

Full Quieting

The Official Journal of The Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club



March 2026 — Issue 55

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From the Editor

Welcome to March! Are you as ready for spring as I am? Well, it’s right around the corner.

At the moment though, it’s still winter. I included a recipe for chicken chili that is now my favorite. You have to give a try on a cold day when you want to stay indoors, maybe in front of the fire.

We have some interesting articles this month. Our Club President, K15VNB, wrote up his observations of a new FT-2 mode that’s in beta test in a special fork of WSJT-X. I tried it, and it works! Imagine making up to 240 digital contacts in one hour! We’ll have to see if it’s legal for Field Day!

We also have some tips from KAØAZS for setting up your LOTW and GridTracker to show your progress towards America 250 Worked All States Award . Get started on it!

I wrote an update on what’s going on with HamClock with the unfortunate passing of its inventor, WBOEW. I imagine that will be a monthly column until things settle down. I know there’s a lot of interest in HamClock. Coincidentally, that’s also the topic of our March Tech Night.

To get into the Newsletter “weeds” a little, you should know that starting in October, Microsoft Publisher is being dropped from Microsoft 365, along with all support. Publisher, while painful to use at first, once I mastered it, it became the tool I use to put this newsletter out every month. I am still evaluating suitable replacement publishing software. It won’t have all the bells and whistles that I am used to. Expect the appearance to change, hopefully only very slightly. I may take this opportunity to change up the layout a little. If anyone has any opinions for how you’d like information to be presented, sent me your comments and I can see what can be done, within the new constraints I’ll be operating under. Please be patient in the months ahead as I start to roll out the new *Full Quieting* look using the new software. I’d like to be fully migrated to the new software well before October.

73, Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Full Quieting Editor



2026 BARC Officers and Directors

President: Geoff Kline, [KI5VNB](#)

Vice President: Eric Bramini, [KC8OPY](#)

Secretary: Jim Gifford, [N8KET](#)

Treasurer: Thomas McClory [KE8FWZ](#)

Senior Director: Don Macon, [KE8WVJ](#)

Junior Director: Glenn Rodgers, [WI8O](#)

2026 Coordinators

Antennas: Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Clubhouse: Jim Lusk, [KC8EFD](#)

Comm Center: John Westerkamp, [W8LRJ](#)

Contesting: Ken Gunton, [W8ASA](#)

Education: Bob French, [AC8ZU](#)

Emergency Preparedness: Jim Lusk, [KC8EFD](#)

Field Day: Eric Bramini, [KC8OPY](#)

Full Quieting Editor: Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Hospitality & Librarian: Natinka Siwecki, [KD8NUA](#)

IT: John Westerkamp, [W8LRJ](#)

Lunch Bunch: Jim Totten, [WA8HUB](#)

Membership: Jeff Pursel, [KJ6XC](#)

Net: Paul Sharp, [WS8R](#)

Public Service: Don Parker, [KB8PSL](#)

QSLs: vacant

Repeater: Russ Roysden, [N8NPT](#)

Tech Night: Bob French, [AC8ZU](#)

Webmaster: Doug Hayward, [K8DRH](#)

BARC Net: Every Sunday, 8 PM Local

147.045 (+) (118.8 PL enc and dec) [Alt = 443.675]

Directions to BARC Clubhouse and Radio Room

St. Pierre Education Center

3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd

Bellbrook, OH 45305

[Map Link](#)

Park in front of building, enter in front-right door.

Conference room: Take first hallway to the left, conference room is on the right. **Radio Room:** Straight down hallway, left turn into gym. Door on left.

Member Interviews

BARC wants to hear from you!

Whether you're a long-time BARC member or a brand new one, young or old, please tell us about yourself. Here are some simple guidelines, although you're free to use whatever format you're comfortable with.

This page is all about you. It's your chance to let BARC members to get to know you better.

Here's are a few sample questions to help get you started, but you can write whatever you want.

Please send us some pictures of anything you want BARC to see (you, station, antennas, pets, family, anything)

- When you were first licensed?
- How did you learn about Ham Radio (HR)?
- Why did you become a Ham?
- What are your current HR interests?
- What are you most passionate about regarding HR?
- Tell us about your stations (past, present, and future)
- What was the most exciting thing that happened to you in HR?
- What do you do for a living?
- Would you like to say something about your family?
- Do you have other hobbies or interests?
- Any other comments for BARC?



President's Corner

I've come to a realization.

For years, I assumed that our repeater reliability, antenna performance, and mysteriously improved propagation were the result of careful engineering and dedicated volunteers.

But with St. Patrick's Day approaching, I now suspect something else.

Leprechauns.

Tiny, highly skilled RF engineers who work exclusively at night. They tune duplexers while we sleep. They tighten PL-259 connectors at 2 a.m. They whisper words of encouragement into coax.

All jokes aside, March is a good time to remember that our club runs because of people who quietly show up and do the work. Whether it's maintaining equipment, planning events, teaching classes, or simply checking into nets, that unseen effort is what keeps our signal strong.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved, consider this your invitation. No green hat required.

Spring is shaping up to be a busy and exciting season. We have a hex beam to finish assembling and mounting. We're planning a parking lot swap meet that will likely turn into a show-and-tell of everyone's mobile installations and operating setups. Hamvention is quickly approaching, followed by Field Day. In between those events, contests, QSO parties, community events, and POTA activations abound.

There are plenty of opportunities to help keep our club vibrant, active, and fun. With the relocation behind us, it's time to grab our radios, lean into the momentum, and enjoy what we do best.

And if you happen to see a 6-inch-tall RF technician near the antennas... offer your thanks.

73,

Geoff Kline, [K15VNB](#)

President, Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club

{I need these leprechauns to visit my QTH and breathe words of encouragement into my ADS-B antenna and coax — Editor}



What's Up BARC?

What's Up BARC?

Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Announcements regarding any member news including: new equipment, antennas, grandchildren, children, pets, operating news, etc.

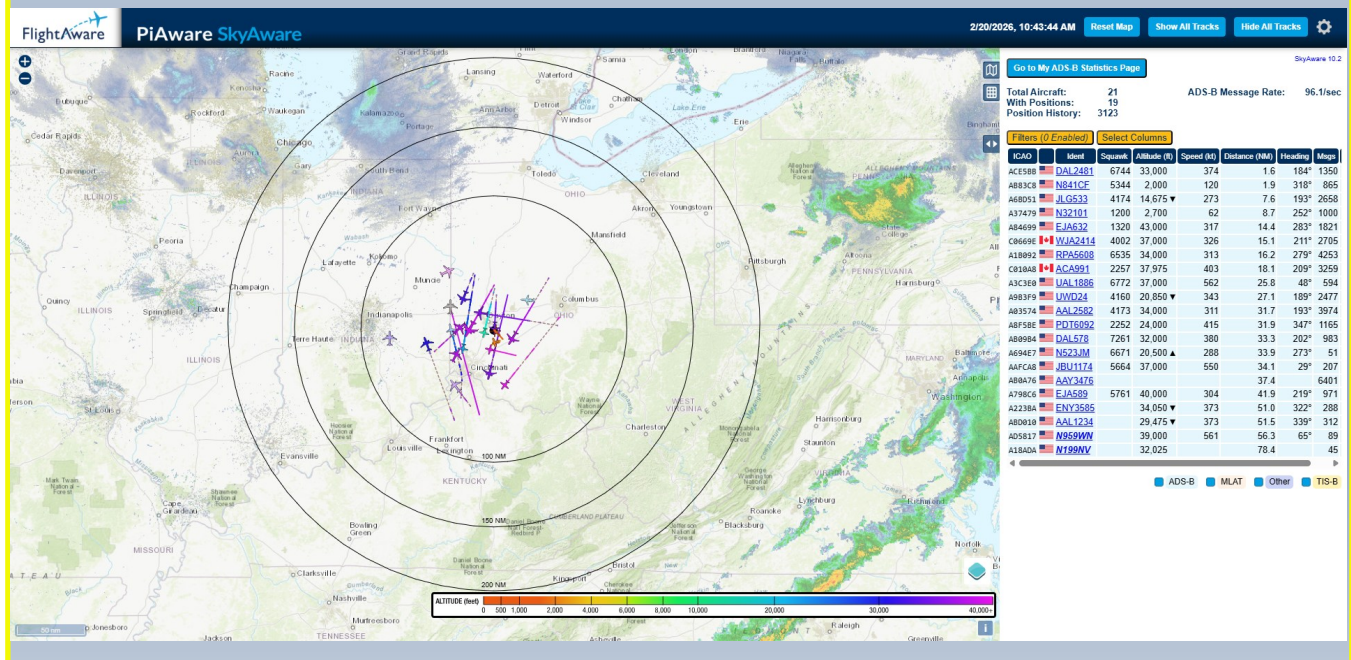


February Tech Night Presentation

On Feb 17, John Westerkamp, W8LRJ, gave a [presentation](#) on how to build a PiAware ADS-B decoder. This Raspberry-Pi based device, along with an RTL-SDR USB dongle and a suitable antenna, allows you to decode and display aircraft ADS-B broadcasts from aircraft in your vicinity, up to a realistic upper limit of over 150-200 km. These tracks can also be shared with the FlightAware database.

Here's a sample display from my setup built Feb 18th. While this display is interesting, it was even more so when some severe weather blew through the Dayton area. I overlaid NEXRAD radar on the map and you could clearly see the aircraft altering their flight course to avoid the thunderstorms and tornados. I also noticed that some of the aircraft were as high as 45,000 ft which is really high for commercial jet aircraft. Clicking on an aircraft would take you to the FlightAware website and allow you to view its location and altitude from takeoff until the current moment. In the case of the aircraft at 45,000 foot altitude, it was cruising at 38,000 ft altitude then abruptly went up to 45,000 feet as it entered the area of active storms. Quite interesting!

