



The Antenna

Hello Wilson Amateur Radio Club (WARC) members!

Welcome to the NEW QUARTERLY edition of The Antenna!

(Okay, if I am being honest here, doing one newsletter every month may have been a bit ambitious and I couldn't keep up. So, we are moving to quarterly.)

If you have an article or technical paper you would like to contribute, send it to me! Have you purchased some new gear and want to do a short review? Send it! Is there an upcoming contest or hamfest everyone should know about? Let me know! (My contact info is at the end of the newsletter)

Meet a Member

This will be a monthly spotlight on a club member.

This month's member is...ME! Chris DuBois, KQ4AET.

I figured I had tortured most of the other officers and now it's my turn!

I found my way into Ham Radio like lots of folks recently, during the pandemic. I had been preparedness minded since I retired from the Army in 2010 after a 20-year career in the Infantry and was looking for a way to potentially help the community around me. The tornado of 2020 and the Christmas bombing in Nashville solidified in my mind the need for alternate communications. I was watching YouTube channels like Fieldcraft Survival, and they had a guy named Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, from Ham Radio Crash Course YouTube channel on to discuss communications plans during emergencies. That led me to his channel and down the rabbit hole of Ham Radio.

I received my Tech License in 2022, the month before the test questions were about to be updated. Then studied and received my General a year later in 2023. Again, the month

before the test questions were updated. Then I knuckled down and studied for my Extra, getting my ticket in April 2024, just a few months prior to that question pool getting updated. (Nothing like waiting until the last minute, right?)

During all that testing I joined the club, and became active on the weekly nets, including the club's Thursday Net, W4EAO nets and meetings, and the Mt. Juliet Simplex Society's various nets.

Lately, I have been dabbling in QRP portable ops with limited success and made my first End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) with the help of fellow club member Glenn (W4BXR).

My wife gifted me a Soldering Iron set for my Birthday, so I figured it was time to build something on my own. I purchased an EFHW kit from YouTuber KM4ACK and built that by myself. It works well with my (tr)uSDX and, emboldened that build, I purchased a mini-microphone kit from K6ARK and successfully completed that to round out my QRP kit.

I activated my first POTA park at our 40th anniversary POTA picnic and did it QRP (Because I apparently do not like myself!).

Somewhere along the line I threw my hat in the ring to become the Public Information Officer for the club and after a long and hard campaign (running unopposed 😊) I was unanimously elected! LOL!

So now you get to read this Newsletter (When I get it out on time!) and you can blame me when the club website is wrong! 😊

I'd like to thank the members of this club for accepting me in and mentoring me in this fascinating hobby / service. There is still lots for me to learn, and I couldn't wish for a finer group of people with which to explore it!

Recent events

40th Anniversary POTA.

A small turn out and more antennae work than actual radio work happened with a few members



not having luck with the antennas they came with. There was plenty of food and it was generally a nice time. Quite a few folks stopped by to see what we were up to (some 4-legged visitors), and a few inactive hams may have been re-bitten by the bug!













2024 Field Day

ARRL field day for WARC was held at Lester Farms in Lebanon TN. The Lesters graciously hosted us, and we were set up adjacent to their Farm Stand under a semi-permanent tent. The mosquitoes were plenty and the heat was in full effect, but several of us made it out and few intrepid souls managed to stay the whole night. We had 13 people sign our visitor log and more than that stopped by to look and ask questions. Everyone who left an email address in the visitor's log was sent an email thanking them for stopping by and inviting them to a club meeting. I only have my photos and will include some below. Check out the BAND app for the Field Day album where others have shared their photos.



