Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society *News*

September 2025

Volume LV Issue 9



Vice President's Notes	2
Club Officers	3
Repeaters	3
Club Dues	3
Club Meeting Minutes	4 - 6
Nets / Upcoming Hamfests	7
VE Testing	7
2nd Law of Dropped Screw Dynamics	8 - 9
Auxcomm / EOC	9
CFARS Discord Server	10
FCC Official Copy of License	11 - 13
CFARS Swapfest	14

The President's Corner: David WD4NC

Hello again

Here we are in September and a little break on the hot weather and getting into some cool mornings. It makes that coffee much better. The club has been busy as ever.

We had a lot of fun and some work at the Swap fest, and we had a very good turn out with a lot of positive words about our club. Then the club meeting with I think 39 members and guest there. We also voted in 4 more new members. Great to see the club growing.

We just finished up a part II class on Win Link and Jeremiah (N0NV) did a really good job on getting us all up to speed on how to send messages and set up the forms. I am pretty sure that everyone that was at the class sent me a Win link message and that shows how much we all learned.

We are still waiting on the score from the NAQSO party. We had two teams from the club sign up for that event and we spent a day looking at the stars at FSU. Good time, by all.

Our next event will be the clubs yearly trip to Singletary Lake State Park. Sept 27th from 8AM to 5PM will be the club get together and cook out. The cabin will sleep 10 counting me and I have a few others that are staying the weekend. This is a great place to be if you want to learn Ham radio with some hands-on work. We should have SSB, CW and Digital up and running. This is a POTA park and has two parks in it. The noise level is low and great for QRP as well. Just 3 miles down the road is another park as well.

Work on the repeaters has started and we hope to have them up and working 100% very soon. The DMR repeater is up and running already. The GMRS repeater may be up and working by the time you are reading this or close to being done. The WA4FLR is getting new coax and an antenna as well. Next step on that one is to replace the repeater itself.

If you want to learn more about what the club is doing? The best way is to make it out to the meeting. I hear there is going to be some good stuff on the prize table this time. I hope to see you there. Hear you on the nets and see you at the events.

From The Vice President Rod KQ4FNO

August came and went quickly! As I write this we are in a "Fall" like period of lower temperatures. Welcome after all the heat we have had. Swapfest was the major event during August, and I think it was a success, especially after we missed the one in 2024. Again, thanks to all those that came out and helped to set up, ran tables or testing and cleaned up at the end. That is the club!

We had three tables for the Club. One for ourselves, with items that had been stored for many years, one for Jim Crews' items to be sold for his daughter, and one for David Bobbey, who left to go to Virginia and a smaller QTH. As the "vendor" for the Club I can tell you we made \$156.00 from the stuff that has been lying in the storage for many years. What failed to sell was "donated" to a metal recovery individual and is no longer cluttering up the storage. In addition, we have been able to pass on to Jim Crews (KJ4EMX) daughter, Helen, a check for \$1153.00. We also forwarded a check for David Bobbey (KO4VA) for \$286.00. The club made 20% of the sales which came to \$359.00. The donation box on the table took in \$45.00. So, the total Club funds made from the table was \$560.00. The donations made at the "give away" table and the sale of door prize tickets is not included in this total, as that is information I don't have available.

Looking forward to the trip to the Planetarium on 30th August at Fayetteville State University. This will be something different and a great opportunity to see another aspect of science we may find interesting.

Still working on the IRS situation, but getting closer. Hopefully I will have more to report at the next meeting.

I would like to thank those who are supporting the AUXCOM mission with the EOC. We will be attending a class on the 26thAugust to learn more about WINLINK and how to use it. It is interesting to find different ways to use it and to test our proficiency. I have just started to log in on WINLINK Wednesday and that was an experience for me.

