

♥ **HAPPY**  
*Valentine's*  
**DAY** ♥

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**The President's Corner: Dale AK4YS**

Happy New Year everyone.

I hope everyone has made their new year ham radio resolutions and wish all luck in keeping them. You know about resolutions, they don't last the month, so make some attainable and fun goals. My goal is to continue to improve my cw skills, to be more of use during the field day and other activities, and I wish the same for everyone else.

Your club officers are working to inspire and motivate everyone as we move forward this new year, trying to build on the experience and knowledge of all the members yesterday and today. Again, looking forward to seeing and working with all this new year. Please feel free to send me a text with questions, comments and ideas to improve your club.

POTA: Look to see more in the way of Parks on the Air, POTA. What did you do on POTA?

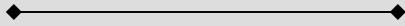
CW: Greg NC4GK and I made a start and will continue to meet at least once a week. Tuesday @ 8pm on 28.150. Slow cw ops are welcome for a no pressure, fun time as slow and as long as you need.

Thank you.

73  
 Dale AK4YS  
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**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 \$15.00. CFARS offers a lifetime membership option for \$150.00. 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.





### January 2023 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:30 pm, Monday, January 16, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall of the Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

President Dale Mohr AK4YS called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Larry N4USB gave the invocation. Dale AK4YS led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. We had 29 members and guests present.



Van N4ERM moved the minutes be approved as amended, Don WO4SFA seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Bill KJ4OFD gave the financial report.

**Net Manager:** Larry N4USB gave the net statistics.

**Health & Welfare:** No report.

**Repeaters:** David McGough gave a repeater report, repeaters are working appropriately.

**Field Day:** See old business.

**Membership:** David KI4W presented certificates to Juan KD2YNP, Chris KQ4DVA, Tim KO4VEC, Tyler K4TTN, and Jeremiah KO4VRM.

**Contesting:** NC QSO Party hours on Sunday February 26 will be 10:00am to 8:00PM. Hector KB4LOA will manage SSB station, David KI4W will manage the CW station. Cabins are rented. Help will be needed for set up and operators will be needed to run the stations. Last year K4MN scored number 2 in our category, and 21 overall in all categories.

**VE Coordinator:** Jim K4BUC gave an update on the recent VE testing sessions. There were 2 upgrades and 3 new licensees.

**Swapfest:** David KI4W has filed for ARRL sponsorship for the CFARS Swapfest.

**Public Relations:** No report.

**Newsletter:** Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP. [cfarsnews@gmail.com](mailto:cfarsnews@gmail.com)

**Web Site:** Any submissions please send to Steve KI4EZL. [cfarswebbie@gmail.com](mailto:cfarswebbie@gmail.com)

**ARRL Liaison:** No report.

**Possum Trot Net:** Ron K4FET gave the PT net report. Discussion was had of linking repeaters for the PT net with the Durham PT net.

**Skywarn:** Jeremiah KO4VRM will be the Skywarn coordinator.

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**Old Business** - QSL cards - Hector proposed designs for new QSL cards. Jeremy KN4JUY motioned to have Hector order the QSL cards at a cost of \$125. Don WO4SFA seconded and the motion carried. David McGough will look into supplying the club with a small form factor PCs for logging at field day. Juan KD2YNP will lead a committee to finish purchasing accessory equipment for the Field Day stations. Chris KQ4DVA motioned to designate a \$2000 budget to complete purchases, Joe W3OJO seconded, and the motion carried.

**New Business** - Patches and stickers. Hector is working on getting new patches and stickers.

**Program** - None.

**Door Prizes:** None.

**Announcements:** Hector KB4LOA presented certificates of recognition for net control operators to Joe W3OJO, Ron K4FET, Steve KA4CZL, Paul K4PGM, Jeremy KN4JUY and Bill KJ4OFD. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Larry N4USB for net control manager.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. There were 27 members and 2 guests present.

Submitted: Jeremy Gilchrist KN4JUY  
Recorder

## Upcoming Events

Already happened!

