

The Blue Ridge Echo

W4YK - OFFICIAL TRANSMITTER OF THE BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



FOR SALE

ITEM(S) FOR SALE

Our club members occasionally have a variety of items for sale, including ham radios, accessories, and computer equipment. Whether you're looking for an upgrade or just starting out, you'll find great deals on gear that's been well-maintained and loved by fellow hobbyists. Here is the current listing of items members have for sale or even Free! Find the "For Sale" Section on page 3 of this months ECHO Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Our Member Spotlight features a member of our amateur radio club. Each spotlight is an opportunity to share a personal glimpse about the member. It's an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the unique stories and experiences of our members, fostering a sense of connection and inspiration within our club. Currently, the member being featured is selected by random draw. If you would like to be featured in the spotlight, please send an email to: catiballard@gmail.com Find our member spotlight on page 4 of this months ECHO Newsletter

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Club Officers



BRARC CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2025

President: James Reed (KK4JFO)
Vice - President: Bill Gunn (KB2GUN)
Secretary: Cati Harris (W4AOT)
Treasurer: Paul Nice (KQ4ALD)
At Large Member: Martin Harris (W4FOT)
At Large Member: Steve Smith (KC5F)

The BRARC Club Officers/Steering committee provides direction, oversight and planning for BRARC. The Club Officers/Steering Committee work together to guide the planning, decision-making, and implementation of various activities, education, and events. We are dedicated to ensuring goals are aligned with the club objectives and bi-laws, planning events, resolving issues, and making decisions to keep the club moving forward in a positive manner.

TREASURER REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

Due to the late publishing of the ECHO for August, the report will be provided at the Sept 2025 BRARC Club Meeting.

FOR SALE

Our club members occasionally have a variety of items for sale, including ham radios, accessories, and computer equipment. Whether you're looking for an upgrade or just starting out, you'll find great deals on gear that's been well-maintained and loved by fellow hobbyists. Here is the current listing of items members have for sale or even Free! Explore the items below and connect with

John Johnson - KT4JJ

Item for sale:

