



CHEROKEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

# WX4CAR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025 | ISSUE 24





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Marty Buehring - KB4MG**

This month we will have another **New Ham's Luncheon**. Remember when you were new to the hobby? How did you first feel? Were you afraid to ask what you thought was a stupid question? We needed a forum where people feel safe to ask questions they have about the hobby, the club, or related topics.

This is a reason for the club to spend our time and resources helping new hams get engaged in this hobby as well as our club. At the heart of the club's continued growth and relevance is the tradition of mentorship: the passing of knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm from experienced operators to newcomers. If you have been a ham less than two years, you are "new". Even hams returning to the hobby after a number of years are really "new" to it again. You are welcome to join this group of new Hams.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING

Ham radio is, by its nature, a technical pursuit. Newcomers encounter a maze of regulations, equipment choices, operational procedures, and unfamiliar jargon. While self-study and formal courses help, nothing replaces the value of a knowledgeable mentor guiding a beginner through their first transmissions and troubleshooting their initial challenges. Field Day is one such event where we get a chance to do that, but we will have an upcoming fall picnic where we will be doing two activities: 1) Simulated emergency test (SET), and 2) Parks On The Air (POTA) activation.

### How can we help new Hams in their pursuit of this hobby?

• **Preserving Traditions and Skills:**

Much of ham radio's rich heritage—its etiquette, technical tricks, and unique culture—relies on oral transmission and hands-on experience. Mentors can ensure these traditions persist, adapting them as technology advances. Making the first contact on HF can be intimidating, but a good mentor helps to ease the anxiety.

• **Building Confidence:** Many new operators feel overwhelmed by the scope of knowledge or nervousness about making mistakes on-air. Having an experienced mentor develops confidence and encourages experimentation.

• **Promoting Community:** Mentoring creates bonds that extend beyond radio circuits. It forms the foundation of local clubs, emergency response teams, and international friendships. The sense of belonging is often what keeps

newcomers engaged for life. This is the life-blood of our club, and we all have responsibility to be mentors to the newcomers.



Mentoring can come in many forms. Every new ham has different needs. Be sure to ask them what parts of the hobby they want to pursue and help guide them in that direction. If you have the ability to do so, maybe invite them to your "shack" and see what your station looks like and how it operates. This will often answer a lot of questions.

If you can help them build a project, like an antenna. This is a great way to teach them about how antennas work and how to safely deploy them.

There will be more events in 2025 where new hams can be mentored. As we approach Fall and cooler weather, there will be more opportunities to have a POTA activation. Invite a new ham to join you on this adventure.

As new members become more competent, they become the teachers for next group of newcomers. This is how we build a healthy and relevant club. Hope you will choose to help someone you meet.

73,

**Marty - KB4MG**

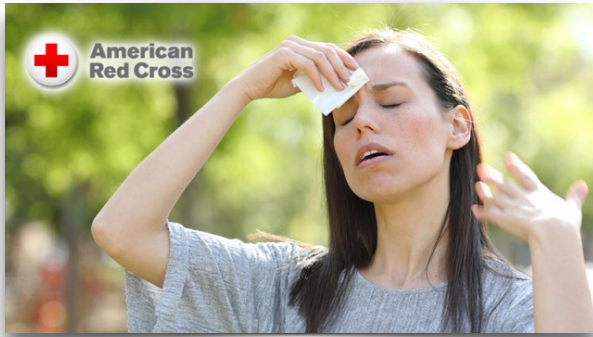




# TOO HOT TO HANDLE: STAYING SAFE WHEN GEORGIA TURNS UP THE HEAT

By Lee Hall - K4QO

Living in Georgia, we need to be prepared for the very real threats posed by extreme heat. The all-time record high temperature in Atlanta is 106, set back in June 2012. Although we haven't surpassed that this summer, recent heat indices have come pretty close.



The combination of heat and humidity is a constant threat during outside activities. Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

My son works as an auxiliary police volunteer for Woodstock PD. He told me they treated several people for heat exhaustion at the Josh Turner outdoor concert last month.

Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. The American Red Cross says older adults, young children, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat.

