



WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER JUNE 2024

What do you call an amateur radio operator when everything is doing smooth?

A Hamster.

Thanks to Joyce Robinson, N4PAH's XYL

What do you call an amateur radio operator when you're mad at them?

A Hamroid.

Again, Thanks to Joyce Robinson

AMATEUR RADIO APPAREL

A number of times I have noticed fellow hams wearing shirts and ball caps with ARRL logo, call signs, or local club emblems to meetings, ham fests and similar gatherings. I do it myself. I was recently asked why I only wore them to radio related events. I didn't have a good reason.

My friend pointed out that other hams know the emblems. Non-hams don't, and are likely to ask about the emblem and the groups and hobby they represent. So promote Amateur Radio by wearing ham related apparel whenever you can.

LOCAL NETS

Sundays at 8:00 PM

KARES net on 145.350 PL 91.5

Sundays at 8:30 PM

KARC net on 145.350 PL 91.5

Sunday at 7:00 PM

Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club

Sunday night digital net 441.825

Tuesday at 8:30 PM

WV8AR - 147.270 PL Tone 123.0

Thursday 8:00 PM

Country Roads Net, WV

C4FM NET, Link Room 46488

WVAR 441.825 Scott Depot, or

WB8CQV 147.21 South Charleston

Hot spots use US-WV-LINK (19941)

Saturday 10:00 AM

Ohio Valley ARES Net 441.825

MEETINGS

KARC Meets on June 7

AREA 73

COONSKIN PARK

CHARLESTON WV

Topic will be FIELD DAY

Greetings @ 6:00 PM - Meeting @ 6:30 PM

WVDXA Breakfast Every Tuesday

Join WVDXA and friends for breakfast at Bob Evans on Jefferson Road in South Charleston.

Gather at 8:15 AM and order breakfast at 9:00.

WVAR Meets on June 10

CAMC Teays Valley

1400 Hospital Drive

Hurricane, WV 25526

Education Room at 7:00 PM

Topic will be Field Day

KARES Meets on June 20

Kanawha County 911 Center

200 Peyton Way (Off Corridor G)

Charleston, WV

Meeting @ 6:00 PM

WHO IS YOUR DX COMPETITION?
GUEST EDITORIAL
Charlie Young, N8RR

I was talking to a friend on 75M about how he is not into collecting and accumulating confirmations for ARRL awards, DXCC and Challenge. Yet, he is very active on the air and chases DX all the time. It could have been me talking up until about 20 years ago. I have been licensed since 1962, but my official DXCC record has nothing in it from the 1970's, maybe less than a handful of credits from the early 1980's. Yet the bulk of my activity, when there was time, was working DX.

Reason? I liked the chase. Liked operating in a DX pileup. Really enjoyed working the rare ones. The spotting networks diminished the chasing/finding aspect somewhat, but then I focused on spotting rare DX for others. This was a kick, and I was successful at it.

I was doing it for the sheer love of DXing and did not feel the need to **PROVE** to anyone that I worked a rare one. It was enough for me to know. I did not live in a place where my local friends were DXers. Even those active on the air were mostly on 75M ragchews or nets with occasional rare ragchews on the DX bands. Dxing for me was a lone activity. This started to change when I moved to CRW in the early 80's but my activity was limited. It was in the early 1990's that I started casually collecting DXCC confirmations. I really got serious about it in 2008 from this QTH, after retirement.

My advice to my friend, for what it's worth, is that you are essentially me 30 years ago. Today, I regret my laid back approach to QSLing and confirmations. I would have them ALL confirmed and would have made Challenge 3000 years ago. I suggested that he start seriously QSLing NOW.

His reason for not doing it now is that he is not competitive. Who are we competing with? We are competing with ourselves. You can't compare your results with someone who has been doing this 20 years longer than you. Every new one we confirm is a personal achievement and victory for ourself. Every time someone in WVDXA works a new one, it is a personal achievement that we all celebrate. To the extent we help each other on the DX journey, an achievement for one is an achievement for all.

I have never viewed the gang in WVDXA as competitors, even when I first got serious about this. In my time here, I have done everything within my power to assist others to work and confirm DX. Many others take the same approach. So the way to look at this is, these are your personal successes achieved with the support of your WVDXA peers. At the end of the day, as Jim Justice would say repetitively, you made the QSO. It is your achievement. I get a lot of satisfaction, of a different kind, to see folks I have helped working the DX.

I would do this if a formal DXCC did not exist, and know there are others. Competitiveness with others may be a minor motivation for some, but it is self motivation to do something difficult which you love to do that is the main driver.

73 Charlie N8RR

ARTICLES FOR FUTURE EDITIONS

If you know of an event or news related to amateur radio, or wish to submit a guest editorial to splatter, please contact me at nettlescreek@frontier.com .

WHY GO TO HAMFESTS?

A Hamfest is a blend of amateur radio convention, flea market, license testing, reunion with old friends, and a chance to make new friends who had only been voices over the air before.

In addition the accumulated entrance fees pay for a selection of prizes given away during the Hamfest. Any extra money collected can be used by the sponsor to buy bigger and better prizes for their next Hamfest or support other organization activities.

Some Hamfests, like the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio, attract thousands of people from all over the world. Others have less than a hundred Hams from the local area who are attracted more by the fellowship aspects of the gathering and not the latest products.

Other Hamfests, like Kanawha Amateur Radio Clubs Tailgate Hamfests are totally free and provide local hams with a chance to sell items they no longer want without paying a table fee or an admission charge. These tailgate Hamfest lean towards the fellowship end of the spectrum.

Future editions of Splatter will include information of Hamfests in our immediate area. Information on Hamfests in other areas can be located on ARRL's web page.

Just like Ham radio itself, there is a place for everybody at a Hamfest. Come out, support the local sponsors or vendors and join the fun.

FIELD DAY 2024

**ARRL Field Day will be from 2 PM ET
Saturday June 22 through 2 PM ET
Sunday June 23, 2024.
Support your local club!**

HINT OF THE DAY

Handheld Transceivers (HTs for short) get power from rechargeable batteries with exposed terminals. If you have a spare battery (and who doesn't?) you need to isolate the terminals from other items in your go bag to prevent accidental discharge or other damage.

I've found that old soft eyeglass cases make ideal pouches for my Baofeng and Yaesu batteries, and probably every other brand too.

Best of all, if you've worn glasses as long as I have, you probably have several cases laying around. If not check your local Goodwill Store or other thrift shop.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

All of us should have a personal and family emergency communications plan whether we are part of ARES or not. It doesn't have to be an extensive plan in a three ring binder. It could be as simple as a list of phone numbers important to you. And, not just in your phone's memory.

An acquaintance of mine was kayak fishing with a few friends along a flat water stream when he set the hook too vigorously. By the time he recovered his rod, tackle box, soggy lunch and soaked cell phone, it was too late for the party to reach their planned take out before dark. He was the only person with the phone number of his wife who was to meet them at the takeout. Yes, her number was in his phone, not in his head.

While this incident only caused some minor worry, it could have been avoided with a simple emergency communications plan, one as simple as a laminated list of important phone numbers.

Are you prepared?

AMATEUR RADIO WEB SITES

The KARC web page is now located at www.qsl.net/w8gk.

The WVAR web page is located at www.wv8ar.com/

The West Virginia DX Association maintains its web page at <https://wvdxa.com>.

WV Section Roanoke Division of ARRL has a web page at <https://wvarrl.com>.