

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

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JANUARY 2026

Looking Ahead to Winter Field Day

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club will be participating in **Winter Field Day** on **Saturday, January 24th**, at **Kings Mountain State Park**. Located in Shelter #1.

This is a great opportunity to operate portable under winter conditions, and enjoy fellowship with fellow hams in a relaxed outdoor setting.

Operations will include HF activity, and visitors are welcome to stop by, observe, and get on the air.

BBQ will be served, so we need a headcount for food planning.

Enter this coordinates into Google Maps **35.148418,-81.347389**

If you plan to attend, please let me know in advance so we can plan accordingly. Whether you operate, help log, or just come out to enjoy the day, your participation is encouraged.

Bundle up, bring your radio gear if you have it, and join us for a fun and rewarding Winter Field Day at the park!

Respond to - ke4gtq@gmail.com

Thanks as always!

Russell – KE4GTQ



December 2025 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 4th
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 – 8 hours 30 minutes

Total Checkins– 293

Top N/C Station for December 2025 == WB4SAB

Congratulations go to Trap WB4SAB, for being our top net controller for December. Trap has bragging rights until January 31st. Good job Trap!

I would like to extend a sincere **thank you to all the amateur radio operators who support our VHF nets**—whether you check in weekly, stand by as backup, serve as net control, or simply monitor.

Your continued participation keeps these nets strong, reliable, and welcoming. Because of you, the net remains a place for fellowship, learning, and preparedness, and a dependable resource for our community when communications truly matter.

We appreciate the time, dedication, and professionalism each of you brings to the airwaves.

73 and thank you for your continued support.

Russell / KE4GTQ

The answer to the
quiz on the right is
D

How long did you need to be a General Class licensee, years ago, before you could qualify for Amateur Extra Class?

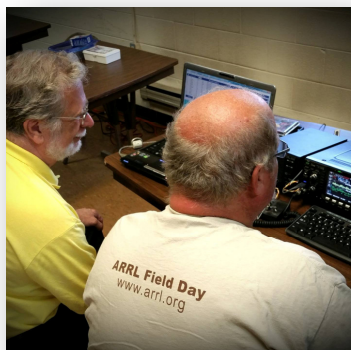
A: 1 year

B: 5 years

C: 10 years

D: 2 years

Choose an answer from above...



News and Notes

The next SARC club meeting is January 13th 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. Membership 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.



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

The News of The North

2026 is now off to the races! Hopefully everyone had a fun eventful end to 2025 and looking forward to the events to come in this new year. And there is so much to look forward to as well not just in terms of ham radio events. The Winter Olympics will be upon us in less than a month. This year marks the 250th birthday of the USA. But of course the biggest event for this year will be the 70th SARC Hamfest!

I've been spending a fair amount of time on DMR on various talk groups conversing with hams all over the world. Even been picking up some tips and tricks here and there on various aspects of ham radio. Looking forward to trying to put some of these into full use as time allows. I'm hoping to get back into full swing with some other radio activities now that the holiday season has come and gone.

That's pretty much it here from Hillsborough. Hope everyone has a great month and looking forward to hearing you on the radio.



73 de WZ4BSS

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 VHF Net WZ4BSS	3
4 Prayer Net K\$ZXN	5 VHF Net KD4LEE	6	7 Good Ideas Net	8	9 VHF Net	10
11 VHF Net K4ZXN	12 VHF Net WE4GPS	13 SARC Meeting 7pm	14 Good Ideas Net KE2EP	15	16 VHF Net WZ4BSS	17
18 Prayer Net WZ4BSS	19 VHF Net WB4SAB	20	21 Good Ideas Net KE2EP	22	23 VHF Net W4KTB	24
25 Prayer Net K4ZXN	26 VHF/Trader Net KE4GTQ	27	28 Good Ideas Net KE2EP	29	30 VHF Net WE4GPS	31

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Election for NC Section Manager

NORTH CAROLINA 2026 Section Manager Election Statements of Candidates



MARVIN "MARV" HOFFMAN, WA4NC

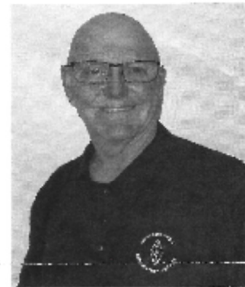
GREETINGS FROM THE HILL COUNTRY

I am seeking another two-year term as the ARRL NC Section Manager and want to continue working on behalf of our 74,000 NC hams. I first became your Section Manager in 2021, and the ARRL will send out ballots in early January and please someone to serve as Section Manager for a two-year term that begins on April 1, 2025.