Dual Band (VHF/UHF) J-Pole Antenna

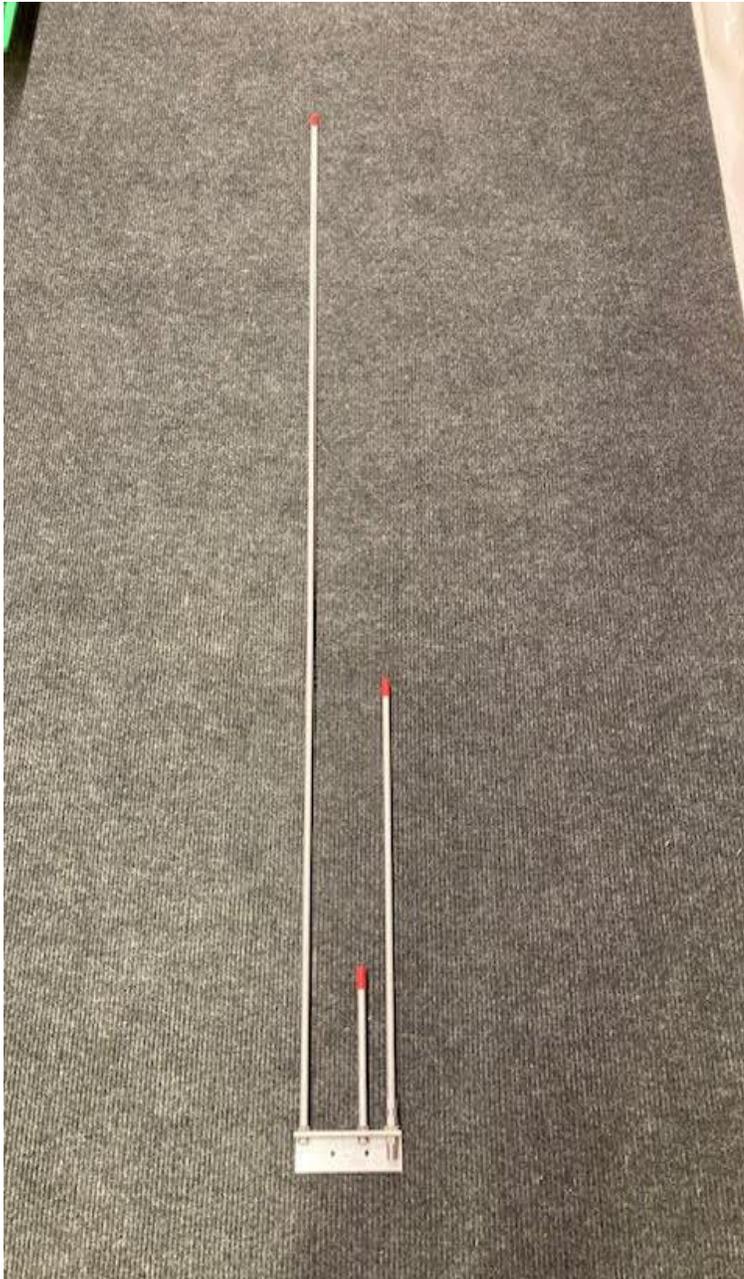
Price \$30.00

Contact Information:

Phone: 828-817-6434

Email:

john.johnson153@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Don Dessenberger – KF4FYM has multiple items for sale.

Note: Don Advised you can buy it all for \$700.00 or priced individually as listed. Additionally, Don stated any income over \$700.00 from the sale of the following items will be donated to ARPC – Asheville Rifle & Pistol club and BRARC – Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club!

ITEMS FOR SALE:

- Kikusui COSS100 Oscilloscope, W/manual & cables, 2 Channel, Time delay, like new. 100 Mhz
 - \$100.00
- 2 Signal Generators (1 RF, 1 Audio)
 - \$50.00 for Both
- Pyramid PS9KX power supply w/cigarette Socket
 - \$59.00
- MFJ-1022 Active Antenna
 - Antenna replaced by SO-239
 - \$75.00
- TIDRADIO dual-channel portable (VHF/UHF)
 - Includes: Spare battery & Charger, Manual Speaker Microphone, Belt clip Programming cable & S/W
 - \$150.00
- ALINCO DJ-MOS Portable (Digital VHF/UHF)
 - Includes: Spare battery & Charger, Manual, Speaker Microphone, Belt clip Programming cable & S/W.
 - \$200.00
- ANYTONE AT-778 Mobil
 - Includes: Programming S/W, programming cable, microphone, and manual
 - \$100.00
- UNIDEN Scanner, BC 560 XLT
 - Includes: power supply, 50-239 antenna adaptor, programming manual
 - Allows monitoring of ALL non-encrypted radio transmissions
 - \$40.00
- JUNTUNKOR HDPDVD-01 DVD Player 10.1" screen
 - Attaches to back of auto front seat, allows kids to watch DVD'S while in car
 - Manual Included
 - \$50.00
- DC Lighter Cable & Remote
 - \$50.00
- DELL 12105 Projector
 - Includes: W/5pare bulb
 - \$200.00

For more information or to purchase, please contact Don Dessenberger, KF4YFM
 Email: harleyfan@aol.com Phone: 828-696-6309



Field Day 2025

A NOTE OF THANKS FOR FIELD DAY 2025

On behalf of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club, we want to extend a heartfelt **thank you to all of our members** who participated in the 2025 ARRL Field Day. Your dedication, time, and enthusiasm made this year's event not only possible, but a true success.

A special word of gratitude goes to **James Reed**, whose leadership and organization as Field Day Manager kept everything running smoothly from setup to shutdown. We also extend our appreciation to the **Steering Committee members**, who worked behind the scenes to coordinate logistics, secure resources, and support operators throughout the weekend.

Together, our teamwork paid off — from strong on-air results to the camaraderie and fellowship that make Field Day such a highlight of our club calendar. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done and on another successful Field Day!

The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club proudly took part in the **2025 ARRL Field Day** and came away with strong results, reflecting both our operating skills and our commitment to safe, public-facing amateur radio.

