



SCARS

Sampson County Amateur Radio Services

Vol. 1 Issue 1

Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

2025 Club Officials

President

Wayne Carpus

W2ZDP

sparks4151@aol.com

Vice-President

John Huitt

KN4UFH

jhuitt@intrstar.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Lawton Eure

WR4FT

leure@intrstar.net

Recorder

Lee Jackson

K4TKW

rocketblaster92@gmail.com

W4TLP Trustee

Devin McLamb

KM4QAX

Social Media Director

Linda Jackson

W4CMW

Social Media Asst. Director

Lee Jackson

K4TKW

SCARS 2 Meter Net

146.79 Nightly @ 7 p.m

Net Control Operators

Wayne Carpus

W2ZDP

John Huitt

KN4UFH

Lee Jackson

K4TKW

Donald Baldwin

KO4IHM

Devin McLamb

KM4QAX

Website

www.sampsoncountyarars.com

FB Group

[Sampson County Amateur Radio Services - \(SCARS\)](#)

Instagram

[@W4TLP](#)

Ho! Ho! Ho!



The Sampson County Amateur Radio Services held their 1st Annual Christmas Party on December 7th at Ted's Steakhouse in Clinton. Approximately 20 members and their guests were in attendance. The event was beautifully decorated in a red, gold, and white Christmas theme with lots of goodies for all in attendance.

Lee-K4TKW had Christmas cards for everyone, while Linda-W4CMW brought goodie bags full of Christmas candy for all to take home and Carla-W4CGT made some gorgeous red and white cupcakes that were out of this world delicious. There were also handmade Christmas ornaments for all the club members, to commemorate the club's 1st Annual Christmas Party.



SCARS President, Wayne-W2ZDP, delivered the blessing of our meal and then everyone enjoyed some great food and fellowship. After the meal, we played the "left, right" game, with Carla reading a Christmas Eve story that included SCARS club officers. It was hilarious! Winners of the game received prizes including a couple of gag gifts.

Afterwards, names were drawn for the door prizes, which included a Baofeng HT, an Innovato Ham Clock, an ARRL Operating Manual, and various gift cards. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to continuing the SCARS Annual Christmas Party for years to come!

SCARS monthly meetings are held the

2nd Saturday of every month

Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church

201 Fayetteville St., Clinton, NC

10 a.m.

Come Join Us!

Bring a Friend!

From the President's Corner...

Happy New Year to ALL !

Wayne Carpus
W2ZDP



With the change of the calendar, many of us make resolutions to do things differently in the months ahead, like changing our diet or "working out" more. Like myself, most of us revert back to our old habits in short order.

As a radio club, let all of us try to be more "Radio Active" and there are lots of ways to do this. As many of you already do, attend club meetings. It's a great way to visit with old friends "Face to Face". Also try participating in a contest that interests you, my personal favorites are the VHF and RTTY contests. I personally have placed quite high in several of them, but you don't need to spend the whole contest time on the air, just get on for a few hours, make some contacts and most importantly, have some fun.

I also participate in the North Carolina QSO party, this is a lot of fun and I placed third in the state two years ago. This year, Linda has proposed that we have a competition amongst ourselves in the NC QSO party. Just get on the air, make a bunch of contacts and when the results are tabulated, we'll see where we stand against each other.

Also, don't forget about Field Day. Each year we gather with the Wayne County club and the Kinston club for a "Tri-Club" effort in Goldsboro. Come out, meet some old friends, make some new friends and most of all have fun.

Let's all resolve, myself included, to be more "Radio Active" in 2025. We have welcomed many new members this past year, let's all get together, individually and as a group and put a new spark into our ham radio enjoyment. - Wayne

Public Service Practice

SCARS does not have a December monthly meeting due to the Clinton Christmas Parade being on the same day and making it difficult to get to our meeting place. The club decided (sort of last minute) to use the parade to its advantage as a training exercise for working a public service event, which SCARS has never done before. What a great experience it was! Three SCARS members participated in the exercise: Wayne (W2ZDP), Lee (K4TKW), Linda (KQ4MZZ), and one brand new ham Carla (W4CGT). There was a brief meeting with Wayne right before the parade to set up the frequency we would be transmitting on and then everyone positioned themselves at different points along the parade route.

