



# Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

May 2020  
Edition



## ACARC

### President

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(WB3FYR)

### Vice President

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## From The Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to invade every aspect of daily life. With social-distancing enforced and the college closed the club has ended up holding the monthly meeting online using the Zoom video conferencing software. See an article about that meeting on the next page. This seems to be the new normal at least for now.

Field Day 2020 is coming up in June. If daily life is still restricted, there is NO reason to not still participate. Set up a mini Field Day in your backyard. Operate from your normal shack! The rules are flexible to allow just about any type of set up. See an article about this in this newsletter.

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 mentors that can give you the advice you need. Please see the "Need help? Contact us" link on the home page of [ac4rc.org](http://ac4rc.org).

73!



## Upcoming Important Club Events

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** Monthly club meeting, 7:00 PM  
No in-person meeting – online using  
Zoom video conferencing

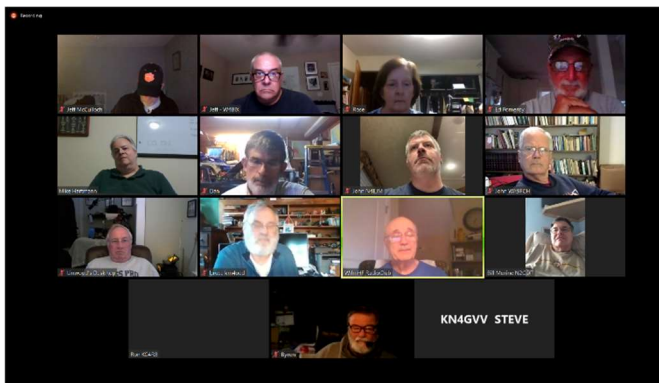
**Every Monday** 2 Meter Rag Chew, 9:00PM  
147.18MHz, +0.600 offset, 88.5 tone  
Norman (KI4YSY) is net control

# Online Club Meeting

by Jeff (W4BIX)

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed drastically the way normal day business is conducted these days. The first “online” virtual meeting probably in the club’s history was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> using the ZOOM platform. And like it or not a lot of people were dragged kicking and screaming into the modern computer video conferencing world.

The meeting started at 7:20 PM, but didn’t kick off right away due to the club’s president who had computer issues getting his webcam to work. Once that was solved we were off and running.



Luckily everyone had clothes on! There were a couple hiccups when some accidentally “shared” their desktop screen. That was quickly corrected and the meeting seemed to go well.

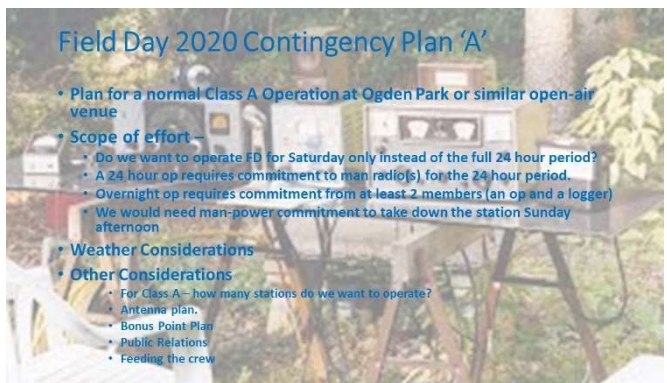
Mike Hartmann (NI2S) gave an excellent presentation on ARRL Field Day. Mike seems to be our in-house expert as he has attended 51 Field Days!



- First Field Day was introduced by the ARRL in June of 1933
- The objective was to showcase Ham’s skills in setting up “portables” in the ‘field’.
- The telephone system of the day was easily disrupted. Ham Radio was often times the only means of communication with the outside world during emergencies.
- The 1933 Field Day winner was W4PAW, James Chafin of Tampa Florida. W4PAW made 62 QSOs, and had 28 sections for a total of 1876 points.
- Except for WWII, Field Day has been held every year since inception.
- Tens of thousands of Hams in North America participate.
- It is considered by many to be the premier on-air event of the Ham Radio Calendar.



