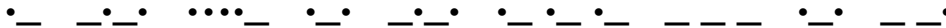




# Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

February  
2020 Edition



## ACARC

### President

Pete Long  
(WB3FYR)

### Vice President

Jeff McCulloch  
(K4JEL)

### Secretary

Norman Clemmons  
(KI4YSY)

### Treasurer

Anita Jacobs  
(KG4IIL)

Azalea Coast  
Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 4044  
Wilmington, NC 28406

[www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org)

## From The Editor

Yes...it's only February. But why not start planning now for trying something new like remote portable operation. Think SOTA (Summits On The Air) or IOTA (Islands On The Air). Think about operating from a harder to get grid square (like FM13 right in Kure Beach). Think POTA (Parks On The Air). There are endless ideas for operating portable, and with warmer weather coming in a couple months a chance to operate both outside and outside of your comfort zone. Read on in this months newsletter for some of those ideas.

Have a question you want answered? Curious about something ham related but need some ideas or guidance? Stumped about something and need help? We have Elmers that can probably give you the advice you need. Please see the link on the home page of ac4rc.org .

73!

## Upcoming Important Events

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup>** VE Testing Session, 10:00 AM  
CFCC North Campus  
**USE YOUR PARKING PASS!**

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>** Elmer session, 6:00 PM  
Monthly club meeting, 7:00 PM  
**Pay your 2020 dues**  
CFCC North Campus  
**USE YOUR PARKING PASS!**

**Every Monday** 2 Meter Rag Chew, 9:00PM  
147.18MHz, +0.600 offset, 88.5 tone  
Norman (KI4YSY) is net control



# Portable Operation

by Jeff (W4BIX)

Portable operation out in the wild. For some, a little outside of their comfort zone. There are endless opportunities for portable operation outside of your shack and I will provide a little information and links to explore. This article will not be a “how to” article covering equipment and/or antennas but instead of pointing out online resources for some (but not all) of the different programs available. Get outside into the fresh air!



POTA – Parks On The Air. There are (were) two programs for parks. One is NPOTA or National Parks On The Air which was sponsored by the ARRL in 2016 and Parks On The Air which is not affiliated with the ARRL.

NPOTA was a year long special event sponsored by the ARRL to help the National Park System celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was an overall success with over one million QSO's uploaded to LOTW as part of the year long event. One operator, N4CD took it to the extreme logging over 45,000 miles on his car and he activated 262 unique NPOTA units. See the recap of this event in the March 2017 issue of QST:

<http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/March2017/National%20Parks%20Article%20for%20QST%20PROMO.pdf>

POTA or Parks On The Air came to life as a result of the ARRL sponsored NPOTA event. They have their own website which contains all of the information

needed to either operate or chase. From their website:

*This group was inspired by the outstanding work of Sean Kutzko (KX9X) and Norm Fusaro (W3IZ) from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in 2016.*

POTA's website: <https://parksontheair.com/>



SOTA – Summits On The Air is an amateur radio operating award program launched in Great Britain in March of 2002. SOTA's aim is to encourage licensed amateur radio operators to operate temporarily from mountainous locations, combining hiking and mountain climbing with operating their amateur radio station from the summits of hills and mountains.

A bit ambitious for some, but don't discard the idea. There are summits out there you can actually drive to the top and operate! Unfortunately for ACARC members to participate in SOTA it requires a road trip as in NC all of the recognized summits in the database are in the western part of the state. The nearest to Wilmington is in Randolph County near Asheboro.

Use the “Online Resources” – “Database” – “Summits” buttons from SOTA's home page to get to the locations of summits. Use “W4C” as the association to locate summits in the Carolinas.

SOTA's website: <https://www.sota.org.uk/>



IOTA or Islands On The Air was established in 1964, and it promotes radio contacts with stations located on islands around the world to enrich the experience of all active on the amateur bands. To do this, it draws on the widespread mystique surrounding islands. It is administered by Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd (called here IOTA Management) in partnership with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

On their website you can visit the various tabs filled with information on all aspects of the IOTA program. On the "IOTA Directory" tab, "IOTA Island Group Listings" read the very first item in the drop down menu. It will explain the numbers & letters that appear with each listing. For example, in the Wilmington area most islands are grouped under NA-112. But you need to read the notes carefully as some islands in the area are excluded.