Avoiding the problem is pretty straightforward: drink a lot of fluids and avoid alcohol and caffeine. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and try to stay out of direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Stay indoors when you can. If you feel dizzy, weak, or overheated, go to a cool place. Sit or lie down, drink water, and wash your face with cool water. If you don't feel better soon, get medical help.

## BAD TO WORST

There are two basic types of heat-related illness. Heat exhaustion occurs when the body overheats from excessive sweating and loss of salt. That's bad enough, but heat stroke is far more serious. It happens when the body can no longer regulate temperature, which can climb to 106 degrees in minutes. You actually stop sweating and cannot cool down. Warning signs of heat stroke vary but can include red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating), rapid, strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, or unconsciousness.

This calls for immediate medical attention. Get the person to a cool area, immerse them in cool water if possible and call 911. Left untreated, heat stroke can be fatal.

We all know that disasters come in many different forms and can strike quickly and without warning. Extreme heat is just another form of a natural disaster that requires us to understand and be prepared especially during the summer months.

If you are an ARES or CERT volunteer, you may be called to help during the hot summer. Be sure to take the prevailing weather conditions into consideration and wear the proper clothing and bring plenty of water. Awareness of the signs of heat stress may also save the lives of others.

## RADIOS DON'T LIKE THE HEAT, EITHER

Heat can also wreak havoc on electronic gear. The temperature inside our vehicles can rise to 30-40 degrees above the heat outside. Even with the windows cracked and shades over the dash, it's a veritable oven in there.

One obvious way to keep gear from roasting is by removing it and taking it inside, where it's typically a lot cooler. But that's not always practical, especially if you have a lot of stuff in your car, or if it's installed permanently.

So, what's the best solution? Park in the shade and crack a window if possible. Store any portable units out of direct sunlight, such as under a seat. Best of all, remove it from the heat if you can.





# FROM LOCKED DOWN TO LINKED UP: FINDING COMMUNITY IN AMATEUR RADIO

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNET IN FOR COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS

By Tom Salzer -KJ7T



My recent [Random Wire](#) Review issues are turning into an ongoing saga of how to “play radio” while in restricted environments. In my case, that environment is a skilled nursing facility where my wife is receiving treatment. My M17 reflector access is blocked by the facility security appliance. DroidStar is blocked. My VPN clients don’t work (although I note with some glee that Remote Desktop Protocol over Tailscale works fine). The IP cameras set up in a few places at home for security also don’t work through the firewall appliance. This is a bit of a challenge. To avoid these restrictions, I have a cellular hotspot, but my data cap is too limited for me to use it every day.

This experience is helping me better understand what so many radio amateurs face, either daily or intermittently. Boiled down to its essential bits, amateur radio is about the technology of communication, the styles of communication, and community. It seems like most of us are more comfortable talking first about the tech – our radio, the tuner, one or more antennas, etc. Less frequently, I hear hams talk about their preferred means of communication – Morse code, FM repeaters, high-frequency single side band, and more.

### ALONE WITH THE WORLD

What I almost never hear amateurs talk about is the importance of community that is deeply embedded in our hobby. It is foundational. We are part of a community, even though we spend most of our time alone, in basements or garages or spare rooms, focused on the technology of what we are doing, and communicating in our preferred ways. How does spending so much time alone help to build

community? Community is created by connecting with other people. Maybe you like to do that through a Morse code key. It could be FT4 and FT8 connections that work for you. Maybe it’s a local repeater or a regular simplex net. The important point is: you are contacting stations that have a human at the other end of that connection.

For people who are in a nursing home or assisted living situation, or in a neighborhood with restrictive HOA covenants, or on vacation, or temporarily in a nursing or rehab facility, that sense of connection becomes even more vital.

Loneliness affects nearly 40% residents of the [nursing] homes surveyed. Quality of their residents’ lives is reduced. Relations with their families and levels of motor efficiency imply a sense of loneliness. Degrees of illness acceptance, ability to adjust to change, and life satisfaction influence the level of loneliness felt.