February 4 - 5      10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB (phone)

Happening next!

February 24 - 25      NCQSO Party (spaces available).

Around the corner.

March 25 - 26      QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo (online)

April 8

[Raleigh Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, North Carolina



**CFARS Nets**

*Upcoming Hamfests*

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

March 10-11, 2023  
 Charlotte Hamfest  
 Concord, North Carolina  
[charlottehamfest.org](http://charlottehamfest.org)

April 8, 2023  
 Rarsfest  
 Raleigh, North Carolina  
[rarsfest.org](http://rarsfest.org)

**CFARS VE Testing**

The CFARS VE team, led by Jim K4BUC, will once again be administering VE exams in 2023. Here is the scheduled exam sessions.

Date	Location	Time
March 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Peace Presbyterian Church 3203 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28301	9:00AM
August 12 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Cumberland County Shrine Club 7040 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28311	9:00AM
October 14 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Peace Presbyterian Church 3203 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28301	9:00AM

**REMINDER: Exam candidates are REQUIRED to register in the FCC CORES system and receive a Federal Registration Number (FRN) before exam day. <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/user>.**

**Parks On The Air - A Year in Review**

by

**David "Dom" Domina NC4XL**

Hello to all My Parks On The Air Family and to all my other ham radio friends. Thanks for taking the time to read this. This is for the NEW Hunters and Activators, or anyone who may not have been enjoying ham radio, joining the Parks On The Air. This All Started Just To Have Fun In Amateur Radio. This could be you in the future. *If Its To Be Its Up To Me.*

I started hunting POTA in November 2020 after being off the air for 10 years. Ham radio just was not FUN anymore. After hearing about and listening to POTA, it sounded interesting to say the least. The more I listened and interacted with POTA the more I started to become addicted to this FUN part of my amateur radio hobby. It is awesome to learn about propagation, how to build antennas and listening to QRP. I didn't realize how unique that QRP was in our hobby and to find out how many were working in that QRP mode. I was really having fun and then I decided to think about trying it.

ACTIVATOR ME? I didn't think so. So maybe...Lets try it out. I decided to give it a try on April 21, 2021. I was at K-6954 Suggs Mills Pond. I worked KD9OLB as my first P2P before I started my actual activation. I used my WRC SB1000. N8KYX was my very first contact in the activation. From there is has been a blast. I've had folks email me or send a message via messenger asking to operate with me and or how would you do this or that. A couple super moments to share... Steve KO4TXN I went to Bentonville Battlegrounds. We did our 200<sup>th</sup> Activation for each of us with a goal of 200 Contacts. Well we did it! 209 contacts total. Since then it has been nothing but awesome fun. I've been blessed with starting out Mike KN4XP a friend of over 24 years who we both worked together in County Hunting. So after taking him to get started at his first activation, we went on another outing at Turnbull Creek. Mike said "Do Nothing, Say Nothing Till We Are Done. I bought another antenna we are going to try. We will talk about it after the activation." We both used the WRC SB1000 and I had the Chameleon TDL. After that activation, I was so impressed with the Vibroplex EFHW that I bought one. We had to learn different ways to get the EFHW into the trees. Last resort before selling it back to Mike....I bought a fishing pole. We did beat it and now are pretty good at our aiming the 2 ounce sinker to the spot in the trees. I have bout another EFHW as a backup. I have given away two (2) as gifts. I learned how to tune them 5 feet off the ground and be ready to rock and roll. We have helped others via the phone to tune theirs. It's a nice feeling to help others.

And as time has progressed to this writing I have 189 activations before the end of the year. I had 97 activations in 2021. I have ended the year with the following 189 Activations At 16 different parks, Ranked # 7 with 45,978 total QSO's and Ranked # 3 With 37,215 total phone QSO's. Where I am going with this is to see how my activations have grown and how my style has changed. There are so my different types of activators. What type would I say that I am? I am a number hungry contacts person. I do not rove and do not just hit and get. Those are great ways for those who enjoy that method. Some run QRP or QRO (100) and then there are some that run 400 plus watts. There is something for everyone.