We wanted to see if we could work this event using a VHF simplex frequency with our handhelds and not use the local repeater. It was a success! Everyone was coming in loud and clear and all gave updates as the parade progressed along the route. This was a great experience working as a team on the radio. We hope to do more in the Public Service area in an official capacity in the future.

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Newsletter

Submissions

SCARS is the official newsletter of the Sampson County Amateur Radio Services. It is published monthly and emailed to all club members.

SCARS welcomes articles, photos and other contributions from members and non-members.

Please email submissions to:
scarsnewsletter@gmail.com

Upcoming Club Activities/Events

January 11 = Monthly Meeting

Presentation by Wayne Carpus (W2ZDP)

Topic: Antennas

January 25,26 - Winter Field Day

Saturday 11 am - Sunday 5pm

Email with details & location sent to all club members

February 8 - Monthly Meeting

Guest Speakers

Jeremy Gilchrist (KN4JUY)

Hector Gonzales (KB4LOA)

Topic: Contesting

Jeremy and Hector, members of CFARS in Fayetteville, will be coming to our February monthly meeting to give an exciting presentation on contesting.

February 23 - NC QSO Party

Each club member will work the NC QSO Party from the comfort of their home. Certificates will be awarded from SCARS to the high scorers among our club members.

2025 Club Officers



SCARS held club elections at the October monthly meeting for the 2025 Club Officers. It was voted by members in attendance to keep the current club officers.

They are from left to right:

President: Wayne Carpus-W2ZDP

Vice President: John Huitt-KN4UFH

Recorder: Lee Jackson-K4TKW

Secretary/Treasurer: Lawton Eure-WR4FT

Membership Dues

SCARS club membership dues are due and payable in January each year. Yearly dues are \$30 for an individual or family.

Program Ideas

What are you interested in?

What would you like to learn more about?

OR

What do you have experience with and can share with others?

We Want To Hear From You!

Submit your program ideas to:

scarsnewsletter@gmail.com

VE Team ???

SCARS would like to get a VE Team together in order to offer testing right here in Sampson County. Currently we have 2 VE's however we need 3 in order to offer testing. There is no license testing being offered in Sampson County at this time. People have to travel out of county in order to test for or upgrade their license. Offering testing here could get more people interested in ham radio and potentially boost the club membership also.

Becoming a VE is relatively simple. Review the examiner's manual, take a 40 question open book exam and then submit the paperwork. And, it is free. You must hold a general class or higher license and you must have a license higher than the license class you are testing. If you are interested in helping out in this area or want more information please contact SCARS President, Wayne Carpus at: sparks4151@aol.com



Let's Make This Happen!

Club Calendar

- Jan, 11** - Monthly Meeting
Antenna Presentation
- Jan. 25-26** - Winter Field Day
- Feb. 8** - Monthly Meeting
Guest Speakers
Topic-Contesting
- Feb. 23** - NC QSO Party Competition
- Mar, 8** - Monthly Meeting
- Apr, 12** - Monthly Meeting
- May 10** - Monthly Meeting
- Jun, 14** - Monthly Meeting
- Jun, 28-29** Field Day
- Jul, 12** - Monthly Meeting
- Aug, 9** - Monthly Meeting
- Sep. 13** - Monthly Meeting
- Oct, 11** - Monthly Meeting
Club Officer Elections
- Nov, 8** - Monthly Meeting
- Dec, 6** - SCARS Annual Christmas Party
- Dec, 13** - NO MEETING
(Due to Christmas Parade)

The History of Contesting



Amateur radio contesting, often referred to as “radiosport,” is a competitive activity that involves amateur radio operators (hams) attempting to make the most contacts with other hams within a specified period. The origins of amateur radio contesting are deeply intertwined with the history of radio communication itself, and over the decades, it has evolved into a highly organized and widely participated global activity. This article delves into the rich history of amateur radio contesting, highlighting its key milestones and developments.

Early Beginnings

The roots of amateur radio contesting can be traced back to the early 20th century. As radio technology advanced, amateur radio operators began experimenting with long-distance communication, or “DXing.” The term “DX” is derived from telegraphy shorthand for “distance.” Initially, these experiments were informal and primarily focused on pushing the boundaries of how far a signal could travel.

