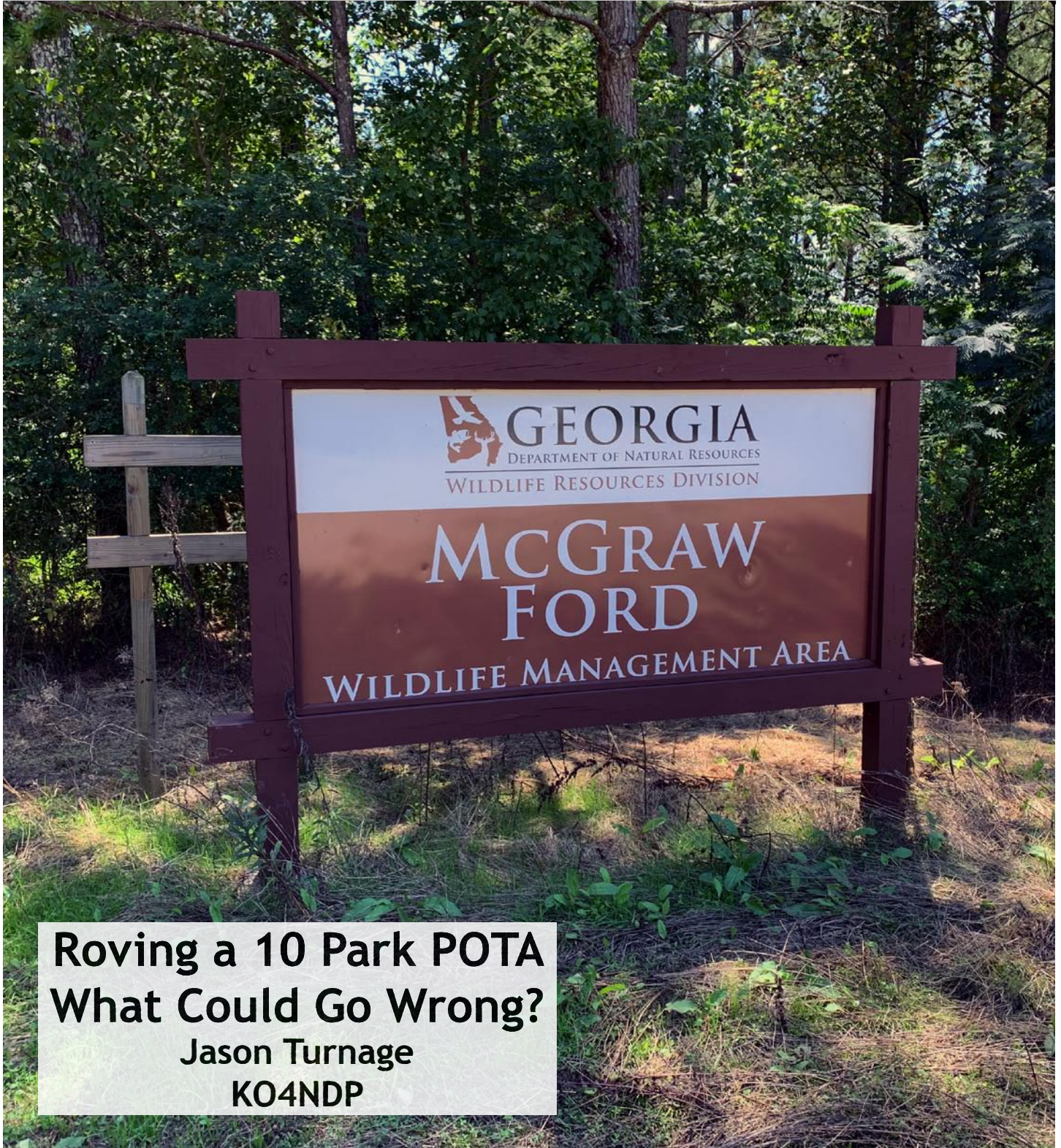


# WX4CAR



Newsletter

October 2023 - Issue 2



**Roving a 10 Park POTA  
What Could Go Wrong?  
Jason Turnage  
KO4NDP**





# Message

## from the President



With our first edition of the newsletter in our rearview mirror, we press on to bigger and even better things. Thank you to the people who worked very hard to get this together. Our intention is to have the newsletter reach people inside and outside the club. One of our best recruiting tools is monthly testing, but the newsletter can be a close second. We will publish it to the club website so that people looking for a club and wanting to know who we are can read about our activities and members.

In this edition you will read about the upcoming activities. By the time this is published, we will have had the **Club Picnic at Red Top Mountain**. This was well planned by **Chad – KY4KP** and others to give people the opportunity for fellowship as well as trying their hand at **POTA (Parks on the Air)**. We want to have more opportunities like this so that anyone wanting to learn HF communications can have an avenue to do that.

