



The President's Corner: Rod KQ4FNO

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Well, blink, and another month races by! Is it just me, or does everyone think that time is getting faster each month? Maybe it is just my age showing

We had an interesting meeting last month, and covered a lot of ground. My thanks to David, K4FXC, for discussing the properties of the coax we need and the rising costs that have been going on. I would like the Club to vote to authorize the purchase of the coax next month, so we can also use it for the Winlink Hubs we are buying and installing via the Micro Grant we captured. It would lower the cost of coax for these stations and allow us to improve some other details in the Grant purchase. Also to be commended was Jared, KR4EKK, with his talk about Youth on The Air (YOTA). Definitely something we could get behind, and also bring in younger members to the Club. The Club heard about Ten Ten International refusing our Chapter request for CFARS. The Club has a 10M SSB Net on Saturday in the morning, but are considering changes to increase participation. Please try to participate in this net. It is a window for Technicians to get into HF and we can help by participating.

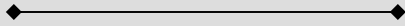
Now, next month..... This will also be a full program as I see it now. First, the Constitution of CFARS, Inc. requires that the Officers of the Club be elected during the October Meeting, which means that nominations for the Officers must be held during the September Meeting! Now, nominations from the floor are allowed prior to the election itself, so there may be additional names in the ring after the nominations in September. So this must be done! Also, Bill Morine, N2COP, the Vice Director, Roanoke Division, American Radio Relay League (ARRL) will be showing us what the ARRL does for us in a presentation. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation, so consider what you would like to hear. This will be closer to 45 minutes than 30. So there is not much time for the rest of the program, So, I will start by limiting the administrative details and go to nominations and then the presentation.

We have booked Singletary Lake Cabin for October 16th through Oct 18th. There are 8 beds available for guests, and I have one and another has been taken, so 6 left. Please let me know sooner rather than later who would like to stay at the cabin. Everyone is encouraged to come to this

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CFARS Officers

PresidentRod KQ4FNO kq4fno@gmail.com
 Vice Pres.....Paul NC4PB nc4pb@proton.me
 Sec./Treas.....Mike KC4ABE diversoul40@gmail.net
 Recorder.....Chris KR4I kr4i@arrl.net



Coordinators

Newsletter Editor...Mike KN4XP kn4xp@yahoo.com
 Membership.....David KI4W davidki4w@gmail.com
 Net Manager.....Larry N4USB lte67@charter.net
 EmergencyJeremiah N0NV jdjfbncphone@gmail.com
 ARRL Coordinator..David K4FXC kb4fxc@inttek.net
 Repeaters.....David K4FXC kb4fxc@inttek.net
 Sky Warn.....Jeremiah KO4VRM jdjfbncphone@gmail.com
 Field Day.....Mike KC4ABE diversoul40@gmail.com
 Health & Welfare...Travis N4BELjames.travis.bell@gmail.com
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 VEC..Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com
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 Public Info.....Dale AK4YS mohrd57@gmail.com
 Contest Coord.....Hector KB4LOA hector.gonzalez@live.com
 Webmaster.....Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com

Club Repeaters

(PL 100 Hz)

K4MN

2 m 146.910/146.310
 70 cm 444.400/449.400

K4MN

6 m 53.810/52.810

WA4FLR

2 m 147.330/147.930

Club Membership

Dues

CFARS club membership dues are due and payable in January each year. CFARS does offer you the option to pay your dues no later than March. Yearly dues are \$20.00. CFARS offers a lifetime membership option for \$200.00. If your dues are not paid by March you will not be a voting member of the club. The right to vote on issues for the club comes with club membership. PO Box 36106, Fayetteville, NC 28303



The Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society News is the official newsletter of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society. It is published monthly as a PDF. The newsletter is emailed monthly when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Newsletter Editor. The CFARS News welcomes articles and other contributions. **Please email submissions to the newsletter to cfarsnews@gmail.com.** The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. **The submission deadline for each month's News is the last day of the preceding month.** The views expressed in the CFARS News are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or CFARS.

