

The Old Barney Beacon

SO I HAVE MY LICENSE, NOW WHAT?

WRAP-UP (STILL MORE TO COME)

SERIES CONCLUSION—RICK KENNARD, N2RPQ

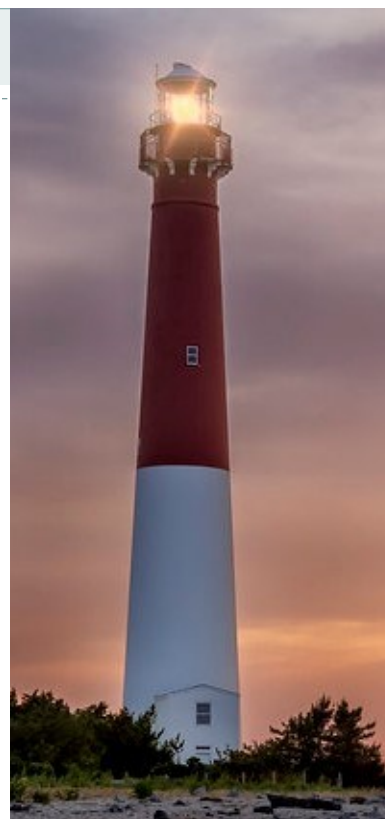
So you have your license and hopefully you have learned more about all the avenues that can be taken in amateur radio. We have touched upon the several methods of communication that our hobby uses. We have by no means touched on everything that can be done with amateur radio. There is so much out there. I find I still learn new ideas and concepts every day.

This series was just to stimulate your process of deciding which way to go first. I encourage all of you that once you have gotten settled with a type of or mode of communication to take another step and go on farther. Start looking for the next thing to pursue.

I am so happy that you took the first step to a wonderful hobby by getting licensed.

I hope the authors of this series have truly given you valuable information and encouraged you to keep going. There is “just so much more to come!”

It's up to you know but know you are not alone. One of the best things about amateur radio is the operators and the vast knowledge that exists amongst them. If you need are stuck or want more insight into a part of the hobby just ask. Each one of us had to learn also and sharing that knowledge is the main part of keeping that tradition going!



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OCTOBER'S CHINESE AUCTION

The October meeting is always a fun time where we bring items we no longer want or need to participate in our Chinese auction.

How does it work?

Bring your items to the meeting and put them on the table. A bag will be supplied to receive bids (tickets).

You can have 1 item per bag or a group of items.

Tickets are sold and you can place one or more in a bag for each item. Once all the "bidding" has finished we will pick a ticket out of each bag and the winner get those items.

NOTE: There will be a brief business meeting prior to the ticket drawings.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the Stafford Community Center.

VE CORNER

A VE session was held on 9/1. There was one candidate who earned his extra class ticket.

VE sessions are held Wed nights before the meeting at the community center at 6pm.

If you are looking to upgrade your license or you know someone who needs a session please contact Rick at n2rpg@arrl.net.

ARE YOU REALLY READY SHOULD AN EMERGENCY HAPPEN? DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?

Do you have a plan? I'm not talking about where you are taking you amateur radios to set up communications. I'm talking about a plan for you and your family.

There are a lot of amateur radio operators who are prepared to jump in at times of an emergency and help get those communications through. Some members may be part of emergency response teams. Others may just be members of a club who has pledge help to a local agency should their communication abilities become overloaded. We may have to respond during the event itself, while it is still progressing.

Think about what would happen if we left our house to respond to an event and something changes that can now compromise house and/or our families safety. They have to leave. Do you know where you can reach them? Does your family know where to go if they can't get ahold of you and they have to make that split second decision?

No matter what line of emergency service you may be in, whether you are responding in a professional capacity or you are responding as a volunteer, there is one rule we all need to remember. When it comes to an emergency your #1 priority has to be you and your family. We are no good to anyone if we can't get out safely, respond safely, or have to worry about our loved ones doing the same. We need our minds at ease that we planned for this. We practiced the plan and we know where we should find those we love.

Emergency plans should be part of every household. Not even for those who respond but for everyone. We can help get that word out also. We can teach people what they should prepare for.

A couple of examples:

Have places (yes more than one) that your family should go to depending on the situation. Prioritize them. If they can't get to place #1 then where is the next place. Put this in writing. Have contact information. Know how to find them.

Have a list of what absolutely has to go with you and your family if you have to leave. Prepare a mini "go-kit" of essentials.

Know where your pets will go. After all they are part of the family and they need to be cared for also.

Know how to shut down your house to make it safe while you are gone.

These are just some of the things we need to consider. Once we have the plan the next step is making sure everyone knows it ahead of time.

I hope maybe I got you thinking about it. Now over the next couple of months I want to dig deeper into this topic. Let's prepare plans for ourselves and our families. I will be the first to admit I'm not fully up to speed with this also.

I will research and present various ideas and learned lessons. I also invite others to offer up suggestions and articles. Let's make this a priority. Our safety may depend on it.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is summer really over?
Where did it go? If you
were like me there was
so much going on it
went so fast.

