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**The President's Corner: Rod KQ4FNO**

Well June came and went, and we felt the heat! We had a fairly good crowd at the USS North Carolina for Museum Ships on The Air and I think all that went had a good time. They have done a lot to the parking lot and the walkway around the ship, if you haven't been in a while, it is worth doing it again.

Of course, the main thrust of June was the ARRL Field Day. We had the regular scheduled Club meeting, a Discord meeting and a walkthrough on site. Then on 27<sup>th</sup> June we set up the site for Field Day and operated as a 5A Club. This hasn't been done for quite some time, and there were some problems that arose. However, the good news is that we succeeded, and overall, we did do fairly well. Yes, there are some things that will need to be looked at to improve, and suggestions will be taken during the next meeting.

Don WO4SFA did well to provide the management of the food, and I think everyone had enough to eat. My personal thanks to those that came out and helped in the setup, and especially those that remained to help tear down and load the equipment, small in numbers, great in productivity. I will be talking about numbers, hopefully, at the next meeting. Time now to prepare for the end of the year and conduct all the maintenance on the Club's equipment. We will be asking for some help to go through the equipment later.

Try to get in on the 13 Colonies event, and some of the other ones that are available to participate in. These competitions can be fun and help to improve your radio techniques at the same time, whether for POTA, SOTA or Field Days.

Rod KQ4FNO



**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*

**July 11, 2026**

Firecracker Hamfest  
Salisbury, North Carolina  
rowanars.net

**July 18, 2026**

53rd Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest  
Cary, North Carolina  
wcars-cub.org

**August 8, 2026**

26th Annual CFARS Swapfest  
Fayetteville, North Carolina  
cfarsnc.org



**CFARS VE Testing**

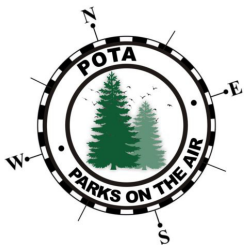
The 2026 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church  
3203 Ramsey Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

**Dates:**

August 8, 2026 - 7046 Ramsey St. - Cumberland County Shrine  
October 10, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church

*Support Your Parks Weekend*



Get your radios ready - Support Your Parks Weekend is one of the most enjoyable events of the summer for Parks on the Air. July 18 - 19th.

Whether you're a seasoned activator or making your very first POTA activation, Support Your Parks Weekend is the perfect opportunity to get on the air. Expect plenty of activity across the HF bands, making it easy to fill your log with new parks, new states, and even DX contacts.

If you're planning to activate, be sure to: Charge your batteries and test your equipment before heading out. Spot yourself on the POTA website or app to let hunters know you're on the air.

Most importantly—have fun and introduce someone new to POTA! Support Your Parks Weekend is a great reminder of why amateur radio and our public parks make such a perfect combination. We hope to hear many CFARS members on the air from parks throughout North Carolina and beyond. Good luck, enjoy the adventure, and we'll listen for you in the pileups



### June 2026 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, June 15th, 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. Bill KE4DER gave the invocation. Rod led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 45 members and guests present.



Ed N4ESA made a motion to approve January's meeting minutes, Tim KO4VEC seconded, the club voted, the motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

**Net Manager:** Larry N4USB No report provided, stay tuned to the local nets to hear the latest net statistics.

**Health & Welfare:** Travis N4BEL no report.

**Repeaters:** David K4FXC no report.

**Field Day:** See Program

**Membership:** David KI4W - No new members were presented for this meeting.

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

**VE Coordinator:** Jim K4BUC - The next testing session will be at the Cumberland County Shrine Club on August 8th, 2026, check in starts at 9am. Make sure you bring a copy of your license and if you are not licensed bring a copy of your FRN or you will be turned away.

**Swapfest:** No report.

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

**Emergency Coordinator:** David WD4NC - nothing additional to report.

**Newsletter:** Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. [cfarsnews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jbuccieri@twc.com)

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

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

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**Skywarn:** No report.

**Event Coordinator:** ARRL Field day is June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The next scheduled VE testing session is August 8<sup>th</sup> at the CFARS Swapfest, go to the CFARS website for times, dates, and locations as they are subject to change.

