

SHELBY AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB, INC.  
PO BOX 2206  
SHELBY, NC 28151-2206

*Host of the Shelby Hamfest*

*Lovingly referred to as the  
"Grand-daddy of Them All"*

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
<http://www.shelbyarc.org>

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

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# SHAMBRAC NEWS

VOLUME 42, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2026

## Looking Around the Dial

### Hamfests:

March 6-7 Charlotte Hamfest

April 4 RARSfest

### Contests:

February 9-12 School Club Roundup

February 21-22 International DX—CW

### Of Note from KE4GTQ

For an extensive list of upcoming contests visit <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

For a free ham clock visit <https://openhamclock.com/>



## January 2026 NET REPORT



### **SARC WEEKLY NETS**

***Monday & Friday  
Nights at  
8:30 on  
146.880***

***Sunday Night  
Prayer Net at  
8:30 pm on  
146.880***

***Trader's Net  
after the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Monday night  
each month on  
146.880***

***Good Ideas &  
Solutions Net  
Wednesday  
Night at 7:00  
pm 147.345***

Total Nets – 17

Net Control Stations – 7

SARC Repeater Usage – 9 hours 2 minutes

Total Checkins– 325

Top N/C Station for January 2026 == KE4GTQ

Thanks to all the SARC Net controllers for keeping our clubs' repeaters radio active. Also, thanks to everyone that continues to check in to support our controllers. We increased check-ins in January by Qty 32. That's great!

Our weekly nets provide us regular low stress practice for proper procedures, phonetics, logging and check ins. It also allows us to know who's in our repeater coverage area in the event of an emergency.

Stay Radio Active!

73

Russell / KE4GTQ



## News and Notes

The next SARC club meeting is February 10th at 7pm at the former Red Cross Building in Shelby, NC. Also as a reminder it is time to renew your club dues for 2026. Member ship is \$20 for members and \$10 for family member. If you are a full member or lifetime member of ARRL then club dues are \$10 for club member and \$5 for family. Each member is responsible for paying dues to ARRL. The club will also be voting on a membership application submitted by Jimmy Johnson, N4YR.



ARES OF CLEVELAND COUNTY WAS #1 IN ARES ACTIVITY IN THE SECTION IN 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

### The News of The North

One month down and now eleven more to go! Before you know it we'll be at Labor Day weekend.

Hopefully everyone managed to survive the snow apocalypse at the end of January and first part of February. Here in Hillsborough we still have a few areas with ice still on the roads until we get some warmer weather which will hopefully be in the days to come. I for one am looking forward to the warmer temperatures. Not much to report on here in The Triangle. Looking forward to RARS-fest coming up in April. Looking forward to hitting some trails when the weather allows for it as well.

Everyone stay safe and hope to hear you on the radio soon.

73 de WZ4BSS



# FEBRUARY 2026

| Sun                        | Mon                                 | Tue                       | Wed                  | Thu | Fri                     | Sat |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 1 Prayer<br>Net<br>K4ZXN   | 2 VHF<br>Net<br>KD4LEE              | 3                         | 4 Good<br>Ideas Net  | 5   | 6 VHF<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS  | 7   |
| 8 Prayer<br>Net<br>K4ZXN   | 9 VHF<br>Net<br>WE4GPS              | 10<br>SARCVH<br>F Meeting | 11 Good<br>Ideas Net | 12  | 13 VHF<br>Net           | 14  |
| 15 Prayer<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS | 16 VHF<br>Net<br>WB4SAB             | 17                        | 18 Good<br>Ideas Net | 19  | 20 VHF<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS | 21  |
| 22 Prayer<br>Net<br>K4ZXN  | 23 VHF<br>& Trader<br>Net<br>KE4GTQ | 24                        | 25 Good<br>Ideas Net | 26  | 27 VHF<br>Net<br>W4KTB  | 28  |

