station. I did this using an ink jet printer and blank post cards. This will upset some people because post cards are not the official size of QSL cards, but I was on a mission, and I was running out of time.

I gathered all of the QSL manager info for each event station from [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com). Many will have notes or requirements, and I had to make sure to pay attention to what each manager needed. Almost everyone will ask for a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope). You will take this envelope and the filled-out QSL card and put it in another envelope and send that to the QSL manager. What you will get in return is your SASE envelope with their QSL card inside.

## THE RESULT

So how did it go? I got all of the event cards! What did I learn? You need to be patient. I ended up not getting K2I for weeks. I finally reached out to the QSL manager via an email address I found on QRZ, sent a short message and, I kid you not, the next day the card showed up in my mailbox. Lesson learned, I will be more patient next time.

I had a blast. I found myself checking the mailbox every day, a task I usually hate because nothing cool comes in the mail anymore. I really enjoyed writing all of the details on the envelopes, putting



the stamps on and preparing all the cards. One of the things I like about radio is the non-internet-based communication. The internet is great for so many things, but in 2026, it has become a commodity. I loved communicating via the timeworn method of pen and paper. I am not the type to write a letter and mail it. It provides no purpose to me. However, the QSL card, having discrete fields, the fact that it is in post card format to make it as efficient to mail as possible, and the concept of sending usable data to someone else via the mail system strongly resonated with me.

I am hooked to say the least. Snail-mail QSLing has earned a permanent place in my ham radio toolbox. It’s tangible, personal, and, most of all, deeply aligned with what amateur radio is about: making meaningful connections.





# CARS OFFICERS PRESENT AWARDS TO TOP CLUB PARTICIPANTS

ARRL has designated 2026 as the "Year of the Club," in recognition that clubs provide the backbone of the amateur radio hobby. And clubs are nothing without participation of their members.

At the 2025 CARS Holiday Party, several members received special recognition for their support of and involvement in the club in 2025:

SSB Operator of the Year	Shawn Walsh	K4ZRI
CW Operator of the Year	Dudley Henderson	N4CDH
Digital Operator of the Year	Lynn Day	W4DAY
ARES Operator of the Year	Rod Atwell	KO4PWB
Rookie Operator of the Year	Ric Donato	KQ4TDF
Outstanding Rookie Operator	Dee Martin	K4DLG
Outstanding Rookie Operator	Bruce Alden	N4ALD
Outstanding POTA Operator	Ed Boyett	KB4SYV
Food Service Award	Eva Gillett	KO4STL
Newsletter Service Award	Carmon Madison	KQ4JIO
Newsletter Service Award	Lee Hall	K4QO
Volunteer Examiner Award	John/Cheri Reynolds	W4TXA/K4TXA

The **Mark Schulze Service Award** goes to the CARS member earning the most participation points during the year. Points may be earned for attending club meetings, checking in at weekly nets, teaching a workshop, presenting at a monthly meeting or writing an article for the newsletter. The award is presented in memory of longtime CARS supporter **Mark Schulze (KO4IFY-SK)**, who died in 2024.

The 2025 award goes to **Jason Turnage (KO4NDP)**. In addition to a plaque, he received a \$100 gift certificate from DX Engineering.

Other top points-earning members in 2025 include **Bruce Barkley (K4OTX)**, **Tony Drake (KC4OBY)**, **Warren McCluer (AI4AK)**, **Stan Ham (WB9GFA)**, **Michael Hagerty (KG4FXS)**, **Alan DiGiovanni (KA4LTC)**, **Bob Cheek (N4RFC)**, and **Jonathan Price (KM4ZHZ)**.