**AUXCOM:** David WD4NC - Team got together last month and installed antennas on top of the EOC, pictures in the last newsletter. They still need some donations of coax and other things. If you want to help work on the station at the EOC or if you would like a tour of the new station, let him know as he must preplan this. He has also coordinated to use this EOC for field exercises etc. We can't take over the entire facility; they still need to operate in case of an emergency.

**Old Business:** The Club has been awarded a Micro Grant from Cumberland County to install three Winlink Nodes. One at the EOC, one at the Cumberland/Bladen Line (WD4NC, David) south side of the county and possibly one at Anderson Creek (KR4I, Chris's QTH) or this one could be a mobile station if required. Total award for this grant is \$3285.21 for the three nodes. Status of the three EFHW antennas ordered.

**New Business:** Jim K4BUC let us know that every VE must get registered in the site Exam Tools to continue VE testing. The testing sessions will soon change and they want to put everybody online. Going online requires everyone testing to have a phone or laptop to register and test. They still have the capability to use the test sheets but eventually Jim stated that he thinks that it will be done 100% online. Please see Jim if you have any questions about this or how to register with Exam Tools website.

**Program:** Rod KQ4FNO briefed ARRL Field Day 2026. Start time 1400 EST Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Ending at 1659 EST 28<sup>th</sup> June. We will be 5A this time out. Safety Officer. Stephen, KR4IVL has requested and been assigned this role. Food Director. Don, WO4SFA. Please let him know what you are bringing to the table, and when. He has the power to decide if it will be good or not. Front office/Reception. Lani KO4VBB did this last year. This will mostly be staffed by whomever is around. Field day Marshals are Travis, N4BEL, and Lou, KR4LAF. Looking for another shelter for SSB #2. Someone mentioned we can use a popup tent, with an additional cover, but a trailer or RV would be better. Someone also mentioned we could setup that large shelter tent but it's quite a lot of work to set it up. Fuel Cans, we have about four cans promised so far, but with the number of sites and generators we will need some more. Please mark your cans well. I will fill them prior to the event and have them at the site. If you bring them full, let me know so I can fill them to return to you.

**Station Chiefs.**

CW. Chris Ray, KR4I #1

SSB. #2

GOTA. Tyler, K4TTN Free

Digital, FT8/FT4 Mike/Walter, KC4ABE/ KG4JOK #3

VHF. (collocated with Digital FT8) Free

Digital RTTY/MSK/PSK31/JS8Call etc #4

SSB Secondary. #5 (Use for slower QSOs)

The Station Books are available for Section Chiefs and Other functionaries. Make sure they are brought to the event. Bonus points. We need to get all bonus points available, Rod went through all

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the bonus points and asked for support for the various ones and volunteers to support. Reading the rules. Outside stations – i.e. those that do not join in at the SF Compound, can add their scores to the Club score for an aggregate total. This includes bonus points. We looked at that and most stations could get a total of 700 bonus points. The biggest drawback would be submitting by website for results and logs. We can help with that. Logs have to be turned in by July 28<sup>th</sup> (A Tuesday). Those operators cannot operate at the SF Compound. Start time. If we start at 1800 UTC/1400EST then we can operate 27 hours. That means we start putting up antennas and operating immediately. If we come early, 0700 EST and put up antennas and all equipment to operate if we start at 1400 EST then we have to have a 3 hour break at night so we only operate 24 hours. Alternative is to start operating at 1700hrs EST and operate continually until 1700 hrs Sunday. The club discussed the timeline and decided it was best to operate as we have in the past and setup starting at 0700 on Saturday and operate field day for 24 hours rather than 27. Rod next discussed the logistics and resources, we have three Club radios, CW, GOTA, SSB (Main) we have two other radios available, but they may not do Digital modes without additional equipment. Members may have to bring additional radios to make 5A. K4FXC, David, will have two radios, AI4TS, Tracy will have two radios, Rod will bring his FT 710. Unfortunately, the Kenwood TS 450 is not operational after a test run.

**Announcements:** None.

**Door Prize Drawing:** Norman K4MGZ won a Camping light, Ed N4ESA won an Ammo Can, David KI4W won a CW key, Walt KG4JOK won a roll of tape, Ben W3GER won a Mini pi access point, NC4PB won a tuner, Jeremy KB4D won an electronic key, Pete K4QFK won a table clamp antenna and Jeremy KB4D won a RIPI access point.