I have some work to do to improve the performance, I'm using old RG-8 and a discone up around 30 feet. This limits the range of planes I can receive, as does the extreme tree line where I live! More to come, I'll keep you posted. — **Ray** [N8VMX](#)



What's Up BARC? (continued)

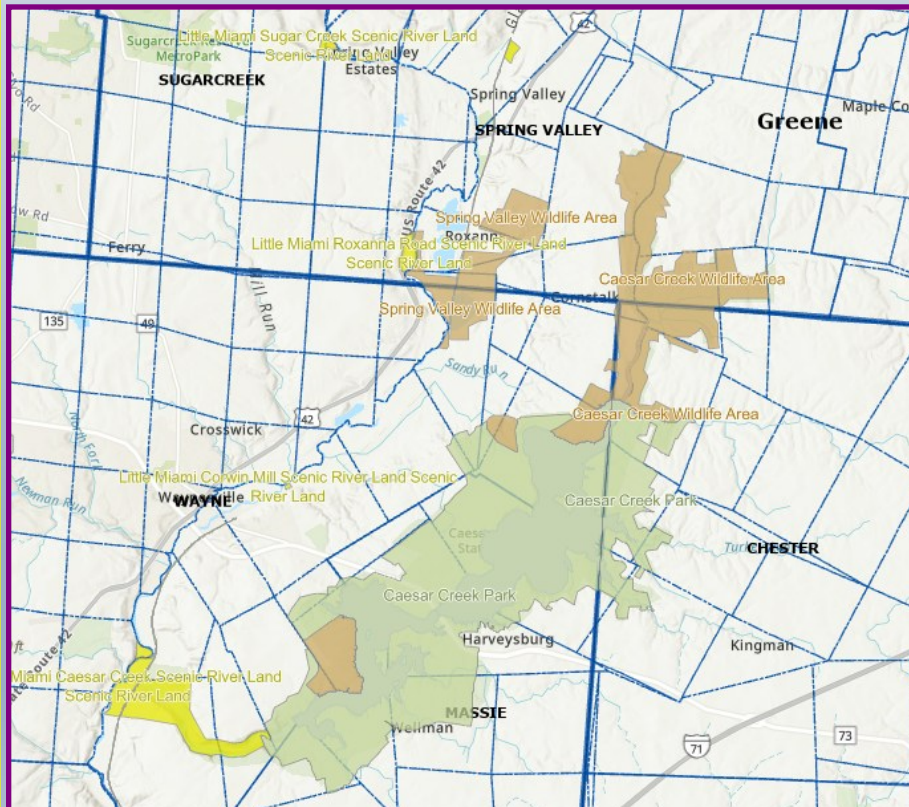
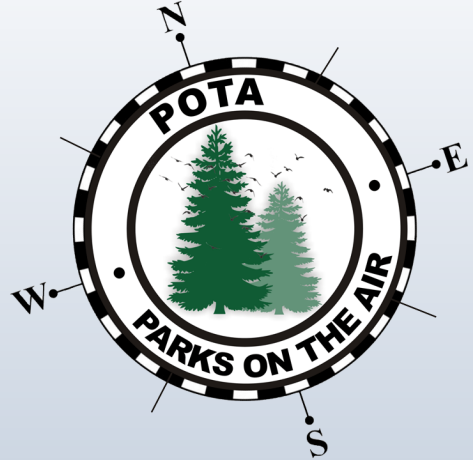
Welcome New Member

Cindy Le Gore, N8FJH, Extra

BARC's March POTA Adventure

Well, we tried last month to schedule a POTA event the first Saturday of the month and ended up making a judgement call to cancel it due to the weather, snow and cold (go figure, right?). Ironically the sun came out later that morning, but as Jim N8KET commented, it was still slippery going out there. I think it makes sense to hold off if someone's safety is compromised in order to just have some fun. Some days, just being a POTA hunter makes more sense.

For March's BARC POTA Adventure for Saturday, March 7th, we decided to stick with February's original plan. I'll just repeat the information below.



We plan to meet at [Slim's Grill](#) in Spring Valley at 7:30am on March 7. After a hearty breakfast, we will divide up into groups and head to Caesar Creek State Park (state park – US-194; wildlife area US-7850), the Spring Valley Wildlife Area (US-7849), Caesar Creek State Nature Preserve (US-7847) or the Little Miami River Scenic Trail (US-1972) where we will activate. These parks are all in the same general area.

So that we know how to plan, if you want to attend, please email Jim Gifford N8KET at james.gifford55@gmail.com and Glenn Rodgers WI8O at ghrodgers@icloud.com.



What's Up BARC? (continued)

BARC Swag from Emerio KE8JNQ

In the April 2025 planning meeting, the club officers approved Emerio KE8JNQ to offer a variety of items for sale all in Blue BARC Color. These items complement the other items being offered for sale from other vendors. Notice that the logo is a larger size so other Amateur Radio Operators can see it better. All BARC members get this discount price. If you need more information or would like to order, contact Emerio KE8JNQ. His telephone number is 937-546-9477.



BARC Swag from Parrot Promo Essentials

We have polo shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies, t-shirts, ball caps, and softshell jackets from Parrot Promo Essentials. You can order them directly from our website, at <https://bellbrookarc.org/wp/order-barc-gear/>. These shirts are a little more expensive than those offered by Emerio, but they match the ones you've seen many of us wearing already.

BARC Mugs from Chris Hanselman, AD8OM

For those of you wanting 20 oz insulated BARC mugs, please contact Chris Hanselman, AD8OM, at deeremt@gmail.com. They are offered in Blue with silver print and Black with copper print. Look for some new designs to be unveiled soon to add to your collection!



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club (BSARC)

{I happened across an Ohio amateur radio club that has taken POTA to a whole new level. I am very interested in the [Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club](#) not only because of POTA but also since they are near Fayette, Ohio, a small town near the Michigan-Ohio border a few miles from Stryker, Ohio where I grew up. I hadn't heard much from the amateur radio community in Northwest Ohio over the years so it's refreshing to see the high level of interest in POTA from this club. I wrote BSARC, and this is what they sent back to me (reformatted slightly to fit the newsletter). — Ray Hitt, N8VMX (Editor)}

Message from Craig Rower, KE8QJV, President, BSARC to Ray Hitt, N8VMX

We love to hear how clubs are devoting time each month for introducing other amateurs to POTA. That is actually how we got started before forming a new club. Since forming BSARC, we have assisted several other new clubs get started and it's so much fun to watch so many people growing this hobby and out there enjoying it. We still schedule certain days of the year to invite the public out to a park and see what POTA and radio are all about.



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club was founded December 22, 2023. The founding members were all prior members with a different club. Several of us had discovered POTA in one way or another and were enjoying it. In the spring of 2023, we started having monthly meet ups to introduce other members to this corner of the hobby. We made sure that we always had some sort of breakfast available, as well as coffee and orange juice.

By the end of the year, several more people had gotten bitten by

the POTA bug and we had a devoted group that were showing up. This just happened to spark an interest in a couple of contests that the club always loosely participated in. Those contests were Field Day and Ohio State Parks On The Air. By the time that the results were released for both events, we found out that we had scored the highest Field Day score in the club's history and had won the OSPOTA event.



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club (BSARC)(continued)

For that former club, the events were more about it being a social gathering for everyone and we were much more excited about the results than they seemed to be. We knew that we had found our place in the hobby so in November, we filed the paperwork to form a new club. On December 22, we were approved and received our original call sign.

Three weeks later we received our vanity call. A week and a half later, Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club competed in our first event, Winter Field Day. We ended up placing 6th overall and at that point, we knew we had done the right thing. Riding that high, everyone went back to enjoying POTA, not only as individuals but also as the club. Within a few months, several members and the club were on the leaderboard and everyone was having the time of their life. The club was slowly growing and it was time for Field Day. By the time the event was over, everyone was exhausted but had smiles from ear to ear and we knew that we had done well but the results were still months away.



By now, POTA had become an addiction for everyone and it seemed that it had become competitively fun within the club itself as well as with other friends we had made over the course of the year we had been out in the parks, piling up the QSO's. Little did we know that seeing all of the places that everyone was visiting to activate was only fueling the drive to go out as often as we could to see those new places, as well.

Before we knew it, it was time for the OSPOTA event and by then the excitement within the club had built to the point that we knew it was going to be something special. The event was probably the highlight of the year for us and the day went extremely well. When it was over, we knew that we had beaten the score we had won the event with the year prior by quite a bit, but again,

it would be months before we knew the results. Within a week, the excitement had worn off and everyone was back to finding new parks to visit and we were 3/4 of the way through the year and the club had advanced up the leaderboard and now we had some end of the year goals that we were chasing. When November rolled around, the Field Day results were released and we found out that we ended up in the top 90 participants and ended up with a score that was extremely higher than we had scored the year prior, with the old club. A week later, the OSPOTA results were released and most of



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club (BSARC)(continued)



us sat there staring at the results in disbelief. Had we really scored the 2nd highest score in the event's history and won the event? As you can imagine the excitement was off the charts. This fueled us through the end of the year. By the time the year ended and we pulled up the POTA leader board, we had finished the year 8th in unique parks activated and 4th in total activations. We knew at that point that this was something special. At our annual meeting/Christmas Party the club set its goals for the next year, knowing that it was going to be tough to have a better or more exciting result.

2025 began and the entire year was a whirlwind but POTA continued to be the glue that held everything together and it's what everyone continued to have fun with. The club just seemed to keep growing and as it grew so did the fun

and the number of people we were meeting and the friendships that we were developing. When 2025 came to a close, we had finished 8th in Winter Field Day, 68th in Field Day, 8th as a club in the Ohio QSO Party, once again won the OSPOTA contest and beat our old score, finished 3rd in unique parks activated, and 2nd in total activations. Another year of disbelief and reality was finally sinking in. POTA had spurred all of this, just a few years prior. It had built a new club, new friendships, new opportunities, and has taught us so much along the way. It has brought together people in a way that nothing else would have been able to do. For some, it has been their introduction to the hobby. For others,



it has reignited their interest and enjoyment. It has taken us all to places that we would not have traveled to otherwise. It has helped us all to step outside of our comfort zones and learn new modes and aspects of the hobby that we wouldn't have learned otherwise. It has created some of the best memories that anyone could ask for.



As 2026 kicks off, all we can do is look forward to another fun year, imagine the places POTA will take us, the people it will bring across our paths, and the friendships that will form because of it. In a world that at times, seems to be upside down, this seems to be the safe, happy place, where so many people retreat to,



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club (BSARC)(continued)

where you get to talk to other people and it doesn't matter where they are from, what they believe, what they do for a living, or what their other interests are, radio and POTA are what brings us together. With over 80,000 people worldwide involved in POTA, all having fun, and all coming together, we can only ask the question, why wouldn't you want to participate in this amazing part of the hobby?

The next time you are back home, let us know and we'll see who's available to meet up with you at one of the local parks for an activation. A big chunk of us will be at Hamvention again this year. Outside of a few booths that we need to spend some time in and a presentation or two that we are involved with, you can usually find us at the POTA tent. We try to make it a point to always have a few of us in there. On top of that, Sandy (KE8UTX) and I will be roving several times in your area this year. I think we have 3-4 trips planned in that direction and at least 2 trips to the Dayton area. We wish you all the best and hope that you can convince some of your members to get out and experience what it's like to operate from a park.