CFARS Nets

Net	Day (s)	Time Local	Band / Freq
Evening Net	Daily	1900	146.910 Repeater
Possum Trot	M - F	0500 - 0700	146.910 Repeater
ADY Net	M - F	0810	SSB 3.855
CW Fix Net	Tues / Thurs	0730	CW 3.555
DMR Net	Sunday	2000	TGIF 910 Talkgroup

Upcoming Hamfests

September 4 - 5, 2026

Shelby Hamfest
Shelby, North Carolina
shelbyhamfest.com

October 3, 2026

Rock Hill Hamfest
Rockhill, South Carolina
ycars.org/hamfest

November 7, 2026

37th Annual Jarsfest
Selmn, North Carolina
jars.net



CFARS VE Testing

The 2026 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church
3203 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Dates:

October 10, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church

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great radio location. There is a lot going on here. It is a POTA 2fer, there are parks in the area, so a rove is possible, there is a lake and fishing or trails if you prefer to walk. We will have food on Saturday lunch and probably dinner, but details will come as we develop the program.

As discussed at the last meeting, the Christmas Meal is scheduled for December. For the past two years, we held it at Peace Presbyterian Fellowship Hall with catered food. Please let me know whether you would like to do the same again or if you have other suggestions. We should also decide whether to keep the same menu. The Club has subsidized the cost for the past two years; however, food prices have continued to rise, so we may need to consider a price increase to cover the meals. The heat appears to be dwindling slowly, so we may be able to get out and do some POTA, SOTA or just get into the outdoors soon. Please be radioactive and have fun. See you all at the September Meeting!

Rod KQ4FNO



August 2026 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, August 17th, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.



President Rod MacLean, KQ4FNO, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Don, KO4IHM, gave the invocation. Rod then led introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 35 members and guests

present. Dale, AK4YS, made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. David, WD4NC, seconded the motion. The club voted, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE was not present, and Rod gave the financial report provided to him by Mike.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB - net report for July 586 Check ins, 953 Minutes, 36 pieces of traffic.

Health & Welfare: Travis N4BEL mentioned a member was SK, more details later, Barry W4IKS is having some issues and requested prayers.

Repeaters: David K4FXC no report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: David KI4W - Mathew McGinnis, Wayne Bruster, Robert Hicks and Robert Nece. David requested a motion to vote on these prospective members. Don, WO4SFA, made the motion, Paul, NC4PB, seconded, the club voted, and the motion carried.

Contesting: Hector KT5H - check contestcalendar.com for contests and events.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC - Jim K4BUC, reported that the next testing session will be held at Peace Presbyterian Church, 3203 Ramsey Street, on October 10, 2026. Check-in starts at 9:00 a.m. Applicants should bring a copy of their license, if currently licensed. Unlicensed applicants should bring a copy of their FRN; otherwise, they will be turned away.

Swapfest: David KI4W recognized the volunteers who helped at the CFARS Swapfest held on August 8. This was a great year, and the event continues to grow year over year. David mentioned that the Shriners have noticed that we are a club supporting the community, so they have graciously donated their space free of charge for future hamfests as long as we continue the event. This hamfest added about \$1,500 to the CFARS finances.

Public Relations: Hector KT5H, continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

Emergency Coordinator: David WD4NC - no report.

Newsletter: Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft

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Word format. cfarsnews@gmail.com. Emails and .pdf files are difficult to format for the newsletter.

Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.

Web Site: Any submissions please send to Jim K4BUC. Jim asked that anyone having pictures to put on the website send them to him. jbuccieri@twc.com

ARRL Liaison: David K4FXC is still working with the ARRL.

Possum Trot Net: Alan KQ4QEM - PT net continues Weekdays from 5:00am to 7:00am.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: Paul NC4PB reported on upcoming events. Rod and Paul have started planning the Singletary Lake event for October 16 through October 18. Events will include POTA, Winlink, a foxhunt, and other activities. More information will be provided as plans are finalized. The NC POTA event will be held during the second weekend of September. In past years, the event has been a contest; this year, the goal is to activate all North Carolina parks. If you do not have a radio or would like to participate with a group, contact David WD4NC, to find out where groups will be activating, no matter your license class.