POTA is alive and well. WD4NC, David, NC4PB, Paul, KB4D, Jeremy, and I did a quick activation at Carver's Creek (Ramsey St) and not only had a successful activation, but the weather couldn't have been better. Of course, Dom, NC4XL, and Mike, KN4XP, are always out and about and N4BEL, Travis, is climbing mountains to talk to us! As club members we can always help contesters and POTA by being "on the other end" and hunting them. Which brings me to another point. If you are using K4MN as a callsign when you are out doing POTA please ensure a copy of your adif file is sent to Hector, KB4LOA, (hector.gonzalez@live.com). He is the guardian of our Club callsign on POTA and can load our logs and promote the Club. Go look at the POTA page and see how K4MN is doing.

Thank you for your help with the Club this month and looking forward to seeing you all on 15th September 2025, when we will gather again for the Club meeting. 73.

Rod MacLean, KQ4FNO

CFARS Officers

PresidentDavid WD4NC davidwinfree02@gmail.com

Vice Pres.....Rod KQ4FNO kq4fno@gmail.com

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... Nina KN4KUL kn4kul@gmail.com

VEC......Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com

SwapfestDavid KI4W davidki4w@gmail.com

Public Info......Dale AK4YS mohrd57@gmail.com

Contest Coord......Juan NK2MC jserra131@gmail,com

Webmaster.....Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com

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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

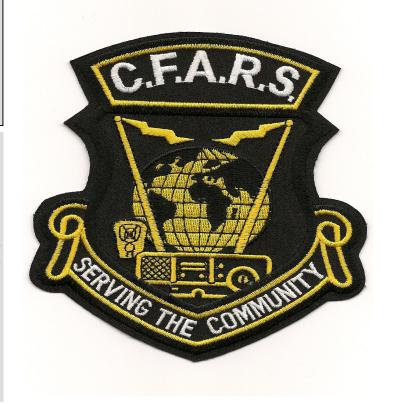
WA4FLR

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 \$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





August 2025 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, August 18th, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

President David Winfree WD4NC called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Will KN4OTA gave the invocation. David WD4NC led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 40 members and guests



present. Don WO4SFA moved August's minutes be approved, Dale AK4YS seconded, the club voted and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB, August net report: 603 check ins for an average of 19.5 and1006 minutes for an average of 32.5.

illillutes for all average of 52.5.

Health & Welfare: Travis N4BEL - Help needing to move some radios for a ham that has lost some mobility, contact Paul NC4PB if you can help.

Repeaters: David K4FXC No report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: David KI4W had 5 new members to vote in Todd Donavan K1CTE, Kolt Killman KF6GRG, Cory Simon K9BTR, Thomas Deam Not present and Keith Langkan KR4DIS. Ed N4ESA made a motion to approve these new members Hector KB4LOA seconded, the club voted in favor and the motion was carried.

Contesting: No report.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC, testing session at the swapfest was good, 8 people tested and 8 hams passed. One ham sat for all three exams and passed. Due to the inconvenience related to getting a copy of the licenses, Jim will not allow testing for upgrades without a copy of the license, he will turn you away.

Swapfest: David KI4W conveyed a sincere thank you for the hams that helped out. The parking lot was full, attendance was good and equipment was great. The donation box was good, we also made a little money on food.

Public Relations: Hector KB4LOA continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

Emergency Coordinator: Jeremiah N0NV, Greg NC4GK, every 2nd Tuesday night is Skywarn night.

Newsletter: Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. cfarsnews@gmail.com. Emails and .pdf files are difficult to format for the newsletter.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

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: Greg NC4GK the PT net continues 5:00 am to 7:00 am. If you would like to sign up to run a part or all of the PT net please contact Greg NC4GK.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: Rod KQ4FNO - CFARS had 2 teams participate in the North American QSO Party contest, we will continue to take part in some of these contests, please contact one of the club officers if you would like to setup a team for any upcoming contests. Planetarium visit 3pm on the 30th of August. Singletary Lake park activation activity, 27th of September 8am to 6pm. Come out and see and operate some radios. First 11 that sign up if you want to stay the night. Hotdogs and Hamburgers will be served.