**50/50 DRAWING:** \$128 was collected, 316 was the winning ticket held by Luis KQ2L who won \$64.

**Adjournment:** Chaz KK4TNO made a motion to adjourn and Pam KO4EHI seconded, the club voted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11PM.

Submitted: Chris KR4I  
CFARS Recorder

### **CFARS Possum Trot Net Report for July 2026**

2026 to date: 8 new pt inductions (3,713 Possum Trotters to Date)

40-50 plus check-in has become the norm. The PT Net is growing.

Berry W4IKS had 61 check-ins July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (Wednesday morning Net Controller)

#### 2026 Q2 Check-in Averages / Mon-Fri Mornings 5-7am:

April total check-ins 814.....Daily average 41

May total check-ins 878.....Daily average 44

June total check-ins 889.....Daily average 44.

Possum Trot Manager  
Alan Sealey KQ4QEM  
[rasstamp@gmail.com](mailto:rasstamp@gmail.com)

## *Hamfest Attendance*

When was the last time you went to a hamfest? I bet if you think back to when you were first licensed, you couldn't wait to get to the next hamfest. If nothing more than to see what new equipment was on the market.

Local hamfests are seeing smaller crowds than they did in the last 10 or so years. As you attend a hamfest, walk through the flea market areas and you see less tailgaters. Vendors are not attending as many hamfests as they used to.

Major hamfests, like the Dayton Hamvention and Orlando Hamcation continue to be growing. They are packed. In fact, Dayton just had a record attendance year. Interest in ham radio is still there.

Many of the newer hams are looking for specific rigs and equipment. Some of them have never had to tune a rig. The newer rigs offer quick activations as they have taken a lot of the work out of operating and replaced it with fun!!

Many of the smaller hamfests do not have educational forums, demonstrations, satellite demonstrations available for the new ham. Presentations need to be current and not death by PowerPoint. Keep your presentation light and informative. Any time you can add hands on activities the better.

Now with the cost of travel added on top of people being busy hamfests are getting smaller. If you can make it a multi event, such as the hamfest and a family vacation, all the better. Several years ago, I went to a County Hunters Convention in Orlando, Florida. It was easy to justify as I took the family and we had the Disney experience. Two things to keep us busy all rolled into one trip.

So how do get hams back to the local hamfest? We can include VE testing sessions, family activities, ham related scavenger hunts, demonstrations of new equipment and maybe even a special event station where visiting operators can join in the fun. Be sure to promote the event on social media both before and after the hamfest. Try to have the local television station stop by and do a story on the hamfest.

Keep your hamfest welcoming to new and old hams alike. Remember the excitement you had at your first hamfest. Try to recreate the joy you have experienced.

Ham radio is alive and growing. Just look at POTA and SOTA. You don't have to have a big station to be active. Watch what other hamfests are doing. If it works, then incorporate it into your local hamfest.

73 de Mike KN4XP

## *EOC Happenings*

### *A Partnership Built on Service*

First and foremost, congratulations to the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society on the recent proclamation recognizing Amateur Radio Week. This recognition reflects the countless hours you dedicate to serving our communities. Whether supporting public events, assisting during emergencies, mentoring new operators, or simply standing ready when called upon, your commitment to public service is truly appreciated.

We're also excited to celebrate another recent milestone, the Cumberland County Emergency Operations Center Ham Radio Room has successfully completed its first contact. This has marked the culmination of months of planning, equipment installation, testing, and collaboration and represents a significant step toward strengthening emergency communications capabilities for Cumberland County.

This accomplishment would not have been possible without the knowledge, encouragement, and technical expertise shared by CFARS members throughout the process. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and experience to help us get to this point.

As we move forward, our focus shifts from simply establishing the station to developing a sustainable program that supports emergency operations for years to come. We're currently working through county policies, operating procedures, and partner input to determine what routine operations from the EOC will look like. This includes exploring opportunities for regular nets, training, station availability, exercises, and the continued growth of our emergency communications capabilities.

We're also evaluating future equipment enhancements and operational needs. Like any county initiative, these improvements require thoughtful planning, coordination, and prioritization to ensure they align with our broader emergency management mission. We appreciate the ideas, recommendations, and patience of everyone involved as we work through that process.