POTA Let's Activators run our activations our way. I tell many to run the way you feel and you will change when you feel it is time. I have enjoyed setting up the EFHW but when it is cold i then just sit in the car and operate off the ham sticks in the car. I share on my YouTube Channel (NC4XL)

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My Activations and other helpful hints.

As an activator/elmer of POTA I would suggest that you learn one very important thing. It is your activation!! Log it the way you want to. Some people log with paper and pencil, or a laptop computer or even on a digital recorder. It is your choice on how you log. Remember to have FUN. As an Activator there are so many different things that happen out in the field that many if not most Hunters have no idea about.

### Activations

There is NO such thing as a FAILED Activation. Sometimes we are not able to get the number 10 Contacts But those that we work still deserve to get credit for the contact. One thing for sure is that there are more benefits from an activation that you feel did not go the best....We all learn from these times for the next time. Learning this hobby of ham radio or POTA comes from experience.

Looking back at my beginning of POTA, I have had met so many fine friends in the ham radio field. Over the past Year plus, I have had the chance to learn many different things to look out for and to share with others. Have fun with some of these thoughts!!!

### BAND PLAN CHART

Sometimes it is hard to find a frequency that isn't busy, so one may crowd the edge of the band. Remember 3KC from the band edges. If you want to be busy work in General part of band.

### Propagation

We are NOT in control of this. The solar cycle may be good but other elements sometimes get involved and we have to just do our best and be happy. I have been learning more about greyline times now and just because 40m is good here at 8am, it will not be the same in the Midwest or West. Learn what bands at what time in the area YOU LIVE in and adjust accordingly.

### BUGS

Some of the critters we see in the field are rough and they require some type of spray or device to remove them from your body area. Ants, Black Flies, Mosquito and have seen others that have seen Gators, Deer And Other types of critters.

### COLD/WET/HOT Weather

Temps, humidity, rain and Oh Yeah WIND. Not a good thing to fight your antenna. Hand warmers or gloves soon feel real good but many of us forget till it's too late.

### ForgetIdous (I FORGOT THIS ??????)

Battery, Cables, Coax, Power Cords, Pencils, Pens, Paper, Worst Offense (THE RADIO OR ANTENNA), Port-Potty and Snacks. Now many won't believe these things happen but YES they Do. Has Any of this happen to ME? YES and that's all you need to know.

### Antenna Issues

Is antenna capable of 100 watts or is it a QRP antenna? When you forget to turn the power back down on your transceiver and you cook the antenna to the point of NO repair. Don't guess if you don't know. Learn how to build an inexpensive antenna for a single band with what you find in the garage or shed.

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### Extra Items To Think About

If You're not hiking in...Paracord – First Aid Kit- Extra Flash Light- Paper/Pencils incase the logging device fails- Sunscreen or bug spray-collapsed box to shield the radio from the sun.

### Broke In Field

Wind can topple a antenna sometimes when you least expect it. The temperature makes it difficult to handle the antenna because it's too cold or hot to handle. Power plugs comes apart.

SO239 extras are important especially when you need them and you're an hour or so away from a place to get them. So if your not hiking in, then think this way...It's always nice to have extra supplies for the unexpected.

A few sayings of Mine

“TWO IS ONE - ONE IS NONE”

Having More Then One Antenna Just In case.

If One Fails Then Your Done.

Having a backup can save your day.

“First Is Last - Last Is First”

Since I paper log I always take a list of partial calls and then from bottom of that list I work to the top of the list and then do it again.

Just Me!

So if you have Read all of this that...First of all I want to thank you. Secondly this is YOU it can be you but you have to want to do this. Look at thinking about GOALS Then maybe put it on paper and see if it still looks good. Then go out and start on it. Nothing Easy is rewarding. It's rewarding when YOU get YOUR goal reached.