SCORE SUMMARY

- **Class:** 3A (100 watts or less)
- **Total QSOs:** 752
 - CW: 587
 - Digital: 0
 - Phone: 165
- **Base Points:** 2,678
- **Claimed Bonuses:** 1,170
- **Total Claimed Score:** 3,848

For comparison:

- 2024 Total Score – 4,005
- 2023 Total Score – 4,610

While our overall number dipped slightly this year, the results show continued consistency in CW and strong operating across multiple bands.



Field Day 2025 Results

BAND & MODE BREAKDOWN

- **80m:** 52 CW, 15 Phone
- **40m:** 263 CW, 56 Phone
- **20m:** 176 CW, 94 Phone
- **15m:** 96 CW

Once again, CW carried most of our contacts, with 587 QSOs made via Morse code.

BONUS POINTS EARNED

We secured **1,170 bonus points** through a range of activities that demonstrate our club's outreach, preparedness, and safe practices:

- **100% Emergency Power** (2 transmitters) – 200 points
- **Media Publicity** – 100 points
- **Public Location** – 100 points
- **Public Information Table** – 100 points
- **Formal Message to ARRL SM/SEC** – 100 points
- **W1AW Field Day Message** – 100 points
- **Natural Power QSOs** – 100 points
- **Invited Agency Official Site Visit** – 100 points
- **Youth Participation** (1 youth operator) – 20 points
- **Social Media Outreach** – 100 points
- **Safety Officer** (checklist signed and verified) – 100 points
- **Submitted Online Entry** – 50 points
-

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

We did not claim the **Formal Messages bonus** this year due to a lack of confirmation from our designated contact before the submission deadline. This cost us up to 100 potential points, but it's a valuable reminder to streamline our message-handling process for 2026.

LOOKING AHEAD

Field Day 2025 was a success, with nearly 4,000 points earned and great visibility for amateur radio in our community. Thank you to everyone who participated — whether by setting up antennas, running radios, verifying safety, securing publicity, or sharing the experience on social media. We look forward to building on these results and returning even stronger for **Field Day 2026!**



****Beware of Email Scams Targeting Our Club Members****

Fellow operators, we need to alert you to a scam making the rounds in our community. Some members have recently received emails that appear to be from our Steering Committee, requesting urgent financial assistance. These messages may ask you to:

- Pay fees for an event with a promise that the club will reimburse you.
- Purchase gift cards on behalf of the ham radio club for giveaways.

The scammers are using real names from our Steering Committee to make the emails look legitimate. However, **these requests are fraudulent**—our club **NEVER** asks members to pay fees on our behalf or to purchase gift cards in this manner.

How to Protect Yourself

- **Verify First:** If you receive a suspicious request, **DO NOT RESPOND**. Instead, **contact the Steering Committee directly** to confirm its legitimacy.
- **Check the Email Address:** Scammers often use similar-looking email addresses that don't match official club communications.
- **Look for Red Flags:** Urgent tone, unusual requests, and promises of reimbursement are common scam tactics.
- **Report & Delete:** If you receive a scam email, report it and delete it immediately.

Staying vigilant will help protect our club members and prevent fraud. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out! Email: catiballard@gmail.com with any issues or concerns. You may also reach out to any steering committee member.



Upcoming Events

These events are great opportunities to meet fellow ham radio enthusiasts, participate in forums, and explore exhibits and flea markets. Are you planning to attend any of these events?

Upcoming Ham Fests:

NORTH CAROLINA:

09/27/2025 - [LEXINGTON HAMFEST](#)

Location: Lexington, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: W4PAR Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society

Website: <https://www.w4par.org/>

10/18/2025 - [WINSTON-SALEM HAMFEST](#)

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4nc.com>

SOUTH CAROLINA:

10/04/2025 - [ROCK HILL HAMFEST, ARRL SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION CONVENTION](#)

Location: Rock Hill, SC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: York County Amateur Society

Website: <http://www.ycars.org>

10/11/2025 - [DUTCH FORK SWAP MEET HAMFEST](#)

Location: Little Mountain, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DFARG

Website: <http://w4dfg.org>

TENNESSEE:

09/13/2025 - [EAST TENNESSEE HAMFEST](#)

Location: Dandridge, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lakeway Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.lakewayarc.org/hamfest/>

Volunteer

Serving Our Community Through Amateur Radio!