Strong partnerships are built on open communication, shared goals, and mutual respect. We recognize that, as this program continues to evolve, there will naturally be questions, suggestions, and differing perspectives. Those conversations are valuable and help shape a stronger program. Our commitment is to continue listening, evaluating opportunities, and making decisions that strengthen emergency communications while supporting the needs of the entire Cumberland County community.

Emergency Management and CFARS share a common purpose: serving others when they need it most. By combining the technical expertise and dedication of our amateur radio volunteers with the resources and mission of Cumberland County Emergency Management, we're building a communications capability that will benefit our community long into the future.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your volunteer spirit, and your commitment to being ready when Cumberland County needs you most.

Amanda Scheck  
Emergency Management Coordinator

## *Winlink - What is it???*

You've probably heard some of us talking about Winlink email during meetings or on the nets but may not be sure about what it is or what it is used for. The following article gives a very basic description of what Winlink is and why it's great for emergency communications. After reading, if you're interested in trying out Winlink but are not sure about how to get started let me know, I'll be glad to help you get it set up and operational. Also, at the meeting coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month I will have a radio and computer set up running Winlink as well as other digital modes that are very useful for emergency communications. Come by the table and take a look.

73,

Paul – NC4PB

### **Email Over the Airwaves: Why Winlink is Crucial for Emergency Communications**

Imagine this scenario: A major storm has knocked out local cell towers, fiber-optic lines are cut, and the internet is completely dark. The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) needs to send a critical, detailed list of medical supply shortages to a regional hub 150 miles away. Voice channels are congested with tactical traffic, and reading a list of 50 specific pharmaceutical items over a noisy HF frequency is a recipe for transcription errors.

#### **Enter Winlink Global Radio Email.**

Winlink bridges the gap between traditional amateur radio and the modern digital world, allowing hams to send standard emails—complete with attachments and structured forms—entirely over radio frequencies. Here is a look at why Winlink has become the gold standard for modern Emergency Communications (EmComm).

#### **1. Accuracy When It Matters Most**

During an emergency, ambiguity can be dangerous. Standard voice communications are excellent for immediate, tactical updates ("Send an ambulance to 5th and Main"), but they fail miserably when transmitting dense data.

Because Winlink transfers digital data, an email sent from a field station arrives exactly as written. There is no guessing if the operator said "50 units" or "15 units" through the static.

#### **2. Integration with Official Agencies (ICS Forms)**

Modern disaster response is managed using the Incident Command System (ICS). Served agencies, such as FEMA, the Red Cross, and local emergency management, rely on standard paperwork like the **ICS-213 (General Message)** or **ICS-309 (Communications Log)**.

The primary Winlink client software, Winlink Express, includes a powerful built-in library of these official forms.

- An operator can fill out a standard HTML form on their computer screen.
- Winlink compresses the data into a tiny text file.
- It is transmitted over the air and reconstructs perfectly as a professional, official document on the receiving end.

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### 3. "No Internet? No Problem" Architecture

The true genius of Winlink lies in its hybrid network structure. It operates using three distinct tiers:

- The Client (You): A computer running Winlink Express connected to a VHF/UHF or HF radio.
- Radio Message Servers (RMS): Gateways operated by volunteer hams worldwide. These gateways listen on radio frequencies and are connected to the internet.
- Common Message Servers (CMS): Redundant, cloud-based servers that handle global email routing.

If your local internet is down, you can use an HF radio to connect to an RMS gateway hundreds of miles away where the internet *is* working. The gateway drops your message onto the standard internet, and it delivers seamlessly to any normal email inbox (like Gmail or Yahoo) or to another radio operator.

**Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Mode:** If the internet is completely wiped out globally, Winlink can operate in a strict Radio-to-Radio mode. Two field stations can connect directly to one another over HF or VHF to exchange messages without utilizing any servers or internet whatsoever.

### Technical Flavors: VHF Packet vs. HF VARA

Depending on the scope of the emergency, Winlink utilizes different frequencies and modes to get

Mode / Band	Typical Range	Best Used For	Primary Protocol
VHF / UHF	10 – 30 miles	Local shelter-to-EOC traffic, county-wide drills, and tactical local nets.	Packet Radio or VARA FM
HF (High Frequency)	100 – 1,000+ miles	Out-of-state reporting, regional coordination when local infrastructure is entirely wiped out.	VARA HF, ARDOP, or PACTOR

the job done:

### How You Can Get Involved

Like any emergency skill, you don't want to learn how to use Winlink during a real disaster.