I don’t have statistics on how many hams are in such situations, but it is probably a larger percentage than I have previously thought. I’ve written before about hams with mobility problems who painfully make their way to a monthly club meeting so they can be with like-minded people, and





# INTERNET RADIO CONT'D

perhaps have their attention diverted from their daily burdens by the radio hobby they love.

Loneliness is the hidden killer of the elderly. Those of us who survive long enough will be elderly someday. (By the way, there is a frequent assumption that people in these situations are elderly. That is not always the case. There are plenty of younger hams who have impaired vision, challenges with hearing, or mobility issues.)

## ENTER THE INTERNET

In this context of restricted environments and personal challenges, internet-connected systems provide exceptional value. Communicating with fellow hams can be as simple as a smartphone running an app (e.g.: Repeater Phone, DroidStar, DVSwitch Mobile) over a local wifi connection or over a good cell signal. Maybe there is a DMR repeater that can be reached with a handie talkie, perhaps helped by using a simple roll-up J-pole antenna. If you're lucky, there is a D-Star or Yaesu System Fusion repeater nearby. Maybe you have an AllStarLink node in your room, or even just EchoLink on a phone, tablet, or laptop. With any of these systems and a Technician license (in the United States), you can "work the world."

What is important, though, is the low level of installed technology required and the high level of access to the rest of the world such systems provide.

People in restricted situations are often folks with incredible life experiences. I am amazed at how many times my own history has intersected with another ham's history. Hams in restricted environments who can only use internet-connected radio systems are a rich resource. They are often hungry for that sense of connection, even across generational divides.

While we tend to focus on the new and interesting radio and antenna systems of the moment – who doesn't enjoy getting a new Ham Radio Outlet or DX Engineering catalog? – please don't forget about the many radio amateurs who can't use those systems. While our hobby is about communication, it is also about connecting with other humans who share an interest in amateur radio. Using all the resources available to us, whether those be RF-based or internet-connected systems, helps us make those connections and support our fellow amateurs.

## RECOGNIZING THE PURISTS

I wrote the following paragraph, then deleted it, then wrote it again, and finally I set it aside so the idea could marinate a bit more in my brain. I think I need to say this: I don't care that internet-connected systems are not "real radio" to some. If you want to be an RF-only ham, that's great. However, hams that want to take a stand on this should probably unplug their computer and not use it for DX spotting or looking for POTA or SOTA activators, because that's not RF. Don't use the internet or your landline phone to order radio stuff, because that's not RF. Don't buy a new, modern radio,



because some of the functionality of that radio probably depends on being connected to the internet; certainly firmware updates depend on internet connectivity. My point is that the internet is now so deeply ingrained in almost every aspect of our amateur radio hobby that there few ways to pursue an RF-only experience. In trying to do so, you may cut yourself off from many interesting radio amateurs. Again, if you want to do this (and believe me, I do understand that desire), go for it.

As radio amateurs, we like to align with people who share our interests. If you've put in the work to learn Morse code and like to communicate that way, you're going to look for others who know Morse, too. Maybe you've invested heavily in chasing DX, so of course you're going to lean toward others who have done the same. That's human nature. All I'm suggesting is to think about other community members who can't enjoy what you like to do. It doesn't make them less than other hams. They form an important part of our amateur radio community, too.

I'd like to hear what you think about these thoughts. I know some of us take great pride in pursuing "real radio," to the point of shunning internet-connected systems. Others seem happy to explore anything that is even remotely considered to be amateur radio, even when it doesn't involve RF communications. What I do know is there are plenty of challenges to overcome, whether you love radio-based communication or are involved in programming and configuring internet-connected systems. The key, to me, is simply connecting with others, enjoying the hobby in ways that make sense to you, and welcoming others who may enjoy other aspects of amateur radio.

