



Monthly Newsletter
January 18, 2023

❖ What's New ?

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has restructured their administrative Sections.

Gone are:

Maritime (MAR),
Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and
Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut (NT).

In their place the RAC now has:

New Brunswick (NB), and
Nova Scotia (NS)
Golden Horseshoe (GH)
Territories (TER)

Because those sections often are used as part of a contest exchange you may need to update your contest logging software to a version that recognizes the new Section names. Scott Davis and his development team, consisting of wife and son, have created updated versions of their logging programs that support contests in which the section name is part of the contest exchange.

Update as soon as possible.
The changes took effect January 1, 2023.

❖ Contests and other On-The-Air Events

January 2023

- North American QP CW 14th-15th
- North American QP SSB 21st-22^{ng}
- ARRL VHF Contest 21st-22nd
- CQ WW 160 Meters CW 27th-29th
- Winter Field Day 28th-29th

February 2023

- Minnesota QSO Party 04th
- British Columbia QSO Party 04th-05th
- Vermont QSO Party 04th-05th
- CQ WPX RTTY Contest 10th-12th
- SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-thon 11th-12th
- ARRL School Club Roundup 13th-17th
- ARRL International. DX CW 17th-19th
- CQ WW 160 Meter SSB 24th-26th
- South Carolina QSO Party 25th
- North Carolina QSO Party 26th
- North America QSO Party RTTY 25th-26th

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

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❖ License Plate Puzzle

The License Plate Puzzle began its life using vehicle tags that, with some wild stretch of the imagination, had some connection to ham radio. For example: I CQ GOD

We have drifted from that concept and now include airplanes, the Appalachian Trail, and Military units. I would like to return to our original intent.

If you can make a connection between the letters and numbers shown on a vehicle license tag and our ham radio hobby then send me the information – the tag state and wording, and your reasoning.

eMail AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com

❖ **Operating SPLIT**

DX chasers do it with frequency. You should try it once in a while, too.

Operating SPLIT means you listen on one frequency and transmit on a different frequency.—usually a few kilohertz away on the same band.

Operating SPLIT is a technique used by rare DX stations to help manage the pileups. Split operation helps keep everyone from transmitting on the same frequency as the DX station and causing mayhem.

DX Stations that are using SPLIT typically will announce where they are listening, using phrases such as UP FIVE, or UP TEN. When you hear those phrases that means you also need to set up your radio to use SPLIT. Otherwise, all your ham radio colleagues will consider you to be a LID. Being a LID is not good.

Whatever frequency the DX Station is listening on should be the frequency you are transmitting on. Likewise, whatever frequency the DX station is transmitting on is where you should NOT be transmitting.

Your radio  probably supports SPLIT, but each model of radio likely supports SPLIT in its own manner. You need to learn the commands your radio expects you to use when operating SPLIT. Radios differ.

It is fairly common for a DX Station to transmit close to the bottom edge of the USA Extra Class band segment. For example, on 20 meter phone the DX might transmit on 14.153 Mhz and announce that he is listening UP 10, or 14.163 MHz.

In that situation, you want to listen to the DX station on whatever frequency you hear him using – 14.153 MHz. And, you want to set your radio to transmit 10 Khz higher up the band – on 14.163 MHz.

Once you have SPLIT set up correctly your radio will know to listen on one frequency when you are not transmitting and automatically jump to another frequency when you are transmitting. You ought to be able to see the frequencies change on your front panel display screen.

The really sharp operators know that the DX station is going to use his tuning knob to seek out the most readable signals. The DX Station's announcement that he is listening UP 10 has some wiggle-room built in. The DX might actually begin listening UP 8 and then slowly turn his dial toward the UP 10 frequency. Or the DX might start listening on the UP10 frequency and slowly turn his dial toward the UP 12 frequency.

Once you have mastered the basics of setting up and operating SPLIT you can expand into exotic territories by trying to discover the specific frequency where the most recent QSO took place. At that specific moment the DX Station had his receiving VFO on that frequency. You couldn't ask for a better starting point to set your transmitting VFO.

In the past AF3I has offered to meet other CARC Members on-the-air before or after the Wednesday Ten Meter Net and practice setting up and operating SPLIT. His offer still stands and he is looking forward to giving his first demonstration.

While we are talking about SPLIT, let me mention that radio design technology implements SPLIT in different ways.

Radios that came with a big price tag often have two independent VFOs – sometimes called VFO “A” and VFO “B”. Each VFO can receive signals simultaneously if you choose to use that feature.