Until next month...

N2RPQ

2021 ARRL CONTESTS

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

GLOUCESTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SUFFERS DAMAGE HURRICANE IDA

The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, W2MMD, on September 1st 2021, suffered extensive damage to two of its towers and multiple antennas, during a EF3 tornado spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Many nearby homes and several farms were severely damaged or destroyed. The W2MMD club station building, a 14x70 mobile home, miraculously was undamaged despite being directly in the path of the twister, and the radio equipment remained safe and dry, but is unusable now without the towers and antennas.



The GCARC was founded in 1959, and has been an ARRL affiliated club since its founding. The club is one of the most active general interest ham clubs in the region, and has about 150 members. We are heavily involved in education and community service, and operate 3 repeaters and a very popular SATNOGS station. Our HF station is, or was, completely remote controllable including antenna rotation and legal limit power. The station in its current form was the dream project of many club members past and present, and has taken some 40 years to build, as time and funds permitted.

In order to rebuild the antenna systems promptly and get the station back on the air as quickly as possible, we will need more funds than we have available at this time. We are therefore appealing to our fellow hams, friends, family, and community to help us in any way that you can. Your donation, no matter how small, will get us back on the air, serving our community and helping friends around the world with vital HF and VHF communications.

Please see our GoFundMe page under the heading of "Rebuilding Club Station W2MMD" and donate there, or visit our web site at W2MMD.org, and click on the link. You may also send a check or money order to P.O. Box 370, Pitman NJ 08071. Thanks and "73" from W2MMD!

DESPITE DAMAGE GLOUCESTER STILL HOSTS HAMFEST AND SNJ SECTION CONFERENCE

Despite the damage to their antenna systems Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, W2MMD, was still able to host the annual hamfest and section conference on September 12th.

This year's event hosted many different sellers with all types of equipment. It was good to have the hamfest back in full swing after so many were cancelled over the past year.

Several members from Old Barney were at the event this year.

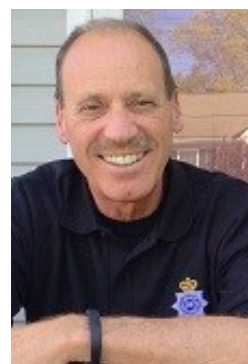
In addition to the normal selling of "toys," this event also hosts the annual conference with different presentations. On hand this year were Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, Atlantic Division Director, and Bob Famiglio, K3RF, Atlantic Division Vice Director. Tom and Bob hosted an information session on the ARRL's current direction and things to come. Tom also discussed the benefits members of the ARRL receive each year. Also speaking during the session was Tom Preiser, N2XW, who offered a welcome to everyone from the SNJ section.



Tom Abernethy, W3TOM



Bob Famiglio, K3RF



Tom Preiser, N2XW

SNJ ANNUAL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET) TO BE HELD

Every year members of the Southern NJ section's ARES/RACES teams conduct a simulated emergency test to test out their abilities to provide communications when the emergency comes. Each year a scenario is created that the teams will "respond" to. During this activity several different frequencies and modes of communication in order to pass traffic both locally and across county borders.

This year the SET will be held on Saturday, October 2nd from approximately 8am—12noon. If you want to listen in check the local ARES frequencies and you will most likely find the action. Please remember this is a simulated emergency so please do not join in on any conversations unless you are an official part of the activity.

"Optimism is the one quality more associated with success and happiness than any other." - **Brian Tracy**

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 Tom Preiser, N2XW at n2xw@arrl.net.

Old Barney would like to thank the 835 users group for allowing us to use the WU2E repeater to host our club nets.

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 Website: 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)

1160 Thompson Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

https://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs/Old_Barney-Products/10000170



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 & Meeting Minutes
- 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

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 and I will make sure that they are added here.

OUR MEMBERS

Welcome to Our New Members:

- Ed Mears, N2EDM

October Birthdays:

- 10/8—John Henderson
- 10/27—Robert Switzer

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SECTION...



OCEAN COUNTY ARES® OCTOBER 2021

The tower and linear amplifier listed last month have been sold with proceeds going to the treasury of Ocean County ARES. Thank you to all that assisted in the sale.

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be via Zoom and not in person, on October 20th at 7:00 PM. Zoom connection info will be sent out a day or two before the meeting.

Thank You to the operators who provided communications support for the 2021 Habitat for Humanity Walk on the Lavallette boardwalk on Saturday, September 18. Mike, K2MDW, was Net Control with operators N2XW, WB2ALJ, N2LD, KD2FFR and KC2SBR strung along the walk. The event was incident free.

On Monday, September 13th, WX2NJ and K2MDW installed a VARA FM Digipeater at the Berkeley Township Police Tower. It shares the same antenna as the D-Star repeater, with the D-Star being UHF and the VARA FM being VHF. Both can operate at the same time thanks to duplexer technology. The digipeater carries the callsign WA2RES-15 on a frequency of 145.010 MHz. It accepts Narrow or Wide mode VARA FM and has a Tactical ID of WA2RES-15.