**Tom Salzer - KJ7T - has been a licensed ham since 2009. He publishes The Random Wire (<https://www.randomwire.us>). Reach him at [KJ7Tom@gmail.com](mailto:KJ7Tom@gmail.com)**



# GET TO KNOW... DUANE WALLACE - K4DXA

**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?**  
Duane Wallace, K4DXA, General

**How long have you been licensed?** Passed my Technician exam October 2023, and General Exam October 2024.

**What modes do you operate?** FM 2M, 440 and 220 voice; repeaters and simplex. HF voice/SSB 10M - 160M.

**What interests you most about amateur radio?** The ability to communicate directly with others locally and over long distances. I also like the many ways you can be involved in amateur radio. It can be as simple as a handheld radio or purchasing a mobile unit for a vehicle and/or base unit, all the way up to very advanced rigs and building your own antennas and equipment. Amateur radio is a critical resource during emergencies and complements my involvement as a member of the Cherokee County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Team.

**What are some of your most memorable experiences with amateur radio?** I originally became involved in ham radio to stay in touch with my daughter who was attending college in Tennessee. This prompted me to study for and pass my Technician exam. Afterwards, I realized there was not a ham repeater network that would allow us to communicate those distances and it was too far for simplex. After further research, I obtained a GMRS license and joined the North Georgia GMRS network as they have a network of linked repeaters that cover central and north Georgia and Tennessee as well as other states. Also, a GMRS license covers your entire family. I still recall my daughter's first trip back to school after I installed a GMRS radio in her car and we were able to communicate from Canton to Chattanooga the entire trip, with her changing repeaters as she traveled north. We were subsequently able to communicate several times by radio from her school in Tennessee to my base and mobile units in Canton. She graduated college a few weeks ago and we were able to have a radio conversation as she departed the campus for the last time heading back home. It wasn't planned, but it was a great memory for us to come full circle on the radio. She is now planning on studying for her Technician license. I thoroughly enjoy POTA and my daughter is excited about participating in POTA and SOTA once she gets licensed.

**How long have you been a member of CARS?** I became a member of CARS when I passed my Technician exam in 2023 and accepted the invitation to a complimentary

membership into the club for my first year. I attended the meeting before I took the exam and received a very warm welcome as a first-time guest and was impressed about how friendly and helpful everyone was. CARS is an outstanding club with outstanding members and I'm proud to be associated with a group that is so dedicated to the art of amateur radio.

**What is your most memorable QSO?** Recently, conditions were good on 20M and I was able to have two very clear voice conversations with a station in Vancouver, Canada, 2,200 miles to my west and a station in Slovenia, central Europe 5,000 miles to my east. Both QSOs were very clear and I received 5x9 reports from both stations on my newly acquired Xiegu G90 hf radio using 20 watts of power and an end fed random wire antenna hanging from a pine tree in my backyard. That was two contacts, 7,200 miles apart west to east on the same day and a lot of fun.

**What is one piece of advice you would offer a new ham?** Get involved with other hams and don't be afraid to ask questions; be a lifelong learner and have fun!

**What do you like to do outside of ham radio?** I love my family and am honored to be a husband to my wife of over 30 years and a father to my 4 children, of whom I am very proud. I love the outdoors and have spent many years as a volunteer in youth organizations. I enjoy camping, fishing and boating and am looking forward to spending more time in nature with family and friends in the future. This year, I plan to combine my annual camping/fishing trip to the outer banks of North Carolina with a POTA activation of the Cape Lookout National Seashore from Portsmouth Island, NC.





# SIGNAL SLEUTHING FOR UNDER \$60: EXPLORING THE TINYSA

By Bob Cheek - N4RFC

Over the years of building ham radio related electronic projects and diagnosing and repairing ham gear, there have been several pieces of test equipment I have always wanted but could never afford. Those instruments were, a Spectrum Analyzer, a Vector Network Analyzer, and a Logic Analyzer. I was exposed to all of these instruments at various jobs I worked and came to realize how useful they are.

Typically, these instruments cost multi-thousands of dollars and were certainly out of reach for me to purchase. I was able to get a used Tektronics 7000 series plug-in oscilloscope and looked at every hamfest for the Tek 7L12 Spectrum Analyzer plug-in at a reasonable price, but never found one I could afford.

But as better integrated circuits came on the market these devices became available for a fraction of the cost of the high end test equipment. For under \$100 you can buy a very nice Tiny SA on Amazon that is usable for various ham radio related uses. In this article I will go over the basic features the Tiny SA and one of the typical uses for a Spectrum Analyzer. In following articles in this series, we will cover some of the uses for the Tiny SA and how to set it up for these measurements.