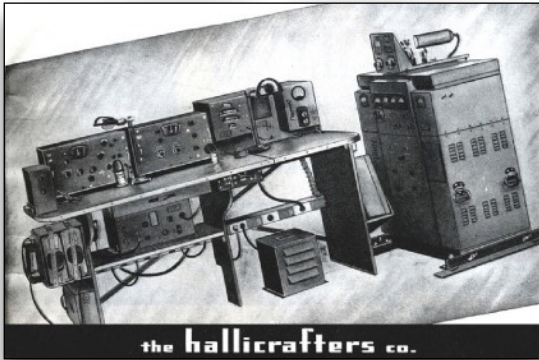


# CARS OFFICERS PRESENT AWARDS TO TOP CLUB PARTICIPANTS (CONT)





# HOW A HALLICRAFTERS TRANSMITTER HELPED WIN THE WAR: THE STORY OF THE BC-610



The Hallicrafters HT-4 radio transmitter, later standardized by the U.S. Army Signal Corps as the BC-610, became one of the most important long-range communication systems used by American forces in the European Theater. Designed originally as a high-power civilian transmitter, its durability, output strength, and reliability made it ideal for wartime operations. The large, cabinet-style transmitter (like the one shown below, with its prominent front panel and multiple control banks) served as a backbone for strategic and tactical communications, linking headquarters, support units, and frontline elements over enormous distances.



Across Europe, during the Normandy breakout, the race across France, and the bitter winter fighting in Belgium, BC-610 stations enabled commanders to coordinate movements, reroute supply columns, and maintain real-time command control even when

telephone lines were destroyed. Its range also made it invaluable to medical and support units operating far outside the reach of conventional field radios. One documented example occurred on August 9, 1944. Captain Peter Volpe of the 76th Medical Battalion used long-range radio to request whole blood for severely wounded soldiers during the fighting near Brest, France. The request, sent through a BC-610 station, resulted in a successful parachute drop marked by fluorescent ground panels, an operation that would have been impossible without high-power radio.

The real power of the HT-4/BC-610 lay not only in its engineering but in the skill of the Signal Corps operators, radio technicians, and medical officers who relied on it under combat conditions. These transmitters kept dispersed units connected, sustained medical evacuation networks, and enabled lifesaving supplies to reach the wounded. In the European campaign, where speed, coordination, and communication often determined survival, the HT-4 stood quietly at the center of the Allied advance, proving that technology and human ingenuity together could change the course of battle.

*[Editor's note: Al Sims is the son of Surgical Technician, John Sims, of the 76th Medical Battalion]*



# GET TO KNOW...

## DUDLEY HENDERSON - N4CDH

**CARS IS A VIBRANT AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY, WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS REGULARLY. TO FOSTER CONNECTIONS, WE'LL PERIODICALLY SPOTLIGHT A MEMBER THROUGH A BRIEF Q&A. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE FEATURED OR HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND, [PLEASE LET US KNOW](#).**

**What is your name, callsign and license classification?** Dudley Henderson, N4CDH, General Class

**How long have you been licensed?** I've been licensed for 30 years, but have only been active about five years.

**What modes do you operate?** Most of my radio time is in CW. Although I passed the CW test when I was licensed in 1996, I did not get on the air except for local repeaters. On an invitation to a POTA outing, I watched **Jason KO4NDP** do CW and I was hooked.

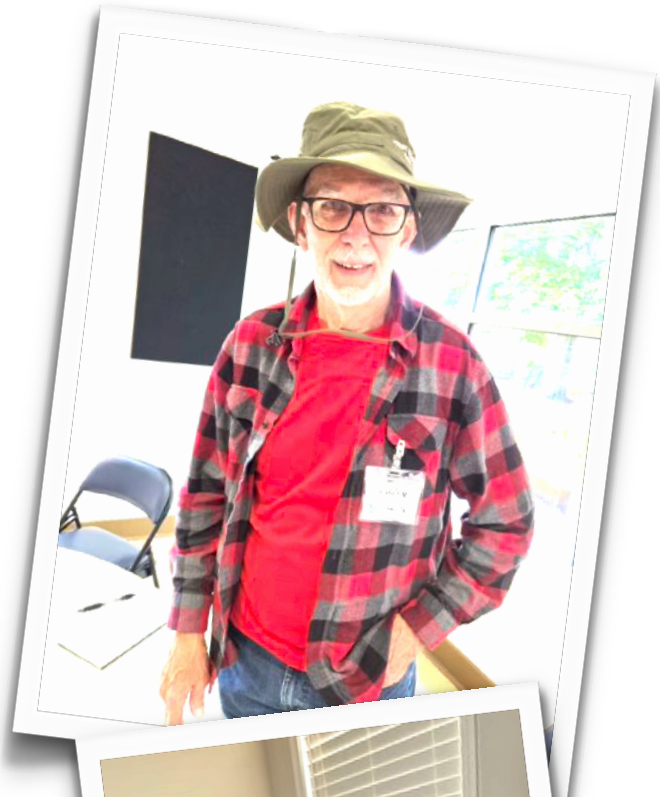
**What are some of your most memorable experiences with amateur radio?** I became interested in ham radio while in dental school, but did not have the time to pursue it. In 1974, after five years of practice, my wife, Mona, our two children and I moved to Nepal to work in missions for 18 years. There, even though I was not licensed, I had my most memorable experience with amateur radio. A Catholic priest, **Father Marshall Moran, 9N1MM**, was a patient of mine and invited me to his shack outside of Kathmandu. It was a special treat to watch him operate. He was no doubt one of the most sought-after contacts at that time, as he was the only amateur operator in Nepal. He loved to give his call as 9N1Micky Mouse. Getting to play radio and CW on Field Day is a close second.