Craig Rower
KE8QJV
President, Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club



Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club (BSARC)(continued)



Officer, Director, and Coordinator Inputs

Treasurer: Tom McClory, [KE8FWZ](#) : February marks the end of the club's membership renewal period. Many thanks to renewing and new members showing their support for the club by paying their membership dues. As of February 25, we have 150 paid members.

We also continue to make investments in the club communication center now hosted in the St. Pierre Education Center in the room located just off the main gymnasium. Our latest approved project is to install emergency lighting and exit signs, improving safety during power outages. That work is expected to take place in March and is expected to cost about \$800.

The February 2026 income was \$300 through membership renewals, with another \$25 cash from refreshments. There were no expenses this month as the Spectrum invoice was paid late January. The club's cash balance position is approximately the same as this time last year (February 2025) and remains very strong.

Secretary & POTA Coordinator: Jim Gifford, [N8KET](#): Secretarial work has been (and is being) completed. I submitted a request to ARRL to hold a Wright Brothers Special Event station later this year. As the POTA Coordinator I managed and added names to the POTA email list. The room reservation was established for the first Tuesday of each month for our POTA interest group. The POTA special interest group also set up a "first Saturday of the month" POTA day. February's first Saturday was basically cancelled because of heavy snow.

Repeater: John Westerkamp, [W8LRJ](#): Setting up several systems to reboot automatically every week appears to have helped keep everything stable. I fixed a problem with the remote access program on one system so I am able to do most maintenance from home. I will be presenting *AllStar and Wires-X on the BARC Repeaters* at the DARA March Membership meeting on Friday, March 6, at 7 pm at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Membership: Jeff Pursel, [KJ6SC](#): We have received 2026 dues from 151 of our 178 current members bringing us to 85% paid to date. If you've not sent in your dues, please do so ASAP as we will be scrubbing the membership and email listings in the very near future.

Communication Center: John Westerkamp, [W8LRJ](#): Progress is being made in the radio room! All the stations now have working Signalink connections for the VHF/UHF mobile radios. Some software still needs to be updated or installed. A new large (8 TB) disk drive has been added to the server on Station #1. I found the source of the runaway disk filling up on the C: drive (it was the Windows indexer). Deleting the indexer file and restarting the indexing process solved the problem and there is now over 150 GB of free space so our logging program is completely stable now.

BARC Net Manager: Paul Sharp, [WS8R](#): Every Sunday at 8:00 PM you can listen to and participate in the exciting BARC Net, on 147.045. For the 4 weeks in February 2026 there were approximately 51 check-ins lasting 116 exciting and informative minutes. Topics ranges from Open Mike, Parks on the Air, what was your favorite super Bowl advertisement, and what are your Valentine's Day traditions.

Our faithful Net Controllers are, Larry Darner KD8RER, Connie Gifford W8CSG, Jim Gifford N8KET, Tink Siewicki KD8NUA, Eric Bramini, KC8OPY, and Paul Sharp WS8R. Joe Menchaca, KE8UUA as a trusty alternate.



BARC March 2026 Event Calendar

Sun March 1, 2026

8pm Weekly Net Where: 147.045+ (118.8 Hz tone)

Tue March 3, 2026

6:30pm POTA SIG Where: BARC Clubhouse

Thu March 5, 2026

7pm Planning Meeting..... Where: BARC Clubhouse

Sat March 7, 2026

7:30am First Saturday POTA Adventures ..Where: [Slim's Neighborhood Bar & Grill](#)

Sun March 8, 2026

8pm Weekly Net Where: 147.045+ (118.8 Hz tone)

Tue March 10, 2026

11:15am Lunch Bunch..... Where: Red Robin

Sun March 15, 2026

8pm Weekly Net Where: 147.045+ (118.8 Hz tone)

Tue March 17, 2026

7pm Tech Night Where: BARC Clubhouse

Thu March 19, 2026

7pm Membership Meeting Where: BARC Clubhouse

Sun March 22, 2026

8pm Weekly Net Where: 147.045+ (118.8 Hz tone)

Tue March 24, 2026

11:15am Lunch Bunch..... Where: Beaver Creek Pizza Dive

Thu March 26, 2026

7pm Dessert & Movie Night..... Where: BARC Clubhouse

Sun March 29, 2026

8pm Weekly Net Where: 147.045+ (118.8 Hz tone)



1130 DMR Net Stats for 2026

Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

We've been running the "1130 DMR Net" since April 2023 when Larry KB8EMD brought up the concept to Tim N8NQH, John W8LRJ and myself. This net has been going strong ever since. Lately, we've been fortunate enough to have regular check-ins from not only the BARC members you all know, but also ex-BARC members who've moved out of town, an ex Dayton area ham who's relocated to North Carolina, and lately some check-ins from Canada and England. You just never know who's going to check in.



In January, I made the decision to take an accurate count of the check-ins. Here's a summary of how things are going.

	Check-ins	Average Daily Check-ins
Jan-2026	127	6.35
Feb-2026	169	8.45

Since January 5th, we have had 296 check-ins, 127 in January, and 169 in February. The average number of check-ins per day rose from 6.35 in January to 8.45 in February. We've had a 33% increase in check-ins from January to February, even though February is a shorter month.

In general, daily we have as few as four check-ins, but as many as 13. This net does have a drop off on those days where Tuesday Lunch Bunch occurs, but we still carry on the net. In fact, there was once or twice that I checked into the net at a Lunch Bunch and I passed the radio around to everyone to join in.

Since January, I've kept up a list of who has checked in. The list is now at 27 hams. Some have checked in only one time, Some regulars have checked in over 30 times. The average is between 10 and 11 times per ham, around 5-5.5 times a month. I myself have checked in every day in 2026, not only because I'm gathering net data, but because I enjoy it and also have the luxury of being retired and can devote time to amateur radio.

We currently have three Net Control operators, Ray N8VMX, Jim WA8HUB, and Brian AA4BK. On the Feb 27th (Friday) net, Ian M6PBY agreed to take next Friday's net control responsibility, so I expect that to be very interesting! If any of you need some net control practice on DMR, let me know and we can get you up and running. No pressure, and it's a good skill to have in your back pocket should the need arise down the road.

For those of you out there who haven't programmed your DMR radios to the 310557 N8NQH talk group that we use for the 1130 DMR Net, you can grab the information from Tim's repeater web site at <https://www.timzdmr.com/index.htm>. There's not only repeater information but also handy DMR radio programming information and other things. Also add talkgroup 310557 to your DMR hotspot and you'll be covered even while out of the area. Let's get some of you into the DMR radio aspect of our hobby, you'll enjoy it! If you are having difficulty programming your DMR radio or hotspot, let me know and maybe we could set up a session at the clubhouse.

73, Ray [N8VMX](#)



BARC Movie and Dessert Night

March 26, 2026!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Genre</u>	<u>Actors</u>
✓ January 22, 2026	Groundhog Day	Comedy	Bill Murray
✓ February 26, 2026	Aqua Man & the Lost Kingdom	Adventure	Jason Momoa
March 26, 2026	The Italian Job	Adventure	Mark Wahlberg
April 23, 2026	Rental Family	Comedy/Drama	Brendan Fraser
May 21, 2026	Alita Battle Angel	Action	Rosa Salazar
June 25, 2026	Now You See Me/Now You Don't	Action	Woody Harrelson
July 23, 2026	For Richer or Poorer	Comedy	Tim Allen/Kirstie Alley
August 27, 2026			
September 24, 2026			
October 22, 2026			

BARC movie nights are held on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month **January** through **October** at **7:00 PM in the BARC Clubhouse**. We take November and December off for the holidays. At each movie night we pop up, *fresh*, BARC's famous popcorn and you never know what we will come up with for dessert! We welcome movie recommendations.

With the new BARC Clubhouse up and running we're hoping 2026 will be a banner year for great movies and even better attendance!

We'll see you in March at the Movies!

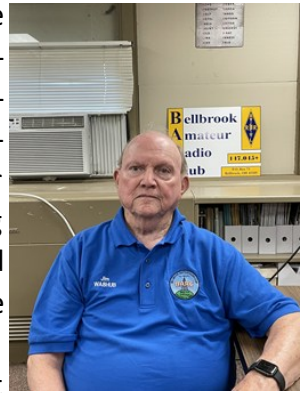
Tink
KD8NUA



Lunch Bunch

Jim Totten, [WA8HUB](#)

Hello my fellow lunch lovers. February 2026 is just about over and we had some great lunches during the month. February is a two lunch month just like January was and the rest of the year will be the same, except for November and December, our holiday months. Our Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC) lunches are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. As an aside regular BARC meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. The 1st Thursday meeting is called the Planning Meeting and is primarily for the club executive staff and function coordinators. As with any open membership club, club members are encouraged to attend. The 3rd Thursday meeting is for total membership. All members are welcomed. We do have internet Zoom access for those who can't attend in person.



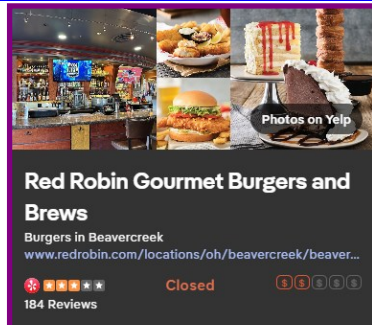
Now for LUNCHES. You should have the lunch chart available on the next page. The March lunches are in **bold print**. Now let's discuss the terrific lunches we had in February. Our first lunch on 02/10/26 was the new City Barbecue at 2001 E. Dorothy Lane. It was originally scheduled for 01/26/26, but we were in the middle of a snow storm which started on Saturday. Canceled!! So, February started with the previously canceled City Barbecue. The food is just great. One of our members most usually had some kind of salad based meal. That day she had the famous overnight cooked brisket. I had something different but I'm considering getting a drive thru brisket order. Our second lunch for February was Marion's Piazza in Beavercreek on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. This is a larger Marion's with room for a lot of diners. We had 9 hungry folks for this lunch. Food ranged from larger pizzas, salads, sandwiches and special small pizzas. Conversation was lively and varied widely in subject matter. As usual we sat near a committed group of Mahjongg players.

Now comes March. Hopefully we will have milder weather in March. It is not guaranteed. Our first lunch on March 10, 2026 is Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews Located at 2671 Fairfield Commons Blvd, Beavercreek, OH 45431, (937) 320-9800. They have a long list of burgers and their fries can be bottomless. I have had the Whiskey River BBQ Burger. Yum Yum. Lunch on March 24, 2026 is Beavercreek Pizza Dive. 4021 Dayton-Xenia Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45432, (937) 431-8669. They usually have at least three pizza's already cooked and sliced ready for pickup. If that doesn't meet your approval their order list is extensive.