One of the most rewarding aspects of amateur radio is the opportunity to give back to our community. This summer, our club members proudly demonstrated the value of amateur radio by supporting several major local events with communication and coordination services.

HENDERSONVILLE 4TH OF JULY PARADE us

Our operators assisted with **coordination, communication, and entrance participation** for the annual Hendersonville 4th of July Parade. By keeping parade entries organized and providing reliable radio communications along the route, our team helped ensure that the event ran smoothly and safely for participants and spectators alike.

WNC FLYER

We also lent our skills to the **WNC Flyer**, a large regional cycling event. Our members provided **communication support and course coordination**, helping organizers track riders, manage logistics, and quickly respond to any safety needs along the route. Amateur radio once again proved its worth in covering large areas where cell service can be spotty.

TOUR D' APPLE

During the **Tour d' Apple**, another premier cycling event in our region, our volunteers offered **on-course communication support** to ensure the safety and success of both cyclists and event staff. By keeping checkpoints connected and mobile units coordinated, our operators played a critical role in keeping the event organized from start to finish.

THE VALUE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN ACTION

Through these events, our club showcased what amateur radio does best: providing reliable communication when it's needed most. These service projects highlight not only our technical skills but also our dedication to teamwork and public service.

A heartfelt **thank you to all members who volunteered their time and expertise**. Your efforts reflect the best of amateur radio and demonstrate to our neighbors the important role we play in the community.



UPCOMING BRARC EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

September 2025: Martin Harris (W4FOT) and Cati Harris (W4AOT) - A History of Bearwallow and Communications in Henderson County - Part 2

October 2025: N2NVY (Jay) Scouts Jamboree and Youth involvement

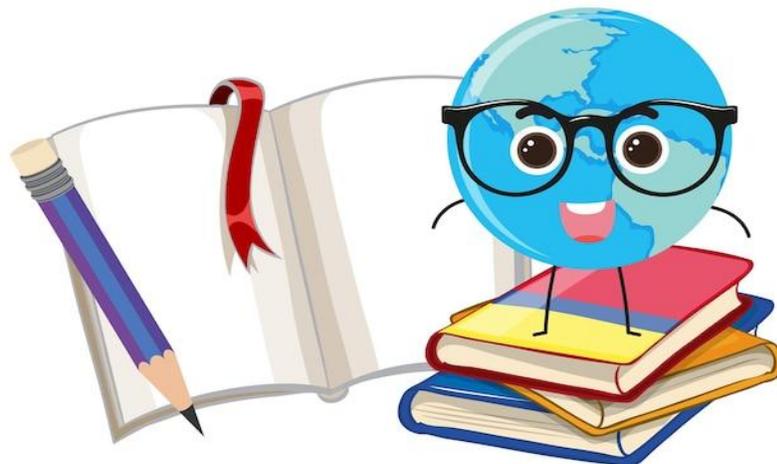
October 18th Scouts Jamboree - shack open 10:00-2:00 to receive Scout contacts

November 2025 - NA4X (Danny) discuss Christmas Parade,

December 2025: Club Family Dinner Golden Corral.

Pending Education Presentation: Michael Chapman (W8PCS) - Pisgah Forest Safety communications for hikers and horseback riders

If you have a request for an educational topic or would like to present a topic, please email: Cati Harris (W4AOT) at catiballard@gmail.com





Join the Waves: Your Voice, Our Airwaves. Together, We Make Radio Magic!"