Read about the **POTA** challenge of 10 parks in one day! Is that possible? Find out in the article by **Jason – KO4NDP** where he chronicles this adventure with the Chad Cone family.

We have a lot of upcoming opportunities to help **Cassie – KQ4JVI** with her **STEM** activities leading up to the **ISS** contact in April 2024. Her article will summarize what is happening with **ARISS** and this event. Additionally, I would like to congratulate her on her acceptance to the **ARRL Teachers Institute**. If you do not know anything about this topic, be sure to look it up on the **ARRL** site and talk with **Cassie** about this program. The focus is on wireless technology and ways to engage students of all ages in understanding these concepts. **STEM** education is very important for the USA to remain competitive on the world stage of technology.

**ARES and EMCOMM** (Emergency Communications) is a very important part of the club. We give time each meeting to show our support for this activity and help where needed. Each year there are multiple opportunities to get involved. In the Spring is the **GADR (Georgia Death Race)**. Check out the column for **ARES** this month.

Amateur radio is a technical hobby. The club is looking for ways to get you what you need to derive the most out of the hobby. Technical knowledge helps you make decisions about what is correct and what needs to be corrected. If you desire a deeper knowledge of electronics, all the opportunities are here in the CARS club. In August and September, **Tony Drake – KC4OBY** led a workshop on the “**10 things I wish I knew about antennas**”. This edition has some great information on Anderson Pole connectors and why these are used for amateur radio. We will continue to provide education to our members.

We are looking for more things like this to be offered. Let's see collectively what we can do to fill this need and make CARS the best club in the Atlanta area.

73,  
Marty  
KB4MG

# Events



## Event Roundup

### Oct 7th — Club Picnic / POTA Activation

We will have our Fall picnic at Red Top Mountain State Park picnic shelter #4. From I-75 take the Red Top Mountain Road exit east. After crossing over the lake take the 3rd left following the signs for the beach. If you do not have an annual parking pass, parking is \$5. We will be setup directly behind the guard shack on the hill. We will begin setting up around 10:00 and eating lunch between 12:00 and 1:00. The club will provide meat and drinks. We would like everyone to bring a side to contribute as well as any special drinks you prefer. No alcohol allowed. We will have several HF stations operating to allow everyone interested in activating the park an opportunity. If you are new to **Parks On The Air** or are interested in getting started, this is your opportunity. We will have a swap shop for anyone with unused items they would like to sell or trade. As with all club events, we encourage you to bring friends and family. The entire leadership team is looking forward to seeing you at the picnic. Thank you for being the best part of CARS.



### Oct 11th — Club Officer Nominations Due

Club officer nominations are due by October 11th and must be submitted to the club email club.wx4car@gmail.com. Nominations will be announced at the October 14th club meeting and elections will take place leading up to the November club meeting. If you are interested yourself or would like to nominate another member for a position, make sure to send an email prior to October 11th.

### Oct 14th — Annual SET (Simulated Emergency Training)

Cherokee County ARES will be conducting our training on Saturday October 14th. You do not need to be a member of ARES to participate. If you would like to join Cherokee ARES, visit [www.cherokee-ares.org](http://www.cherokee-ares.org) for more information. The training will begin early Saturday morning and continue with a deployment to the **William G. Long Senior Center** at 10:00am. The focus for the training will be testing our preparedness and operational capabilities for a simulated event. We will be operating multiple bands and modes, passing traffic, programming repeater frequencies into an HT as well as operating within a directed Net. You are encouraged to have your up to date Cherokee ARES Operations binder available and ready to use for the event. Please visit the website for the most up to date information. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail. Don't wait until the lights go out to discover your operational capabilities.

### Winter Field Day 2024 — January 27th & 28th

The club will once again be operating from Red Top Mountain State Park. Along with **Winter Field Day**, we will be running a **POTA** activation that weekend. Make sure to save the dates and plan on participating. More information will be provided as the event nears.

73,

**Chad Cone**  
**KY4KP**





# PARKS ON THE AIR



## Roving a 10 Park POTA - What Could Go Wrong?

On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, I joined **Chad Cone — KY4KP**, for a great **Parks On The Air (POTA)** adventure. His plan was to activate 10 parks in a single day. An ambitious, if not lofty goal!