IOTA website: <https://www.iota-world.org/>

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## County Hunting Facts

*by Jack (WD4OIN) and Jeff (W4BIX)*

Some fun facts for you county hunters out there...

- Kalawo County on the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i is the smallest US county in land and population with a population of 88 crammed into 55 square miles.
- Loving County, Tx is the second-least populated county with a population of 134.

What is county hunting you ask? There are many aspects within Amateur Radio and County Hunting is just one of them. The goal of County Hunting is to make a two way contact with a station in each of the 3077 counties in the United States. CQ Publishing offers a large certificate and plaque for confirmation of each of these contacts. The majority of County Hunting takes place on organized nets mainly on the 20 and 40 meter bands. The 20 meter Mobile Emergency and County Hunters Net meets on 14.0565 CW and 14.324 SSB 365 days a year conditions permitting. You will find many of the mobiles will QSY (move) to 40 meters, 7.056.5 for CW and 7188 for SSB. PLEASE investigate the common frequencies yourself. I am not a county hunter (yet) so I might have gotten them wrong and some (if not all) nets have been discontinued.

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## Member Spotlight

*by Linwood (NT4F) and Robert (KN4AME)*

**Name:** Robert Gooch

**Call sign:** KN4AME

**Any previously held call signs:** None

**What class are you (Tech, General, Extra):** Extra

**What year did you first get licensed as a ham operator:** 2017

**What made you want to become a ham:** Curiosity

**Any memorable moments from your ham experience that stand out:** Have attended two national hamfests.

**Did you have an Elmer & if so, who was it:** Yes!  
Jack Jacobs (WD4OIN)

**Your favorite modes of operation and bands:** FT8 – 40M, 30M, 20M and 17M.

**Anything you want the club to know about YOU:** I am an Eagle Scout and support all scouting activities. I also built my first transceiver at age 8.

# FCC Releases New Extra Class Question Pool

by Jeff (W4BIX)

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website at <http://www.ncvec.org/>.

The 2020-2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016-2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

Boston – 1970; Washington, DC – 1977; Philadelphia (Valley Forge) – 1981. My Advanced and Extra Class tests I took through the Volunteer Examination (VE) program which went into effect around 1982.

**Any previous held call signs:** WN1NOP (Novice 1970-1972); WD4NZF (1977-1978 Technician in Virginia); WB2ZHS (1978-1981 Technician in New Jersey); N2COP (1981 to present as a General, Advanced and Extra. Not a vanity call; original issue from the FCC)

**What class are you?:** Extra

**What drove you to become involved with ARRL Section Management? :** My longest and still current ARRL appointment is ARES® Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) – New Hanover County, which I have held since 1993. In 1998 I became an ARRL appointed Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Wilmington area. Seven years later, I was appointed Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for the North Carolina Section overseeing 13 ARRL PIOs. I felt I had a lot to contribute, and decided to run for North Carolina Section Manager in 2010. There had not been a Section Manager east of Raleigh since 1970, and I felt many clubs and Hams in this part of the state were under represented. I was Section Manager until 2014, when I decided not to seek a third term. After nine months of no section level leadership, I was offered the chance to complete the term of then Roanoke Division Vice Director Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, who became Director when Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (SK) retired in 2015. I have since been re-elected twice as Vice Director, representing 12,000 ARRL members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

**What is your opinion of the current state of the hobby?:** In a word, the state is “good”, but as it has been since the dawn of Amateur Radio over a century ago, we all

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## ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director Spotlight

by Linwood (NT4F) & Bill (N2COP)

**Name:** Bill Morine

**Call Sign:** N2COP

**What year did you first get licensed as a Ham operator?:** 1970. I took the exam at the FCC District Office in Room 1600 of the Custom House Tower in Boston. Today, that building is now a hotel, and on my bucket list is to sleep in the room where I took my Novice test. My first three license class level exams I took at FCC offices:

need continually to remind friends, neighbors and most importantly government officials the tax-free benefits we bring to our fellow residents and citizens.

