

# The Old Barney Beacon

## SO I HAVE MY LICENSE, NOW WHAT?

By: Rick Kennard, N2RPQ

You studied, you took your test and you got your license. An exciting day when you get those magic letters and numbers that make up your call sign. You feel great!

You want to get started so you ask someone what's the best radio to get? What's their response? Do you want to do 2 meter, DX, DMR, APRS, FT-8...? What does that all mean?

There is a lot to amateur radio. It's not all just one thing it is a collection of ideas that came to life, technologies that have grown and changed, protocols to be used for different types of communications that it can be overwhelming for those who just started to get their feet wet.

This is where we can help. We can take some of the frustration out of understanding what the hobby is all about. We can implement programs to provide information and make learning the hobby easier to help you decide what you like best.

Starting with next month's issue there will be articles describing the different types of communications amateur radio can be used for. We will look at each of them individually to see their uses and benefits. We will start out with a brief comparison of each and then go into more specific details in future issues.

*Continued on Page 3*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARRL To Extend Field Day Rule Waivers From 2020.....	2
VE Corner.....	2
RATPAC.....	3
President's Message.....	3
2021 Contests.....	4
ARRL Plan To Help Young Appli- cants with the Proposed Fee .....	4
Join Us On The Air.....	5
And The Winner Is .....	5
Designer Needed .....	6
Old Barney Gear .....	7
Members Only Website .....	7
Swap & Shop.....	7
Our Members.....	7
Ocean County ARES New .....	8
Ocean County Skywarn .....	9
Southern NJ Update.....	
RAM Radio Record.....	
Share Your Knowledge .....	Back

## DID YOU REMEMBER?



Thank you to all who renewed their membership!

In case you forgot, dues for 2021 are:

- ◇ \$20—Full and associate members; \$15 if you are 65 years old and older.
- ◇ \$10—Members of the same household of a full paying member.
- ◇ Full time students are exempt

Dues can be sent via “PayPal to a friend” at: [treasurer@obarc.org](mailto:treasurer@obarc.org) please include your call letters in the comment section.

---

***Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 via Zoom. Details on how to join the meeting will be emailed to you.***

### VE CORNER

We did not conduct any VE sessions in February.

Starting March 6th, we are conducting session on Saturdays at 10am by appointment.

Sessions are filling up quickly so plan ahead if you are looking for a test.

If you are looking to upgrade your license or you know someone who needs a session please contact Tom at [n2xw@arrrl.net](mailto:n2xw@arrrl.net).

### **ARRL TO EXTEND FIELD DAY RULE WAIVERS FROM 2020, ADD CLASS D AND E POWER LIMIT**

As Posted on the ARRL Website ([www.arrrl.org](http://www.arrrl.org)) - 02/10/2021

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day](#) rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board’s Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

“This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event,” said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

*Continued on Page 6*

## WHAT NOW? - Continued from page 1

We have also added a section to the member's area of the website to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask something you want to learn about or need help with.

Whatever you do, DON'T GIVE UP! Some newly licensed operators get so overwhelmed that they just put everything on hold and may never go back to it. I promise you there is something about amateur radio that will peek your interest and keep you coming back!

### I ~~SMELL~~ HEAR A RAT!



Have you heard about the RATPAC?

The Radio Amateur Training, Planning and Activities Committee (RATPAC) provides weekly national presentations on general radio topics and specialized Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) topics.

From their groups.io message page:

**“Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee (RATPAC)** comprises ARRL section managers and appointed field leadership. They host nationwide Amateur Radio Zoom presentations twice-a-week, Wednesdays on general radio topics and Thursday on amateur radio emergency communications. The topics are selected from audience recommendations that planning committee then seeks topic experts or discussion panel members. The presentation audience consist of thousands of amateur radio operators from around the world who view each presentation in four groups:

- Initial zoom meeting participants.
- Thousands of hams are provided links to videos of each presentation and related documentation through our groups.io sites and other social media.
- Videos of presentations are being used as training tools by ham clubs, ARES groups and organizations, such as WINLINK®.

The over 70 amateur radio diverse Zoom presentations so far this year has provided knowledge and skills to contribute to the lifelong learning, ever changing emergency communications and technological changes. Moving ham radio forward.”

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's March already?  
Wow, getting closer to some spring weather. Something I think we will all enjoy!

It can be hard to stay positive these days when the pandemic just keeps going on & on & on...