Area Ham Radio Nets

FM NETS - 2 METERS		
BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Sunday 8:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Sunday 7:00pm
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Wednesday 9:00pm
Anderson Radio Club Net	146.790 MHz - Pickens SC	Daily 8:30pm
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz - Ceasars Head SC	Daily 9:00pm
Good Morning Net	146.910 MHz - Asheville	M-W-F 9:00am
WCARS Information Net	146.910 MHz/T91.5 - Asheville	Monday 9:00pm
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday 8:30pm
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/T91.5 - Asheville	Wednesday 9:00pm
6600 Net	145.190 MHz - Mt Mitchell	Saturday 9:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.790 MHz (no tone)	Saturday 9:15pm
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz - Mt Mitchell	Sunday 9:00pm
FM NETS - 6 METERS		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz/T100 - Hendersonville	Friday 9:00pm
HF NETS		
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz	Daily 7:45am
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily 10:00am
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 6:30pm
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 7:30pm
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.228 MHz	Mon-Sat 7:00am/Sun 8:00a
HCARC 10m Net	28.400MHz	Monday 8:00pm
80 Meter Simplex Net	3.843 MHz	Thursday 9:30pm
Get Up and Go Net	28.350/28.360 MHz	Sunday 9:00pm
DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO NETS		
WNC Local DMR Net	WNC Local Talk Group (UHF)	Monday 7:30pm
High County DMR Net	PRN Local Talk Group	Tuesday 8:00pm
WNC Net	WNC System Fusion YS24157	Wednesday 9:00pm
WNC DMR Net	WNC Talk Group (VHF/UHF)	Wednesday 8:30pm

 **Member Survey Reminder**

We need your input! Please take a few minutes to complete our **2025 Member Survey**. Your feedback helps guide the club's activities and priorities for the coming year.

So far, only **13 out of 122 current paid members** have responded — let's get that number up!

👉 Please complete the form by **September 30th** using the link below (You can click on link and it will take you directly to form):

<https://forms.gle/CC7DD49ZzkpxNRmr7>

Thank you for helping us make our club even better!

 **BRARC Member Contact Update**

We're asking all current BRARC members to complete a quick **Google Form** to ensure your contact information is up to date. This helps us keep you informed about club activities, events, and important updates.

👉 Please complete the form by **September 30th** using the link below (You can click on link and it will take you directly to form):

<https://forms.gle/yx9eM4RY47ZWstKN7>

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Ham Radio Frequency Quick Guide

Band	Frequency Range	Best Use
160 Meters	1.8–2.0 MHz	Night use, long-distance DX in winter
80 Meters	3.5–4.0 MHz	Regional nets, evening ragchews
40 Meters	7.0–7.3 MHz	Day & night, popular state/regional nets
20 Meters	14.0–14.35 MHz	Worldwide DX during the day
15 Meters	21.0–21.45 MHz	Good DX when solar conditions are high
10 Meters	28.0–29.7 MHz	Local + DX during high solar activity
2 Meters	144–148 MHz	Local repeaters, simplex, emergency comms
70 cm	420–450 MHz	Repeaters, satellites, short-range comms

- Always listen before transmitting to avoid interfering with ongoing QSOs.
- Use phonetics (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie...) for clarity when giving call signs.
- Keep transmissions short and to the point, especially on repeaters.
- Log your contacts – it helps track your progress and QSL confirmations.
- Check propagation reports to know which bands are open before operating.
- Practice proper repeater etiquette – identify clearly and avoid doubling.



Here are four excellent resources geared toward helping new **Technician-class hams** get on the air with confidence:

1. ARRL "Now You're Talking!" Guide

- The ARRL (American Radio Relay League) is the national association for amateur radio.
- Their *Now You're Talking!* guide and website resources walk new hams through setting up a station, understanding band privileges, and making first QSOs.
-  [ARRL Beginner Resources](#)

2. Ham Radio Crash Course (HRCC) YouTube Channel

- Hosted by Josh Nass (KI6NAZ), this channel has practical, down-to-earth videos for new operators.
- Topics include “how to use a repeater,” “programming your handheld,” and “ham radio etiquette.”
-  [Ham Radio Crash Course on YouTube](#)

3. HamStudy.org / QRZ.com Practice & Community

- HamStudy.org (well known for license prep) also offers helpful flashcards and forums for post-licensing learning.
- QRZ.com forums let you ask questions, find local contacts, and learn from experienced operators worldwide.
-  [HamStudy.org](#)
-  [QRZ Forums](#)

4. Local Club Nets and Repeater Directories

- Nothing beats *on-air experience*. Find your local club’s weekly nets (like BRARC’s) and check into them.
- Use repeater directories like **RepeaterBook** to find nearby repeaters where new hams are welcome.
-  [RepeaterBook](#)

 **Pro Tip for Beginners:** Start by listening in, then try a simple introduction during a local net: “*This is [your call sign], monitoring.*” That’s often all it takes to get a friendly response and start learning by doing.