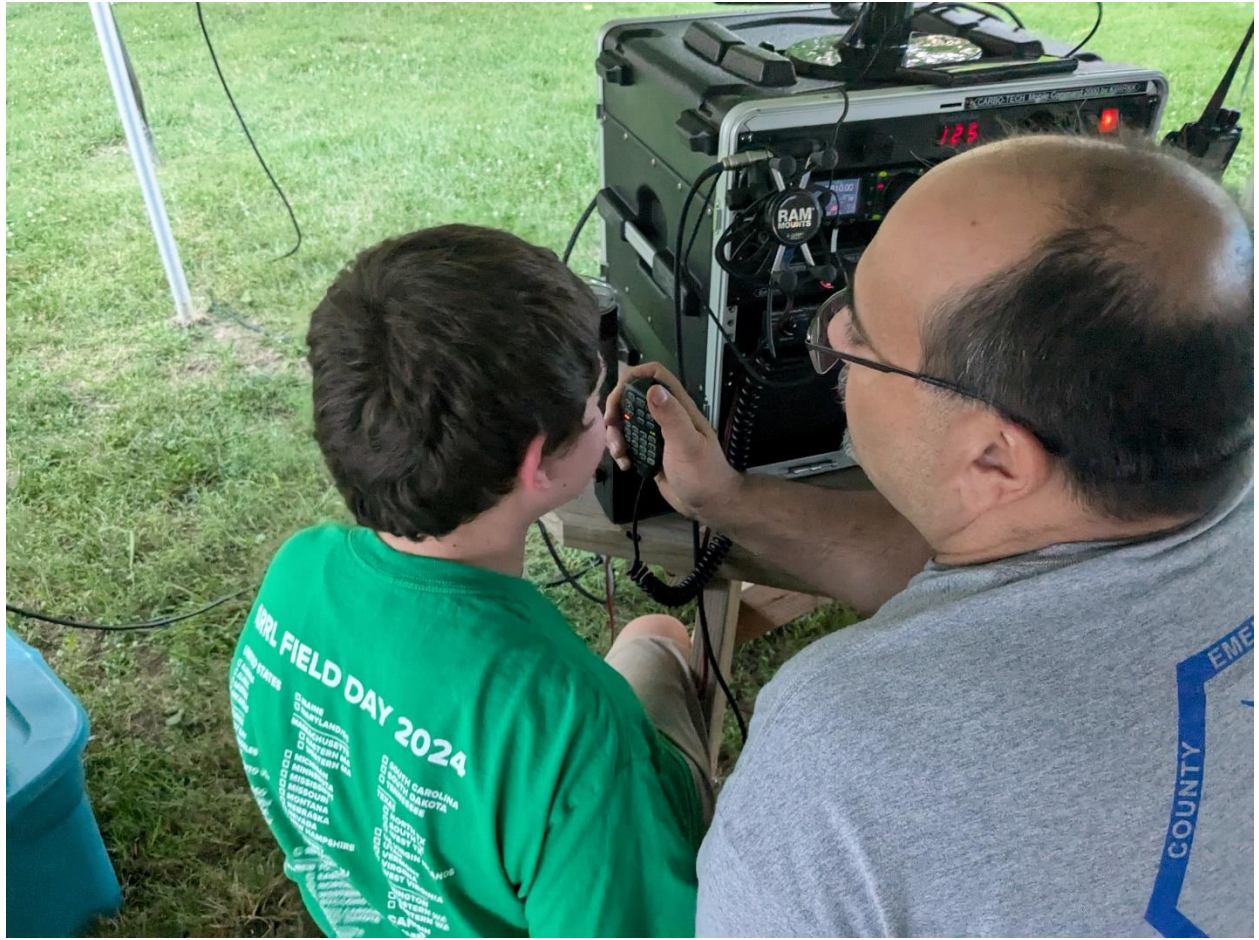




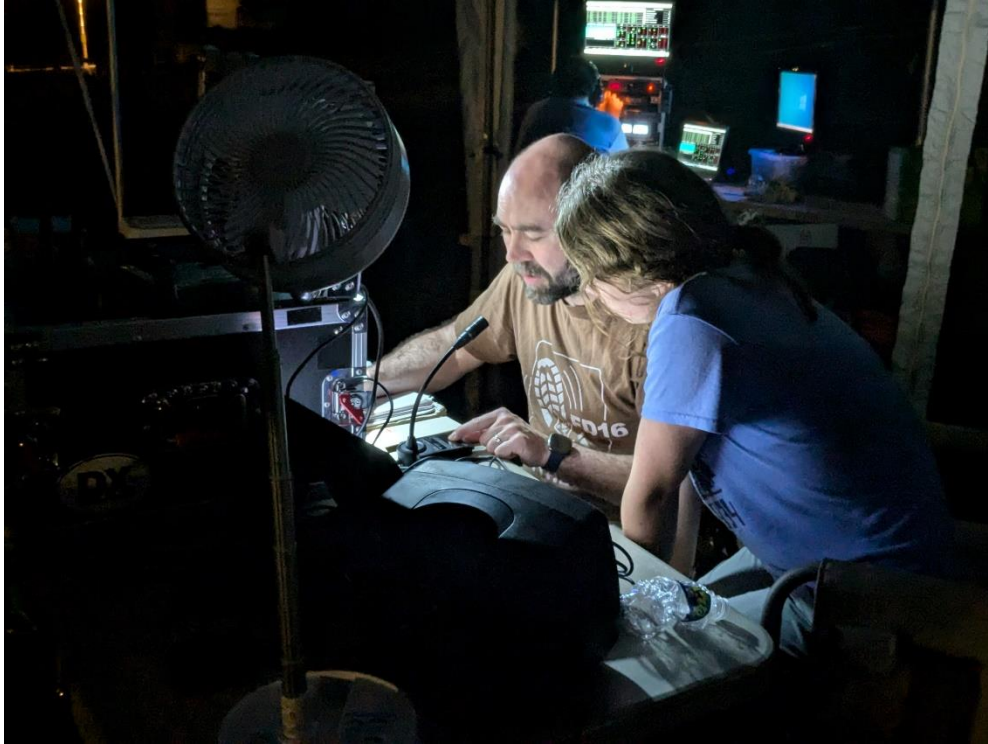












Upcoming Event Calendar:

Club Meetings

Club Meetings are held the first Saturday of every month. **That would make the next meeting September 7th, 2024.**

Meetings take place at 115 Oak Street, Lebanon, TN in the Wilson County EMA training center.

Testing for new Technician licenses, or license upgrades, is held at 4:30 PM at the above location. Pre-registration is not required; **walk-ins are welcome.**

Please Bring:

- \$15 Cash (testing fee)
- Your FRN number from the FCC's CORE System or a copy of your current FCC license if upgrading.
- One Government issued ID or two other forms of identification.

*Calculators may be used if the memories are erased. Devices such as cellphones, tablets, etc., may not be used.

Contests and Events:

For a good list of upcoming contests: [Contest Calendar](#)

Hamfests:

[Huntsville Hamfest](#) Aug, 17-18, Huntsville, Alabama

[Cedars Of Lebanon Hamfest](#) Aug 24th, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, TN

Know of any other upcoming hamfests we should all know about? Send me a link!

Featured Article

This section will include articles written by members of the club or suggested by members of the club. Articles could cover a range of topics, including recent club projects, technical tips, reviews, or other interesting topics related to amateur radio.