I'm glad we can all get together virtually at least! Zoom has provided a remarkable platform for us to have our meetings. I love to be able to see everyone.

I'm encouraged every day by the positive attitudes of our club members and other amateurs who I am in contact with. It's so great to be part of a hobby that can go on when most things can't. But then again isn't that what hams have done since the beginning? Always there when needed.

I hope you take advantage of the rag chew sessions and club nets, attend the meetings and see your fellow members. We love hearing from you.

Until next month, stay safe!

N2RPQ

## 2021 ARRL CONTESTS

DX Contest—SSB	Mar 6-7
Rookie Roundup	Apr 11
June VHF Contest	Jun 12-14
Kid's Day—June	Jun 19
Field Day	Jun 26-27
IARU HF World Championship	Jul 10-11
222MHz & Up Distance Contest	Aug 7-8
10 GHz & Up—Round 1	Aug 14-15
Rookie Roundup (RTTY)	Aug 15
Sept VHF Contest	Sep 11-1
10 GHz & Up—Round 2	Sep 18-19
EME 2.3GHz & Up—Wknd 1	TBD
School Club Roundup	Oct 18-22
EME 50 to 1296 MHz—Wknd 2	TBD
Nov Sweepstakes—CW	Nov 6-8
Nov Sweepstakes—Phone	Nov 20-21
EME 50 to 1296 MHz—Wknd 3	TBD
160 Meter	Dec 3-5
10 Meter	Dec 11-12
Rookie Roundup—CW	Dec 19

## ARRL Board Considers Plan to Cover New \$35 FCC Fee for Some Young Applicants

*(An excerpt from the ARRL article posted on 2/17/2021)*

At its Annual Meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors considered a motion to offer a new service that would pay the new but not-yet-implemented \$35 FCC application fee for a limited number of new radio amateurs younger than age 18 who, at the time of testing, belonged to an ARRL Affiliated 501(c)(3) charitable organization and passed their tests through an ARRL VEC-sponsored exam session. The proposal called for reducing the VEC fee for these candidates to \$5.

The initial proposal came from ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. Other Board members offered subsidiary motions. Supporters said the purpose behind the motion was to ameliorate the potential financial hardship the pending FCC application fee posed on certain minors applying for their first license, and to encourage new youth membership.

Consideration of the motion, which was subject to considerable discussion, was deferred to an ad hoc committee composed of the members of the Administration & Finance Committee, two Members of the Programs & Services Committee, and ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA (or his designated representative). The Board directed the panel to review and more fully develop the proposal and report back to the Board by the end of March with a recommendation as to whether such a program should be adopted and, if adopted, how it should be implemented.

Supporters expressed the belief that recruitment and training of young radio amateurs “is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL” and that subsidizing the \$35 fee “will reduce the number of new amateurs that otherwise would be lost from these groups.”

The Full ARRL article is available here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-considers-plan-to-cover-new-35-fcc-fee-for-some-young-applicants>

## JOIN US ON THE AIR

Join us for our club net. The net is held every Thursday night at 7:30pm (except holidays and special occasions) on the WU2E repeater.

Every week we host a random topic of discussion.

Find us at: 146.835 (-600) PL 127.3

We look forward to sharing time with you!

For any comments or questions regarding the weekly net please contact Jim Neufell, K2GMT at [jvneufell@comcast.net](mailto:jvneufell@comcast.net).

---

*“There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking—Brian Tracy*

---



## AND THE WINNER IS....

Congratulations to Ross Lambert who submitted the name “The Old Barney Beacon” for our newsletter name.

The name was elected the winner by a vote of the members present at the February meeting.

Ross is the winner of the \$50.00 gift certificate from Gigaparts.

Ross has generously donated his prize back to the club for a future giveaway. Thank you Ross!

**GigaParts**  
Technology Superstore

## FIELD DAY WAIVER— CONTINUED

For Field Day 2021:

- Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.
- An *aggregate* club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

“With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements,” Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day [Facebook page](#).



---

## WE HAVE A NEW NAME—NOW WE NEED A MASTHEAD

WE NEED A  
DESIGNER

Now that we have selected our new name for this newsletter I am looking for some help designing our front page masthead.

If you are someone who can create a design that can be used each month on the top of our front page please let me know. You can email me at [n2rpg@arrl.net](mailto:n2rpg@arrl.net).