- This year is uniquely multidimensional due to COVID19 spread mitigation
- Most recent news reports suggest social distancing in effect to early June
- Risk of further extension is significant, as mitigation strategies are developed to thwart resurgence
- COVID19 Response is highly dynamic – rapid, dramatic changes possible as Federal, State, and Local agencies continuously calibrate their efforts.
- ARRL is currently signaling that FD will go on, but likely a modified event.
- Multi-op portable, 1-2 op portable, and Mobile op may not be possible come June
- FD may consist of just Home, commercial power, or Home emergency power categories.



- Plan for a normal Class A Operation at Ogden Park or similar open-air venue
- Scope of effort –
  - Do we want to operate FD for Saturday only instead of the full 24 hour period?
  - A 24 hour op requires commitment to man radio(s) for the 24 hour period.
  - Overnight op requires commitment from at least 2 members (an op and a logger)
  - We would need man-power commitment to take down the station Sunday afternoon
- Weather Considerations
- Other Considerations
  - For Class A – how many stations do we want to operate?
  - Antenna plan.
  - Bonus Point Plan
  - Public Relations
  - Feeding the crew



- Members participate in FD at their respective homes Class E or D
- Use their own call and operate within their FCC license privileges
- Should we set up contests within the contest for club members?
- Could keep it simple – each member does his own op, w/no coordination
- Use the repeater to trade notes during FD?
- Or try something else? Ideas welcome!
- Let’s keep it simple though



We did discuss Field Day 2020 and if the club was going to participate. IF social-distancing restrictions are adequately lifted before then then the club will be there in Ogden Park as scheduled. Much more will be discussed with club members in the coming couple of months.

Keep an eye out for emails announcing any upcoming video conferencing meetings. Don't be shy and join the meetings online! There is even an option to use your phone to call in to the meeting just using the audio.

Here is a decent YouTube video explaining how to join and participate in a meeting using the Zoom video conferencing software from your everyday computer browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>



**Editor's note: Just as I was getting ready to mail this out to everyone the club president sent out a possible change to the May meeting. Please pay attention to any emails from Pete (WB3FYR) that he sends out on the club's email reflector. Whatever he sends out will be the latest & most up-to-date club information.**



## Field Day 2020

by Jeff (W4BIX)



**WWW.ARRL.ORG**

If.....if.....we are still socially isolated in June and cannot hold a club-level Field Day as planned do not despair. You can still participate from home.

The rules set by the ARRL for Field Day do allow operation from home – even on regular commercial electric power from your radio in the house. For example, let's cover a couple of scenarios for operating at home if the Ogden Park event is cancelled.

1. Single operator at home running on emergency power like a battery or a generator: this is Class E station according to the rules. Take this set up away from home for the day and you are now a Class B.

2. Single operator at home running on standard commercial power: this is a Class D station.

Don't take my word for it...explore the rules for yourself here because I probably read them wrong somehow:

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1\\_61-2020%20Rules.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_61-2020%20Rules.pdf)

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## 6 Meters – The Magic Band

by Linwood (NT4F)

It's getting that time of year again when 6 meters will come alive. Most modern transceivers have 6 meters on them. All you need is to hook-up and antenna and go for it.

Collecting grid squares is the name of the game on six meters and we live near a very rare one. FM13. It starts about the stop light in Kure Beach and runs south. Most of FM13 is in the ocean, but a very small portion is on the Brunswick County side of the river, right at the Ferry dock near Southport. If you think about it there's not much land mass in FM13 and no Hams permanently live there, so it makes for a good day putting the grid on the air. I have camped at the Ft Fisher Recreational area during the June ARRL VHF QSO party, ARRL Field Day, July CQ Magazine World Wide VHF Contest and September VHF contests for that specific purpose. I have also just driven down there and parked either at the Ferry landing or some other area to put FM13 on the air.

Modes used on 6 meters:

Beacons: 50.000 to 50.080

CW: below 50.100

SSB: 50.100 to around 50.200 with 50.110 DX Call calling frequency, and 50.125 Domestic Call Frequency, establish a contact on the calling frequency then move off.

Digital: 50.313 FT8

50.318 FT4

50.280 MFSK 144 calling frequency

AM: 50.400

Just listening doesn't make any contacts! Get on there and call CQ, be relentless don't give up. Right now the most popular is 50.313 for FT8, activity most of the time.