Among my accomplishments are:

- Publishing five newsletters (over 175 issues) that are mailed to NCARRL members twice each month.
- Reaching out to amateur radio clubs across the state through inspection visits to sites to over 1,100 of the 74,000 in the state.
- Participated in field day activities, myself, along with 4,000 members in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, visiting sites from Murphy to Fayetteville to the Pamlico River to the Outer Banks.
- Advocated for the NC General Assembly to hold an amateur radio emergency preparedness training forum for ham radio operators as well as limiting the rules established by property owner associations that would prohibit ham antennas in subdivisions.
- Communicated with RLEL (the largest ham radio emergency response organization) to coordinate emergency response.
- Participated in several of the three public school events when students communicated with Astronauts via the International Space Station.
- Recognized six clubs and individuals with the NCARRL AWARDS (awards) for upgrading Grounds America Radio for their activities in support of amateur radio.
- Directed 18 DFR CTT repeaters located in western North Carolina for direct contact with NCEM. This means less work, and I have no Net Control Station Tuesday night and pm.

Thank you for your friendship, your support and for the example you have shown me while I have served as NC Section Manager. Contact me at mjh2006@arrl.net if you have questions. Respectfully,



DAVID J. NICHOLSON, N2AWE

A Section Manager and ham vision. I'm running to grow our membership and establish SMART missions for ARRL.

Ham radio since 1979 and an ARRL member for over 40 years. Thriving Ham radio is a great experience and proven leaders in ARRL. As a former ham radio Amateur Radio Club board member and Hamnet. You recognize, I've organized field day events, led technical training, and promoted public service. I'm an active Hamnet operator, N2AWE hamnet and technical, and a volunteer who enjoys building antennas and radios.

Professionally, I'm a retired industrial Engineer, Six Sigma-certified, with almost three decades of experience leading cross-functional, continuous improvement teams. My hands-on style is results-driven, collaborative, and focused on long-term improvement.

ARRL training alone isn't enough to launch a club effectively as a Volunteer Organization Active in Districts (VOAD). ARRL must thoroughly define SMART missions. Therefore, I believe that someone requires more than training, it requires a process. I'll work to develop these mission, policies, and training so ARRL can respond effectively when needed.

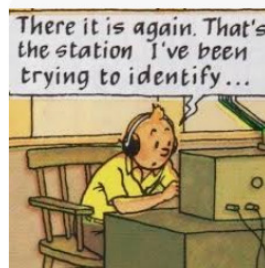
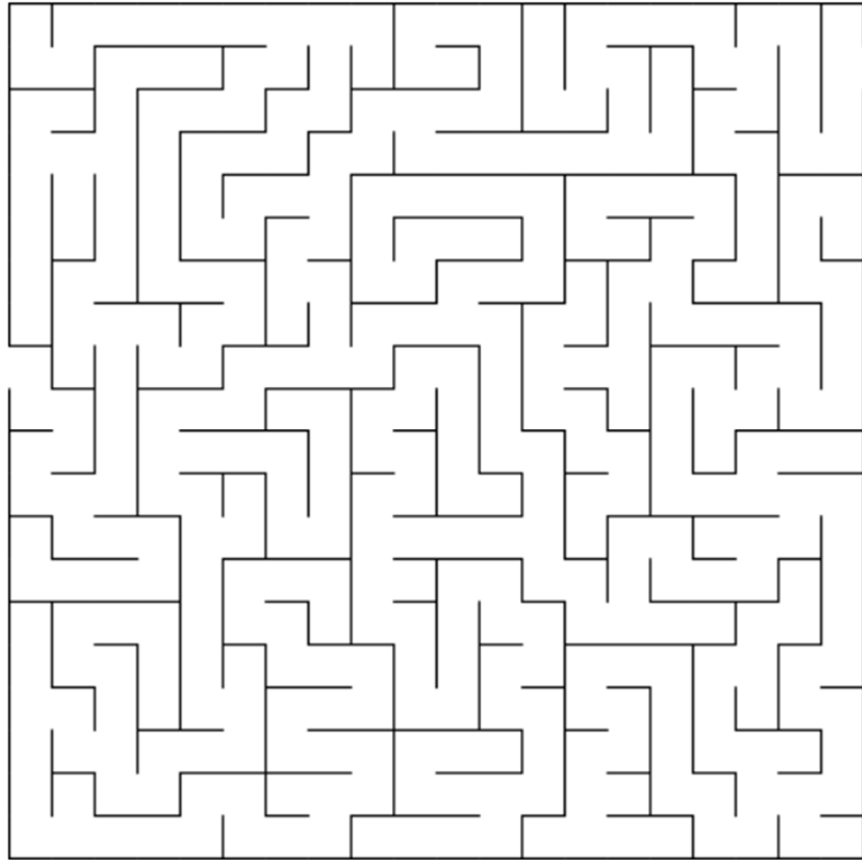
Together, we can create procedures for using reliable Wi-Fi, focus on safety, and a strong mind from reporting and addressing health and welfare in Hamneting disasters.