AUXCOM: David WD4NC -

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Program: Jared KR4EKK discussed a youth program. Viki Carns AD3I has a program that Jared's son joined and thoroughly enjoyed. Viki and others took several youth to a Huntsville event, where Jared helped another young ham and his son attend. The youth participated in many fun events in Huntsville. Jared would like to do more outreach events to interest children and youth in ham radio and other STEM activities. Suggested events included foxhunts, pico balloons, and similar activities.

Announcements: Field Day after-action reports or recommendations should be sent to Rod KQ4FNO. Hector KT5H spoke about the 10-10 International. He received a letter from them. He read some highlights that the letter contained. Rod reminded the club that CFARS has a 10-meter net on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The time may change; if it does, notice will be provided through Facebook, Discord, and the local repeater nets. The committee working on the three digital station equipment packages includes David, K4FXC, and Jared, KR4EKK. They are continuing to develop the equipment list, and David provided a briefing on some of the equipment and costs. David also investigated a grant for a Starlink system through the ARDC organization, but the organization had run out of grant money for the year. Rod will reach out to Starlink directly to see if the company might donate a system to the club. Rod announced that Bill Morine N2COP Vice Director Roanoke Division will be addressing the Club at the September meeting. There will be a Question/Answer period. Christmas Party: The last two Christmas parties have been held at the church. A suggestion was made to consider a different location. Rod requested that members send venue suggestions to him so they can be discussed at future club meetings and planning can begin. Jim, K4BUC, mentioned that technicians who recently tested with CFARS and received their applications receive a one-year membership in CFARS.

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Door Prize Drawing: Norman K4MGZ won a desk stand radio, Josh Jones, KR4EKJ won an SWR meter, Don WO4SFA won a CB radio, Paul AI4PB won a CB radio and a monitor, Samuel WP4WPX won an ammo can, Chris NA4ES won a CW key and Lou KR4LAF won a monitor.

50/50 DRAWING: \$153.00 was collected. The winning ticket, 815356, was held by Don WO4SFA who won \$76.00.

Adjournment: Tim KO4VEC, made a motion to adjourn and Dale AK4YS, seconded the motion. The club voted, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted: Chris KR4I
CFARS Recorder

Auxcomm

Here we are heading into Sept, and we are tracking a Storm in the Ocean that right now looks like it is not going to hit us. Cuba does not look so lucky. Main point is that it is that time of year. Best go ahead and get ready for it.

We have some good AUXCOMM news, and we will be setting up a meeting here in Sept to vote on some officers and talk about a call sign for it and a name, so we have an AUXCOMM call sign.

Would you like to meet at the EOC and have this meeting there or do a video chat on Discord. We can do it either way. Please let me know.

Also, I am retiring very soon, and I will be going to the EOC to run the radios in the ham shack there. If you would like to be a part of it. Let me know and I can set up a date and time.

Keep in mind to check in on Win link Wed with the net controls and keep that skill set up to date. If you would like to be a part of AUXCOMM group. Get up with me or others in the group.

David WD4NC

Which Battery is Best for Portable HF Operations

One of the most important pieces of any portable HF station isn't the radio—it's the battery. Whether you're activating a park, operating from a campsite, or preparing for emergency communications, choosing the right battery can make the difference between several enjoyable hours on the air and an early trip home. Today, amateur radio operators generally choose from three battery types: Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄), Lithium-Ion (Li-ion), and Sealed Lead Acid (SLA).

LiFePO₄ batteries have become the preferred choice for portable HF operation. They are lightweight, provide a stable voltage throughout most of their discharge cycle, and can withstand thousands of charge cycles. Unlike many other battery chemistries, LiFePO₄ batteries can be discharged deeply without significantly shortening their lifespan. For most portable operators, a 6Ah to 12Ah LiFePO₄ battery offers an excellent balance of weight and operating time, making it ideal for POTA, field operations, and emergency communications.

Lithium-Ion batteries are even lighter and have a slightly higher energy density than LiFePO₄ packs. They are commonly found in laptops and power tools. While they can power portable HF equipment effectively, they require careful charging and protection from over-discharge. Their nominal voltage is slightly lower than a LiFePO₄ battery, and they generally have a shorter service life. Although perfectly suitable for many applications, they are less common among amateur radio operators than LiFePO₄ batteries.

Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries have powered portable radios for decades. They are inexpensive, readily available, and relatively rugged. However, they are also the heaviest option. A battery that provides several hours of operating time may weigh two to three times as much as an equivalent LiFePO₄ pack. In addition, SLA batteries should not be discharged below about 50 percent of their capacity if you want to maximize their lifespan, reducing the amount of usable energy available in the field.

For most operators, the decision comes down to balancing cost and portability. While an SLA battery may have the lowest purchase price, its added weight can quickly become a disadvantage during a hike or long POTA activation. Lithium-Ion batteries save weight but require more attention to charging and protection. LiFePO₄ batteries cost more initially, but their long life, stable voltage, safety, and light weight often make them the best overall value.

If you're assembling a new portable HF station today, it's difficult to argue against a quality LiFePO₄ battery. The higher initial investment is usually offset by years of reliable service and a lighter pack that makes every trip to the field a little easier.

Bottom Line: For most amateur radio portable operators, LiFePO₄ offers the best combination of weight, safety, operating time, and long-term value, making it the battery of choice for today's portable HF adventures.

73 and good operating!



Operational Guide to Essential ICS Forms

Introduction: The Criticality of Standardized Documentation in AUXCOMM

In the modern emergency management landscape, auxiliary communications have evolved far beyond the simple "radio operation" of the past. Under the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) is recognized as a professional, all-inclusive component of the Communications Unit. As defined in the **Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG)**, "Auxiliary Communicator" is an all-encompassing term for the many organizations and personnel providing systems support—including HF, VHF, UHF, satellite, and digital modes—to emergency management and public safety agencies when primary systems fail.

Professional documentation is the bridge that builds trust with Emergency Managers. As noted in the AUXFOG, it can take a very long time to develop an effective working relationship with public safety officials, many of whom have historically been reluctant to utilize volunteer resources due to concerns regarding operational discipline. By utilizing standardized Incident Command System (ICS) forms, AUXCOMM personnel demonstrate they are not mere hobbyists, but disciplined assets capable of ensuring interoperability across jurisdictions and frequency bands. While an activation or deployment should begin with the **ICS-201 Incident Briefing** to establish situational awareness, the tactical success of the mission relies on the mastery of five key specialized forms. They are the **ICS-217A, ICS-205, ICS-213, ICS-214, and ICS-309**. For reference, these forms can be downloaded from the FEMA website. I will provide links to the forms download page as well as the Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) at the bottom of this article.

The Tactical Foundation: ICS-217A Communications Resource Availability Worksheet

The **ICS-217A** serves as the indispensable pre-planning tool of the Communications Unit. In the initial stages of an incident when the pressure is on, "frequency hunting" is a recipe for failure. The **ICS-217A** prevents this by documenting available regional communication assets—across VHF, UHF, and HF bands—into a single, consolidated reference. Think of the **ICS-217A** as a "big bucket" that contains all of the communication resources available to you in your area of coverage. It is from this "bucket" that you will pull from to create the next document, the **ICS-205**.

The Incident Blueprint: ICS-205 Incident Radio Communications Plan

The ICS-205 is the "Master Blueprint" for all radio communications for a specific incident within a specific operational period. While the ICS-217A lists what *could* be used, the ICS-205 dictates what *will* be used. Prepared by the Communications Unit Leader (COML) or AUXCOMM Manager, this document is distributed to field stations to ensure all responders are on the "same page."

The ICS-205 provides several critical functions:

Tactical Channel Assignments: It assigns specific frequencies to clear functional roles, such as Command, Tactical, or Support.

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Multi-Disciplinary Coordination: It facilitates interoperability by allowing different agencies (Law, Fire, EMS, and AUXCOMM) to communicate across bands as authorized.

Operational Discipline: It prevents duplication of effort and radio congestion by clearly defining channel use.