For 6 meters, antennas are relatively small. And can be built easily and cheaply. Some antenna build and general information links for you to explore:

<https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2014/06/11/building-the-6-meter-moxon-antenna/>

<https://blog.radioartisan.com/homebrew-lightweight-6-meter-moxon/>

[https://k8jhr.com/files/6\\_m\\_moxon\\_build\\_report\\_1b.pdf](https://k8jhr.com/files/6_m_moxon_build_report_1b.pdf)

<http://www.kg4jjh.com/pdf/6m%20Moxon.pdf>

<https://www.qsl.net/dk7zb/Moxon/Moxon.htm>

<https://www.k5nd.net/2014/09/stressed-moxon-ingeniously-elegant/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR3MSQw7iZo>

<https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Lan=E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3ZGJWuzgRs>

<https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNbPQfVLqtM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-cUNs274rU>



# May 2020 Contest Calendar

From WA7BNM -

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

Click on the **+** symbol next to the contest name for more information about that contest.

<a href="#">+</a> NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 1
<a href="#">+</a> NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 1
<a href="#">+</a> AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 1 (CW)
<a href="#">+</a> Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest	0000Z, May 2 to 1600Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> RCC Cup	0300Z-0859Z, May 2
<a href="#">+</a> SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	<i>(cancelled due to COVID-19)</i>
<a href="#">+</a> Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1400 local, May 2
<a href="#">+</a> ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 2 to 0300Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, May 2
<a href="#">+</a> FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 2
<a href="#">+</a> Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	0830Z-1000Z, May 4 (FT4)
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 4
<a href="#">+</a> MIE 33 Contest	2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
<a href="#">+</a> ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 5
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	1000Z-1130Z, May 5 (SSB)
<a href="#">+</a> RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 5
<a href="#">+</a> Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 6
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	1130Z-1300Z, May 6 (CW)
<a href="#">+</a> CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 6 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 6 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 7
<a href="#">+</a> UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 6
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	1300Z-1430Z, May 7 (RTTY)
<a href="#">+</a> RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 7
<a href="#">+</a> NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, May 7 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, May 7 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 7 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, May 7 (Dig)
<a href="#">+</a> SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, May 7
<a href="#">+</a> NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 8
<a href="#">+</a> NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 8
<a href="#">+</a> RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 8 (SSB)
<a href="#">+</a> SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 0800Z, May 10
<a href="#">+</a> VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
<a href="#">+</a> SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 9 to 2400Z, May 10
<a href="#">+</a> CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
<a href="#">+</a> Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 9 to 0200Z, May 10
<a href="#">+</a> FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 9

+ 50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 9 to 0300Z, May 10
+ WAB 7 MHz Phone/CW	1000Z-1400Z, May 10
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 11
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	0830Z-1000Z, May 11 (CW)
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1000Z-1130Z, May 12 (FT4)
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 12
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 13
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1130Z-1300Z, May 13 (SSB)
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 14
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1300Z-1430Z, May 14 (CW)
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 14
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 14
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 15
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 15 (RTTY)
+ UN DX Contest	0600Z-2100Z, May 16
+ NZART Sangster Shield Contest	0800Z-1100Z, May 16 and 0800Z-1100Z, May 17
+ Portuguese Navy Day Contest	0900Z, May 16 to 1700Z, May 18
+ Hamvention QSO Party	1200Z-2400Z, May 16
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
+ Aegean RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, May 16 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	1900Z-2400Z, May 17
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, May 18
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 19
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 20
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 21
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 20
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
+ QRP Minimal Art Session	1600Z-2200Z, May 21
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 21
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 22
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
+ EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 18 to 1200Z, May 19
+ Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
+ Day of the YLs Contest	0001Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25
+ QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	0000Z-0100Z, May 25
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, May 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 26
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, May 26
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 27

<a href="#">+ CWops Mini-CWT Test</a>	1300Z-1400Z, May 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 28
<a href="#">+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series</a>	1800Z-1900Z, May 27
<a href="#">+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint</a>	1700Z-1900Z, May 28
<a href="#">+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</a>	1900Z-2030Z, May 28
<a href="#">+ PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest</a>	0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 31
<a href="#">+ NCCC RTTY Sprint</a>	0145Z-0215Z, May 29
<a href="#">+ NCCC Sprint</a>	0230Z-0300Z, May 29
<a href="#">+ Feld Hell Sprint</a>	0000Z-2359Z, May 30
<a href="#">+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</a>	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31