In the 1920s, as amateur radio gained popularity, organized contests began to take shape. The first recorded contest is believed to have been held in 1921, organized by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). This early contest, known as the ARRL Transatlantic Test, aimed to establish two-way communication between amateur radio stations in North America and Europe. The success of these tests demonstrated the potential of amateur radio and laid the groundwork for future contests.

The 1930s: Formalization of Contesting

The 1930s saw the formalization of amateur radio contesting, with standardized rules and regulations being established. The ARRL played a significant role in this development by organizing more structured contests with clear objectives and scoring systems. One of the most notable contests from this era is the ARRL International DX Contest, which began in 1932. This contest encouraged hams to contact as many stations as possible outside their own country, promoting international communication and goodwill.

In Europe, similar developments were taking place. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded in 1925, and by the 1930s, it was organizing international contests. The IARU HF World Championship, first held in 1935, remains one of the most prestigious contests in the amateur radio calendar.

Post-War Growth and Technological Advances

The end of World War II marked a significant turning point for amateur radio contesting. The post-war period saw a surge in interest in amateur radio as surplus military equipment became available to civilians. This influx of equipment, combined with advances in radio technology, such as the development of single-sideband (SSB) modulation, transformed the landscape of amateur radio contesting.

During the 1950s and 1960s, contesting grew in popularity, with new contests being established and existing ones expanding. The introduction of the CQ World Wide DX Contest in 1948 by CQ magazine was a major milestone. This contest quickly became the largest and most competitive in the world, attracting participants from every continent.

Technological advancements also played a crucial role in shaping the contesting scene. The development of more efficient transceivers, directional antennas, and computer logging software allowed hams to operate more effectively and make more contacts. The advent of the internet further revolutionized contesting by enabling real-time score reporting and coordination among testers.

The Golden Age of Contesting: 1970s to 1990s

The period from the 1970s to the 1990s is often regarded as the golden age of amateur radio contesting. During these decades, contesting experienced unprecedented growth in terms of participation, technological innovation, and international collaboration.

One of the key developments of this era was the establishment of multi-operator categories, allowing teams of hams to work together and operate from a single station. This innovation led to the creation of "superstations," equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and large antenna arrays. These superstations set new standards for performance and competitiveness in contests.

Contesting also benefited from the rise of digital modes. The introduction of RTTY (Radio Teletype) contesting in the 1980s added a new dimension to the hobby, allowing hams to make contacts using digital signals. This was followed by the development of other digital modes, such as PSK31 and FT8, which further expanded the possibilities for contesting.

Modern Contesting: The Digital Revolution

The turn of the 21st century brought about the digital revolution, profoundly impacting amateur radio contesting. The widespread adoption of computers and the internet transformed how contests were conducted, logged, and adjudicated.

One of the most significant developments was the introduction of computer-assisted contesting. Logging software became more sophisticated, allowing for automated scoring, real-time logging, and integration with other digital tools. Contest logging programs, such as N1MM Logger and Win-Test, became essential tools for serious contesters.

The internet facilitated real-time score reporting, enabling participants to track their progress and compare scores with others during the contest. Websites like Contest Online Scoreboard and real-time chat platforms became integral parts of the contesting experience, fostering a sense of community and competition among participants.

Digital modes continued to evolve, with the introduction of FT8 by Joe Taylor, K1JT, in 2017 being a game-changer. FT8, a weak-signal mode, allowed hams to make contacts under challenging conditions, such as low power and poor propagation. FT8 contesting quickly gained popularity, with dedicated contests and categories being established.

The Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in 2019, had a significant impact on amateur radio contesting. With many hams confined to their homes due to lockdowns and social distancing measures, contesting provided a vital outlet for social interaction and engagement. Participation in contests surged, with record numbers of entries in many events.

The pandemic also accelerated the adoption of remote contesting, where operators could participate in contests from remote locations using internet-connected stations. Remote contesting offered new opportunities for hams who might not have access to high-quality stations, further democratizing the hobby.

The Future of Contesting

As we look to the future, amateur radio contesting continues to evolve and adapt to new technologies and challenges. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning into contesting software is an exciting development, with the potential to enhance performance and efficiency.

Contesting organizations are also exploring ways to make contests more inclusive and accessible. Initiatives to promote youth participation, encourage diversity, and simplify entry requirements aim to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the hobby.

Source: [Hamjournal.org](https://www.hamjournal.org), July 12, 2024, Author: K3MRI Jim