Parks on the Air lets you accumulate QSOs and parks. They're divided into UTC days. So here on the east coast during daylight savings time (EDT, "eastern daylight-savings time") that's 8pm to 8pm. If you "activate a park" on Saturday, you're likely doing it sometime between the morning hours and 8pm. After 8pm it's technically Sunday, even though it feels like Saturday evening. Those serious about doing a lot of parks in a day will get a head start at 8:00pm EDT (00:00 UTC) the day before. Successfully activating 10 parks starting in the morning on Saturday with setting up, radioing, tearing down, packing, & traveling, repeatedly all day, is a feat, but doable if everything goes your way.

Unfortunately, things don't always go your way. Some things that can go wrong:

- Travel issues: Get lost, unexpected traffic, food delays, full parking lots.
- Equipment failures: Dead batteries, no solar source, computer problems (FT8 not working), broken CW paddles, slow or no internet.
- Forgotten items: cables, pens, paper, park numbers (takes too long to look them up)
- Other issues: Overly chatty onlookers, the limb you strung your antenna to is too low and you have to start over
- Never in a million years would have thought: Huge solar storm hits Earth.

...and the list goes on. Blockers you couldn't even dream up seem to happen. Little things happen and don't stop you but add up over the course of the day. It's easy to avoid something that may seem too hard until you realize that with proper planning, it's absolutely doable. You may need to create several contingency plans along the way, but in the end, even what seems

like a failure is really a success because you learned another thing to plan for next time. The best part is you get to try again.

To help this mission succeed, I volunteered to help run support for anything Chad might need; set up antennas, tables, chairs, radios, computers, pack, unpack, problem solve any issues... you name it, whatever could help save time (and of course I'd get to play radio).

## What went right

### Planning

The parks planned for the rove started just west of Dawsonville and ended at Smithgall, near Helen. When you have a route in mind, it's much easier to start planning the parks around it. There are quite a few parks along this path and mapping them is easy.

When you live in Adairsville, though, you may eat a bit of your available time in commuting to the first stop. To plan for this, Chad and his family stayed at a hotel in Dawsonville, the perfect lodging location for the occasion! I started in Canton.

### Improve The Odds Every Chance You Get

Chad sent me his list of 10 planned parks:

- Dawson Forest WMA
- Dawson State Forest
- Amicalola Falls State Park
- Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail
- Desoto Falls National Recreation Area
- Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest
- Chestatee WMA
- Vogel State Park
- Smithgall Woods State Park
- Chattahoochee WMA

As I investigated each park, mapped them out, and noted park numbers, I quickly realized the genius behind Chad's plan. Extensive planning had clearly been done because there were 10 parks, but only 5 stops, each separated by a short drive. We were ready for success!

You may be wondering how you get 10 parks in 5 stops. This is done by finding parks that overlap.



A POTA designated park is simply a piece of land within a boundary. Many of these sections of land overlap with another, or 2, or even 3 others. A State Park won't overlap another State Park, but often a State Park is within a National Forest, or a National Forest containing multiple Wildlife Management Areas, or both, and a WMA containing a National Recreation Area. There are also National Scenic Trails (Appalachian Trail, Trail of Tears, etc.), which may overlap with a great number of parks along the journey (sometimes 2 at once!)

### Practicing the Execution

Chad and I are both experienced setting up for POTA activations. But most, if not all, of our activations have been casual setups where time isn't a factor. With time, limited, repeating agenda, speed is key. Chad practiced his antenna setups with speed in mind at several activations prior to this rove. Familiarity to the point of muscle memory helps, but nothing beats experience when you're deciding, for example, which tree to target for sending a rope over to string up a long wire. As a result, all our setups were fast and easy.



*Remember to smile and have fun. Preferably with a friend. "Jason and Chad grinning at how easy the Dawson activation was."*

### Don't Forget the Tear-Down

Setting up is important, but having a quick AND ORGANIZED tear-down is just as important. Although tempting to throw a bundled-up wire antenna or cables on your back seat, the cable gnomes will magically twist them in knots while you're on the road to the next location and you'll end up wasting precious time working the kinks out. Properly coiling wires and cables every time will save time in the long run and protect your equipment. We knew this and didn't let it be a problem.

### Having a Backup Plan

Even with the most diligent planning, unforeseen circumstances arise. In our case, a solar storm hit the

atmosphere the afternoon of our rove. More about that later. But as expected, SSB became increasingly difficult throughout the day. Voice is one of the harder HF radio modes during difficult propagation times. High power may not be enough to get you through if the other side isn't also high power. Data modes like FT8 can be a solution, although necessitates a larger kit with a computer and cables, and more stuff to set up and tear down each time. As a contingency, we both brought our extra equipment. Good thing because we ended up needing my backup laptop to save the day.

