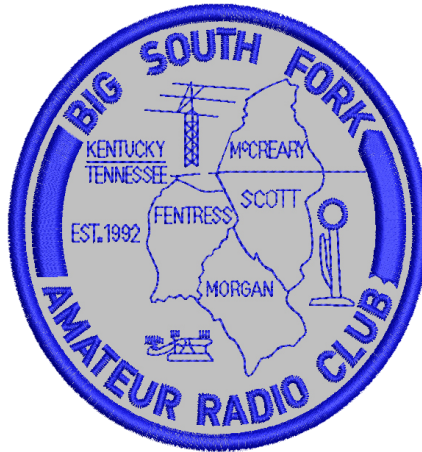


kc8spv@gmail.com

From: Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club <w4bsf@bsfarc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:23 PM
To: Bill Green
Subject: Modulator March - 2024

[View this in your browser.](#)



Volume 32 Number 03- March 2024

The Modulator

Newsletter and happenings of the Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club.

Serving the Big South Fork Region since 1992.

If you enjoy reading our publication, be sure to open it fully or you will be automatically dropped from our mailing list in 6 months.

GET ON THE AIR!!



Interested in emergency communications? We have team in Fentress, Morgan and Scott counties looking for volunteers.

ARES



Are you a YL (Young Lady) looking for your very own net? Look no further we have one for you! If your OM is licensed, he can be your control operator for you to get on the air with us. Next NET is Tuesday April 9th at 7pm EDT.

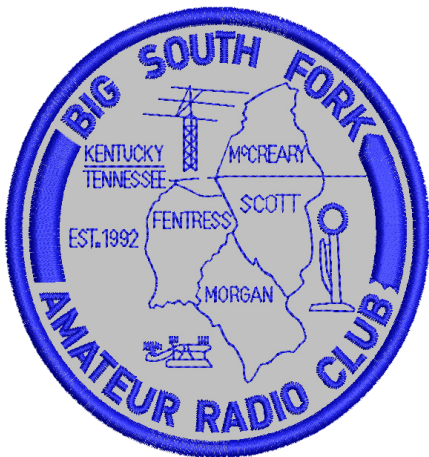
YL NET



ARRL has announced free membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger.

ARRL

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION



Club Training Session

April 11th, 2024



We are searching for a volunteer for the Morgan County ARES EC position. Must be at least a technician level and have an interest in emergency communications. We can help with the training!

We have pre-ordered a nice spring day for our field training on fox hunting. See information below as we will be meeting at 7:00pm eastern in the parking lot of Roane State Community College - Huntsville for an interactive training session.

Do you have knowledge to share? Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors? If so, why not share that knowledge and teach others!

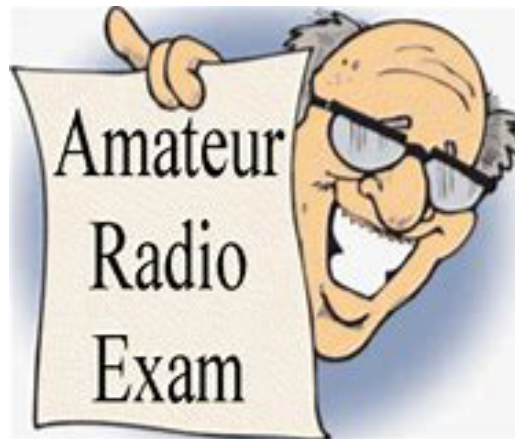
Club Bi-Monthly Meeting

May 9th, 2024

Our next club meeting will be held on May 9th - 2024 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College. This will be our bi-monthly business meeting plus a meet & greet. We always meet the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Meeting Minutes

If you did NOT receive the meeting minutes for March you may have been dropped from the club roster. Our member only portal password has also been changed. Contact Kelly KI4JAV (KI4JAV at gmail.com) to check on your membership status. Our grace period ended March 1st and our dues are still only \$10.00 per year for the first person in your household!



Local and In-Person Exams

The VE (Volunteer Examiner) team has made the transition to electronic submission for testing documents. While we still only do in-person testing the applicant can choose to take a paper exam or complete their test using a computer. Forms are emailed to the applicant, ARRL and to the FCC for faster processing. The ARRL testing fee is still \$15 for adults and under the age of 18 it is only \$5. The \$35 license fee is paid directly to the FCC and with the ARRL youth program they will reimburse the youths that fee! We will work with you to schedule an exam in your area at a convenient time. No more waiting, long drives or trying to take an on-line test with multiple cameras. We try to make it as easy as possible to take but it's up to you to pass!

