



Monthly Newsletter
August 17, 2022

❖ What's New ? - Part 1

The Door Prize Winner section of THE CARC STORE has been enhanced with new items.

- 1.) We have consumer packages of Lance Crackers as one of your choices. The flavor is entirely up to you. Specify.
- 2.) A three piece set of Brand-New BBQ Tools that I call a Priceless Treasure.

And, the ARRL Field Day 2016 Baseball Cap has been moved into the FREE section from which you can pick one item in addition to your valuable prize.

❖ What's New? - Part 2

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

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, by following this link.

<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.

August 2022 (post publication date)	
• SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-thon	13 th -14 th
• Maryland DC QSO Party	13 th
• NA QSO Party SSB	20 th -21 st
• Hawaii QSO Party	27 th -28 th
• Kansas QSO Party	27 th -28 th
• Ohio QSO Party	27 th

September 2022	
• Colorado QSO Party	3 rd
• Tennessee QSO Party	4 th
• SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-thon	10 th
• Alabama QSO Party	10 th
• ARRL VHF Contest September	10 th -11 th
• Iowa QSO Party	17 th -18 th
• Texas QSO Party	17 th
• New Jersey QSO Party	17 th -18 th
• New Hampshire QSO Party (maybe)	17 th
• Washington State QSO Party	17 th -18 th
• CQ WW DX Contest RTTY	23 rd -25 th
• Maine QSO Party	24 th -25 th

Check the dates. Some contests begin at 0000Z which is Saturday morning UTC, but late Friday night local time.

❖ License Plate Puzzle

No puzzle this month.

See Page 5 for possible answers.

❖ EPA Traffic Nets Praying for HELP

Newly appointed EPA Section Traffic Manager Tim Inman KC8T sent the following message to Club Leadership in the section.

Section Traffic Manager Scott Walker (N3SW) is leaving our region. He has handed his managerial duties over to me.

Monthly, the traffic manager submits reports to the ARRL, regarding public service honor roll, and net activities.

Another responsibility of the traffic manager is to “insure that all traffic nets within the section are properly and adequately staffed.” [ARRL] Currently, both the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net (EPAEPTN), and especially the CW Pennsylvania Traffic Net (PTN) are operating with minimum staff.

We need volunteers.

Please consider checking in to one or both of these networks on a regular basis.

EPAEPTN is the Phone Net
It meets daily at 5:00 p.m. local time on 3918 KHz

PTN is the CW Net
It meets daily at 7:00 p.m. on 3585 KHz.

Arriving traffic is delivered best by a local ham, especially the “welcome to ham radio” messages we handle often.

Both are a great way to improve your operating skills, and give back to the community.

73

Tom Inman, KC8T
Eastern PA Traffic Manager

Editor’s Note #1: Perhaps you are not quite ready to volunteer. That is okay. You can learn a lot just by listening. If your schedule permits you to listen to the nets now and then I think you will build an understanding of how the National Traffic System operates.

Try it. You’ll like it.
If not, hit the big switch or turn the big knob.

Editor’s Note #2: I listened to the PTN CW Net on a recent night. By careful use of filters I was able to copy enough of the content to assure myself I was listening to PTN.

In addition to the Net Control Station there were three net check-ins.

There was no traffic for any of the participants this night. The Net Control Station thanked and dismissed the participants and closed the net after about 10 minutes. I learned something.

❖ Northern Calif. DX Foundation Beacons

Submitted by Andrew Forsyth, AF3I

One of the pleasures of having a ham radio station is that I can listen to all kinds of interesting things even if I don’t have the time or concentration to make two-way QSOs.

The Northern California DX Foundation operates a global array of HF Beacon transmitters. A curious ham can tune to any of the five beacon frequencies. Within three minutes he or she can have insight as to which parts of the world are open at the moment on the given band.

If you had hopes of contacting some other part of the world simply try one of the other frequencies and invest another three minutes of your time. That’s not asking too much.

You ask....”**What are the NCDXF Beacon frequencies?”**

- 14.100 MHz in the 20 meter CW band
- 18.110 MHz in the 17 meter band
- 21.150 MHz in the 15 meter band
- 24.930 MHz in the 12 meter band
- 28.200 MHz in the 10 meter CW band.

In what parts of the world are these beacon stations located?

Great question....

The beacons transmit in the following sequence. You might not hear the first station in this sequence, but once you hear a known station and find its position in this list you will know what comes next.

	(start)	
4U1UN		United Nations, NY
VE8AT		NWT, Canada
W6WX		California, USA
KH6RS		Maui, Hawaii
ZL6B		New Zealand
VK6RBP		Australia
JA2IGY		Japan
RR90		Siberia
VR2B		Hong Kong
4S7B		Sri Lanka
ZS6DN		Pretoria, South Africa
5Z4B		Kenya
4X6TU		Israel
OH2B		Finland
CS3B		Madeira
LU4AA		Buenos Aires, Argentina
OA4B		Lima, Peru
YV5B		Caracas, Venezuela
	(repeat)	

What am I going to hear if the band is open?

Each station transmits for ten seconds. The transmission begins with the station call sign sent at 22 wpm CW. The call sign is followed by a series of four one-second long dashes.