Extra batteries, and if possible, an extra radio might also prove invaluable in a "you never know" situation. I brought my Xiegu G90 as a backup, which is in a portable box with a battery. Chad's large battery was completely drained in the middle of our last park, taking his IC7300 down with it. He still had a few QSOs to make, and the sun was too low for the solar panels to be of any use. The G90+battery helped immensely here.



*Chad being cool at Amicalola while his family gets back from seeing the falls and says "wrap it up, more parks to hit, more fun to be had."*

### Remember It's Supposed to Be Fun

The day wasn't just for Chad (and me). Chad's wife and youngest son joined the trip so they could get to visit all these parks as well. Those 2 adventurers hiked to waterfalls at both Amicalola and Desoto Falls, and went paddleboarding at Vogel. What a day!

### What Went 'Not So' Right

#### Solar Storms. You Just Can't Plan for Everything

The solar storm hits. HF is all but obliterated. We'd been running SSB so far, but after quite a while trying, he got nothing, zero. And this was after we'd switched to FT8 at high power. We did what we could, but sometimes even nature thwarts your best attempts.

HF propagation was going up and down. We had a lot of failed QSOs. It took a LONG time to get 10. With patience, persistence, and a touch of aggravation,

we finally got done. Unfortunately, we spent a ton of the afternoon doing it at each park (starting with stop 3 - Desoto).

### No Internet

Internet in some areas (especially Desoto) is carried out via carrier pigeons and smoke signals, so spotting ourselves was rough at some places and not possible at others. You can spot yourself via APRS or Winlink, neither of which either of us have set up for this trip. This would have been a good backup plan, and something to plan for next time.



*Chad patiently playing the FT8 waiting game.*

Activating a park is just clean fun. Activating a few parks is a nice little challenge. Activating 10 or more is plain hard. With a lot of planning, though, it is doable. If you fail (or even if you succeed) you learn lessons that'll only help you. It's a journey, and you have to enjoy the ride no matter what bumps you hit along the way. This attempt wasn't a "failure", it was simply a preparation for the next time.



*Chad, on the side of the entrance drive at Desoto, doing whatever it takes to make the activation*

### No Parking

Being a gorgeous sunny and mild Saturday before Labor Day, everyone was out. Parking lots at Desoto and Vogel were both packed and we had to drive around for much longer than expected to find a spot to even stop, let alone park.

### No Food

We stopped in the morning for breakfast but failed to get anything for lunch. By 7pm, everyone was famished. What was supposed to be a quick trip into Helen for dinner, quickly proved to be a disaster with large crowds and unexpected traffic. Progress was delayed until a few minutes before 8pm, and as previously mentioned, the day ends at 8pm EST.

### Conclusion

Unfortunately, time ran out and the 10 park POTA rove was unsuccessful in terms of numbers. By 8pm only 2 or 3 more QSOs were needed, but we didn't have the 10 we needed at the last park. Even so, there were more successes, in my opinion, all the way through to the very end. And the best part, we get to try again!



*Chad teaches FT8 to the younger generation.*

We learned a bunch of lessons and measures are already being taken to avoid difficulties. Antennas take time to set up and multiply that times every park you visit, and it adds up. Chad's since got a mag-mount hamstick and even spent the time figuring out the details to make it go super smooth. His laptop is in and set up. He's ready. Unfortunately, there's nothing you can do about a solar storm.

73,  
**Jason Turnage**  
**KO4NDP**





# VOLUNTEERS

## ON THE AIR 2023



### Logging in to Win: ARRL's 'Volunteers on the Air' Contest Sparks a Year of Community and Connection

#### POTA, SOTA...and VOTA?

The yearlong “**Volunteers on the Air**” event is entering the home stretch. The ARRL-sponsored contest began on New Year’s Day as part of the league’s 2023 theme, “**Year of the Volunteers,**” designed to recognize the community service activities of ARRL members worldwide. You may be involved in VOTA without even realizing it.

*“If you are an ARRL member in good standing and use LoTW (Logbook of the World) to log your contacts, you’re already participating and accumulating contest points.”* said **Alan**

**Longworth Sr. – KO4LEM**, an

ARRL member and Volunteer Examiner. Participants may also actively pursue points by hunting for QSOs with high value targets. For example, a contact with certain ARRL officials can be worth as many as 300 points, whereas a one-on-one with another ARRL member scores a single point.

Only two-way contacts qualify for credit using any mode (phone, CW or digital) including EME and satellite. Contacts may occur on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, six and two-meter bands, as well as 70 centimeters. Cross-mode, cross-band and repeater contacts don’t count. Each type of QSO carries a point value, and ARRL updates the leaderboard regularly.

*“Contests are fun, especially those that are a year long, but it’s really about supporting the volunteers and the ham community, and bringing awareness to what ARRL does for amateur radio.”* Longworth said.