That's a wrap for this month. Happy eating.

73, Jim, [WA8HUB](#)

Tuesday, March 10th, 11:15am



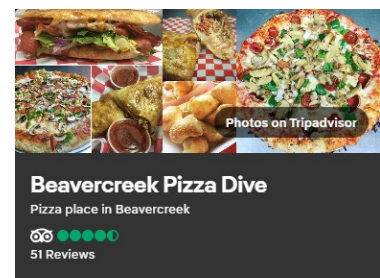
Full Quieting

March 2026 Page 16

Click picture or hyperlink for more info and maps



Tuesday, March 24th, 11:15am



(Continued on next page)

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Lunch Bunch List

Jim Totten, [WA8HUB](#)

Date	Restaurant	Address	City	Phone Number
01/13/26	Culp's Cafeteria	1000 Carillon Blvd	Dayton, OH 45409	(937) 293-2841
02/10/26	City Barbecue	2001 E. Dorothy Lane	Kettering, OH 45420	(937) 200-1006
02/24/26	Marion's Piazza	1320 N Fairfield Rd.	Beavercreek, OH 45432	(937) 429-3393
03/10/26	Red Robin	2671 Fairfield Commons Blvd.	Beavercreek, OH 45431	(937) 320-9800
03/24/26	Beavercreek Pizza Dive	4021 Dayton-Xenia Rd.	Beavercreek, OH 45432	(937) 431-8669
04/14/26	Cherry House Cafe	1241 Meadow Bridge Dr	Beavercreek, OH 45434	(937) 320-6200
04/26/26	Another Broken Egg Cafe 7:00 am to 2:00 pm	2453 Esquire Dr.	Beavercreek, OH 45431	(937) 912-5074
05/12/26	China Garden Buffet	112 Woodman Dr. Airway Shopping Center	Dayton, OH 45431	(937) 781-9999
05/26/26	First Watch 7:00 am to 2:30 pm	5245 Cornerstone North Blvd	Sugarcreek Twp, OH 45440	(937) 732-9013
06/09/26	Submarine House	3195 Dayton-Xenia Rd.	Beavercreek, OH 45434	(937) 429-8650
06/23/26	Roosters Wings	2430 N. Fairfield <i>The Shoppes at FC</i>	Beavercreek, OH 45431	(937) 702-9500
07/14/26	Butterbee's	217 Progress Dr.	Xenia, OH 45385	(937) 352-6504
07/28/26	Shawarma Grill	2844 Colonel Glenn Hwy	Fairborn, OH 45324	(937) 429-4959
08/11/26	Chic-Fil-A	5301 Cornerstone N Blvd	Sugarcreek Township, OH 45440	(937) 439-1700



Easy Slow Cooker Chicken Chili

Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Boneless, skinless chicken breasts, or a mix of breasts and thighs, can be substituted for the chicken thighs, if you prefer.

As is, this makes a fairly mild chili. If you'd prefer a spicier chili, add 1 or 2 chopped jalapenos or a 4-ounce can of green chilis.

Leftovers can be frozen for up to 3 months.



Ingredients:

- 2 to 2 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans tomato puree (about 3 cups)
- 1 cup chicken broth or stock
- 4 cloves garlic, minced or pressed with a garlic press
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar

Directions:

1. Combine the vegetables and chicken in the slow cooker.
2. If you're using chicken breasts, cut them into 2 or 3 large pieces.
3. Add the liquids and spices.
4. Add the tomato puree, broth, garlic, and spices to the slow cooker. Stir to mix and coat the chicken and vegetables. (Note: Wait to add the beans, corn, and vinegar until the end of cooking.)
5. Cover and cook on high for 2 to 4 hours, or on low for 6 to 8 hours.
6. It's fine if the chili ends up cooking a little longer on the "low" or "warm," too.
7. Shred the chicken using two forks.
8. Shred the chicken right in the slow cooker; or if it feels easier, transfer the large pieces to a bowl, shred, and then return the chicken to the slow cooker. Taste the chili and add salt, pepper, or additional spices, if desired.
9. Stir in the beans, corn, and vinegar, then cover and continue cooking until warmed through.
10. This should take about 15 to 30 minutes. Watch for the chili to start bubbling again.
11. Serve with toppings.

Leftovers will keep refrigerated for up to a week or up to 3 months frozen.

From: <https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/slow-cooker-shredded-chicken-chili/>

Photo Credit: Emma Christensen



FT2: The 7-Second QSO? Digital Radio Just Hit Fast-Forward

Geoff Kline, [KI5VNB](#)

While setting up a newly acquired base station computer, I tripped over an article describing a brand-new experimental digital mode called FT2. At first I assumed it was a “maybe someday” proposal.

It isn't.

FT2 is real, on the air, and available right now for experimentation. And it is fast. Really fast.

FT2 was developed by Martino Merola (IU8LMC) with support from the ARI Caserta Team. What makes the backstory even more interesting is that Artificial Intelligence was used as a development tool to help modify the WSJT-X source code. Not as a developer gimmick, but as part of the engineering process itself. That alone makes it worth paying attention.

So How Fast Is Fast?

If you're used to FT8, you know the rhythm: 15-second transmit/receive cycles, roughly one minute per completed QSO under ideal conditions.

FT2 cuts that dramatically.

Transmission cycles are just **3.8 seconds**. A full contact can complete in roughly **7–11 seconds**.

That's about four times faster than FT8.

Speed comes at a cost, of course. FT2 is not as sensitive as FT8. You don't get something for nothing in radio. FT8 remains king when signals are buried deep in the noise. FT2 trades some of that weak-signal performance for raw QSO rate.

It's not a replacement for FT8. It's a specialized tool, and good operators love specialized tools.

Getting Started

To try FT2, you need a special build of WSJT-X called **Decodium**.

The binaries are available at: <https://www.ft2.it/>

In keeping with the GPL open-source license, the source code is available at:

<https://github.com/iu8lmc/decodium3-build>

I downloaded the Windows 64-bit beta version. This is pre-release software and is currently available for testing. The beta build I tested is scheduled to disable itself on April 30, 2026.

Installation was straightforward. Since it's a modified version of WSJT-X, the interface feels familiar. Even better, it imported my existing WSJT-X settings automatically. No reconfiguration marathon required.

That alone was a pleasant surprise.

On-Air Testing

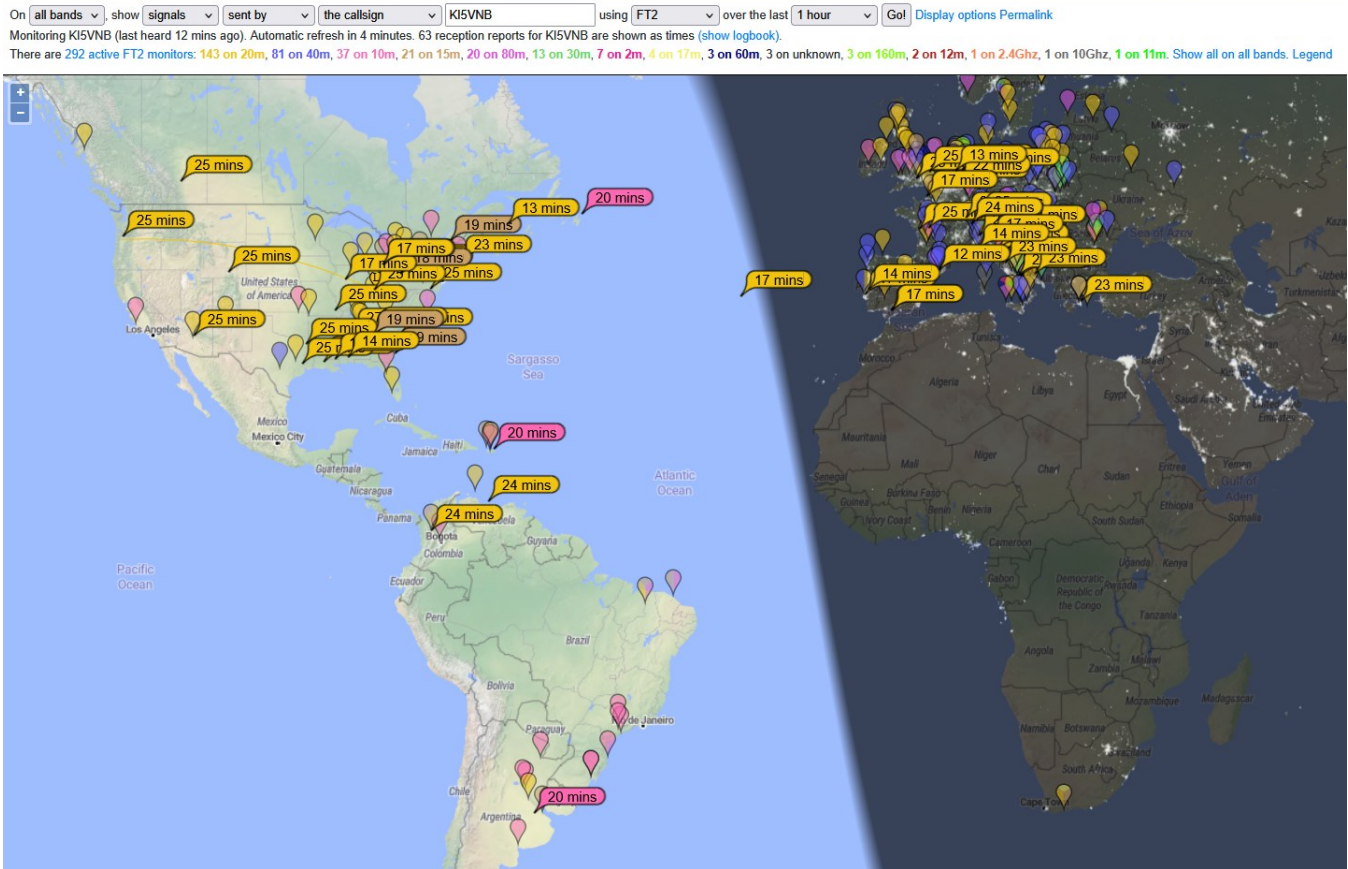
I spent about 15 minutes operating on 10 m and 20 m. During that short window I logged 11 QSOs. I likely could have made several more, but I was busy exploring the software and watching how it be-



FT2: The 7-Second QSO? Digital Radio Just Hit Fast-Forward (cont.)

haved.

FT2 is already being reported on PSKReporter. When I checked, there were 292 active FT2 monitors. For something released on February 16, 2026, that's impressive adoption speed.