Now, even though there should be an overall communications **PACE** plan in place that defines the hierarchy of different **methods** of communication and references the **ICS-205** in one of those methods, the true strategic power of the **ICS-205** is realized when it is used to host a robust PACE plan within, ensuring that communications remain operable even as primary systems degrade.

Strategic Redundancy: Integrating PACE into the ICS-205

Redundant pathways are the hallmark of a professional AUXCOMM operation. To ensure system operability, communicators utilize the **PACE** acronym to establish layers of backup:

- **Primary:** The main intended method of communication.
- **Alternate:** A secondary, equivalent method.
- **Contingency:** A method used when primary and alternate systems fail.
- **Emergency:** The last-resort method when all other systems are non-functional.

The **ICS-205** maps active frequencies to these four layers. The 'Special Instructions' block on the **ICS-205** is used to define "Triggers"—the exact technical or operational conditions that mandate a move from Primary to Alternate or beyond. While the AUXFOG provides the planning framework, the COML or AUXCOMM Manager provides the specific technical thresholds, such as specific signal-to-noise ratio degradation or total repeater failure.

When operations shift to Contingency or Emergency states, signal quality often suffers. In these moments, formal message templates like the **ICS-213** become mission-critical. Structured messaging ensures that core data remains intact even when round-trip times increase.

Formalizing Traffic: The ICS-213 General Message Form

In high-stress environments, verbal-only communication is susceptible to the "telephone game" effect. The **ICS-213 General Message Form** provides a "hard-copy" strategic solution to this problem, ensuring the integrity of formal, third-party traffic between officials.

The **ICS-213** is used by field stations and Net Control Operators to ensure "closed-loop" communication. Every message includes a clear recipient, a specific sender, and a time-stamped acknowledgment. This process creates a legal and historical record that verbal traffic lacks, providing accountability for resource requests. By formalizing traffic, Auxiliary Communicators provide officials with reliable, actionable data that can be audited during the After-Action Report (AAR) process.

The Operational Record: ICS-214 Activity Log and ICS-309 Communications Log

In the eyes of NIMS and the supporting agency, "if it isn't written down, it didn't happen." Documentation provides the verifiable record of the AUXCOMM contribution through two essential forms:

ICS-214 (Activity Log): This form tracks individual and resource actions, significant events, and safety issues. It is critical for documenting hazardous conditions mentioned in the AUXFOG, such as

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hazardous materials (HAZMAT) or other local hazards. It is the primary tool for maintaining situational awareness.

ICS-309 (Communications Log): This provides a granular tracking of every transmission, including the time, "from/to" stations, and subject matter.

These logs prevent duplication by allowing operators to verify if a specific report has already been transmitted. Furthermore, they are vital for the demobilization process—the orderly return of resources to their original status. These logs are submitted to contribute to the AAR, ensuring that lessons learned are captured for future exercises.

Conclusion: Professionalism Through Documentation

The mastery of these five forms—the ICS-217A, 205, 213, 214, and 309—is the defining line between a "radio hobbyist" and a "professional auxiliary communicator." While the professional's kit begins with the ICS-201 Incident Briefing, it is this tactical suite of documentation that proves AUXCOMM's value to public safety partners.

The AUXCOMM mission is to provide backup communications when all else fails. By embracing NIMS standards and redundant planning, we ensure that the public safety community can always count on the Auxiliary Communicator to bridge the gap in the darkest hours of an incident.

We will be conducting training on when these forms should be used and the proper way to fill them out. More information and dates to come soon...

Links to downloadable resources:

ICS Forms: This link takes you straight to the forms page. <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/icsforms/>

Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) and National Interoperability Field Operators Guide (NIFOG) can be downloaded from here: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/field-operations-guides>

The **myNIFOG** app can be found on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. The app is free and is an excellent resource to have right in your pocket.

Closing note: It is my intent to put together an AUXCOMM related article every month for submission to our newsletter. If there is a specific topic that you would like to see an article on, just drop me a line and let me know.