**VOTA** runs through December 31, 2023, and participants have until January 15, 2024 to complete their LoTW logs. ARRL will provide certificates and a final summary of the year’s activity later in the month. Check out [vota.arrl.org](http://vota.arrl.org) for more information.

73,

**Lee Hall**

**KB4KDX**





# ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

## The ARISS Experience

Well, the countdown has begun at **Mountain View Elementary School** with just under 200 days remaining until the **ARISS Direct** contact which is slated for **April 15-19, 2024!** The students are finding their best **NASA** gear, filling their Crocs with satellite plugs, and placing my face in every online designing platform they can (see image below). The teachers



are planning their lessons taking care to find those moments when radio technology can be integrated within the standards while also navigating around breaks, weekends, mandated testing, and holidays. The administration team is working tirelessly on the paperwork and community involvement. I am preparing two radio stations, 10 working student SPARKI stations in the STEM Lab complete with two ISS Above tracking programs, 10 SDR Dongles, FRS walkies, and student-designed antennas. HUGE shout out to **Tony Drake – KC4OBY** for spending two hours on the phone with me going over details, antenna design, and safety for our students.

In order to prepare myself further, I have been accepted into the **ARRL Teachers Institute** during the week of October 22-28 and will be engulfed in learning for eight hours, five straight days, in Hartford, Connecticut. My expectations are endless with the excitement of learning all I can and receiving that critical “hands on” component. Once complete, I know the students, faculty, and community will be taught new content and I hope to share this knowledge with

future schools and CARS. All that is left...the CARS volunteers with their knowledge and experience to show the students at Mountain View the love and passion you have for your craft throughout the year!

Here is how you can help. I have listed below the ideas that I included in my **ARISS Educational Plan** to earn the direct contact. The grade level is in parenthesis after the idea.

- Bounce radio waves off the moon, or other objects, during the day to see if having light changes the radio wave or sound that returns (K)
- Determine if radio waves can help us determine rocks from dirt (K)
- Compare and contrast the weather on Earth versus the weather in space through the use of HAM radios (1)
- Research “space weather” and determine if this holds true for our solar system or does it include other systems as well (1)
- Utilize the SDG sensor kits with a CubeSat to measure temperature, relative humidity, UVA/UVB, and altitude to determine if that causes weather changes (1)
- Determine if radio waves are different than sound waves (1)
- Use magnets to attempt to change wave direction (1)
- Determine if radio waves help determine color and shape of stars (2)
- Observe how weather on earth changes the patterns of plants and animals and therefore, would space weather affect humans in space like it does on Earth – students will use radio technology to determine and research their ideas (2)
- Determine if playing music (creating sound waves) will help indoor plants grow (2)
- Learn snap circuits and create a working circuit (2)



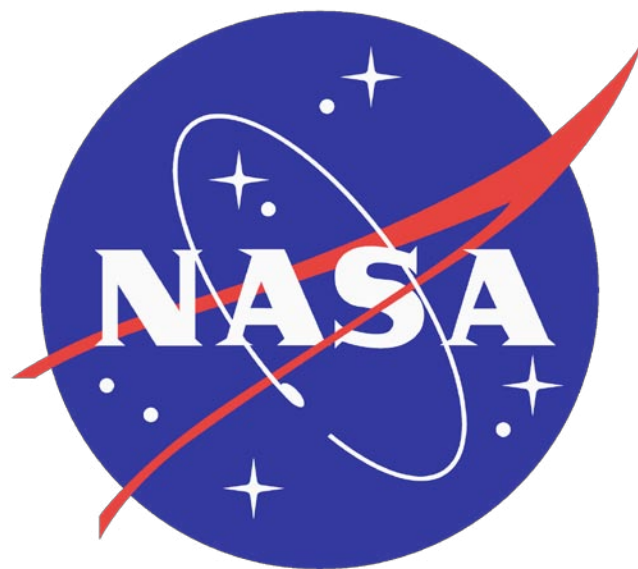
- Learn how radio waves can be transmitted through the surface to find fossils and other objects which can determine depth (3)
- Learn how to create a basic device to see if they can “view” something under the lawn at the school (3)
- Learn how radio waves help to communicate with others around the globe (3)
- Determine, and build, a communication device to warn others, from space, about pollution changes (3)
- Create a radio transmitter to determine location of objects within the school and then relate the experience to understanding the correlation of placement from Earth to the moon and the sun (4)
- Learn if Earth weather can predict space weather and vice versa (4)
- Connect the nature of light and how light interacts with weather patterns – relation of space weather to sun light...is it the same? (4)
- Investigate the differences between sound waves, radio waves, and fiberoptic (4)
- How does a transmitter produce radio waves and a receiver translates allowing communication to occur (4)
- Utilize satellite tracking software to track orbits (4)
- Students will investigate circuitry of radio transmitters and receivers (5)
- Learn Morse code and create a language that allows them to speak to others in their class (5)
- Create a simple radio circuit to communicate with other students in a different homeroom (connection to WWII) (5)
- Practice amateur radio procedures, operations, and protocols (5)
- Create a manual on how the radio system works so that future students can use it (5)
- Learn, investigate, and design electrical devices that help to create a ground system (5)
- Learn the basics about radio, radio science, and electronics (5)