Old Business: 501 (c) (3), Rod KQ4FNO, they IRS sent notice that our EIN number is now cleared up. Now we must get our clearance for tax exemption. We must be charitable organization, the only one that makes sense is Youth Support. Rod (along with the help of some of our members) has put together a mission statement that we should use and will help with the IRS. He read the current draft statement and suggested that it be posted (at least temporarily) on the website. If no changes are needed, he will use this to send it to the IRS, at a cost of \$275. If we are approved for 501 (c) (3), we can then receive support from companies that can donate to a charitable organization. We could also go out to the public and get donations, have public raffles, and other things to make some funds for the club.

New Business: David WD4NC brought up, he is attempting to get the club a free DMR repeater. If that falls through, the suggestion was made the club might purchase a DMR repeater. After a round of discussion, the question was posed, if we are not able to get a free repeater would the club want to buy a repeater for DMR? Paul K4PGM made a motion and Don WO4SFA seconded the motion to buy a DMR repeater for up to \$1700.

Program: Mark Gibson N4MQU was schedule to brief Safety in portable operations but called and cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. David WD4NC discussed the many upcoming club events. The club has several events a month with the exception of August, where its typically too hot to have outdoor activities, but there are inside events. An example of some of the events the club sponsors or participates: USS Battleship NC (museum ships on the air), park activations, NC QSO party, Winter field day, ARRL Field Day, upcoming Planetarium at FSU, and many others. David WD4NC discussed the Fort Bragg WA4FLR repeater, it's in disrepair and needs some maintenance. They have a new antenna they are going to put up soon. David is working with a unit at Ft Bragg to potentially get this repair work done at no cost to the club. More to come on this. David WD4NC has access to someone donating a GMRS repeater to the club. It will belong to the club and be used for public service. We need to vote to either use this as a 70cm repeater or a GMRS. After discussions, the club voted to make this GMRS. David will work on this soon and provide updates on the progress. Updates on our work with the EOC, Winlink training 26th of August. David is working on getting some cabling installed at the EOC, they have found a place to

(Continued on Page 6)

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install coax cabling without having to penetrate the building roof or exterior walls, we will also help the EOC when they receive a grant to buy some radios and other equipment which is happing soon. There was an EOC drill, August 19th 2025, called a tabletop exercise where they test emergency

planning. On August 26th Jerimah N0NV is providing a familiarization class on Winlink. More details are coming. Please stay tuned to your local repeater CFARS, Facebook, and e-mail.

Announcements: None.

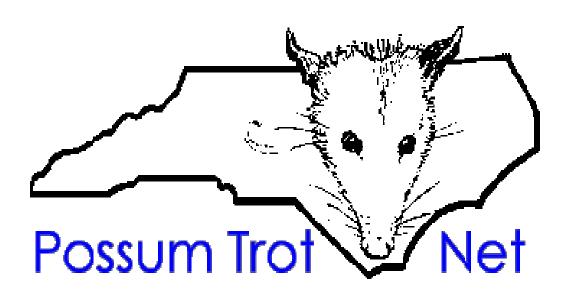
Door Prize Drawing: Don W04SFA won a Charge Controller and a power cable, Mike KC4ABE won an Compass, Ed N4ESA won an Power cable, Larry N4USB won an Power cable, Lannie KQ4BVB won a 2 power cables, Travis N4BEL won a mouse pad and a power cable, Luis KQ2L won a mouse pad and Don KO4IHM won a record player

50/50 Drawing: \$89 collected, 2629 was the winning ticket held by Alex KQ4QEM.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. There were 40 members and guests present. Dale AK4YS motioned to adjourn, Chaz seconded and the club voted, and the motion was carried.

