



Monthly Newsletter
July 20, 2022

❖ What's New ? - Part 1

US Postage Rates rose on July 10, 2022

First Class Letter up to 1 ounce	60¢
Additional Ounces	24¢
Post Card	44¢
International Letter	\$1.40

❖ What's New? - Part 2

Your Newsletter Editor is thinking of ending his practice of posting the monthly Meeting Agenda availability and the Monthly Meeting Minutes availability on the website home page slider.

Since portions of these documents are restricted to CARC Members there is little value in announcing the document availability to the whole world.

CARC Members who want to know about the most recently published Newsletter or Meeting Minutes can find this information in the MEMBER AREA >> MEMBER WHATS NEW. Or, <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/member-whatsnew/>

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We have a lot of info on our THINGS TO-DO > CALENDAR VIEW website page. Here are a few highlights to pique your curiosity.

Try some of the less-well-known contests. Visit www.ContestCalendar.com

Parks On The Air, Special Event Stations
Sunspots are UP. Chase DX

July 2022 (post publication date)

- CQ WW VHF Contest 16th-17th
- NA QP RTTY 16th-17th
- Youth On The Air Contest 23rd
- RSGB Islands OTA Contest 30th-31st
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August 2022

- NA QP CW 6th-7th
- SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-thon 13th-14th
- Maryland DC QSO Party 13th
- NA QP SSB 20th-21st
- Hawaii QSO Party 27th-28th
- Kansas QSO Party 27th-28th
- Ohio QSO Party 27th
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Check the dates. Some contests begin at 0000Z which is Saturday morning UTC, but late Friday night local time.

❖ License Plate Puzzle



See Page 5 for possible answers.

❖ Bob Heil Offers Microphone Advice

Talking into a microphone at your home and expecting intelligible content to come out of someone else's radio located far away requires a great leap of faith.

You can improve your odds of making a good radio contact by taking a few steps before going on the air.

The design of Amateur Radio microphones generally wants the operator to SPEAK CLOSE TO THE MIC. By speaking close to the mic you let the mic element do its job without needing to crank up the MIC GAIN and thereby picking up a lot of the surrounding noises that may be present in the room.

Bob's advice was to position your mic within two inches of your mouth. Bob mentioned that a mic 12 inches from your mouth is starting with a 6 db audio disadvantage.

When speaking, align yourself with your microphone. The design of most Amateur Radio microphones intentionally cuts off sounds arriving at the sides or back of the mic.

The Heil PR-40 mic is an exception. Its design was inspired by Joe Walsh, WB6CAU, to be forgiving of artists who need some flexibility of where they speak.

Using a hand-mic – bring it up to your lips and talk straight into the front. Years ago the standard advice was to speak across the front of the hand mic as a way of avoiding puffy breath noises.

Using a headset – bring the mic boom close to, and straight in front of your lips.

Using a desk mic – be mindful of your surroundings. Talk close to the mic element. Otherwise you will be fighting the ambient noise of the room.

Your transceiver probably has a MIC GAIN control and a COMPRESSION control. This might be called COMP or PROC on some rigs. Some rigs have knobs and some rigs handle these functions through the menu system. Either way, you almost certainly need to adjust these settings to obtain the best sounding transmitted audio results.

Many rigs have an ALC indicator on their display. That acronym stands for Automatic Level Control. The purpose of ALC is to help keep your audio from being overdriven. Watch that ALC indicator as you speak. The ALC meters on my rigs want me to stay at or below the mid-point as I speak. Above mid-point in bound to have a bad effect on quality.

If you have a tendency to pop your mic with plosive sounds (Think... the letter "P") then you should invest in a good foam covering for your mic. Not all of them are good. Bob Heil thinks highly of the ones he sells.