**Where do you see the future of the hobby as it relates to ARRL guidance?:** As not only the leading organization for Amateur Radio in the United States, but for the world, ARRL is shouldering a big load in supporting not only America's 750,000 licensees, but the remaining 2.3 million Hams outside the U.S. look to ARRL for guidance too. Defense of our spectrum is paramount. Many times we are in a David & Goliath battle of the nation's Ham operators fighting the money, power and size of commercial cellular carriers. ARRL is adapting to the 21st century by promoting policies of inclusion aimed at younger Hams, such as the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) which will bring relief for those living in Home Owner Association (HOA) neighborhoods with antenna restrictions, and advancement of digital modes towards which younger Hams are gravitating.

**In your opinion where is the most help needed in promoting our hobby and what can we do to help grow Amateur radio?:** And grow we must. The average age of an American Amateur Radio licensee today is around 56. First, those of us who are north of that demographic marker must accept that younger Hams do not want to socialize the way we have been for years. Most of them don't like weeknight or weekend meetings, and they prefer social media over email. I hear complaints all the time about, "Where are the young people?" They're around, but they are Hamming on their terms, not ours. We need to find untraditional ways to reach them, and to think and use modes more attractive to them. At the most recent ARRL board meeting, members discussed on-air "gaming" activities to attract younger Hams and prospective Hams. And what would

Gaming on Ham Radio look like? In my mind, it would be an adaptation of contesting, an activity already popular. We need to ensure younger operators get access to reasonable antenna space and for them to know that in the background are seasoned operators ready to serve as mentors (please, not "Elmers". The term is outdated). Then, together, young and established Hams must tell repeatedly that Amateur Radio is a deeply satisfying and wholesome hobby, a tax-free volunteer community service in times of emergency, and a laboratory which will hatch both technologies which will transform into downstream commercial benefits to all and a cadre of wireless engineers for the next generation. The future is bright – if we can agree to work with one another moving forward.

<http://arrl-roanoke.com/home.htm>



*N2COP operating at W1AW*



## February 2020 Contest Calendar from WA7BNM

+ Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
+ F9AA Cup, CW	1200Z, Feb 1 to 1200Z, Feb 2
+ Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 1 to 1159Z, Feb 2
+ Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
+ FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1
+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1
+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 1 to 0359Z, Feb 2 and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 2
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 1
+ FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 1
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 2
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 3
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 4
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 5
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 5
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 5 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 5 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 6
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 5
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Feb 6 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 6 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 6 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 6 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 6
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 7
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 7
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 7
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 9
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 8 to 1000Z, Feb 9
+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 8
+ Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 8 to 1200Z, Feb 9
+ KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 8 to 1200Z, Feb 9
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9
+ YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 8 to 0200Z, Feb 10
+ OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 8 to 1500Z, Feb 9
+ FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 8
+ RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Feb 8
+ Balkan HF Contest	1300Z-1700Z, Feb 9
+ Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 9 to 0800Z, Feb 10 and 1400Z, Feb 11 to 0800Z, Feb 12
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 10
+ CQC Winter QSO Party	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 10
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 14
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 12
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 12
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 12

+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 13
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 12
+ PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 14
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 14
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 14
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16
+ Russian PSK WW Contest	1200Z, Feb 15 to 1159Z, Feb 16
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1900Z-2059Z, Feb 15
+ AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 15 to 2300Z, Feb 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 17
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 19
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 19
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 19 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 19 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 20
+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 19
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 21
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 21
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 21
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2200Z, Feb 23
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 22 to 1800Z, Feb 23
+ UK/EI DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Feb 22 to 1200Z, Feb 23
+ SARL Digital Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Feb 23
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Feb 23
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 24 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 24 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 26
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 26
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 26
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 27
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 26
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 27
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 28
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 28
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 28
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 29
+ Russian WW MultiMode Contest	1200Z, Feb 29 to 1159Z, Mar 1
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 29 to 1300Z, Mar 1
+ South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 29 to 0159Z, Mar 1
+ NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 29 to 0559Z, Mar 1
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 29 to 0559Z, Mar 1