Submitted: Chris KR4I

CFARS Recorder



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

October 12, 2025

Maysville Hamfest Maysville, North Carolina maysvillehamfest.org

November 16, 2025

Jarsfest Benson, North Carolina jars.net

March 6-7, 2026

Charlotte Hamfest Concord, North Carolina charlottehamfest.org



CFARS VE Testing

The 2025 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church 3203 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, NC 28301

Dates:

October 11, 2025 - Peace Presbyterian Church

Results from the VE Test Session at the Swapfest

We had a good day today during the testing session at the CFARS Swapfest. Results from the test session were two (2) new Technician Class, four (4) General Class and two (2) Extra Class licenses were earned.

One of the Extra's ran the table and passed all three tests in today's session. This is the second one that ran the table during my tenure. It was a good day.

When you are testing for an upgraded license, you must have a copy of your current license with you at the time of testing. I am going to send people away if they do not have the proper license credentials going forward. It has taken so much additional effort to get the documentation needed to process the test results.

Jim K4BUC



THE SECOND LAW OF DROPPED SCREW DYNAMICS John Portune

A project builder's version of the well-known law of the universe: "Buttered toast always falls butterside downward."

It was, I believe, Richard Feynman, the well-loved outspoken American theoretical physicist known for his seminal work in quantum mechanics, who said, "There are only two classes of people in the world: those who understand the Second Law of Thermodynamics (entropy), and those who don't." I think he may have overlooked electronics experimenters and ham radio operators. To me, they know otherwise.

Entropy — the supposedly inviolable law that all systems tend toward disorder — is, in fact, questionable for anyone who builds and invents. It manifests in the way screws and nuts jump out of your fingers when you're working on a project. Clearly, these tiny, seemingly inanimate objects are the best evidence that there is more to the Second Law than meets the eye. I put it this way, "Screws and nuts have a mind … a visibly perverse mind." I've been keeping my eye on them for years now. They are FAR from inanimate, believe me, I know. Here's the evidence at your workbench. See if you don't agree.

IF YOU DROP ONE

- It will always roll much farther than you believe it can.
- If there's something it can roll under, it will.
- It will always roll in the opposite direction of the sound it makes in falling.
- If it falls without making a sound, you will never find it.
- When it hits, it actively seeks a hiding place that you "just can't quite reach."
- If you try to find it with a magnet, it will be made of brass or stainless steel.
- If it falls on a carpet, it buries itself deep in the pile.
- When you think you've found it, it will be the screw you dropped from your last project and could not find. What's more, your action will warn all the other dropped fasteners so that they will continue to elude you (sent to me by Phil Irwin).
- If you lay it down all by itself on your workbench, it will move. It takes the opportunity to move so that it won't be in the same place when you come back for it.
- You'll find it in your shoe when you're undressing that night.
- If you are able to watch it fall, it will know you're watching it and will give up and forego its evil intentions. This is your only hope of beating the Second Law.

Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society News

September 2025

DROPPED FROM A LADDER OR A TOWER

- Big bolts and nuts will always hit and damage something, like a late-model Mercedes, Lexus, or Cadillac.
- If you're at home, they will always bounce just outside your property.
- They will seek out flower beds and dense ground cover, and scrupulously avoid plain surfaces and driveways.

JUNKBOX COROLLARIES

- If you need four screws for a project, there will only be three in your junkbox.
- If you need a one inch screw, the longest that will be in your junkbox will be 3/4 inch.
- If you need a 6-32 nut, all the nuts in your junk box will be 8-32 or larger.
- All screws in your junkbox will be slot-blades if you need a Phillips.
- Your local hardware store is always out of the size you need, except in brass if you need stainless.

CONSPIRACY DEMONS

- Solder hardens one millisecond after a component is too hot to hold onto.
- If you spill something on your workbench, the only paper in your reach to wipe it up will be your schematic.

AUXCOMM / EOC

I put all of these under one heading even through they are each different but really work together hand in hand. Most of the club has taken the Sky Warn training that we hosted last year and to me that is the starting place and what I feel the club will use the most.