73 for now,
Paul NC4PB

CFARS VE Testing

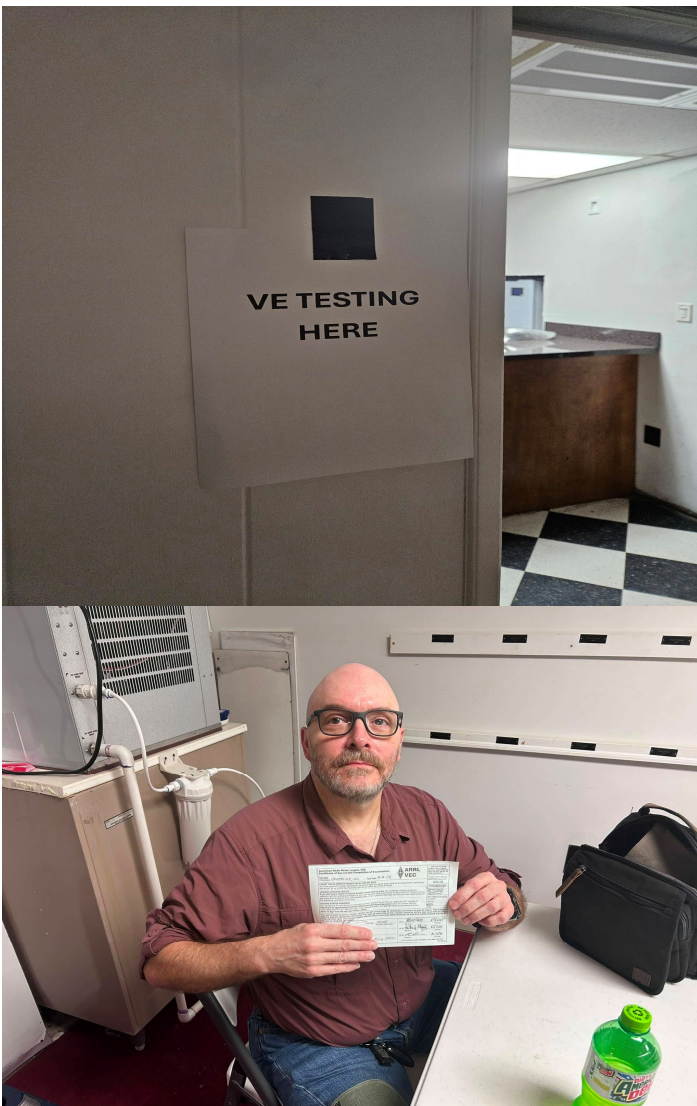
On August 8th the third VE testing session was conducted. We had eleven candidates present for the session. It should be noted that this was the largest number of candidates I have ever had at a testing session. We were working within tight quarters but we were able to accommodate everyone.

Four passed the Tech License, Four passed the General and one passed all three and left as an extra. The attached photo is Robert Niece who ran the table. This was the third person to have passed all three exams during my time as the liaison for the club. Two people did not pass but were encouraged to come back and try again.

The next testing session will be on October 10th. As always, I am grateful for the VE's in the club that come out each time and support these sessions. Without their commitment, we could not run these sessions.

Tracy – AI4TS and Tim - KO4VEC are training to assume the responsibilities of the testing in 2027. They have seen the whole process and I am confident that they will be able to assume the duties next year.

Jim Buccieri K4BUC



CFARS SWAPFEST



*EOC Happenings***SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
WHAT THREE ITEMS WOULD YOU GRAB?**

September is National Preparedness Month, so here's a quick communications preparedness challenge:

If normal communications went down and you could grab only THREE pieces of amateur radio gear, what would they be?

A radio is probably the obvious start—but then what?

Battery or backup power?

 Antenna?

 Coax?

 Handheld?

 Laptop?

 Tuner?

The exercise isn't about having the newest or most expensive equipment. It's about thinking through what you actually need to get on the air and communicate when the conveniences of your shack aren't available.

While you're thinking about it, take a few minutes this month to check your batteries, test your equipment, update your go-kit, and make sure important frequencies and contacts are available offline.

Newer hams: There are no wrong answers here.

Experienced operators: What are your three—and why?

Your answer might help someone else build a better first go-kit.

Preparedness starts before the call comes in.

-Cumberland County Emergency Management Team