YOU DID IT 😊

NC4XL Dom

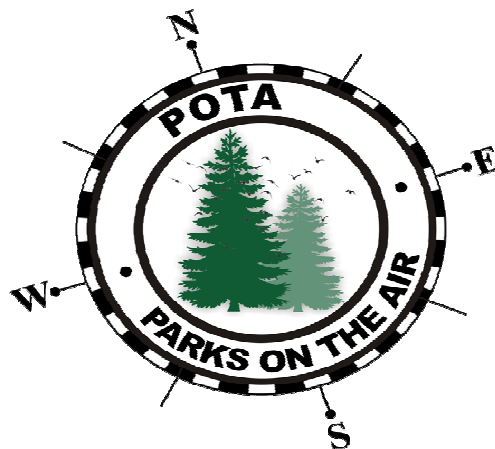
The Darling Old Man In North Carolina

2 Cups On POTA Day Is an Awesome Day

One Final Note

F.D.E.D.

POTA Parks On The Air is Field Day Every Day





### UTC and Contests

I participate in radio contests and enjoy the time listening, operating, and learning how the different contests work. I have participated in multiple modes and bands, in contests such as QSO parties, K1USN SST, 10-10 International, and Winter Field Day.

I generally wait until the last minute to begin listening and operating, partly due to my personal obligations, but also due to having to decipher what time the contest actually starts. Converting from "Now" to UTC is generally not too hard here on the east coast; add 5 or 4 hours, depending on whether or not Daylight Savings time is in place. However, trying to figure out when a contest starts days in advance has always twisted my brain. For instance, the 10-10 Winter Phone contest starts at 0001 UTC on the first Saturday of February. Okay, that should be simple enough to put on my calendar. All I have to do is subtract 5 hours from 0001 on the correct Saturday. Well. That means it starts on Friday, doesn't it? So, my calendar says the first Saturday is 2/4 which means the contest starts on Friday 2/3. Are you confused yet? I was, and sometimes still am.

Another contest, which is easier for my brain to decipher, is Winter Field Day. The contest begins at 1900 UTC on the Saturday of the last full weekend in January and is 24 hours long. This should be easy to understand, but I found myself subtracting and converting or trying to time warp myself into UTC time and still struggled to put this on my calendar.

My solution was to make a spreadsheet with a tab (Excel calls them sheets) for the contest times. I have a column for the UTC date and time and then I have the spreadsheet subtract the 5 (or 4) hours and change the date appropriately. In the example shown for Winter Field Day, the contest begins at 1900 UTC and is 24 hours long. No, it begins at 2:00 pm Saturday and ends Sunday at 6:59 pm.

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	UTC DATE	UTC		EST	EST	EST DATE	Day
2	1/28/23	18:00		13:00	1:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
3	1/28/23	19:00		14:00	2:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
4	1/28/23	20:00		15:00	3:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
5	1/28/23	21:00		16:00	4:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
6	1/28/23	22:00		17:00	5:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
7	1/28/23	23:00		18:00	6:00 PM	1/28	Saturday
8	1/29/23	0:00		19:00	7:00 PM	1/28	Sunday/Saturday
9	1/29/23	1:00		20:00	8:00 PM	1/28	Sunday/Saturday
22							
23	1/29/23	14:00		9:00	9:00 AM	1/29	Sunday
24	1/29/23	15:00		10:00	10:00 AM	1/29	Sunday
25	1/29/23	16:00		11:00	11:00 AM	1/29	Sunday
26	1/29/23	17:00		12:00	12:00 PM	1/29	Sunday
27	1/29/23	18:00		13:00	1:00 PM	1/29	Sunday
28	1/29/23	19:00		14:00	2:00 PM	1/29	
29		24					

Too much? Not for me, I think better with pencil and paper in hand or a keyboard and some way to document my steps to arrive at the solution. If just knowing when the contests start works for you, keep it up. If you struggled like I did, this method might help.

My competitive nature regarding radio sport has not consumed me yet, but maybe one day I will make the time and effort to go all out for the full length of a contest. At least now I don't have an excuse about when the contest starts. 73 Greg NC4GK