These were ideas off the top of my head - they may or may not be relevant or even work...I am ok with that.

If you are interested in ANY of the above topics and would love to be a part of a historical event for students, the Mountain View community, and radio community in whole, please contact **Dr. Cassandra Zielinski – KQ4JVI** at [Cassandra.Zielinski@cobbk12.org](mailto:Cassandra.Zielinski@cobbk12.org) or [dr.cassie.zielinski@gmail.com](mailto:dr.cassie.zielinski@gmail.com) and include Marty Buehring ([club.wxcar@gmail.com](mailto:club.wxcar@gmail.com)) on all communications so that we can set up a schedule for school visits and to be guest speakers and teachers!

73,

**Dr. Cassandra Zielinski – KQ4JVI**



## Power Poles

If you have dealt with either power supplies or batteries for amateur radio uses, you have most likely encountered the Anderson Powerpole connector. This has become the de-facto-standard for power connections for all sorts of amateur radio equipment. But why?

In the past, amateurs used all sorts of connectors. It was common to see two-wire trailer hitch connectors and all types of plastic ones from Molex. It was the advent of ARES and portable operating that spawned the standardization of these connectors. This allowed hams to share radios, batteries, and power supplies as long as they all had the same connectors. Anderson Power Poles won out for this task.



Another advantage over the older trailer or Molex connectors is the Powerpole's superior ratings to withstand 100,000 no-load insertions and 250 hot-plugs at full load. The specific hermaphroditic nature of the power poles is a significant advantage since batteries can be both a power source or a power sink, a power supply can be connected to a radio and/or a battery, and multiple batteries, radios, and/or redundant power sources can be connected in parallel using the same power distribution panels. We do all of these things at Field Day and at ARES exercises and deployments.

Many pieces of amateur radio equipment run on 12-volt DC automotive voltage, which is also called 13.8-volt DC. The voltage delivered by a lead-acid battery with six-cells used as an automotive battery will vary depending on various electrical loads in a vehicle. Without loads the battery will float from 11.7 to 12.8 volts, and while charging from an alternator the voltage will increase to 13.8–14.4 volts DC.

For use in amateur radio, the community has adopted a standard color code, polarity, and specific physical arrangement for assembling pairs of Powerpole connectors. One red and one black powerpole housing can be physically arranged in 4 topologically different mechanical orientations (red left, red right, red top, red bottom—when viewed from contact side with tongue up), 2 of which are mechanically incompatible (connectors won't mate with ARES) and 1 is electrically incompatible (will mate but reverse polarity) with the ARES standard; there are also additional unusual configurations in which one housing is rotated 90 degrees. The



standard is red positive and black negative. When viewed from the contact side, a mnemonic for remembering the arrangement is: "Red [on] Right — Tongue [on] Top" (note the first letter alliteration).

West Mountain Radio, a major amateur radio supplier, has what you need to make up your own cables. I suggest that if you are going to do this you also buy the crimping tool. It is a \$40 investment but will save you a lot of grief.

73,

Marty

KB4MG





# GO BAG



## Get That “GO” Bag Ready!

You’re licensed, you’re trained, but are you ready to “GO?” Having a radio “GO bag” stocked and ready can save an enormous amount of time in case of emergency and get you out the door quickly. The bag could be as small as a shoulder tote or as big as a suitcase, your call. But there are a few essentials that every GO bag should contain.

Top on the list is your radio. A basic HT programmed with necessary repeater and simplex frequencies is essential. You should also have a list of other area repeaters in case you need to add one. Remember to include instructions on how to program the HT in the field if needed. Include extra battery packs, a hand mic, backup antenna and an AC charger if you can.