AUXCOM is what the State of North Carolina is requiring to be used in our State. This is using the ICS and the forms that come with it. This is the part of the training we are doing in AUXCOM to help at the EOC and the shelters for EMCOMM. Short answer. Yes, there is training you must do to be a part of this, and it is not hard. (20 Club hams have their certs and ready to go). The Win link training may have been the hardest thing we have had to do so far. The good news is Win link is free and it will work over your radio if you do not have internet access. Once you use it for a while, it gets to be easy. You can transmit it over VHF or HF or just over the telnet. (internet)

Our next training Drill will be on Oct 11th at 10 AM. This one you can work from home as a relay station. We will be reaching out to the Counties that surround Cumberland and making contact with them if we can and send a Win link message as well. I will talk more about this at the Sept meeting.

If you see a part of this you would like to be a part of, let me know. Sky Warn is the starting point and you can take it on line as well. Come be a part of EMCOMM ham radio!

David WD4NC



COMING SOON! CFARS NC Discord Server

We are in the process of setting up a Discord server for the club members to use. After mentioning this to a few club members a common question I have been asked is "What's a Discord server and what will it do for the club?"

Well, a Discord server can provide our club with a dynamic and accessible online space that enhances communication, collaboration, and community engagement. Unlike traditional email lists or static websites, Discord allows real-time interaction through text, voice, and video channels, making it easy for members to share knowledge, coordinate events, and troubleshoot technical issues together. Dedicated channels can be set up for topics such as emergency communications, antennas, equipment setup and configuration, and radio propagation reports, allowing members to quickly find and contribute to discussions that interest them. The server will also offer an opportunity to engage younger or tech-savvy members who may be more comfortable with digital platforms, helping to bridge the gap between traditional amateur radio practices and modern communication tools. Additionally, features such as event scheduling, file sharing, and voice chat can streamline club activities and ensure members remain connected even when they cannot meet in person, ultimately strengthening the club's sense of community and increasing participation. In addition, this will be a private club server, so you will not be bombarded with ads and spam like we see with other social media platforms.

We will be putting on a live demo at the next club meeting and providing instructions on how to sign up for a discord account to join the server. But, if you don't want to wait until the next meeting to sign up, you can do so now and join the server early.

First, you'll need to sign up for a Discord account, and yes, it's free! To do so, go to https://discord.com/login and create a new account. Once you have created your account, email me at paul.nc4pb@gmail.com and I will send you a link to join the server. When you go to join, it will ask you to verify your email and then read and agree to the server rules, and that's it, you're in.

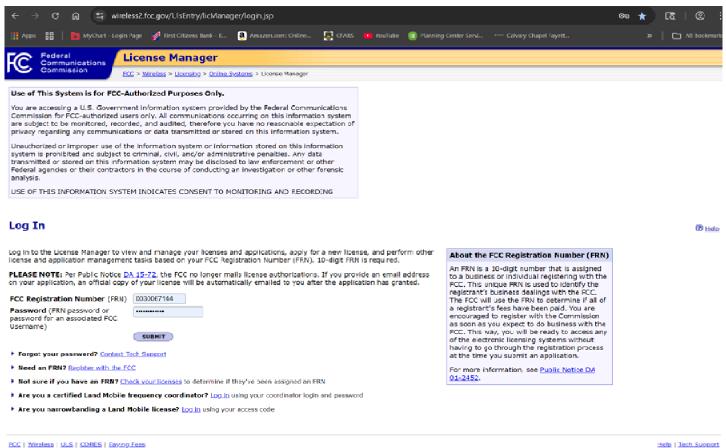
Remember, this is a platform for you, the members, so come on in and join us! Looking forward to seeing you all on the server.