My platform:

- Retain and grow membership through marketing and leadership development.
- Establish SMART missions for ARRL.
- Develop dual purpose training for hobby, work and emergency readiness.

My vision is to strengthen amateur radio through service and community engagement. I'd be honored to have your vote.

KE2EP's Korner



From Picnic Table to Pileup de KE4GTQ

Welcome to the “From the Picnic Table to Pileup” column. I know most of you have heard about the Parks on the Air program, also known as POTA. This article is focused on getting acquainted with the program and how to register. Future columns will cover POTA websites, YouTube personalities, Pota gear, and much more.

What Is Parks on the Air (POTA)?

Parks on the Air (POTA) is a global, volunteer-run ham radio program that encourages operators to get out into parks and protected areas and make radio contacts. The goal is to:

- Promote portable operation from natural and protected areas,**
- Encourage outdoor activity and community engagement,**
- Introduce amateur radio to new participants.**

How POTA Works

There are two ways to participate:

1. Activators

These are operators who set up and operate their radios from a designated park or protected area.

You earn credit for *activating* a park by making a set minimum number of 10 valid contacts.

2. Hunters

These operators stay at home or in a fixed station and try to contact activators in parks.

Each valid contact with an activator earns points for the hunter.

Picnic Table to Pileup (cont'd)

What Counts as a POTA Park

POTA keeps an official list of recognized parks and protected areas worldwide — each with a **unique park identifier** (e.g., “US-1234”). These include:

National parks

State parks

Local municipal parks

Wildlife refuges

Forests

Other designated natural areas

You can search or browse the POTA park list at <https://pota.app>.

Local POTA Parks

We have 6 POTA parks in our immediate area. They are:

US-0702 Cowpens National Battlefield

US-0720 Kings Mountain Military Park

US-2753 South Mountain State Park

US-2902 Kings Mountain State Park

US-4577 Overmountain Victory Trail

US-2726 Crowders Mountain State Park

How to Register for POTA

Go to the POTA Website. **www.parksontheair.com**

Here you will see a tab “Help/ Getting Started” click on this to

Create your POTA account

Once your account is created you will become eligible for all the awards POTA has to offer.

Picnic Table to Pileup (cont'd)

Awards

There are numerous Hunter and Activator rewards to be earned. To name a few:

Activator / Hunter Levels (by total QSOs)

Park Count Awards

Specialty Activator Awards

Park Hunter Awards

Special & Achievement Awards and the list goes on!

Why People Love POTA

Sense of adventure — operating outdoors,

Skill-building — portable antennas, power challenges,

Community — friendly contacts with other hams worldwide,

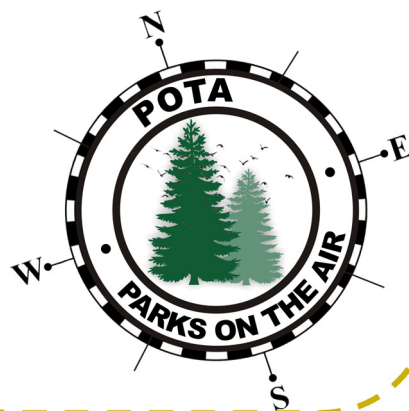
Introduction of radio to the public,

Potential for emergency-prep practice (real-world portable radio skills).

A Parks on the Air activation is where nature meets radio. Setting up a portable Ham station in a park is so rewarding.

For the Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Parks on the Air is a natural fit. With so many great parks right here in our area POTA gives us an easy way to get on the air, enjoy God's creation. Whether you're activating a nearby park with fellow club members or hunting from home, every contact strengthens our skills, our friendships, and our club. So, charge the batteries, and we'll see you at the park—CQ POTA from Shelby!

73 Russell / KE4GTQ



SARC Christmas Party Photos de K4ZYN