Interesting Article about the HF use in the war in Ukraine

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2024/06/13/the-russian-armys-best-long-range-radio-vehicles-bounce-signals-off-the-troposphere-somehow-ukrainian-commandos-hunted-one-down/>

Another good one on the Solar Cycle

https://www.onallbands.com/solar-cycle-25-update-what-hams-should-know/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0njql7pwhi4sbnzNwmmgXZuZy7Xg7OYy4Uo_CccS7ZA0LtHW1F8k5XYo_aem_zMMRDBLs9c6LjLOysi2tLA

Whose Shack is That!?

Last Edition's shack was Glenn Lees, W4BXR!



The owner of this shack will be revealed in next month's **Antenna**.

Ham Radio Resources

Random links to resources that you might find helpful.
Send suggestions for some of your favorites!

It was discussed recently that there is a EFHW build day in our future so...

[Link to the ARRL End Fed Half Wave Antenna Kit for future build day](#) \$79.95

[How to build the kit above.](#)

[QRP Guys. Low power stuff](#)

QRT

Thanks for reading and I am open to receiving feedback on this newsletter at the email address and subject line below.

PLEASE send submissions for interesting articles or reviews to be included in the next issue! I could use the help! Please use the email address and subject line below for submissions.
73!

Chris DuBois KQ4AET

WARC Public Information Officer (PIO)

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