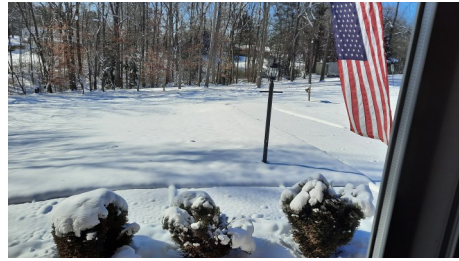
# March 2026

| Sun                               | Mon                                   | Tue                       | Wed                         | Thu       | Fri                            | Sat       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> Prayer<br>Net K4ZXN      | <b>2</b> VHF Net<br>KD4LEE            | <b>3</b>                  | <b>4</b> Good<br>Ideas Net  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b> VHF Net<br>WZ4BSS     | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b> Prayer<br>Net K4ZXN      | <b>9</b> VHF Net<br>WE4GPS            | <b>10</b> SARC<br>Meeting | <b>11</b> Good<br>Ideas Net | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> VHF<br>Net           | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b> Prayer<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS | <b>16</b> VHF<br>Net<br>WB4SAB        | <b>17</b>                 | <b>18</b> Good<br>Ideas Net | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> VHF<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b> Prayer<br>Net K4ZXN     | <b>23</b> VHF<br>and Trader<br>KE4GTQ | <b>24</b>                 | <b>25</b> Good<br>Ideas Net | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> VHF<br>Net W4KTB     | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b> Prayer<br>Net<br>WZ4BSS | <b>30</b> VHF<br>Net                  | <b>31</b>                 |                             |           |                                |           |

# Winter Wonderland Reports February 2026



Gunny Christ reporting 7" by 1630 on Saturday afternoon



The QTH of KR4DCN front porch



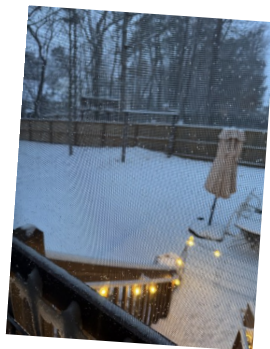
Kings Mountain State Park photo by K4ZXN



Mike and Susan at Patriots Park in Kings Mountain, NC



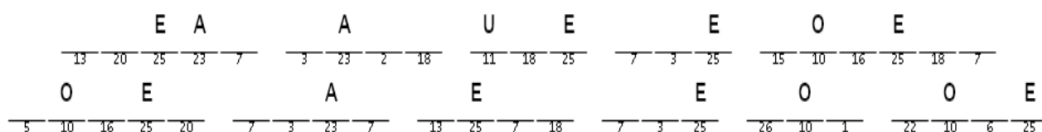
Kings Mountain photo by K4ZXN



Photos from home of WZ4BSS

## KE2EP's Korner

|    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| A  | B | C | D | E  | F | G | H | I  | J | K | L | M | N | O  | P | Q | R | S | T | U  | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 23 |   |   |   | 25 |   |   |   | 12 |   |   |   |   |   | 10 |   |   |   |   |   | 11 |   |   |   |   |   |



# From Picnic Table to Pileup de KE4GTQ

## Parks on the Air (POTA): Why Participate?

**Parks on the Air (POTA)** is one of the fastest-growing activities in amateur radio—and for good reason. It combines the joy of operating radio with the beauty of our national, state, and local parks.

### Get More Out of Your Radio

POTA encourages portable operation, helping operators sharpen HF skills, experiment with antennas, and operate efficiently on battery power. It's hands-on experience that benefits everyday operating and emergency communications alike.

### Enjoy the Outdoors

Activating a park is a great excuse to get outside. Whether it's a short afternoon activation or a full day in the park, POTA blends radio with hiking, camping, and family fun.

### Friendly, Worldwide Contacts

POTA operators are known for being welcoming and supportive. From quick QSOs to long-distance contacts, the bands are always alive when a park is active.

### Earn Awards—No Cost, No Pressure

POTA offers free awards for both **Activators** and **Hunters**. There's no contest stress, no deadlines, and no fees—just upload your log and enjoy watching the awards roll in.