- The first dash is sent using 100 watts
- The second dash is sent using 10 watts
- The third dash is sent using 1 watt
- The fourth dash is sent using 1/10th of a watt.

If you leave your receiver tuned to the same frequency the next station in the list will begin transmitting immediately using the same pattern of call sign followed by long dashes.

The following web site has recorded examples of actual audio reception to which you can listen and familiarize yourself with the contents of a 10 second transmission. Who knows... you might even learn morse code.

<https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconlocations.html>

The same web site displays a graphic image of the earth with call sign pins showing the approximate location of each beacon station.

When one station completes its transmission on a given frequency the next station in the rotation begins its transmission on that same frequency. The entire cycle takes 180 seconds, or three minutes.

There is an added dimension to the beacon transmissions. One of the best ways to “see” this dimension can be found on the following website where you will find a transmission schedule. Most of the words are in the Czech language. The numbers will look familiar. You will figure it out. Trust me.

<https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/ibp.pdf>

If we look at the chart to the left as if it was the 14.100 MHz beacon frequency we see that 4U1UN is the first station to transmit during a cycle. 4U1UN transmits for 10 seconds on 14.100 MHz followed by VE8AT.

Where does 4U1UN go when it finishes transmitting on 14.100 MHz?

The beacon control software at 4U1UN changes its transmitting frequency to the next higher frequency where it will transmit for 10 seconds . That is 18.110 MHz. Another bump-up in frequency at 4U1UN will transmit for 10 seconds on 21.150 MHz. Another bump up to 24.930 MHz for the fourth of five transmissions. Lastly, a bump up to 28.200 MHz for the fifth of five 10 second transmissions.

A particular beacon goes silent for the remaining 130 seconds of a cycle and then springs back into action when its next turn comes around in the rotation.

If you have good signal reception, and if you have the skills to copy Morse Code at 22 wpm, and if you know the sequence of the station transmissions then you can easily determine which parts of the world you are hearing, and which parts you are not hearing.

There are web based beacon tools for those who could use a little assistance with the Morse Code.

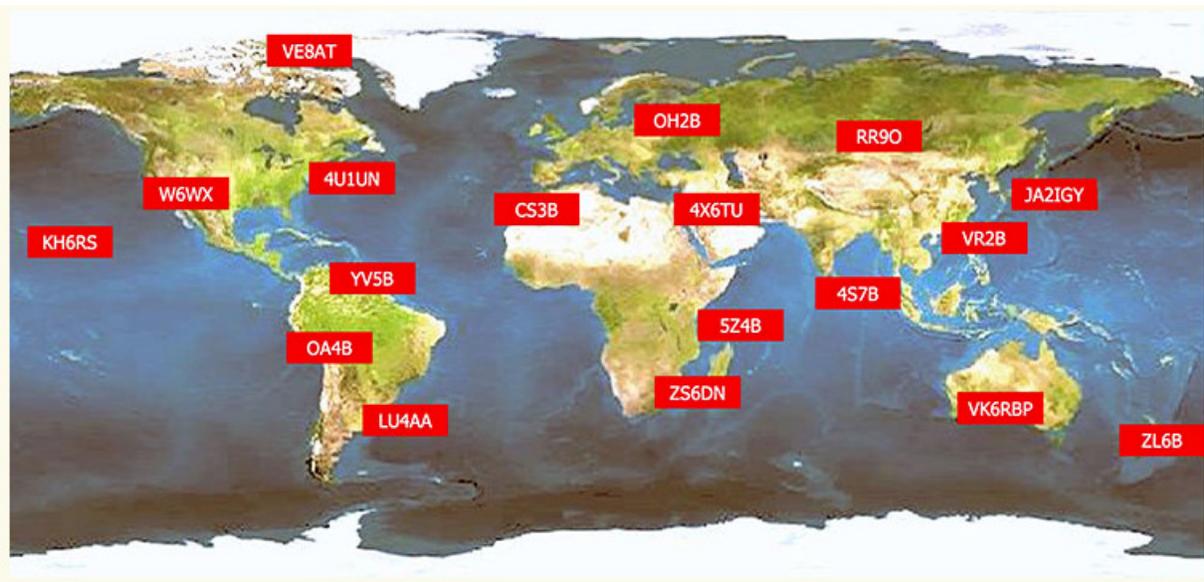
<https://ncdxf.org/beacon/index.html#transmission>

This web site displays the call sign of each beacon station that is currently transmitting. Each station transmits on a given frequency for 10 seconds and then bumps-up to the next higher frequency.

(start)
14.100 MHz for 10 seconds
18.110 MHz for 10 seconds
21.150 MHz for 10 seconds
24.930 MHz for 10 seconds
28.200 MHz for 10 seconds
Silent for 130 seconds
(repeat)

When that station finishes its transmission on 28.200 MHz it goes silent for the next 130 seconds.

If you have a craving for more knowledge about the NCDXF Beacons please visit www.ncdxf.org/pages/beacons.html



NCDXF and IARU International Beacon Project

❖ General Interest and Calendar Items August 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
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

No puzzle this month.

Words of Wisdom...

**Great things are done
by a series of small
things brought together.**

Vincent Van Gogh

Words of Wisdom...

**I'll try anything once,
Twice if I like it,
Three times to make sure**

Mae West