**How long have you been a member of CARS?** I joined CARS August 2023.

**What is one piece of advice you would offer a new ham?** Look into all the many facets of amateur radio and find the one or more that interest you the most and enjoy, but don't stop learning as the hobby seems to have no end.

**What do you like to do outside of ham radio?** I became an avid biker while living in Taiwan from 2011 to 2023, and though riding a bike in the states is more dangerous than in Taiwan, I still ride 2-3 times a week. I have been thinking of a small QRP rig for my bicycle, but I haven't figured the antenna part yet. Mona and I

are enjoying exploring our new home, Georgia. We are both active in Woodstock City Church and enjoy outings with our small study group. There are so many things I enjoy, and that is slowing down my progress in improving CW.





# WINTER FIELD DAY: JANUARY 24-25

Just a few days to go before 2026 Winter Field Day. We'll assemble once again at the Rob Long Farm in Taylorsville in hopes of topping last year's event, which totaled over 1,100 contacts over the weekend. Check the club website, [wx4car.org](http://wx4car.org), for late breaking information on workshops, activities, food and more.



## CAN YOU ID THIS FAMOUS HAM?

The person pictured here was a noted actor, writer, director and comedian, who was licensed as a teenager, long before he got into show business.

"When I was 13, I had a ham radio set (true!), so I could sit in my room and talk to people the world-over," he tweeted in 2011. "Geeky? Or just ahead of my time!!?"

Born in Chicago, he was best known for his work on two popular TV programs, including "**The Larry Sanders Show**" on HBO. He also appeared in several films including "**Ironman 2**" and "**The Jungle Book.**"

Throughout his career, he received 19 Primetime Emmy nominations (he won five), and two Golden Globe nods.

Figured it out yet? The man behind the mic was comedian **Garry Shandling, KQ6KA-SK**. Shandling died of an apparent heart attack in 2016 at the age of 66.





# CONTESTING

## CONTEST CORNER JANUARY 2026

### ARRL RTTY Roundup

1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4

### ARRL Kids Day

1800Z-2359Z, Jan 3

### North American QSO Party, CW

1800Z, Jan 10 to 0559Z, Jan 11

### North American QSO Party, SSB

1800Z, Jan 17 to 0549Z, Jan 18

### ARRL January VHF Contest

1900Z, Jan 17 to 0359Z, Jan 19

### CQ 160m Contest, CW

2200Z, Jan 23 to 2200Z, Jan 25

### Winter Field Day

1600Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 25



For all of your Amateur Radio needs, CARS recommends [DX Engineering](http://DXEngineering.com).