## WHAT IS A SPECTRUM ANALYZER?

A spectrum analyzer is a instrument that displays the magnitude of a signal vs the frequency. By displaying and analyzing the spectral display, one can determine the base frequency, harmonics of the base signal, bandwidth, and distortion that may be present. The amplitude of the signal is displayed on the vertical axis of the display and the frequency is displayed on the horizontal axis.

For example, a perfect sine wave signal will have no harmonic content. In applying that sine wave to an amplifier any distortion in the amplifier will cause harmonics or other spurious signals to be created on the output of the amplifier. Typically, the second harmonic and third harmonics are troublesome on SSB linear amplifiers. With the Tiny SA you are able to see and measure those unwanted harmonic signals.

As an added bonus, the Tiny SA includes a very nice RF Signal Generator. It has a calibrated output and can generate continuous wave signals as well as AM and FM modulated signals. This is very handy for aligning radios and checking receiver sensitivity. More on that later.

## WHAT DO I GET FOR \$57.94 PLUS SHIPPING?



The photo shows what comes with the basic Tiny SA from Amazon. There are several different versions of the Tiny SA now. In this presentation, I am covering the least expensive Basic Tiny SA.

You have the Tiny SA (which is packaged similarly to the Nano VNA), a SMA double female coupler, a stylus, a pick stylus, a tiny telescoping antenna, two coax cables and a USB-C cable. That is a pretty good start. With the antenna attached you can use the Tiny SA to examine signals over the air. For instance, monitoring your transmitted signal on SSB or CW looking for signs of splatter. But to make full use of the device you will need a few other items.

As with the Nano VNA cable connector, adapters are necessary. Also, sometimes it is necessary to adjust the signal level between the Tiny SA and the DUT (Device Under Test), therefore a selection of SMA attenuators is handy. I have 20 db, 10 db, and 3 db attenuators,





# TINY SA CONT'D

Those give me a wide range of attenuation by connecting them in series .



I keep my Tiny SA and the Nano VNA in a small Pelican case with my adapters, cables, and other accessories all together.

Another thing you will need is a coupler with an attenuator built in, commonly called a sampling coupler. This device is a through coupler with a "tap" signal with a 50 db or more attenuation. This will allow you to directly monitor the output of 100 to kilowatt transmitters and linear amplifiers output down to a level that can be measured with the Tiny SA. Connecting a transmitter directly to the Tiny SA will damage the Tiny SA input.

This sampler was purchased on Ebay. It has SO-239 connections to make it very easy to connect inline between the DUT and a dummy load, and a SMA female connector for the Tiny SA. The signal at the SMA port is down 50dB from the signal on the transmission line. That protects the Tiny SA and gives a signal that is easily measured.

## FEATURES OF THE TINY SA

Very similar to the Nano VNA, the Tiny SA has similar controls and inputs.

At the top is a USB-C connection for both charging the battery in the Tiny SA and connecting to a computer to control the Tiny SA with appropriate software applications. There is a On/Off switch and the rocker switch like the Nano VNA. To select the menu, you press the rocker switch, and to move through the selections in the menu by rotating the switch to the left or right. To select the highlighted menu, push in on the rocker switch. You can also bring up the menu by tapping the screen with the stylus, the same as the Nano VNA

On the left side are two SMA Female connections labeled High and Low:

- **LOW INPUT** activates the 0.1-350MHz input mode
- **HIGH INPUT** activates the 240MHz-960MHz input mode
- **LOW OUTPUT** activates the 0.1-350MHz output mode
- **HIGH OUTPUT** activates the 240MHz-960MHz output mode

The input modes are used for receiving an RF signal for analysis and the output modes are for using the Tiny SA as a signal generator. These functions are selected from the MODE menu.

I wanted to present a quick overview of the Tiny SA here. I suggest you check out the Tiny SA home page at <https://tinysa.org/wiki/pmwiki.php?n=Main.HomePage>, which is full of resources for the various Tiny SA versions. In the next article in this series, I will show the setup to measure the spectral purity of a QRP transmitter and a small linear amplifier. In following articles, I will demonstrate other measurement that you can do with the Tiny SA and use of the Tiny SA as a signal generator.





CHEROKEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## CALLING ALL DOG LOVERS: HAM RADIO OPERATORS PUSH FOR GLOBAL RESCUE AWARENESS ON INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY

By Caryn Eve Murray - KD2GUT - United States Team Leader for K2D

When a group of radio operators begin calling "CQ International Dog Day" in August, they're not just [lead1](#) looking for QSOs. They are in search of people who have room in their hearts to help the abandoned, abused and homeless dogs around the world in whatever way they can.

This dozen or so special event operators know the power of rescue because they've been deeply involved in it themselves [lead2](#). **Hanz (YL3JD)** and his wife opened their home - first in Holland, later in Latvia - and have given needy dogs a second chance at a new family. In Australia, and later in Germany, **Ed (DD5LP)** and his wife discovered - several times - that their household was incomplete without canine company. Many of the other operators' rescued dogs were adopted after hard lives on the street; others were at the pound, hours away from being euthanized.

International Dog Day (and in the US, National Dog Day) is August 26 every year. The tradition was created by US pet advocate **Colleen Paige** as a day to recognize the needs of society's unwanted and cast-off dogs and affirm the commitment to adopt, donate or raise awareness of their special needs.

Hanz amplified the original message by adding an amateur radio component in 2022, taking the special event callsign **YL1DOG** and operating as a single station. The following year he was joined by **Chris (G5VZ)** and **David (G4YVM)** in the UK. By 2024, a team of eight US rescue-dog advocates, operating as **K2D**, had come on board. This year is the biggest yet, as hams in Germany and other countries run with the pack. All operators will be looking to

hear from dog-lovers and supporters in either CW or SSB on HF, on VHF/UHF simplex, or via DMR and Echolink.

The international team has added incentive certificates, including special endorsements such as "Full Kennel," the equivalent of a clean sweep. Their website, [dogdayradio.org](http://dogdayradio.org), is updated regularly with the operators' special event callsigns, their operating schedules, a chance to meet the dogs that inspired them and hear their stories.

In case you are wondering where the cats are - well, they're running ahead of the dogs! **International Cat Day (August 8)** will be operating as a separate event, two weeks before the Dog Day operators get on the air - and they will be carrying a similar message for cat-rescue awareness. See [catdayradio.org](http://catdayradio.org) for details.

For live updates of both events, to search for the different callsigns, to see the operators' schedules or to apply for and download award certificates visit these links when they become available:

<https://hamlog.online/icd>

<https://hamlog.online/idd>

Meanwhile, be aware that all special-event operators will be working like dogs - and why not? - because they want to hear and share as many rescue stories as they can.

[Editor's Note: Caryn, KD2GUT, is US team leader for K2D, a special events station operational this month in support of International Dog Day and International Cat Day, and carrying the message of kindness and humane treatment of pets needing rescue from abuse and neglect.]



# YOUTH HAM RADIO INSIGHTS: A VISIT TO THE 2025 FRIEDRICHSHAFEN HAM FAIR IN GERMANY



By Katie Campbell - KE8LQR

While most hams in the U.S. are familiar with amateur radio conventions like Dayton Hamvention® and Orlando HamCation, many may not be aware of the [Friedrichshafen Ham Fair](#), which is held every June on Lake Constance in Germany. The 2025 fair ran from June 27-29.

I had the opportunity to go last summer. Getting to know some of the [Youngsters On The Air \(YOTA\)](#) participants from Germany and other parts of Europe was quite an enjoyable experience.

My father, **KE8LYZ**, and I left for Germany the Sunday of ARRL Field Day. **Carsten, DM9EE**, hosted us at his hotel for the first few days of our stay before we made the road trip to southern Germany where the event takes place. The first few days of our trip were jam-packed with

sightseeing. We visited the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the Autostadt museum, the Cologne Cathedral, and a few other interesting sites. We ended each day with some operating from DM9EE's shack, so I could get a few QSOs in as DL/KE8LQR.