FT2 Operating Frequencies

Here are the currently defined dial frequencies:

As always, check current activity and band plans before transmitting.

- 160 m: 1.843 MHz
- 80 m: 3.578 MHz
- 60 m: 5.360 MHz
- 40 m: 7.052 MHz
- 30 m: 10.144 MHz
- 20 m: 14.084 MHz
- 17 m: 18.108 MHz
- 15 m: 21.144 MHz
- 12 m: 24.923 MHz
- 10 m: 28.184 MHz
- 6 m: 50.316 MHz
- 2 m: 144.077 MHz
- 70 cm: 432.077 MHz



FT2: The 7-Second QSO? Digital Radio Just Hit Fast-Forward (cont.)

Where FT2 Makes Sense

FT2 shines in situations where **QSO rate matters more than extreme sensitivity**:

- Contests where every second counts
- Short propagation openings
- Rapid band enhancements during sporadic-E
- High-activity pileups where speed wins

If you operate POTA, contest, or chase brief band openings, FT2 may be a fascinating addition to your digital toolbox.

FT8 isn't going anywhere. The physics of weak-signal work still favors longer symbol periods and heavy error correction. But FT2 demonstrates something important: digital mode development is not finished. Not even close.

We're watching real innovation happen in real time.

And that's exciting.

Digital radio continues to evolve, and now it's evolving at 3.8 seconds per cycle.



Officer, Director, and Coordinator Inputs (continued from [pg 12](#))

Junior Director & Safety Officer: Glenn Rodgers, [W180](#): Have you ever thought about just how dark our new Radio Room would be if we experienced a power failure while working the radios in there? That has been a concern as we're spending more time in there, but the solution should be in place around the time this newsletter hits your inbox! President Geoff has done all the legwork of getting school approval and electrician estimates to install EXIT signs with lights in both the primary room and the entry hallway. Rumor has it that the emergency lights & signs have been donated, leaving only the electricians fee to come out of the club account.

There has been mentioned the idea of a "Pre-Meeting Tailgate Swap", basically anyone with excess radio gear could bring it on to the designated membership meeting and swap it sell it from your vehicle. Preferably all with gear offerings park together along the back row (nearest the street) to allow a "one stop swap". If you have any thoughts or feelings about this idea, please let me know.

It's your club, what would you like to do with it? Any POTA ideas or destinations, talk to Jim Gifford, I know he has some great ideas for new places or POTA challenges, so share your thoughts and make sure he has you on his POTA Group list. Are you interested in working satellites, SSB or CW contests, special event stations, fox & hound...? If you have any ideas about an area of amateur radio you'd like to explore, or have a presentation on, let your club officers hear from you.

I'm all out of updates and ideas for now, but I'm anxious to hear your thoughts and ideas, shoot me an email or catch me at a meeting or in a park.



ARRL America250 WAS Tracking

Randy Allen, [KAØAZS](https://www.kagazs.com)

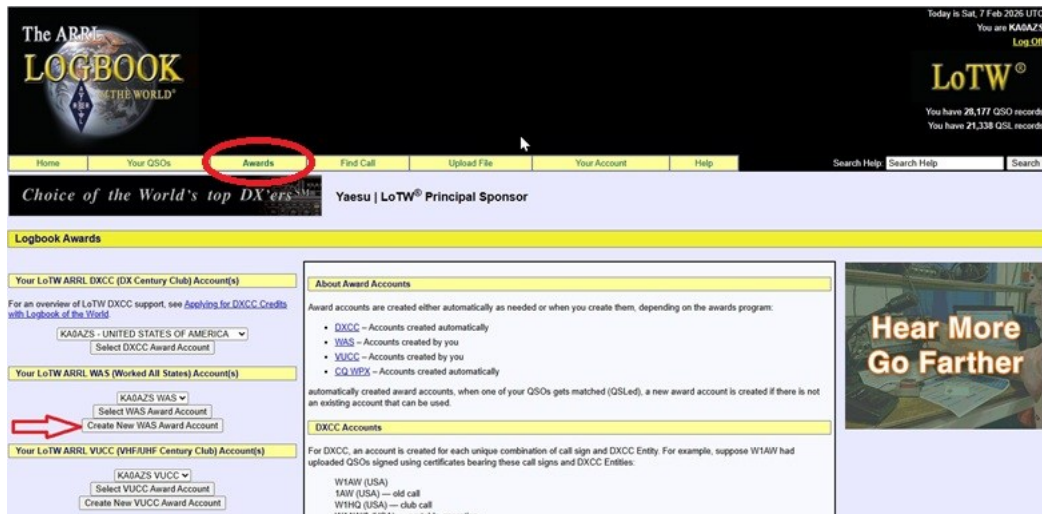
The ARRL is holding a year-long America250 Worked All States (WAS) event this year, which includes special event stations of W1AW/portable from each of the 50 states, designated club stations, and a basic working any station in each of the 50 states.

You can find more details at the [ARRL website](https://www.arrl.org).

The website talks about how you can track and apply for the America250 award, but it is not, in my opinion, very clear on how to actually do it. Thanks to some developers on one of the Discord groups I belong to, here is a step by step process.

First, all tracking and award applications are handled through Log Book of The World (LoTW). If you do not have a LoTW account, you will need to set one up. Get started at [the LoTW main page](https://www.lotw.org).

Once your account is active and you can sign in, go to the Awards tab, and click on “Create New WAS Award Account”



Name the account whatever you like (I kept it simple with America250)

Click on the “Save Account Changes” button

Account Name:
America250

Set as default WAS account

Save account changes



ARRL America250 WAS Tracking (continued)

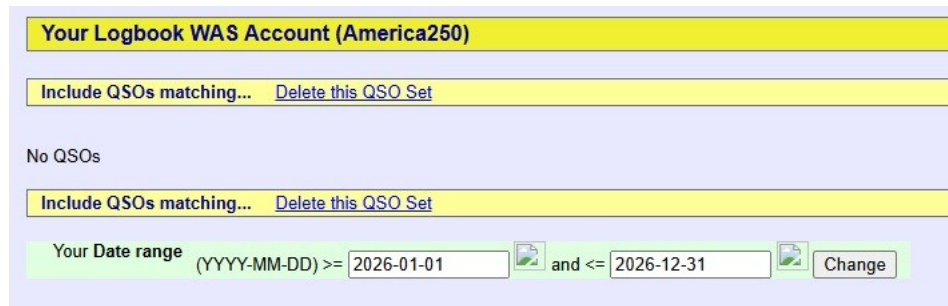
On the next screen click on the “Add a QSO Set to this WAS account” link



Select a “Rule Type” of “Date Range” from the drop down menu and then click the “Add Rule” button



Set the Date Range from “2026-01-01” and “2026-12-31” and click the “Change” Button



On the next page click on the “Save Account Changes” button

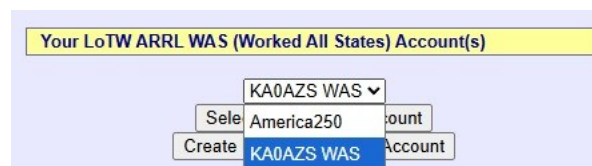


ARRL America250 WAS Tracking (continued)

Once the system processes your LoTW log for stations meeting the criteria (US States worked in 2026) it will come up with the status list of where you are in your progress for WAS in the various categories (Mixed, Band, Mode)

Your Logbook WAS Account (America250)				
Account Status				
WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
Mixed	47	0	0	47
80M	25	0	0	25
40M	37	0	0	37
30M	20	0	0	20
20M	43	0	0	43
17M	16	0	0	16
15M	11	0	0	11
12M	9	0	0	9
10M	17	0	0	17
Phone	31	0	0	31
Digital	45	0	0	45
FT4	39	0	0	39
FT8	44	0	0	44
80M Digital	25	0	0	25
40M Phone	5	0	0	5
40M Digital	37	0	0	37
30M Digital	20	0	0	20
20M Phone	29	0	0	29
20M Digital	40	0	0	40
17M Phone	4	0	0	4
17M Digital	14	0	0	14
15M Phone	5	0	0	5
15M Digital	9	0	0	9
12M Phone	1	0	0	1
12M Digital	8	0	0	8
10M Phone	2	0	0	2
10M Digital	16	0	0	16
Triple Play	76	0	0	76

The next time you log in, you can easily display this account, or your default WAS account by selecting it from the drop box on the awards main page.



Hopefully you will find this useful as you participate in this once in a lifetime event. In my case, I achieved the 50 states (actually 51 because I worked DC before MD) and tried applying. The ARRL Awards department told me that the system is not yet ready to handle WAS250 applications and it would be announced later on the Awards page of LoTW. No time line given.