It supports all VARA FM sessions including Winlink Express Vara FM, Winlink Express Vara FM P2P, Winlink Express Vara FM Radio Only and Vara FM Chat.

The digipeater consists of an Alinco DR-135TMKII Transceiver operating in the 9600 baud digital mode on high power, A Masters Communications DRA-45 Digital Radio Adapter and a Lenovo mini PC running Windows 10 Pro. The PC is configured to run with no Internet, no updates and bare bones background apps. It automatically reboots once a week to clear any accumulated memory.

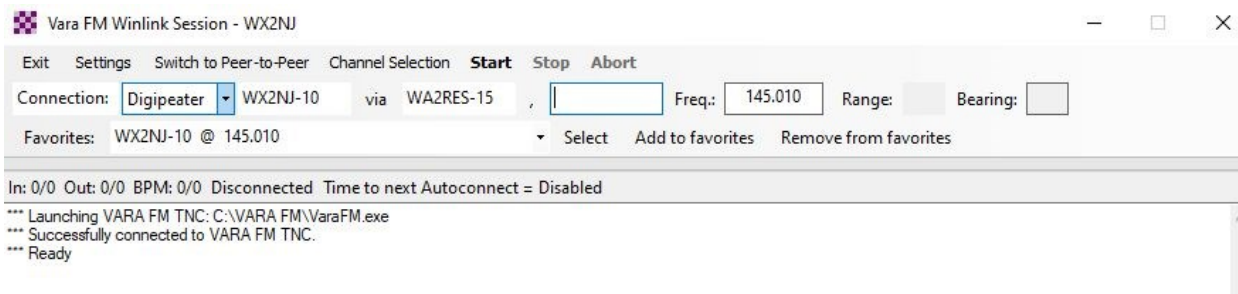


Berkeley Twp VARA FM Digipeater—Photo by K2MDW

The Digipeater allows Winlink Express users to connect to an RMS Gateway to pick up and drop off Winlink mail. Currently the only RMS Gateway in Ocean County is WX2NJ-10 in Bayville and the digipeater allows a good portion of the county to access the gateway.

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The Digipeater also allows direct connection of two stations to transfer Winlink mail or chat directly.



VARA FM Winlink Session Screen for Digipeater

The screen picture above shows how to properly enter the callsigns to connect to the gateway via the digipeater. Vara FM is part of the Vara software suite that includes Vara HF, Vara FM and Vara Chat. Registered users are not limited to speed and can also act as a digipeater. The goal is to get every Ocean County ARES operator up to speed using Winlink Express for message handling since it is the preferred software of the Red Cross.

There will be a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) of all SNJ ARES counties on October 2nd. All Ocean County ARES resources will be used during the test and it is requested that non-participating operators keep clear of repeaters and listed frequencies the day of October 2nd.

The Ocean County ARES frequency plan can be found at: <http://www.wa2res.com/frequencies.html>



Southern NJ Section News October 2021

Tom Preiser N2XW SNJ Section Manager

n2xw@arrl.org

It was great to meet many people at the Gloucester County Hamfest/SNJ Convention. I would like to thank the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club for putting on another great event. There were many compliments received by many of the attendees. The turnout was good despite the tornado from the week prior. Thanks again to everyone at Gloucester County ARC for your hard work.

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The ARRL has begun conducting monthly online meetings for Section Managers. This usually takes place at the end of the month and after I have written the Section News. ARRL members should keep an eye out for updated information via email for the latest ARRL news updates.

I hope many of you were able to participate in the NJ QSO Party. I did hear that there were quite a few stations on the air. Some people were reporting some pretty high scores. We will have to see what the results show. Thanks to the Burlington County Radio Club for sponsoring this event.

For anyone interested the 2021 Virtual National Hurricane Conference Amateur Radio Workshop that was held on Tuesday June 15th, 2021 is posted on YouTube. It can be seen at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ecZRKVgIG0>

In the interest of time to get this posted on YouTube since it has been several months since the conference, it is one long workshop video of 4 hours and 8 minutes but in the description of the video, they provide the rough start time for each of the workshop topics. It should be useful to anyone in the coastal areas that are threatened by tropical systems each year.

Registration Opens for USA Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2021 USA and IARU Region 2 Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), set for October 13 – 17. Competition venues will be near Asheboro, North Carolina. Postponed from 2020, these championships will be conducted in accordance with CDC COVID-19 guidelines.

“The USA ARDF Championships are an ideal opportunity to watch and learn from the best radio-orientees in the US,” said ARRL ARDF Co-coordinator Charles Scharlau, NZ0I. “Winners who qualify by citizenship or residence may be selected for positions on ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Serbia for the 2022 ARDF World Championships.”

Check this website for more information: <https://backwoodsok.org/us-2021-ardf-champs-bulletin-one>

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 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

Visit the ARRL at www.arrl.org