### Build Real-World Skills

Operating portable improves readiness for emergency and field operations:

- Battery-powered stations
- Rapid setup and tear down
- Efficient antennas and low power operation

### Great for Clubs

POTA is perfect for club outings:

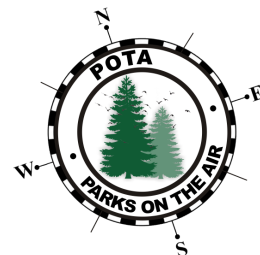
- Group activations
- Mentoring new hams
- Public outreach
- Great content for newsletters and social media

### Open to Everyone

All license classes and experience levels are welcome. Operate solo or as a group—one hour or all day.

**If you enjoy amateur radio and the outdoors, POTA is for you. One activation is all it takes to get hooked!**

Russell / KE4GTQ



## Before SARC

### The Deep Roots of Cleveland County Amateur Radio

By Susan Melvin-Ledford, K4ZXN

#### The Airwaves Before SARC

Ask most Cleveland County hams when it all began, and the answer comes quickly: May 1957—the founding of the Shelby Amateur Radio Club. That date matters. But it isn't the beginning.

Long before SARC had a charter, officers, or a call sign banner on a meeting table, the air over Cleveland County was already buzzing with curiosity. Teenagers built radios from spare parts. Signals crackled into headphones late at night. And a small but determined group of experimenters laid the groundwork for a tradition of technical skill, public service, and community connection that still defines local amateur radio today.

Recently rediscovered articles from *The Cleveland Star* and the *Kings Mountain Herald* reveal just how deep those roots go—back not only to the early days of amateur radio nationwide, but to a time when Cleveland County was quietly keeping pace with the cutting edge of a brand-new technology.

EDWIN Y. WEBB, son of Shelby's Federal Judge, talks almost nightly to the amateur radio boys in Shelby. They don't use the dot-dot-dashers any more, but are equipped with loudspeakers. If you've a short wave set, you can pick them up and listen in.

### When Radio Was Still a Mystery (1920–1935)



Cleveland County's amateur radio story begins around 1914, when a nine-year-old Edwin Webb constructed what is believed to be Shelby's first radio set. This was an era when radio itself was still closer to science experiment than household appliance.

By October 1920, 15-year-old Edwin Webb Jr., namesake of federal judge E.Y. Webb—had taken that curiosity even further. While most of Shelby slept, Webb sat hunched over a homemade receiver, carefully tuning the dial, coaxing faint signals out of the static. On some nights, those signals came from hundreds—or thousands—of miles away.

This was the dawn of amateur radio in America. The Radio Act of 1912 had only recently established federal licensing and call districts. Frequencies were limited, equipment was primitive, and nearly everything had to be built by hand. But experimentation was encouraged, and young operators like Webb pushed the limits of what was possible with simple components and patience.

What began as a hobby became a calling. By 1932, Webb was working professionally for AT&T, where he authored a respected thesis on circuit-network design—a trajectory that mirrored radio's own evolution from backyard experimentation to a cornerstone of modern communications.

## A County Full of Tinkerers

### Native Shelby Boy Credited For Very Remarkable Record

Work Is Most Signal Improvement  
In Long Distance Telephone  
Apparatus. Gets Degree.

(Special to The Star.)

Raleigh, June 13.—Edwin Yates Webb, jr., formerly of Shelby, who was awarded the professional degree of electrical engineer at the State college commencement exercises last week is credited with one of the most signal improvements made in the last few years in the field of long distance telephone apparatus.

When Webb received his degree in electrical engineering at State college in 1926, he was employed by the American Telephone and Telegraph company and assigned to the task of designing a network to reduce the loudness of a shorter circuit to conform with the loudness of adjacent long circuits, a job which requires technical training and higher mathematics. On the basis of that experience Webb evolved a method and wrote a thesis showing how a set of curves and graphs can be used by even an untrained electrician to design any desired network.

Information given in Webb's thesis will shortly be sent out over the entire country by the American Telephone and Telegraph company as standard instructions to all its employees.

Webb was not alone. By the early 1930s, local newspapers reported "a score or more" Cleveland County youths absorbed in radio experimentation. Their bedrooms and workshops were cluttered with coils, switches, wires, and what one reporter affectionately described as "thingaumasbobs."