Proficiency requires practice.

- **Download the Software:** Get Winlink Express and register your callsign. It is free to use (with a minor nag screen unless you donate to support the developer).
- **Build a Portable Kit:** Pair a laptop with a digital interface (like a Signalink, DigiRig, or the built-in soundcard of modern rigs like the IC-7300).
- **Join a Practice Net:** Participate in regional exercises like **Winlink Wednesday**, where operators practice checking into a weekly net by sending structured peer-to-peer or gateway emails.

By mastering Winlink, you can provide a highly sophisticated, professional level of auxiliary communication to our community when all else fails.

**AUXCOMM  
Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society  
July 2026**

Field Day is done almost. The score still needs to be put together and at this time of writing we are all still waiting for it and everything must be repacked and put away. However, Field Day is really a Field training Exercise, and it fits in with out AUXCOMM team training.

Our President put out the call and planned a lot of meeting to get things going for the event and thank you Rod for all you did during the event. Saturday, we showed up and got to work. We had a total of 11 antennas that were put up. Four of them were towers. The rest were end feds and dipoles, coaxes and cordage to hold them up. Air cannons and fishing poles to get the antennas up in the trees. Parts off the truck to fix things that broke and some still need to be repaired. This sounds like a great call out drill to practice our AUXCOMM base setup. I will say the team did a great job of setting up and thank you all that came out for the setup and the tear down. I wish we had had more of you for the tear down.

What did we learn? We can get together and work as a team to make great things happen. The set up went pretty much as planned. The groups broke up and went to work on the assignment given to them and when they were done, they asked what else needs to be done.

PM's, we need to pay more attention to the PMs on the towers to be sure they are in good working order before the event. We need to go over the wire antennas as well. My end fed had one wire that broke on set up and another on take down. I was able to fix them on site and will go over it now that I have it back home and test it to be sure it is good to go. The Blue-Sky tower worked very well, and we really should think about a way to put a rotator on it. Going over the Coaxes we use for the event. We did find one that was bad and Ed repaired it. Thanks for that Ed. The time to do all of this is not when it's 100 plus degrees.

All in all, it was a very good drill, and the score will be what the score is. No worries there. Thank you all that showed up to help the builds, setting up food, getting drinks, setting up radios. Campers, Trailers, getting on the AM talk show radio, inviting people out for bonus points, the welcome table, safety officer, the members that bought Generators and gas cans, Jeremy for keeping them full. Ed for wiring them up. David and Steven for hooking up the PC and internet. This list could keep going. Point is there is a lot that goes into putting one of these events together and yes, we could use all the help we could get. It's your club. Be a part of it.

David Winfree  
AUXCOMM Lead

*26th Annual*

# **CFARS SwapFest**

Sponsored by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

[www.cfarsnc.org](http://www.cfarsnc.org)

Fayetteville, North Carolina

## **Saturday August 8, 2026**

8:00am to 12:00 noon

**Cumberland County Shrine Club  
7040 Ramsey St (US Hwy 401 N)**

**No Admission!! No Fee for Tables!!!**

**Please help us keep this event free  
by placing a monetary contribution in  
the donation box so we can cover the rent  
on the building!!!**

**Talk-in: K4MN Repeater 146.910 (-) CTCSS 100Hz**

**Information and Table Reservations:**

**David KI4W [davidki4w@gmail.com](mailto:davidki4w@gmail.com)**

**910-624-1394**

**VE Test Session Walk-ins Only Registration 9:00am Testing 9:30am**

**ARRL VE Testing: Jim K4BUC [jbuccieri@twc.com](mailto:jbuccieri@twc.com)**

**910-309-5218**

**Set-up begins at 6:30am. Only vendors inside before 8:00am. If you need tables please call or email in advance. On the morning of the Swapfest see David KI4W for tables.**

**Table Reservations recommended.**

***Tail Gating available - - also FREE!!!***

***An ARRL Sanctioned Event***