## DXPEDITION NEWS



AU7RS, Agatti Island - Jan 10-22 , 160-10m



3G0XQ, San Ambrosio - Jan 1- Feb 15  
2026 - 160-6m CW, SSB, FT8



OX7A, Greenland - January 2026, 80-6m CW, SSB





# RESOURCE LINKS

**Website** - <https://www.wx4car.org>

**Contact Us** - <https://www.wx4car.org/contact-us.html>

**Membership** - <https://www.wx4car.org/membership-form.html>

**CARS Club Technical Programs** - <https://www.wx4car.org/technical-monthly-programs.html>

**Club Activities** - <https://www.wx4car.org/club-activities.html>

**POTA Corner** - <https://www.wx4car.org/pota-corner.html>

**ARRL FIELD DAY** - <https://www.wx4car.org/field-day.html>

**Ham Fests** - <https://www.wx4car.org/amateur-radio-events.html>

**CARS Groups.io** - <https://groups.io/groups>

**ARRL Testing Info** - <https://www.wx4car.org/testing2023.html>

**New Ham Kit** - [https://www.wx4car.org/uploads/8/3/7/7/83773582/wx4cars\\_intro\\_to\\_new\\_ham\\_s-7apr2021.pdf](https://www.wx4car.org/uploads/8/3/7/7/83773582/wx4cars_intro_to_new_ham_s-7apr2021.pdf)

**Ham License Upgrading** - <https://www.wx4car.org/obtaining-a-license.html>

**Technician Ham Cram Study Guide** - [https://www.wx4car.org/uploads/8/3/7/7/83773582/2022-2026\\_technician\\_pool\\_study\\_guide.pdf](https://www.wx4car.org/uploads/8/3/7/7/83773582/2022-2026_technician_pool_study_guide.pdf)

**Club Apparel** - <https://www.hamthreads.com>

**CARS Club Badges** - <https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/carsga.html>

**POTA Supplies** - <https://www.clubgearonline.com>

## CONTESTING LINKS

**ARRL Contest Calendar** - <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

**Contesting Calendar** - <http://www.contesting.com/>

**CQ Contest Calendar** - [http://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar/](http://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/)

**SolarHam Site** - <http://www.solarham.net/index.htm>

**Space Weather** - <http://www.spaceweatherwoman.com/>

**Contest Calendar** - <https://www.contestcalendar.com>

## OTHER LINKS

**ARRL** - <http://www.arrl.org>

**Sky Warn** - <http://skywarn.org>

**QSO Today** - <http://qsotoday.com>

**Cherokee EMA** - <http://cherokeega-ema.org>

**Georgia ARES** - <https://www.gaares.org>

**Ham Radio Work Bench** - <http://hamradioworkbench.com>

**On All Bands** - <https://www.onallbands.com>





# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cherokee Amateur Radio Society is to promote the hobby of amateur radio to the Cherokee County residents and surrounding communities. It primarily serves to provide education, FCC testing, public service, and fellowship to people with the common interest of amateur radio.

Cherokee Amateur Radio Society is an organization of FCC licensed amateur radio operators (also called Hams) that meet and share the hobby, educate people about amateur radio, as well as support our local community in times of disaster. We are located in Cherokee County, Georgia and have club call sign WX4CAR. We are an ARRL Affiliated Club.

The club also participates with ARES, and the Cherokee County EOC when severe weather gets close to the area, and we help with local public service projects. The members of the club also dedicate some of their time to promote and help new hams to develop their skills and knowledge on Amateur communications modes and to be better operators. We are a very active club and participate in ARRL Field Day every year. If you are located in Cherokee County or the surrounding area, we would like to invite you to participate.

## CARS OFFICERS FOR 2024:

**President:** Martin Buehring - KB4MG

**Vice President:** Chad Cone - KY4KP

**Secretary:** Stephen Kuhn - KK4YDY

**Treasurer:** James James - KE4HMS

**Cherokee County Emergency Coordinator:**

Rob Bruderer - W1JKU

**Email:** [wx4car.club@gmail.com](mailto:wx4car.club@gmail.com)

**Time & Location of Meetings:**

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 am Eastern Time.

**William G. Long Senior Center**

**223 Arnold Mill Road**

**Woodstock, Georgia 30188**

Our meetings are open to all visitors. You do not need to be a member or have a license to attend. Come for the fellowship and technical programs. We also have a combined ARES meeting at the same time. ARRL FCC Testing is at 1:00PM following the meeting.

**Newsletter Team:**

**Editor:** Lee Hall - K4QO

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