Here’s a list of other essentials compiled by EmComm experts:

- Cherokee ARES field manual
- Ziploc bags to weatherproof your radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Notebook (ideally waterproof) and pen
- Mobile phone and charger
- Portable battery pack for your phone
- First aid kit
- Leatherman® or other multitool
- Power bars for snacks
- Water bottle
- List of important phone and email contacts
- Reflective safety vest
- Copy of your radio license

Other items if you have room:

- Headlamp for hands-free operation
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Whistle
- Reading glasses if needed
- Poncho
- Light weight space blanket
- Velcro ties/zip ties
- Cash in small bills
- Mag mount antenna for your HT
- Gloves
- Swiss Army knife
- Duct tape

<https://www.qsl.net/kc0nrk/go-bags.html>

73,

**Lee Hall**

**KB4KDX**



# GEAR

by Dave Jensen – W7DGJ

## Bulldog Clip & CamJam

One of the handiest ham accessories I've ever run across is a large "bulldog clip" that will attach to just about anything, whether it be a cattle fence or a stop sign in a local park (I've done both). This clip changed my portable activations from the moment I brought it along. The **Workman QRCS3** is a simple and inexpensive connector, built like a Mack truck, that allows a mount from just about any angle – vertical or horizontal. It has a big, powerful jaw that adjusts to 2.5 inches in full open; it ensures a solid connection due to all the "teeth" gripping the surface. A smoothly rotating bracket on the QRCS3 can be adjusted with an Allen wrench to any position and no matter what angle it is attached to that fence, it will hold your antenna upright.



I use this mount with a whip and coil, or it holds one end of a dipole. I've never experienced a situation where it wasn't helpful in some way. It's produced by **Workman Electronic Products** out of Ohio and is available from several sellers on eBay and Amazon for \$20-\$25 shipped. Like many other ham radio accessories, other companies or dealers buy and resell this as their own, so ensure you don't pay the \$50 or \$60 they are looking for (Chameleon and others will resell this device as theirs).

Another cool piece of gear that I couldn't live without is the **CamJam**. Used for a quick tie-down of an antenna support rope, or to tighten up one end of a dipole, for example, this device makes everything quick and easy. It's available in a couple



of sizes, and both plastic and metal versions. **Chris - KF7P** introduced me to these and I'm now spoiled for life. You can find them on the website of **KF7P Metalwerks**, at **KF7P.com**.



*Dave Jensen, W7DGJ, was first licensed in 1966 as WN7VDY (and later WA7VDY). Dave loved radio so much he went off to study broadcasting and came out with a BS in Communications from Ohio University. After working his way through the microphone business of Audio-Technica, he moved to Arizona and was later re-licensed as W7DGJ (Scottsdale). His column, **Tooling Up**, ran for more than 20 years in the website of the leading scientific journal, SCIENCE, and his column **Trials and Errors: Ham Life with an Amateur** continues to be a popular read each month on QRZ.com.*

*Read Dave's column at <https://www.qrz.com/trials-and-errors>*





# QSO



## My Most Memorable QSO

Shortly after earning my General license, I became involved in contesting. Within a few months, I had talked to five continents and dozens of countries, but hadn't yet made it through to Australia, which was one I really wanted.

Confirming one weekend that atmospheric conditions were favorable, I set out on my Aussie quest on 20 meters: "CQ Australia..."

I waited, and after a minute or so, I heard a weak response from a "W-6"...California. I'd spoken to plenty of people in that state, so I ignored the reply, but the guy was persistent, and finally I answered him.

**"We need your help"**

He identified himself as a member of the US Air Force and asked whether I had a phone patch. He insisted that he needed to contact his commanding officer at Edwards Air Force Base, about 100 miles down the road from his location.

By now I'm curious what's going on, and I asked him. He said he couldn't tell me, of course, but he requested that I call his CO at a toll-free number and relay information about "where to send the search lights."

Now I'm really interested. They were looking for something, possibly a lost airplane. I made the call, relayed the information and signed off.

At the time I worked in the news department of a large radio station in Orlando, Florida, so I checked in with my newsroom to see whether we had any reports of missing planes.

Well, as a matter of fact, my colleague said, "there's a story on the wire that the Air Force is looking for a missing stealth bomber in California."

### Military secrets

It was about then that my life began to flash before my eyes. It was a time when the Cold War was simmering and the government was denying the very existence of such a plane. And I knew about it.

In my mind, I could hear the knock at the door and uniformed MPs dragging me into a black SUV with heavily tinted windows. I was anxious to say the least.

Couldn't sleep much that night or the next, but over time, the memory faded. Until about six weeks later, when there WAS a knock at the door. It WAS a man in uniform...the postman bearing an envelope too large to fit into my mailbox. It was from the U.S. Air Force.

I carefully opened the package to find a citation signed by a colonel at the Air Force base thanking me for my assistance and service to the military during emergency operations.