Among the standouts were brothers Everett and Robert Toms. In 1931, they captured first prize at the Cleveland County Fair for amateur radio sets with their aptly named "De Luxe Cigar Box Model"—a one-tube receiver ingeniously built inside an El Toro cigar box. At a time when money was scarce and creativity abundant, ingenuity mattered more than polish.

By 1935, Robert Toms had earned the callsign W4DPA, joining the growing ranks of licensed amateurs in the Fourth Radio District. His brother Everett, licensed as W4DSW, was appointed an Emergency Operator in 1936 by H.E. Handy of the ARRL—an early signal that amateur radio's role was expanding beyond experimentation into public service.

## Radio, the Hard Way

This was amateur radio in its most hands-on form.

Operators built their own regenerative receivers, relied on crystal detectors and headphones, and stretched long-wire antennas between trees and rooftops. Morse code was the only mode. Frequencies were few. And success depended as much on skill and patience as on equipment.



Fig. A.  
The complete receiver in the Cigar Box.

## From Hobby to Organization: Kings Mountain Radio Club (1951)

By the time World War II ended, radio had proven its value beyond any doubt. Returning servicemen brought home communications skills, surplus military equipment flooded the market, and the FCC reopened amateur bands closed during wartime. Across the country, amateur radio surged—and Cleveland County was no exception.

On August 17, 1951, the Kings Mountain Radio Club (KMRC) was founded, becoming the county's first organized amateur radio club—nearly six years before SARC.

The club met at its headquarters in the rear of 414 N. Piedmont Street and elected officers who would shape its early direction:

- Wood Jackson (W4DOZ), President
- Carl M. Logan (W4LTL), Vice President
- Charles L. Alexander, Secretary-Treasurer
- Harold R. Hunnicutt, Custodian

KMRC offered instruction in Morse code and radio theory, helping new operators earn licenses and sharpen their skills. Meetings were held at familiar local spots, including Red Bridges' Barbecue and the Kings Mountain Country Club. A later clubhouse stood at 510 N. Piedmont Avenue, near where the "White House" now sits by Highway 74.

As the Cold War intensified, the club's focus increasingly shifted toward emergency communications, reflecting a growing national emphasis on Civil Defense preparedness.

### Logan Calls Hawaii To Get In On Shelby

Carl Logan, local meat market operator, is quite a "ham" on the airwaves.

Harold Hunnicutt, another rabid short-wave operator, told this one on Carl the other day.

Logan, who has a short-wave set at his home on West Gold street, decided to tune in on C. W. Ham's frequency in Shelby the other night and bat the breeze. He discovered Ham talking to a fellow "ham" in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Not to be outdone, Logan tuned his set in on the Honolulu "ham", over-rode Ham, and told the operator, several thousand miles away, to ask Ham, in Shelby 10 airline miles away, to get in touch with him, he wanted to talk over some things.

## The Bridge to Shelby: RACES and a New Club

By the mid-1950s, amateur radio had become a recognized pillar of U.S. emergency planning. In 1952, the federal government formally established the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), integrating licensed amateurs into disaster-response frameworks.



Cleveland County answered the call. In March 1957, Harold R. Hunnicutt—a KMARC founder and Civil Defense co-director—partnered with Floyd Willis, W4PZH, to organize the Cleveland County RACES unit.

That effort became the catalyst for something larger. Training exercises, drills, and cooperation between operators created momentum—and just two months later, in May 1957, the Shelby Amateur Radio Club was born.

Only six months after that, the first Shelby Hamfest was held, launching a tradition that would grow into one of the largest and most respected hamfests in the nation.

## A Legacy That Began Before the Call Sign

From Edwin Webb's late-night listening sessions in 1920 to the organized emergency-communications networks of the 1950s, the ham spirit has always been part of Cleveland County's identity.

This history wasn't built solely by officers or institutions. It was built by curious kids with cigar-box radios, by veterans who brought wartime skills home, and by community-minded amateurs who believed radio could make the world a little safer—and a lot more connected.

The story of SARC doesn't begin in 1957.

It begins decades earlier, with the spark of discovery that still defines amateur radio today.