## OLD BARNEY GEAR

You can find Old Barney Gear at all these places:

### **Southern Ocean Marine Sportswear (Hats & Jackets Embroidered)**

79 South Main Street, Barnegat, NJ 08005

(609) 698-8868

Email: [sales@soms4u.com](mailto:sales@soms4u.com) Website: [www.soms4u.com](http://www.soms4u.com)

### **Café Press (All types of logoed items available)**

New Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/oldbarneyarcnewlogo>

Old Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/obarc>

### **Gold Medal Ideas (Personalized Old Barney Items)**



---

## HAVE YOU JOINED THE MEMBER'S AREA?

The member's area of the OBARC website is being developed to provide useful tools to our members. Currently there is:

- Club Documents
- Swap and Shop Postings (You decide if yours is just for members or the public)
- A "Ask for help/Questions" area to post questions to other members for assistance.
- A members directory for those who want to be listed.

Take a look. Suggestions are welcome! You can request access to the area by going to: [www.obarc.org/members](http://www.obarc.org/members)

## SWAP & SHOP

The new Swap & Shop section is now available in the Members area of the website. In the very near future you will also be able to control your listings and keep them available for the members or have them listed on the public website.

*We will also be happy to list any items you would like here in the newsletter. Just send your listings to [n2rpq@arrl.net](mailto:n2rpq@arrl.net) and I will make sure that they are added here.*

## OUR MEMBERS

- Happy belated birthday to Frank Piccolo—Feb 12th
- Happy Birthday to Ross Lambert—March 27th



## NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SECTION...



### OCEAN COUNTY ARES® - MARCH 2021

By Robert J Murdock Sr, WX2NJ—Coordinator

On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, there was a Zoom Meeting of Ocean County ARES attended by about a dozen operators. Thanks for taking the time to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, WX2NJ had numerous technical problems with Power Points and Zoom working together and resulted in his PC locking up several times. The Power Points presentation had to be abandoned for the remainder of the meeting.

One of the items being covered was an award presented to Bob Bruno, N2NF, for his support of Ocean County ARES during many repeater and digipeater installations. Due to Covid restrictions, the presentation could not be public. The picture (right) is the award presented to N2NF from WX2NJ in early February

The instrument is a precision barometer from Downeaster Wind and Weather in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Bob was very appreciative of the award and will be displaying it in his ham shack. Congratulations to N2NF!



The next VE Session of Ocean County ARES will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, Ocean County EOC. Appointments are required by contacting John – N2LD. Covid precautions will be followed including masks for all participants.



145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R

Photo By WX2NJ

The 145.170 MHz repeater has been added back into the Ocean County ARES toolbox and is back in the lineup of weekly Wednesday training nets. The schedule is as follows:

First Wednesday of the month, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R at 8:30 PM ARES Voice Net with Echolink.

Second Wednesday of the month, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, 8:00 PM Skywarn Net and 8:30 PM ARES Voice Net. No Echolink.

Third Wednesday of the month, 449.825 MHz, WA2RES/R at 8:30 PM ARES Voice Net with Echolink.



No nets will be held on Meeting nights, either Zoom or in person.

Skywarn activations will most likely have nets on VHF, 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R due to extended coverage into the southern part of the county.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC



## OCEAN COUNTY SKYWARN®

By Mike White, K2MDW—Coordinator

As everyone knows, February has been very busy weather wise and the Ocean County Skywarn members have also been very busy.

Since February first, there have been 81 posts to the Group.io system, reporting weather updates and location weather conditions reports. Members who reported weather conditions on the Group.io: K2HVE, KD2DLY, KD2FFR, N2QXB, N2RPQ, N2XW, WB2ALJ and Colleen Clayton, Spotter ID; OCNJ-098

There have been (6) Special Weather Reporting Nets, held on 145.170 (NORTH 2) ; the following members contributed to these nets; AB2ZN, KC2MTA, K2REM, KD2FFR, KC2SPK, K2JSS, KD2DLY, N2LD, N2XW, N2HYG, N2RPQ, W2PTZ, WB2ALJ, WX2NJ.

I would like to thank all the members who contributed to Ocean County Skywarn reporting service. I have been told that we were the most active in Southern New Jersey.

If at all possible, any members on or close to the barrier Island areas of Ocean County, your input and reports would greatly be appreciated.

All the reports were forwarded to the National Weather Service in Mt Holly.