I've recently been in touch with my California QSO, **N6YIH** (previously WA6LKS.) Long retired, he remembered our conversation and confirmed — nearly 40 years after the fact — that the search did involve a missing stealth aircraft. In ham radio, you meet the most interesting people.

If you would like to share one of your memorable QSOs, send your story to [club.wx4car@gmail.com](mailto:club.wx4car@gmail.com).

73,

**Lee Hall**

**KB4KDX**



# Contesting

## Contest Corner

October 2023

### Oceania DX Contest

0600Z Oct 7th to 0600Z Oct 8th  
160,80,40,20,15,10m SSB

### School Club Roundup

Oct 16-20  
All Except WARC SSB CW

### Oceania DX Contest CW

0600Z Oct 14th to 0600Z Oct 15th  
160,80,40,20,15,10m CW

### October QSO Parties

CA, NV, AZ, PA, SD, NY, IL

### CQ WW DX Contest SSB

160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m SSB  
0000Z Oct 28th to 2359Z Oct 29th

## Useful Contesting Links:

### Space weather predictions and propagation info.

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/27-day-outlook-107-cm-radio-flux-and-geomagnetic-indices>

### Radio propagation info and space weather info.

<http://www.hamqsl.com>

### Upcoming contest info.

<http://www.contestcalendar.com>

## DXpedition News

From October 4, 2023 until October 17, 2023 an international team of 10 operators will be active from **Swains Island** as **W8S**. ATNO POTA park. QRV on all HF bands in CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY with 6 stations from 2 separated camps.



**Yuris** — **YL2GM** will be active from **Tristan da Cunha** as **ZD9W** during September 24 to October 22, 2023. **ZD9** is #44 in Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List as of August 2023. All HF bands SSB and CW as well as 6m ft8.





# Cherokee County ARES / RACES



On September 15-16, 2023, Cherokee County deployed to Northwest GA to support the **GA Jewel**. The **GA Jewel** is a series of races where runners run various distances including 100 Miles, 50 Miles, 35 Miles, or 18 Miles.

Team Cherokee operated from **Johns Mountain** where we tracked 395 runners that passed through Johns Mountain, ensuring they made it from the previous aid station and that they arrived at the next aid station. After collecting the runner times on paper, this information was transferred to an overall Excel file tracker and then communicated to all aid-stations using **Winlink**.

Our team worked around the clock for over 24 hours. This exercise gave us an opportunity to practice deploying remotely, operating off grid using battery and solar power and VHF and HF communications.

During a brief lull in activity, we successfully performed a **Parks of the Air** Activation from **Park K-3758**.

I want to thank the following personnel who participated from Cherokee including:

- Rob – W1JKU**
- David – KO4SAO**
- Rod – KO4PWB**
- Bill – KO4UQF,**
- Cody – WX4WCS**
- Dudley – KC4SDF**
- Jay – K4QEX.**

We have already begun planning our operations for September 2024. Please stay tuned, we would love to have you join our team.

**Video Link:** [https://youtu.be/dlcpv0zzR\\_k](https://youtu.be/dlcpv0zzR_k)

Please prepare for our Cherokee Simulated Emergency Training Exercise, starting 06:00 on 14 October 2023.

**Follow us on** <https://www.cherokee-ares.org>.

## Frequencies:

### Primary Repeater

WA4EOC - 443.075 (+) PL 107.2 Pine Log Mtn.  
Waleska

### Backup Repeater

KG4VUB - 145.270 (-) PL 100 Pine Log Mtn.  
Waleska

**Simplex Frequency** - 147.585 MHz

**Emergency Coordinator:** Rob Bruderer - W1JKU

### Assistant Emergency Coordinators:

Mark Schulze	KO4IFY	ko4ify@arrl.net
Randy Kerr	KD4KHO	kd4kho@arrl.net
Jim Millsap	K9APD	k9apd@comcast.net
Don Coltrane	KJ4UC	kj4uc@arrl.net

## Nets:

Weekly ARES Training Nets are every Monday at 8pm on the 443.075 MHz repeater.

## ARES Meetings:

The Cherokee Amateur Radio Emergency Service Group meets with the Cherokee Amateur Radio Society at 10am, second Saturday of each month. Our meetings are held at the The William G. Long Senior Center in Woodstock, GA

### Address:

223 Arnold Mill Road  
Woodstock, Georgia 30188

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# Resources



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## WX4CAR 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>

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## 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/cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar.html](http://cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html)

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

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

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

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## 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>





# WX4CAR

## CARS Officers for 2023:

### 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

## 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 – KB4KDX  
kb4kdx@gmail.com

**Editor:** Jim King – KO4EAN  
king4144@gmail.com

**Design:** Carmon Madison – KQ4JIO  
carmon@icloud.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.