What this means is that you can listen on the DX Station frequency with your VFO “A” and listen UP 10 using your VFO “B”. By careful use of this feature you may be able to discover where the most recent QSO took place. This feature can also help you stay closely coupled with the rhythm of the transmissions.

DXing involves a lot of careful timing. You need to be in the right place at the right time. Fractions of seconds can make a difference between having a rare DX contact in the log, or not.

Radios that come with a more modest price tag can handle the two different frequencies that come into play when operating SPLIT, but you can only listen to one frequency at a time. Your radio’s User Manual probably will explain how to flip back and forth between the two frequencies.

❖ **Winter Field Day Contest**

WFD is a great way to keep your contesting skills sharp so that you will not be rusty when the ARRL Field Day returns in June. I had good intentions of telling you all about the upcoming Winter Field Day hoping to build high-levels of interest among CARC Members and others in our reading audience.

The WFD Association has revamped their website and update the 2023 rules as well.

Watch the WFD website for newly published 2023 rules. www.winterfieldday.com

Start Date and Time:
Saturday January 28, 2023 at 1900 UTC

End Date and Time:
Sunday January 29, 2023 at 1859 UTC

Contest Exchange: WFD Entry Class (Transmitter Count) , WFD Category, and ARRL Section

Available WFD Categories:

HOME – You are operating at your usual residence, or within 500 feet of your home.

INDOOR – You are operating somewhere that isn’t your home station. There are walls, floors, and ceilings between you and the really cold conditions.

OUTDOOR – You are operating somewhere that isn’t your home station and that place is really cold. If you are lucky you may be inside a tent.

MOBILE – You are operating from something that is capable of movement such as an RV, car or sailboat

Typical Exchange for a Single Operator:
On Phone: One Home, Eastern Pennsylvania
On CW: 1H EPA

Contest Strategy: If you want to run up a big score you need to have Jack Frost nipping at your nose. There are several Bonus Points available to people who have rosy cheeks.

If you operate from HOME, a good strategy is to get on more than one band and more than one mode. That approach lets you accumulate a greater number of multipliers.

❖ General Interest and Calendar Items January 2023, 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
Speaking of the Event Calendar	Every event you see in the Calendar needs to be updated with 2023 dates. Your Editor started with the CARC Meeting Dates, the Ten Meter Net, the Two Meter Net, and is working on the State QSO Parties and other contests.. Our website uses The Event Calendar plug-in which produces a nice calendar and requires considerable effort to maintain. If you have suggestions regarding other Word Press-compatible calendar tools please let me know... AF3I
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
License Exam Training Class	SMRA announced they will be conducting a Ham Radio License Exam Training Class over the course of five Saturday afternoons beginning February 04, 2023. The classes will take place at the Bosler Library in Carlisle from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
License Exam Training Class	Ralph Brandt, K3HQI offers license exam training classes
License Exam Training Class	The Nashua Area Radio Society (Nashua, NH) offers license exam training classes on a frequent basis. Some are online. Others are conducted in-person. Check their website for current information. www.n1fd.org
License Exam Training Class	If you know of any upcoming License Exam Training 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: Sometimes at Caffe 101 in Boiling Springs, PA. On the corner, across from the clock-tower and diagonally across from the Boiling Springs Tavern. Sometimes conducted as a Zoom Meeting. Check with Richard Johnson N3EPY for info.

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	<p>Every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. local time. 146.490 MHz. Most likely we will be using OpMode Domino EX 22.</p> <p>If you have experience using Sound Card Digital Modes you will feel at home with this digital net. Mostly informal in terms of conversation topics.</p> <p>If you have not yet experienced the pleasure of using Sound Card Digital Modes you are invited to seek assistance. CARC Members have all kinds of skills tucked away in remote corners of their universe. Some of these members maintain a low profile. However, if you ask they will come out and share their experiences with you. You could send an eMail message to ELMER@RadioClub-CARC.com and one of us will crawl out of our den to help you.</p>
CARC Two Meter Phone Net	<p>Every Sunday at 7 p.m. local time. 2 meter band. 146.490 MHz FM Simplex.</p> <p>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.</p>
CARC Ten Meter Phone Net	<p>Every Wednesday* at 8 p.m. local time. 10 meter band. 28.400 MHz USB</p> <p>*Except Monthly Meeting Night. on the third Wednesday of the month.</p>

❖ Answers to the Puzzles

Answer to the License Plate Puzzle that appeared on Page 1

No license plate puzzle this month.

Words of Wisdom...

www.contestcalendar.com

www.3830scores.com

www.ng3k.com

Words of Wisdom...

www.n3fjp.com

<https://wxwarn.affirmatech.com>

<https://study.affirmatech.com>