ARRL - The National Association for Amateur Radio

AARRL WEBSITE: WWW.AARRL.ORG

BRARC Club Website: <https://radioclub.org/>

Monthly Meeting Zoom Information:

First time ZOOM Users:

1. Go to <https://zoom.us/> and click Join A Meeting at the top
2. Enter Meeting ID **898 4099 5655** and Click Join
3. Enter Meeting Passcode **brarc** and Click Join Meeting
4. When prompted, SAVE the download, then click RUN
5. Click JOIN MEETING

The first time you use Zoom, the Zoom application will be saved to your computer, and on subsequent meetings do the following:

Returning Zoom Users:

1. Select and run ZOOM from your computer's list of applications and Click Join a Meeting
2. Enter meeting ID **898 4099 5655** and Click Join
3. Enter Meeting Passcode **brarc** and Click Join Meeting

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club 2025 Officers - Contact Information

President: James Reed (KK4JFO) - 828-698-3609 - jshreed@bellsouth.net

Vice-President: Bill Gunn (KB2GUN) - 704-934-1950 - kb2gunb@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Paul Nice (KQ4ALD) - 703-657-9783 - paul.nice@verizon.net

Secretary: Cati Harris (W4AOT) - 828-595-1332 - catiballard@gmail.com

Ham Humor, Part 1

Across

- 1. Four after A
- 5. High frequency prefix
- 10. Two is one
- 14. Dubai designator
- 15. Best condition for contesting, or tower climbing, say
- 16. ZS neighbor's prefix
- 17. AI language
- 18. Diminish
- 19. FET type
- 20. With 41 and 52 across, society highlighted in 36 across and founded by 31 down
- 23. VE2 way
- 24. They make some displays play
- 28. Skedaddles
- 31. Buzzer (non-RF)
- 33. 5N dough
- 34. Mint alt., on eBay, e.g.
- 35. "Excuse me", low in the band

- 36. QST department
- 37. React. plus res.
- 38. Hams love them
- 40. Bird word
- 41. See 20 across
- 43. Owns
- 44. Coffee maker
- 45. "Sesame Street" regular
- 46. Cut 100
- 47. Salad green
- 49. Kane's word
- 51. "QRZ?"
- 52. See 20 across
- 58. N.Y.C. part
- 61. 4W, was CR8 during the time of 31 down writing 36 across
- 62. Tuvalu
- 63. Houston university
- 64. 31 down's prefix
- 65. She sheep

- 66. Rotating rings for towers
- 67. "Yes, Sen. Kennedy", familiarly
- 68. Zero

Down

- 1. Unadorned
- 2. Nassau prefix
- 3. EME antenna
- 4. IC-7800, say, in JA
- 5. Grammar topic
- 6. Radiation pattern feature
- 7. Ski lift
- 8. Respond again, on RTTY, say
- 9. "He's ___ nowhere man"
- 10. Tool for reducing spectrum width?
- 11. 20's dispenser
- 12. JA transceiver maker middle
- 13. Don'ts partner

- 21. Famous DXpeditioner, when 31 down wrote 36 across, familiarly
- 22. Trillions of zeptos
- 25. Goof
- 26. Passions
- 27. 5th century G-land settlers
- 28. Last second on-line bidder
- 29. D6 place
- 30. Poplars, in W0, say
- 31. Callsign suffix of one time 36 across writer and creator of 20 across.
- 32. Zero zulu in two-land June
- 35. Articulate
- 36. Very popular examples of 38 across
- 38. Early radio maker
- 39. Fast no more
- 42. Decorates 60's-style
- 46. "...like taking _____

- from a fire hose." (information overload)
- 47. Half a Latin dance
- 48. T.O.M.'s series of articles
- 50. Where the DX might be listening
- 51. Kit alternative
- 53. Radiate
- 54. UHF antenna type, with dis-
- 55. Prefix in Lombardia
- 56. First astronaut ham, familiarly
- 57. Well known DXer KH6IJ when 31 down ran 36 across
- 58. Disp. device before LCD, LED
- 59. Early first century year
- 60. Inter-area NTS org

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