The fair is held Friday through Sunday, so on Thursday it was time to make the trip down from where we were staying near Hannover to the southern part of Germany. The host city for Ham Fair, Friedrichshafen, is very close to Austria and Switzerland, opening up attendance not only to Germans but to residents of those countries and other locations around Europe.

While my dad stayed in an AirBnB for the weekend, I was able to participate in the Hamcamp at the fair, which is essentially a youth hostel. It's open to attendees up to the age of 27 and provides the perfect

opportunity for young operators to make new friends and catch up with old ones as well. I had previously spoken with many of these people on the air during YOTA month and contests, or while general operating, so it was exciting to meet them in person. I also got to catch up with many of the hams who I had met at previous YOTA camps and stayed in touch with.

The Ham Fair officially started on Friday. In terms of exhibitors and vendors, it was similar to hamfests in the U.S., like Huntsville and HamCation. Some highlights included visiting the ARRL, Begali, Icom, and other booths. After spending Friday touring the booths and flea market and spending time with friends, we started the evening with the YOTA dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Around 40 of the young operators who made up the





# HAM FAIR CONT'D



Hamcamp or were just visiting for the day went out for dinner together to catch up on everything from YOTA month to YOTA camp and their own personal amateur radio-related activities. Then we returned to Hamcamp at the conference venue to chat for a while longer and get some sleep before a day full of YOTA activities on Saturday.

On Saturday, most of the young attendees of the conference went to the YOTA forum, where we got to learn about different opportunities and activities within YOTA in Europe. During the afternoon's flag ceremony, the YOTA key (a key that travels with the YOTA group to each one of

their camps) and a flag were presented to the upcoming YOTA camp's hosts.

After that, we spent the rest of the day visiting other forums and booths before some of us went to the BCC (Bavarian Contest Club) dinner where we had the opportunity to network with contesters from around the world. After the dinner, we all headed back to Hamcamp for one last night of socializing before we went our separate ways on Sunday

Since my father and I still had a relatively long drive back to Berlin for our flight out, we left fairly early Sunday morning after I had said my goodbyes to my friends

and acquaintances (although some were only "goodbyes for now" since YOTA camp in Halifax was the next week!).

Even though the event was only for a few days, like the conferences in the U.S., getting to catch up with all of my YOTA friends and make some new ones while learning about a new culture was an amazing experience!

**Editor's note:** Katie Campbell earned her Amateur Extra license at the age of 11. Among other activities, she teaches youth Morse code through the Long Island CW Club; helps out with her school's amateur radio club, K8LPS; is a member of YACHT (Young Amateurs Communications Ham Team); was a featured presenter at Contest University 2024; and is on the planning committee and PR team for the YOTA group.





# CONTESTING

## CONTEST CORNER AUGUST 2025

**NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY, CW**  
1800Z, Aug 2 to 0559Z, Aug 3

**ARRL 222 MHZ AND UP CONTEST**  
1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3

**MARYLAND-DC QSO PARTY**  
1400Z, Aug 9 to 0400Z, Aug 10

**KENTUCKY STATE PARKS ON THE AIR**  
1400Z-2200Z, Aug 9

**ARRL EME CONTEST**  
0000Z, Aug 16 to 2359Z, Aug 17

**NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY, SSB**  
1800Z, Aug 16 to 0559Z, Aug 17

**ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP, RTTY**  
1800Z-2359Z, Aug 17

## DXPEDITION NEWS



TO3K, Mayotte - 80-6m SSB, CW, ft8



T30TTT, Tarawa - HF Bands





# 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\\_hams-7apr2021.pdf](https://www.wx4car.org/uploads/8/3/7/7/83773582/wx4cars_intro_to_new_hams-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:** Mark Schulze - KO4IFY

**Treasurer:** James James - KE4HMS

**Cherokee County Emergency Coordinator:**

Rob Bruderer - W1JKU

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

[k4qo.mail@gmail.com](mailto:k4qo.mail@gmail.com)

**Design:** Carmon Madison - KQ4JIO

[carmon@cloud.com](mailto:carmon@cloud.com)