Equalization of the audio bandwidth was a topic on Bob's mind. It would take a lot of time and space to explain this concept as good as Bob did. Short version... you don't need high-fidelity audio when transmitting a ham radio signal. The microphone elements that Heil Sound sells for ham radio use start their life with a good understanding of audio equalization. The audio frequencies that convey the essential content needed for good comprehension are passed through – maybe even boosted. Audio frequencies that don't add comprehension value are attenuated. Bob Heil does this in his element designs. Your radio might have its own equalization settings behind a menu. The important point is to avoid conflict between the radio settings and the element specifications.

Similarly to audio equalization, but on the receive side of your operation, Bob had a lot to say about the Heil Sound Parametric Receive Audio System Equalizer. If there are any old guys in the room you may know that your hearing probably isn't what it used to be. The PRAS EQ can compensate for your hearing condition with some front-panel adjustments.

❖ CQ WW VHF Contest

Would you like to try something different for a change? Field Day 2022 is history. It is too early to hibernate. Stay awake. Give the other guys some contest points. They might buy you a beer someday.

On Saturday July 16, 2022 and continuing through Sunday July 17, 2022 you could try your hand at the CQ WW VHF Contest.

Hams from around the world make for some amazing participant numbers. VHF is very popular in places such as Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, and Brazil.

The contest bands are 6 Meters and 2 Meters. None of those microwave oven frequencies come into play.

Start at 2:00 p.m. Saturday. 1800 UTC for you Zulu fans.

End at 5:00 p.m. Sunday. 2100 UTC for you Zulu fans.

Operate CW, SSB, Digital . Horizontally polarized, directional antennas will give you a competitive edge.

CW – Listen in the last 10 KHz of the CW segment. 50.090 to 50.099 MHz and 144.090 to 144.099 MHz

SSB – Stay pretty low in the phone frequencies – 50.126 to 50.300 MHz. If you hear DX stations in the DX Window 50.100 to

50.125 work them there and then move above 50.125 MHz to work domestic stations. If band conditions are HOT the on-air operations will expand higher up the band.

Digital – If you are a digital operator I bet you know where to find the standard frequencies.

FM is permitted but it really is not the focus of this contest.

Exchange call signs and grid squares.

In preparation for contest weekend I recommend familiarizing yourself with the Grid Square numbering system. If you hear another station tell his grid square think about what that means in terms of pointing your own directional antenna toward his location.

Grid Square FN10 is where many CARC Members are located. Let's use that as part of our antenna pointing lesson.

Due NORTH: FN11, FN12, FN13, FN14

Due EAST: FN20, FN30, Atlantic Ocean

Due SOUTH: FM19, FM18, FM17, FM16

Due WEST: FN00, EN90, EN80, EN70

See Page 8 of the CARC July Newsletter for an expanded and visual version of this information. And/or use your N3FJP VHF Contest software to see the same info.

If there is any sporadic E propagation during the contest you could work stations in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, the Caribbean, maybe even Europe.

1 point for each 6 meter contact.

2 points for each 2 meter contact.

Multiply by the number of grid squares worked. Count them once per band.

Full rules can be found at:

www.cqww-vhf.com

❖ General Interest and Calendar Items July 2022, and later

Club Website Event Calendar	www.RadioClub-CARC.com/calendar/ We have a pretty good Event Calendar plug-in on our website. If you are looking for events, this might be the right place. If you know of worthy events that should be listed in our Calendar please share the <i>Who, What, Where, and When</i> information with AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com
Cumberland Valley Hamfest	Saturday July 30, 2022 Chambersburg, PA. \$5.00, Tailgating add \$10 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Snack Bar opens at 6:30 a.m. Tailgating with shade, Indoor Tables, Seminars, Presentations, Demos. License Exams at Noon www.w3ach.org
Berryville Hamfest	Berryville, Virginia Sunday August 7, 2022 \$10 Gate opens 6 a.m., Food at 7 a.m., Buildings open at 8 a.m., Lunch begins at 11 a.m. www.berryvillehamfest.com
Valley Forge Hamfest	Kimberton Fire Company, Phoenixville PA Sunday August 14, 2022 \$10.00 http://marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm
Ham Radio License Exam Testing Part 1	Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club (HRAC) test dates are 3rd Saturdays, Even Numbered Months, starting at 9 a.m. <i>Location Change: Vietnam Veterans of America, 8000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA</i> <i>Laurel VEC = No Fee! Pre-Registration, including your FCC FRN, is required.</i> HRAC VE Testing Dates appear on our EVENTS CALENDAR: Additional information at their web page: www.w3uu.org Look for the link: License Exams.
Ham Radio License Exam Testing Part 2	South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) conducts license testing at the Public Safety Center off Claremont Road, Carlisle, PA. Exam sessions are scheduled monthly at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Preregistration is required. Our readers are encouraged to perform their own due diligence to validate any exam session in which they have an interest. Contact: n3tw@arrl.net or smraham@gmail.com There is a modest fee for this testing service. Additional details at their web page. http://n3tw.org/links/getting-licensed/smra-testing-policies/
Ham Radio License Exam Testing	Look for LICENSE EXAM on our website THINGS-TO-DO Calendar View. We have entries for SMRA, Keystone VHF, Cross-Keys Village, HRAC
Ham Radio Training Class	If you know of any upcoming License Preparation Classes please let AF3I know so that they can be listed here. The ARRL website has a search tool. The classes I found were listed behind the keyword "online". http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class
Ham Radio Lunch	The last Thursday of each month. Informal lunchtime gathering at the Hibachi Grill and Buffet. 5080 Jonestown Road -- Route 22, Harrisburg, PA Best guess – Noon. to 1:30 p.m.
CARC Weekly Coffee Time	Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Location: Caffe 101 in Boiling Springs, PA. On the corner, across from the clock-tower and diagonally across from the Boiling Springs Tavern.

If you have Calendar items that you would like to share with your fellow CARC Members please send them to the Newsletter Editor – Andrew Forsyth AF3I. He can be reached by eMail sent to:

AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com

❖ Cumberland Amateur Radio Club Nets

CARC Two Meter VHF Digital Net	The Two Meter Digital Net is on Summer Vacation. We will return Sunday evening September 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. on 146.490 MHz. Most likely we will be using OpMode Domino EX 22
CARC Two Meter Phone Net	Every Sunday at 7 p.m. local time. 2 meter band. 146.490 MHz FM Simplex. Also available through EchoLink Node 259045 or search for station AF3I-L. EchoLink is great for those who have no transceiver and/or no antenna, but who do have a PC and an Internet connection. EchoLink is equally great for anyone who resides or travels outside our local area and wishes to stay in touch. Visit www.echolink.org as a starting point.
CARC Ten Meter Phone Net	Every Wednesday* at 8 p.m. local time. 10 meter band. 28.400 MHz USB *Except Monthly Meeting Night. on the third Wednesday of the month.

❖ Meeting Activity

Tonight's Activity	Tonight's agenda is pretty full. I don't think we can fit an Activity into the short time available to us. If there is something you wish we could talk about as part of an upcoming meeting Frank Mellott will take your suggestions and questions eMail Frank using this address: president@RadioClub-CARC.com
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❖ Answers to the Puzzles

Answer to the License Plate Puzzle that appeared on Page 2



The first thing that came to mind is WOOF, a broadcast station located in Dothan, Alabama. 99.7 FM, and 560 AM transmitting 5000 watts daytime and 118 watts nighttime. You probably thought WOOF was a reference to our canine friends.



Frank Mellott contributed his sighting of AT83HKR. He says it has something to do with the Appalachian Trail, 1983, and being a Hiker at that time. Sounds good. Thank you.

Words of Wisdom

**If your actions inspire others to
dream more,
learn more,
do more,
become more,
you are a leader**

John Quincy Adams

Words of Wisdom...

“No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying.”

Tony Robbins – Life and Business Strategist