73, Randy **KA0AZS**



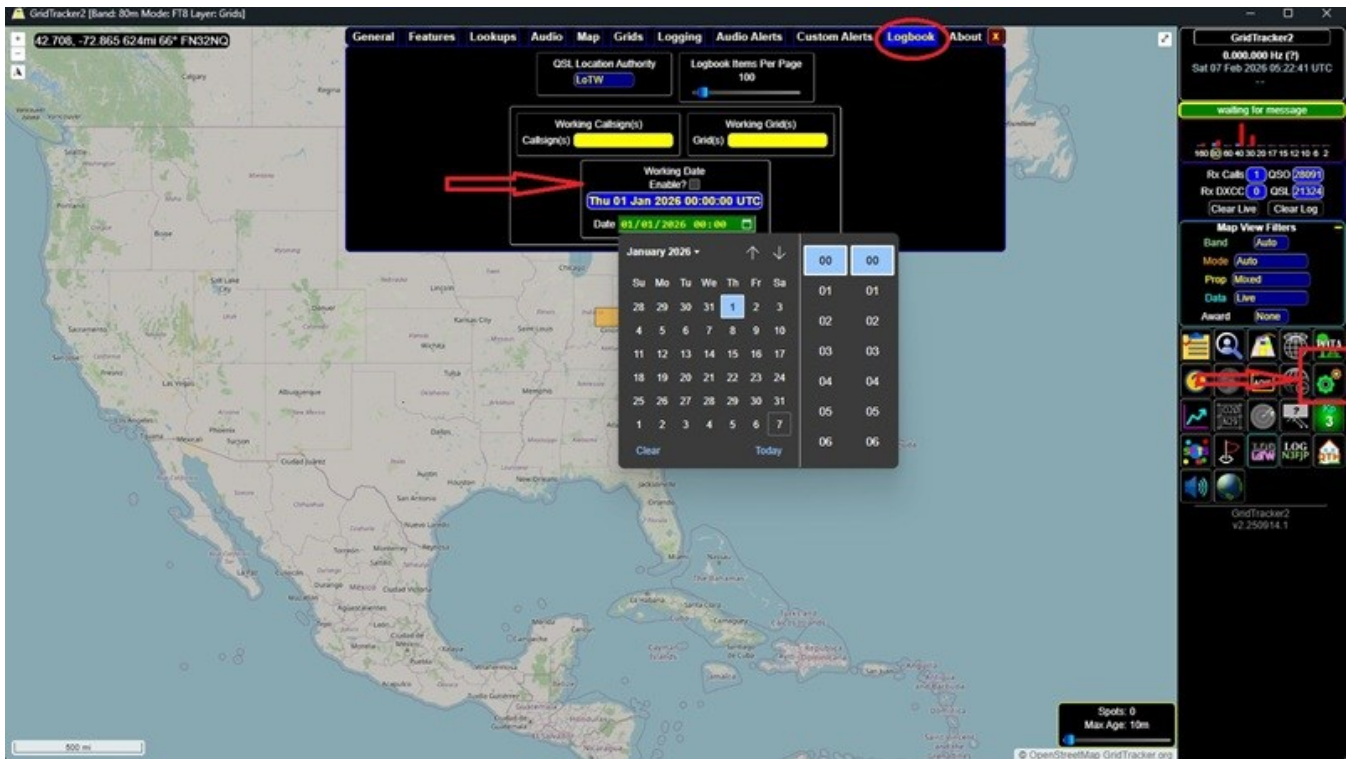
GridTracker 2.0 and America250 WAS

Randy Allen, [KAØAZS](https://www.kagazs.com)

If you are working on the ARRL's America250 Worked All States (WAS) award in digital modes, and are using GridTracker 2.0, here's a tip to help make hunting easier and more productive.

You can set up GridTracker to filter your logs so that you only display stations you have worked or confirmed this year on your map and on your call roster. This will highlight ones you need to complete the America250 WAS.

In GridTracker, go to your settings (Gears on the main menu), and then to the Logbook Tab. Set your working date as "Thu 01 Jan 2026 00:00:00 UTC" This will filter out all log entries before that date.



Click the Check Box for "Enable?" and then on the "Apply Changes" button. That's it.



GridTracker 2.0 and America250 WAS (continued)

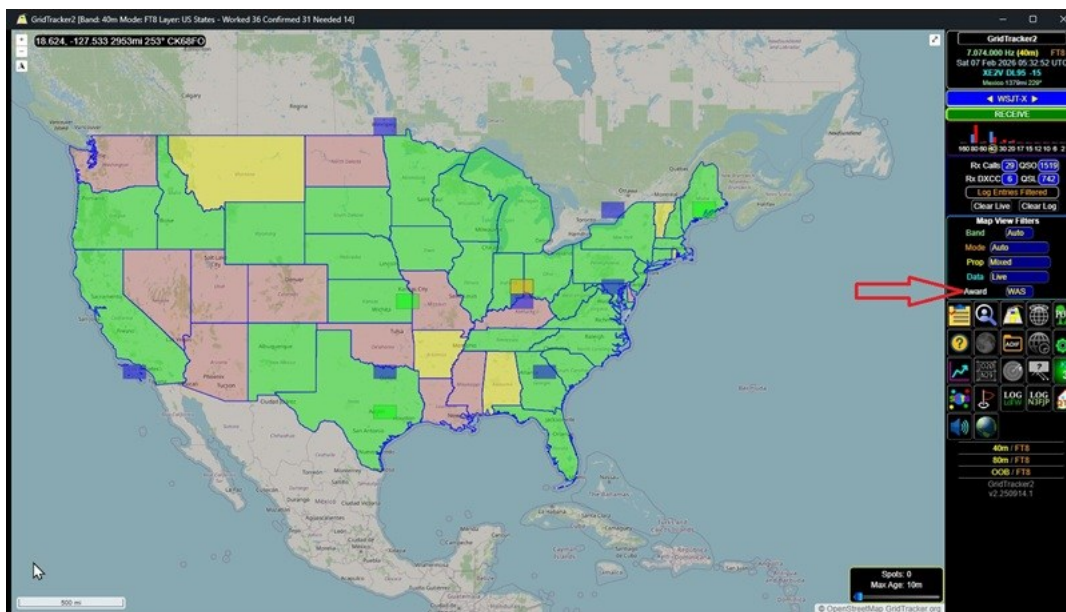
GridTracker will filter your log results, and will display a message of “Log Entries Filtered” so long as this is active. Your QSO and QSL counts will also change to display statistics from the start date.



To go back to displaying from your entire log, got back to Settings>Logbook, un-check “Enable?” and “Apply Changes” Again.

What does this do?

When operating live data (40 m here), and you select WAS in the Award drop down (or press the <5> key when that window is active), you will see the current status of worked states. Green are confirmed in LoTW, Yellow are Worked but not confirmed, and no highlighting means not worked.



GridTracker 2.0 and America250 WAS (continued)

In the Call Roster, stations that you need will be highlighted in the State Column.



Call sign	Calling	Freq	Grid	POTA	dB	Azim	DXCC	State	County	Dist (mi)	Age	LoTW
KØFTN	CQ	1029	DM79		-12	276	United States	CO	Douglas	1105	1s	✓
KA4KBX	CQ	1447	EM73		-7	186	United States	AL	Chambers +1	430	4s	✓
AA3DP	CQ	1354	EM86		-16	215	United States	TN	Davidson	267	4s	✓
HØRRR	CQ	1057	FK49		-2	147	Dominican Republic			1601	4s	✓

Here you can see that I am hearing a station in Colorado, a state that I need by the “CO” in the state column being highlighted in Green, and no highlighting on the map.

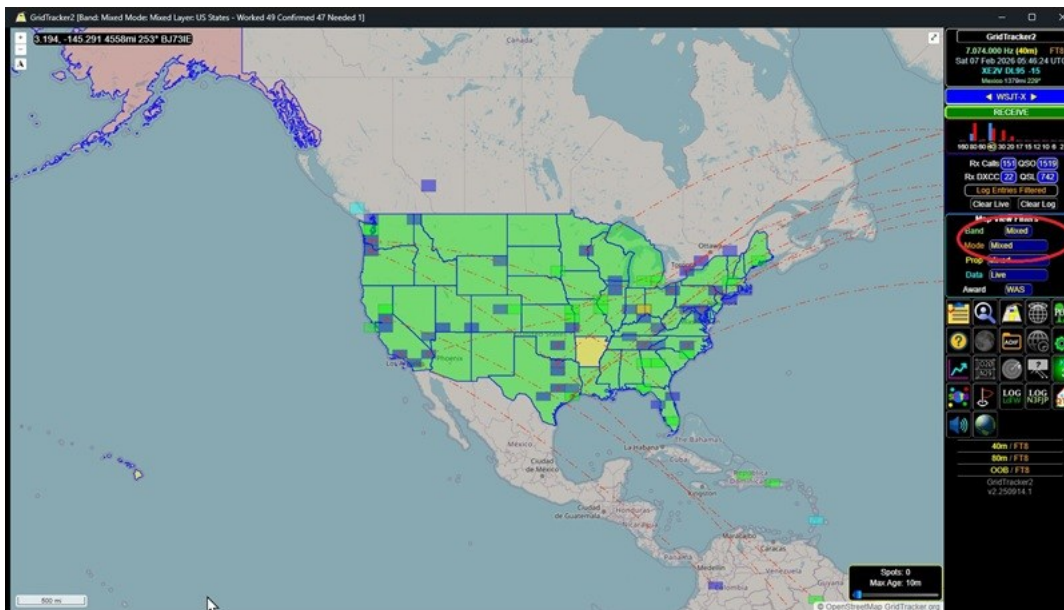
Alabama has been worked but not confirmed, so shows an edge color in the Call Roster, and yellow on the map.

Tennessee has been worked and confirmed, so there is no highlighting in the Call Roster, but it is Green on the map.

This makes it much easier to focus on working stations that you need to complete the award.

(My call roster is set to “Live Band and Mode” and “New+Unconfirmed”).

If you want to display how you are doing for the mixed award, set the Band and Mode to “Mixed” in the main menu. Here you see that I only need to confirm Arkansas and Hawaii and to work Alaska for the Mixed award.



This is just a quick overview of one way to use GridTracker as an operating aid when chasing various awards. Hopefully you will find this useful as you participate in this once in a lifetime event.

73, Randy KAOAZS



March Hamclock Update

Ray Hitt, [N8VMX](#)

Right after I finished my article last month describing how to set up and use HamClock for our March Tech Night, I heard that Elwood Downey, WBO0EW, HamClock inventor, passed away on January 29th. There was also a cryptic message on his [web page](#):

HamClock has reached end-of-life, the last release is version 4.22.
All HamClocks will cease to function in June 2026.
Thank you for your interest.



First off, RIP to Elwood and thanks for your gift of HamClock to the amateur radio community. Any of you who read this Newsletter know by now that I am a heavy-duty HamClock user. I started out building a nice hardware Hamclock, with some help from Glenn W18O and his friend with a superb woodworking shop (see below). It's a piece of ham shack furniture that I would like to use for a long time, certainly past June 30th, 2026. So, what's the latest news on the future of HamClock?



At this point in time, nothing is settled, but there seems to be two groups of people; the first group who clings on to the hope that there are hobbyists, computer scientists and programmers who will be able to find a technical solution to mitigate the “end of life” of June 30th, 2026, and; the second group who is lamenting the “end of HamClock” and is scurrying to find a replacement

I fall into both groups. I am monitoring a group that carefully reverse engineers data coming and going from Elwood's servers that is sent to all HamClock users. If you don't use HamClock this you might not know this, but the vast majority of HamClock's functionality

was mainly to display useful information compiled by HamClock's central server and sent out to all HamClocks around the world. Your HamClock would be a paperweight without a Hamclock server feeding it the information it needs. I notice this paperweight effect every time our Internet goes out!

One example that was recommended by a close friend of Elwood's is [open-hamclock-backend](#). This is a work in progress, but its approach is to let you recreate the functionality of the HamClock server on your own Raspberry Pi/Debian. This would allow you to continue to use your existing HamClock, perhaps with some code changes to point to an alternative HamClock data server. I haven't downloaded this yet but will try it out in the next few days. It would be my hope that all existing HamClock users will be able to keep using their HamClocks should they desire to do so.

I'm not sure if my [Adafruit ESP8266 Huzzah](#)-based HamClock can be changed to point to the new servers, there ought to be a way and hopefully someone smarter than me can find it!