73

K2MDW



**Southern NJ Section News March 2021**  
**Tom Preiser N2XW SNJ Section Manager**  
**n2xw@arrl.org**

By now most the snow has gone and I don't think there will be much more. Spring is just around the corner. With that there are many online Hamfests coming up with a lot of educational Forums.

Recently there was the Orlando Hamcation that was all virtual. Dave Minister NA2AA, the ARRL CEO, spoke there along with Paul Gilbert KE5ZW the ARRL Director of Emergency Operations.

Dave NA2AA spoke about some of the upcoming changes that are coming for the ARRL. First, he talked about the Digital Transformation of the ARRL. The ARRL will be increasing their YouTube videos, and the Learning Center is going to have a new look come the spring or summer. There will also be new videos on licensing coming out. The ARRL will be ramping up the Field Services Working Group this spring. He wants to get members more involved and highlight members activities. In his five-year strategy he talked about creating more projects for members to participate in. Dave wants members to be more active on the radio. He also wants Amateur Radio Operators to be more active in their communities. The ARRL is also encouraging those operators who are not members of the ARRL to join as new benefits are being planned. Dave will be speaking again at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on March 12, 2021. [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com)

Paul Gilbert KE5ZW spoke briefly on what is going on with Amateur Radio and Emergency Services. He encouraged ARES Members to take FEMA Courses as well as AUXCOM, COMT and COML if they are available to them. He also encouraged operators to become familiar with the local

*Continued on next page*

public and emergency service radio systems and how they work. Many operators have been asked to assist in using these systems. As many of you know, ARES Connect will end as of June of this year.

The COMM Academy is being held April 10 and 11, 2021. The annual event has continued to evolve by presenting keynotes and seminar tracks that engage beginners, intermediate and advanced users in technologies, served agency support, volunteer management, self-preparedness, and how volunteer and professional communications are used, adapted and improved. Additional opportunities including a select group of Vendor and Sponsors exhibiting capabilities and the Communications and Interoperability vehicle display have also been added.

This annual event has always focused on education for communications leaders, volunteers, and professionals. A name change seemed to be in order reflecting the new approach with the website. The Communications Academy will now be known as **The Comm Academy**.

The theme for 2021 is: **Disasters Here, There and Everywhere – Are We Ready?** [https://  
www.commacademy.org/home](https://www.commacademy.org/home)

Many clubs in our section are remain active with Zoom meetings. The Holiday City ARC had a presentation about Antenna Types by Larry Puccio K2QDY. Recently the Gloucester County ARC held a Fox Hunt in which eleven of their members took part. The South Jersey DX Association held a mini contest for its members to make at least one DX contact a day for 15 days. The South Jersey Radio Association continues to work on relocating their remote station to the Deer Park Fire Co. in Cherry Hill. The Fire Company has allowed them to use some space in the Firehouse. The Burlington County Radio Club has started the BCRC Challenge. In this challenge club members must work at least 3 stations in each state QSO party. The contacts are submitted to the club. Whoever works the greatest number of QSO parties will be the winner.

Please let me know what activities your club or organization is doing. A big thank you to all the clubs who share their newsletter with me. Remember to please take some time to get on the air even if its only once a day.

## WHO IS OLD BARNEY?

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) was established in 1975 by a diverse group of individuals with a common goal of promoting Amateur Radio.

Today the group continues towards making the amateur radio hobby rewarding through participation in several events throughout the year, training sessions, VE testing and monthly meetings.

Our meetings are held at the [Ocean Acres Community Center](#), 489 Nautilus Blvd, Manahawkin, NJ 08050\*, beginning at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except holidays). We welcome anyone (licensed or not) to come and meet with us to learn more about amateur radio.

**\* DUE TO COVID-19 MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD VIA ZOOM.**

## SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The newsletter is open to anyone who would like to submit articles. Please join me in contributing to content and share the knowledge you have about our hobby with all our readers.

Presentations are also welcomed. We try to host a presentation at each monthly meeting covering different topics. We would even welcome "special" sessions via Zoom for presentations that are too long to host at a meeting.

Please contact me at [n2rpg@arrl.net](mailto:n2rpg@arrl.net) with any articles or to arrange a presentation.

## THE OLD BARNEY RADIO CLUB IS ARRL AFFILIATED



Old Barney Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 117  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

E-mail: [n2ob@arrl.net](mailto:n2ob@arrl.net)

Visit the ARRL at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

