



Monthly Newsletter  
May 17, 2023

❖ What's New ?

Rig Interfaces are a hot item lately. The Club's ICOM 718 now has a rig interface allowing it to pass Band and Mode information with the N3FJP Contest Logging App.

A Third-Party cable and circuitry stands in for the ICOM CI-V cable that no longer is available. If you need such a cable, we obtained ours from G4ZLP in Great Britain.

Sideswiper keys are a hot item lately (also known as a Cootie Key.). Maura Smith-Mitsky KC3JJH has a fascination with the idea. She bought a sideswiper key and showed it at the CARC Derby. Looking Good!

AF3I has had a longtime interest in cootie keys but was reluctant to pay the \$200+ price for a traditional style all-metal key. Instead, he looked into the key that Maura purchased and decided that the selling price was not far from being pocket change. He ordered a key with orange paddles from Giga-Parts. It is expected to arrive on May 10 via FedEx. If interested, search for "Single Lever Side Swiper Key" on their website.

❖ On-The-Air Events

May 2023 (post publication events only)

- SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-Thon 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- Canadian Prairies QP 13<sup>th</sup>
- Arkansas QSO Party 20<sup>th</sup>
- CQ WPX CW Contest 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

June 2023

- Kentucky QSO Party 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ARRL International Digital Contest 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>
- SKCC Weekend Sprint-a-Thon 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL VHF Contest June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- West Virginia QSO Party 17<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL Kids Day 17<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL Field Day 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

July 2023 Just the first weekend.

- HRAC Firecracker Hamfest 1<sup>st</sup>
- Murgas Hamfest 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

❖ License Plate Puzzle



You know what to do.  
No explanation is necessary.  
Answer on Page 4.  
Good Luck.

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## ❖ Lessons Learned from CARC Derby

These lessons may have been edited compared to the original content shared by Frank Mellott, KB3PQT.

- If you have a personalized mug or travel hot/cold cup bring it with you to the event. Doing so will help cut down on cup worries. Sometimes we don't have enough cups to go around. Sometimes all the cups look so much alike that we end up with someone else's cooties on our own cup. Ugh.
- The contest logging yesterday was complicated. N3FJP supports three of the four contests that were active this weekend.

N1MM++ makes a logging program that does all four of the QSO parties. Frank I tried it after the weekend had passed. The setup of N1MM++ took a lot longer than required by N3FJP. On the other hand, some of that time might be one-time-only as we learn the ropes. Franks point: PC-based logging would be easier with a single logging program.

- Is there interest in making this an annual event? Perhaps at the same place? Frank was pleasantly surprised the soccer games didn't spill over into us and felt we were more isolated compared to the Warrington Township Park that we went to the 2022 PA QSO party
- I think the food was excellent!
- Kudos to the antenna team! AWESOME JOB!
- I feel like a set of standards for events like this should be put in writing. For example:

If you are not providing the power supply for the radio you bring, your radio power cable should be equipped with Anderson Power Poles. Editor's Note: There are things we could do with PowerPole Adapters. Just add one more part to the parts list.

- Every operator is encouraged to bring his or her own headset. The primary transceiver providers have standardized on using Heil headsets. It is expected the radio owner will provide the Heil AD-1 cable for his or her rig. This is the cable that attaches to the radio. Depending on the microphone connector and brand, these will vary. The Heil headsets are designed so that (except for ICOM) you can plug any headset into any AD-1 cable. Icom plays by its own rules.

- If you have a YAESU rig in need of a cable, talk to me before you buy one. I may be a friend. Frank uses an Inrad mic. Inrad makes good mics but I do not know that they make headsets.

- If using headphones and a desk mic, each operator should bring their own headphones and have both 1/8" and 1/4" male adapters so they can be sure they can plug into any transceiver.

- If you want to operate CW, bring your own device (e.g. straight key, cootie, key, single lever paddle, two lever paddle). If you are new to CW and want to see it in action, ask in advance so we can try to come prepared.

- AF3I and KB3PQT seem to be the logging computer providers. We each have our own approach. If we gave you a CAT cable for your radio, and if you bring your radio to the next event, we expect you to bring the CAT cable. CAT greatly simplifies logging!

- If you are in possession of one of the CARC Radio Safari three-ring notebooks, there are some responsibilities.
  - a.) bring the notebook to operating events
  - b.) have it current for that event with rules, band plan, the event location and emergency contact.-- typically 911.

Initially I had six notebook binders. I think I am down to one. I really don't want to recreate them. Would it be helpful if I put the contents of the book into a PDF that you could download from the website and print?

## ❖ General Interest and Calendar Items May 2023, and later

Club Website Event Calendar	<a href="http://www.RadioClub-CARC.com/calendar/">www.RadioClub-CARC.com/calendar/</a> 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 we should list in our Calendar please share the <i>Who, What, Where, and When</i> information with <a href="mailto:AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com">AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com</a>
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: 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: <a href="http://www.w3uu.org">www.w3uu.org</a> 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: <a href="mailto:n3tw@arrl.net">n3tw@arrl.net</a> or <a href="mailto:smraham@gmail.com">smraham@gmail.com</a> There is a modest fee for this testing service. Additional details at their web page. <a href="http://n3tw.org/links/getting-licensed/smra-testing-policies/">http://n3tw.org/links/getting-licensed/smra-testing-policies/</a>
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, K3HQL 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. <a href="http://www.n1fd.org">www.n1fd.org</a>
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". <a href="http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class">http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class</a>
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](mailto:AF3I@RadioClub-CARC.com)

## ❖ Cumberland Amateur Radio Club Nets

<p>CARC Two Meter VHF Digital Net</p>	<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 <a href="mailto:ELMER@RadioClub-CARC.com">ELMER@RadioClub-CARC.com</a> and one of us will crawl out of our den to help you.</p>
<p>CARC Two Meter Phone Net</p>	<p>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 <a href="http://www.echolink.org">www.echolink.org</a> as a starting point.</p>
<p>CARC Ten Meter Phone Net</p>	<p>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.</p>

## ❖ Answers to the Puzzles

Answer to the License Plate Puzzle that appeared on Page 1



Your Newsletter Editor saw this plate somewhere between his home and Linglestown. His memory is fading fast. Andrew AF3I assumes this plate contains the answer to the question – “Why are you driving like a crazy person.”

### Words of Wisdom...

I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done.

Lucille Ball

### Words of Wisdom...

Use what talents you possess; The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

Henry Van Dyke