March Hamclock Update (continued)

The other alternative that I have been evaluating since Feb 1st is OpenHamClock. They have set up a web site, openhamclock.com, where you can enter your call sign and grid square and select a few options (or keep the defaults), and it will display on your browser (see below).

Here's what OpenHamClock looks like. Well, one example of how it looks. There are many default



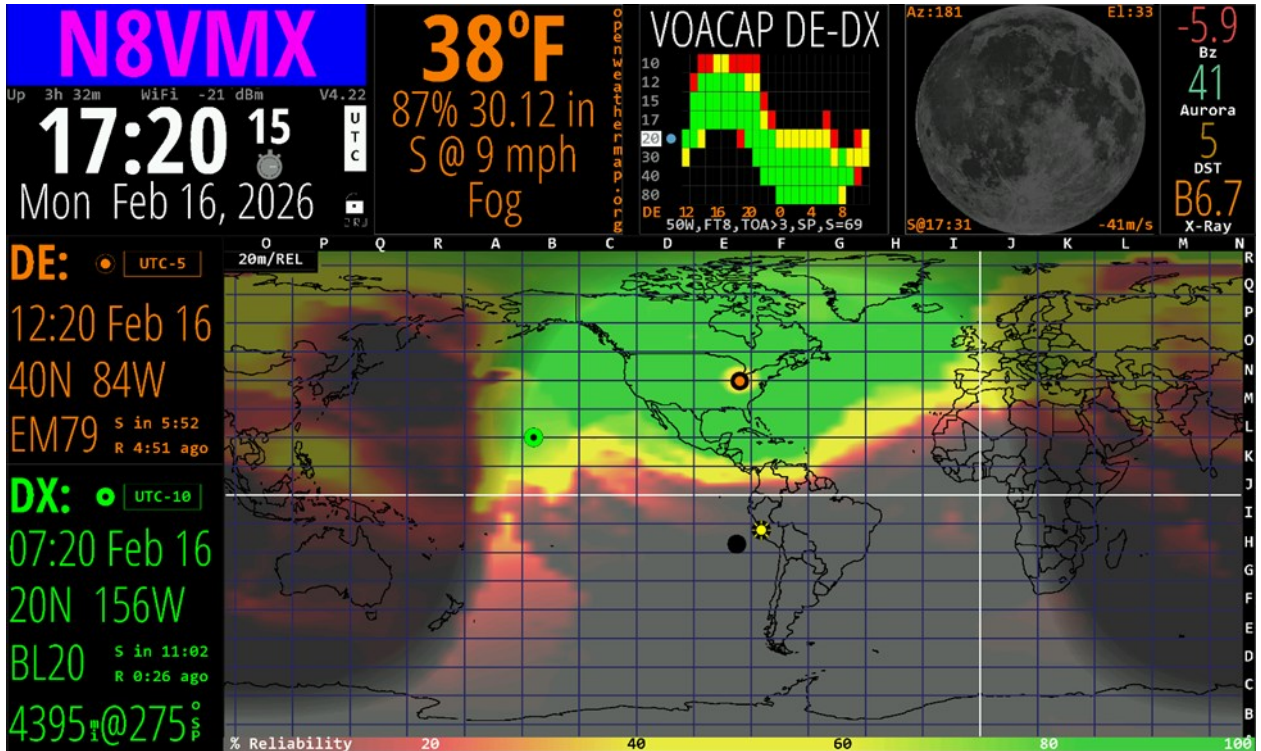
looks, different map views, etc. I've spent the last month trying to keep up with the changes. This is a program with a lot of potential. Try it on a 60" TV for a breathtaking view!

If you want to download the code itself to run your own OpenHamClock web server, you go to their [openhamclock GitHub site](https://github.com/openhamclock). The code changes daily; there's a concerted effort to get this package fully up and running by June 30th, 2026. There's nothing like a hard deadline to get you to really focus. I will write up the installation process for a headless Raspberry Pi running OpenHamClock in the very near future and probably discuss it later at a future Tech Night. If you are so inclined, go to the GitHub site, read the Quick Start, and try to get it running on your own Raspberry Pi (or Ubuntu, other Linux, MacOS). Check out the README.md file on the main page for a highly detailed overview of the many OpenHamClock features, how to build and use it, and more.

I captured a couple of screen shots of HamClock (next page top), and OpenHamClock (next page bottom) a few minutes apart from each other. At first glance you will notice that the original HamClock screen appears simpler; while OpenHamClock is more densely packed with information and is a bit hard to read. In all fairness, OpenHamClock is customizable, and information can be filtered to your preferences. Also, there are Tablet, and other display profiles in the setup that radically change how the same information is displayed. If your goal is to replicate the original HamClock as closely as possible, it's possible to get close, but not quite. Also, some aspects are present in OpenHamClock that aren't in Hamclock and that might be a deciding factor.



March Hamclock Update (continued)



HamClock



OpenHamClock



March Hamclock Update (continued)

HamClock on the other hand, is a bit easier to read, not as much is pushed to the screen, and it includes a lot of other useful information, such as weather, time, moon phase, and more. These “tiles” are all customizable, and multiple items can be selected for each tile. The tile information swaps with the tile information hidden behind it by default every 30 seconds or so.

It’s worth repeating that the OpenHamClock development is in its early stages. It’s been less than a month since Elwood passed away. While the end of June will be here before we know it, I’m impressed with the rapid pace of development. Plus, other independent developments may or may not pick up too, it’s too early to tell. I have been keeping track on Facebook in the following groups: [HamClock Heaven](#), and [Hamclock for everyone](#) (private group, *title is case-sensitive*).

One last thing; I was concerned because ever since Jan 29th, 2026, the download site for HamClock has been inert. I wanted to ensure I could archive the software in case I need to reinstall. Also, my hardware HamClock, based on the ESP8266, can’t install any HamClock software later than version 3.10. I had overwritten that version in April of 2024 before I realized I needed to retain it. Good news is, someone has set up a collection of the ESPHamClock.tar and ESPHamClock.tgz files to allow reinstallation. It’s on GitHub at <https://github.com/tardate/ESPHamClock>. If you’re building a HamClock at the March 2026 Tech Night that I am running, grab a copy of version 4.22 to load onto your SD Card to install HamClock. Read February’s Full Quietening for the procedure to build up your Raspberry Pi. Bring your laptop. Memory card reader, and your Raspberry Pi and we’ll update everyone at Tech Night or a related Sunday project day to be announced. Let me know if you’re interested.

Just so you know, I am currently running both OpenHamClock server and HamClock ver. 4.22 at the same time in my headless Raspberry Pi-4 with no issues. They use different TCP ports and don’t collide with each other. I have them both displayed in different browser tabs on my computer. This way, I can be both nostalgic and forward-looking at the same time. Others may say I can’t make up my mind, and they might be right!

73, Ray [N8VMX](#)

References cited in this article

- <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/>
- <https://qso365.co.uk/2026/01/the-end-of-hamclock/>
- <https://github.com/BrianWilkinsFL/open-hamclock-backend>
- <https://www.hamclock.com/>
- <https://openhamclock.com/>
- <https://github.com/tardate/ESPHamClock>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1340976027036493>

Answers to Amateur Radio Test Questions on pages xx-xx

[Technician \(pg. 33\)](#)

- T2C10 (D)
- T3A09 (B)
- T8A12 (B)
- T9A05 (C)

[General \(pg. 34\)](#)

- G4E11 (D)
- G0B12 (C)
- G1C02 (C) [97.313]
- G9D12 (A)

[Amateur Extra \(pg. 35\)](#)

- E7F04 (D)
- E4E07 (B)
- E7F05 (B)
- E2D06 (A)



Special Event Stations for March

Paul Sharp, [WS8R](#)

Here are a 2 links you can follow to find many SES that suit your varied interest. I may repeat and update some of these links as there are only a few sites focused on SES.

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/model:Event.

https://www.qsl.net/va3rj/spevents_dx.html. This link list a lot of SES in Europe and Russia.

Here is my pick of the litter of SES that I think will be of interest to my fellow BARC members. February was a slow month; March is even slower with very few SES. There are SES commemorating: for all of us old enough to remember the advertisements for GERATOL, dropping of an atomic bomb in South Carolina, aircraft carrier and battleships, and Tater Day for April 2026.

03/03/2026 | GERATOL NET 50 Plus Years of Service. Mar 3-Mar 14, 0001Z-2359Z, N1KL, Wheelwright, MA. GERATOL NET. 3.668 Extra Class Frequencies on HF. QSL. Kevin Lynch, POB 124, Wheelwright, MA 01094. geratol.net

03/07/2026 | Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Mar 7, 1400Z-2100Z, W4OT, Vero Beach, FL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 14.035 28.350 21.290. QSL. Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club c/o:IRC EOC, 4225 43rd Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32967. W4OT.com

03/14/2026 | 68th Anniversary of the Atomic Bomb Drop near Florence South Carolina. Mar 14, 0900Z-1500Z, W4ULH, Florence, SC. Floremce Amateur Radio Club. 14.285 7.285. Certificate. Florence Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502. www.w4ulh.net

03/14/2026 | Celebrating Florida's Statehood. Mar 14, 1300Z-2200Z, W4F, Winter Springs, FL. Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society and Ham Radio Outlet Winter Springs. 14255 21335 28360. Certificate. Wojciech Kossowski, 1392 La Paloma Circle, Winter Springs, FL 32708.

03/14/2026 | Launching of USS Midway Aircraft Carrier. Mar 14, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PKS31 DSTAR on Papa System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship, 910 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

03/15/2026 | Battleship USS Wisconsin BB-64 on the air in honor of Wisconsin QSO party. Mar 15, 1800Z-2030Z, N4WIS, Norfolk, VA. USS Wisconsin Radio Club. 14264 21364 28364 7264. QSL. Nauticus c/o Battleship Wisconsin Radio Club (N4WIS), One Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510. n4wis.com

03/21/2026 | First LORAN Experimental Stations. Mar 21, 1330Z-2100Z, K3S, Port of Baltimore. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7,14,18,21,28 MHz. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd, Odenton, MD 21113. qrz.com/db/k3s

03/21/2026 | Virginia QSO Party. Mar 21-Mar 22, 1400Z-2359Z, K4NVA, Sterling, VA. Sterling Park ARC. 1845 MHz 3860 MHz 7260 MHz 14270 MHz. QSL. Sterling Park QSL Bureau- Attn: VAQP, P.O. Box 29, Sterling, VA 20167. qsl.net/sterling

03/28/2026 | 10th Annual Loomis Hamfest. Mar 28, 0700Z-1100Z, W6EK, Rocklin, CA. Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club. Talk-In: 145.130- CTCSS 114.8. Certificate & QSL. W6EK, P.O. Box 6421, Auburn, CA 95604. <https://hamfest.w6ek.org>

04/03/2026 | Tater Day 2026 - Yam It Up. Apr 3-Apr 6, 0000Z-2359Z, KI4HUS, Benton, KY. Marshall County ARA. 3.820 7.250 14.325 28.350. QSL. Steve French KM4JZJ , 3640 Olive Hamlett Rd., Benton, KY 42025.