73, Paul, NC4PB



Printing an official copy of your FCC license

Go To the following site: https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp



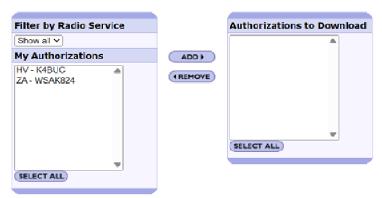
Once this screen comes up, you can select the "download your official authorizations as indicated.



Select the authorizations you wish to download, "add" them to the "Authorizations to Download" box, then click the "Download" button.

Licenses in termination pending status will not appear in this list. If a license is active but one or more components is in termination pending status, the term pending components will not be included on the authorization.

Note: The total number of selected authorizations must be limited to maximum of 100 pages. If necessary print multiple files.



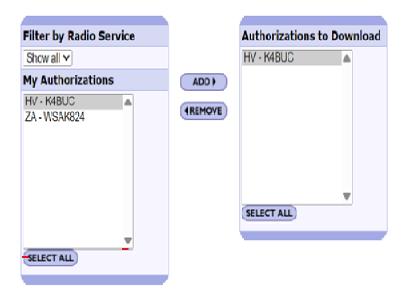
TP = A component(s) of this call sign is in termination pending status for failure to meet the buildout requirement.

* denotes licenses that have an international address.

^ denotes broadcast auxiliary licenses with a parent station in CDBS.

1 BACK DOWNLOAD)

Once you add the call sign that you want to download over to the Authorization to download field, click "select all" then click "download"



FF = A component(s) of this call sign is in termination pending status for failure to meet the buildout requirement.

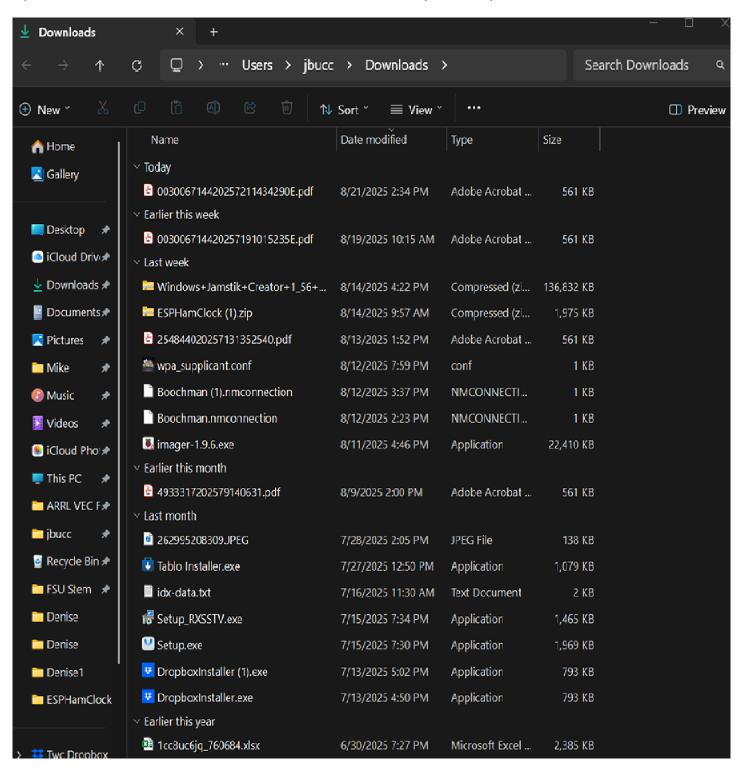
- ^k denotes licenses that have an international address.
- ' denotes broadcast auxiliary licenses with a parent station in CDBS.

(BACK DOWNLOAD)

An "official copy" of your license will then be downloaded as a .PDF file to your computer. It will load to your computers download directory. The image of the license will also appear on the screen. You can print it from here. See the next page for the image.

To get to the downloads folder on your computer, in your search box type: 'downloads' and it will bring up the folder.

The document will download with a random number similar to this. You can click on it and it will open the document. You can then save it somewhere on your computer.



CFARS Swapfest 2025