Amateur License Test Questions

Answers are on [page 31](#)

Technician

T2C10

What information is contained in the preamble of a formal traffic message?

- A. The email address of the originating station
- B. The address of the intended recipient
- C. The telephone number of the addressee
- D. Information needed to track the message

T3A09

Which of the following results from the fact that signals propagated by the ionosphere are elliptically polarized?

- A. Digital modes are unusable
- B. Either vertically or horizontally polarized antennas may be used for transmission or reception
- C. FM voice is unusable
- D. Both the transmitting and receiving antennas must be of the same polarization

T8A12

Which of the following is a disadvantage of FM compared with single sideband?

- A. Voice quality is poorer
- B. Only one signal can be received at a time
- C. FM signals are harder to tune
- D. All these choices are correct

T9A05

Which of the following increases the resonant frequency of a dipole antenna?

- A. Lengthening it
- B. Inserting coils in series with radiating wires
- C. Shortening it
- D. Adding capacitive loading to the ends of the radiating wires



Amateur License Test Questions (continued)

Answers are on [page 31](#)

General

G4E11

What precaution should be taken when connecting a solar panel to a lithium iron phosphate battery?

- A. Ground the solar panel outer metal framework
- B. Ensure the battery is placed terminals-up
- C. A series resistor must be in place
- D. The solar panel must have a charge controller

G0B12

What is the purpose of a power supply interlock?

- A. To prevent unauthorized changes to the circuit that would void the manufacturer's warranty
- B. To shut down the unit if it becomes too hot
- C. To ensure that dangerous voltages are removed if the cabinet is opened
- D. To shut off the power supply if too much voltage is produced

G1C02

What is the maximum transmitter power an amateur station may use on the 12-meter band?

- A. 50 watts PEP output
- B. 200 watts PEP output
- C. 1500 watts PEP output
- D. An effective radiated power equivalent to 100 watts from a half-wave dipole

G9D12

What is the common name of a dipole with a single central support?

- A. Inverted V
- B. Inverted L
- C. Sloper
- D. Lazy H



Amateur License Test Questions (continued)

Answers are on [page 31](#)

Amateur Extra

E7F04

Which method generates an SSB signal using digital signal processing?

- A. Mixing products are converted to voltages and subtracted by adder circuits
- B. A frequency synthesizer removes unwanted sidebands
- C. Varying quartz crystal characteristics are emulated in digital form
- D. Signals are combined in quadrature phase relationship

E4E07

Which of the following can cause shielded cables to radiate or receive interference?

- A. Low inductance ground connections at both ends of the shield
- B. Common-mode currents on the shield and conductors
- C. Use of braided shielding material
- D. Tying all ground connections to a common point resulting in differential-mode currents in the shield

E7F05

How frequently must an analog signal be sampled to be accurately reproduced?

- A. At least half the rate of the highest frequency component of the signal
- B. At least twice the rate of the highest frequency component of the signal
- C. At the same rate as the highest frequency component of the signal
- D. At four times the rate of the highest frequency component of the signal

E2D06

Which of the following is a method for establishing EME contacts?

- A. Time-synchronous transmissions alternating between stations
- B. Storing and forwarding digital messages
- C. Judging optimum transmission times by monitoring beacons reflected from the moon
- D. High-speed CW identification to avoid fading



Editorial Policy and Style Guidelines for *Full Quieting*

Editorial Policy

Full Quieting welcomes articles from BARC members on any ham radio subject that is relevant to BARC. Our focus is our BARC members. We will not reprint items or articles that are easily available by other means (web, magazines, etc.).

Most articles will be “how to” or “what I did” articles that focus on technical or operational subjects such as a construction (antennas, equipment, stations, etc.), the use of hardware or software, operating in unique/challenging circumstances, or a memoir.

Full Quieting will also consider an occasional article on policy issues regarding the various national licensing/regulatory agencies and/or amateur radio associations so long as the article is relevant to BARC members and constructive in tone and recommendations.

Although all *Full Quieting* articles represent the experiences and points-of-view of their authors and not BARC, articles that focus on policy issues will be specifically labeled as a reflection of the author’s opinion.

Regardless of subject, when you submit an article you acknowledge that you are the original author or creator and you grant publication rights to BARC. Anything you submit remains your property and you may have it published elsewhere without the need for permission from *Full Quieting*.

Style Guidelines

Language: English is the official language of *Full Quieting* and all articles should be submitted in English. Don’t be concerned if English is not your first language: just tell your story in your own voice and use translating tools such as Google Translate to help if necessary.

File format: Submit your article as a Word, Word Perfect, OpenOffice or text file attachment to an email. A shared document available for download (such as a Google Doc) is also okay. **Do not submit as an email or PDF file.**

Pictures and other graphics: Do not embed pictures or tables in the article. Please submit as an email attachment or a shared image available for download. Please reduce the file size of the images before you send them to *Full Quieting*. Large files can be attached to a series of emails. Keep file size in mind regarding publication quality: for example, a half page image in the final PDF version of *Full Quieting* should be at least 400 pixels wide. If a photograph or graphic was taken or created by someone else, you should have their permission to use it and the permission of anyone identifiable in the image. **If you capture images from the web, provide a citation (URL) for that source and make sure the source does not prohibit use of the image in *Full Quieting*.**

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Editorial Policy and Style Guidelines for *Full Quieting*

(Continued from previous page)

Use these style conventions

- We are hams, not Hams, and our hobby is ham radio This is a change to our original format
- The name of our organization is: Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club or BARC
- The code we use is Morse (capitalize the M)
- We use Yagi antennas (capitalize the Y)
- Q codes should be capitalized: QRM, QSB QSY
- The plural of QSO is QSOs, not QSO's
- Modes should be capitalized: CW, SSB, FT8, RTTY
- Bands are written as 10 m, 15 m etc.
- The abbreviation for a Silent Key is SK.
- You might have had an Elmer, not an elmer

Bruce N7RR has provided a [two-page check list](#) of common International System of Units (SI) formats and abbreviations.

Use these formatting conventions:

- Set all borders to 1 inch. The preferred font is Calibri, 12 point.
- Do not use tabs or spaces at the beginning of a paragraph
- Use only a single paragraph or carriage return at the end of each paragraph
- To enhance readability, use two spaces after the period at the end of a sentence.



Miscellaneous BARC Info

REGULARLY SCHEDULED NETS

Daily (Sunday through Saturday) 1030, 1615 and 1845 Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN) Primary: 3972.5 KHz LSB Alternates: 3968 & 7272 KHz LSB

Weekdays (Mon-Fri) 1130 DMR Net Brandmeister Talk group 310557. Accessible via hotspot, 147.390 (+) CC13 TS2(Dayton East), 444.4375 (+) CC11 TS2 (Dayton West)

Sundays 1900 Newcomers & Elmers Net (Cincinnati) 146.670 (-) (123.0 PL)

Sundays 2000 **BARC Weekly Net 147.045 (+) (118.8 PL)**
[Alt 443.675 (+) (118.8 PL)]

Sundays 2100 Miami Co. Voice & Data Net (Data Net follows Voice Net) 145.230 (-) (no PL)

Winlink Tuesdays GCARES Winlink Net Any time on Tuesdays Eastern Time Send To: W8LRJ, Cc: KE8FMJ W8GCA-10 445.010 (S), W6CDR-10 145.010 (S)

Tuesdays 1900 Dayton Veterans Admin Amateur Radio Club Net (W8DVA) 443.850 + 107.2 pl

Tuesdays 1915 Ohio ARES HF Net W8SGT Net Control at OEMA HQ Primary: 3902 KHz LSB (+/- QRM) Alternate: 7240 KHz LSB (+/- QRM)

Tuesdays 1945 Ohio Digital Emergency Net Primary: 3584.5 KHz USB (1500 WF) Alternate: 7072 KHz USB

Tuesdays 2000 MoCoARES Weekly Net 146.640 (-) (123.0 Hz PL) (Except—No Net on last Tuesday of even months (MoCoARES meeting) (Except—On 2nd Tuesday: Voice and Data Net on 444.250 (+) (123.0 PL)

Tuesdays 2100 GCARES Net (Voice & Data) 146.910 (-)(no PL) [Alt = 442.725]

Ohio Winlink Wednesdays OH ARES Winlink Net Any time on Wednesdays Eastern Time Send To: K8EAF, Cc: W8LRJ, KE8FMJ W8GCA-10 445.010 (S), W6CDR-10 145.010 (S)

Wednesdays 2000 Ohio District 3 ARES Net (West Central Ohio Regional Net) Primary: 145.110 (-) (67.0 PL) Alternate: 146.820 (-) (77.0 PL)

Wednesdays 2000 Beginners Net (Dayton Area) 444.875 (+) (94.8 PL)

ZOOM-Basic Setup & Configuration

Here's a link to the Zoom Video Tutorials: [Zoom how-to video tutorials – Zoom Help Center](#)

Also see: "Join a Meeting" and the "Joining & Configuring Audio & Video" tutorials for new users. Send questions or problems to John, [W8LRJ](#) ASAP but BEFORE the next meeting.

BARC Fundraising Opportunity — Kroger's Rewards Program Please use your Kroger Card when shopping at Kroger's and support BARC. If you haven't signed up and need help, bring your Kroger Card to the next BARC meeting, and we'll help you get registered (contact the [BARC Treasurer](#)).

ARRL Discounted Membership Offer One of the benefits of club membership is the opportunity to become an ARRL member at a discounted price. BARC is an ARRL affiliated club and receives a commission for new first-time ARRL memberships transacted through the club. BARC passes on this commission (discount) as a club membership benefit to promote ARRL membership. BARC members currently receive a \$15 discount on a NEW first year ARRL membership cost when placed through the Club. Please contact the [BARC Treasurer](#) for details.

Directions to BARC Clubhouse and Radio Room

St. Pierre Education Center
3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd
Bellbrook, OH 45305

[Map Link](#)

Park in front of building, enter in front-right door.

Conference room: Take first hallway to the left, conference room is on the right. **Radio Room:** Straight down hallway, left turn into gym. Door on left.