LICENSE EXAM



ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Reminder!



Be sure to check out our new page on the web site for all the upcoming events! It is updated for 2024.

UPCOMING

Hamfests and Conventions

HAM FEST

04/5/2024 - [Freefest in Bartlett \(Memphis TN\)](#)

04/20/2024 - Greenville Hamfest

06/15/2024 - [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, ARRL Delta Division Convention](#)

Congratulations to Joe Cross N4YLA and Ricly Needham W4BRT on passing their general class exam on February 13th. Avery Honeycutt received his call sign which is KQ4PCE after he tested on February 24th. We would also like to congratulate Bill "Rick" Davis KQ4PTV as he passed the technician class exam March 11th.



Museum Ship Weekend

June 1st and 2nd, 2024

UPDATE

We have a couple of volunteers on-board already and can use some more still. Looking for radio operators and for help logging the contacts. We have been approved to operate from the actual museum and hope to surpass the 1,200 contacts we made last year. Let us know if you can join us.

Thanks again!

Kelly KI4JAV and Bill KF4TY

MSW Co-Coordiators

MUSEUM SHIP

Calendar of Events for 2024

Contest Corner

April

16 Rookie Roundup - Phone

May - No ARRL contests

June

1-2 International Digital Contest

8-10 June VHF

15 Kids Day

22-23 Field Day

Big Sout Fork NRRRA Spring Planting Festival

April 27, 2024



Come and join Jamie N4XJS and Kelly KI4JAV as they will be setup as a demonstration booth for this year's spring planting festival. They will be activating W4BSF as a POTA station and you have the opportunity to join in on the fun and get on the air. We will be promoting amateur radio, our club of course and emergency communications (ARES). Kelly will also be recruiting YLs for her NET too.

4/6/2024	Freefest Bartlett Swap (Memphis)
4/11/2024	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
4/20/2024	Greenville TN Hamfest
4/20/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/21/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/27/2024	BSF Spring Planting Festival
5/9/2024	BSFARC Meeting
5/17/2024	Hamvention Dayton OH
5/18/2024	Hamvention Dayton OH
5/18/2024	TN Mountain Laure Festival
5/19/2024	Hamvention Dayton OH
6/1/2024	KY QSO Party
6/1/2024	Museum Ship Weekend SES
6/2/2024	Museum Ship Weekend SES
6/13/2024	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
6/15/2024	Knoxville Hamfest/ARRL convention
6/27/2024	ARRL Field Day
7/1/2024	New Amateur Question Pool
7/11/2024	BSFARC Meeting
7/20/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
7/21/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
7/26/2024	TN POTA Weekend
7/27/2024	TN POTA Weekend
7/28/2024	TN POTA Weekend
8/8/2024	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
8/18/2024	Huntsville AL Hamfest
8/19/2024	Huntsville AL Hamfest
9/1/2024	Tennessee QSO Party
9/12/2024	BSFARC Meeting
9/21/2024	BSF Storytelling Festival
10/10/2024	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
10/18/2024	Ghost-Mine Festival BSFNRRRA
10/19/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
10/20/2024	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
10/25/2024	NB 100 Race
10/26/2024	NB 100 Race
11/14/2024	BSFARC Meeting
12/7/2024	Skywarn Recognition Day
12/12/2024	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
12/14/2024	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
12/15/2024	ARRL 10-Meter Contest



Fox Hunting Workshop

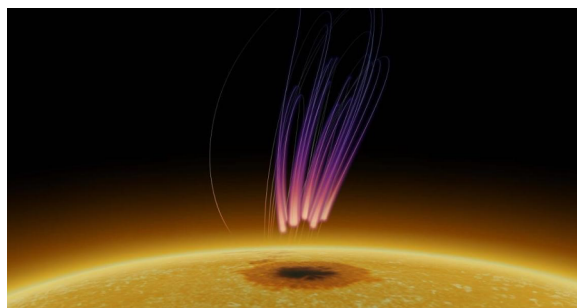
April 11, 2024

Last fall we built our small tape measure antennas for fox hunting and now we will have the chance to learn how to use them. Come and join us as we have a workshop on fox hunting (hidden transmitter). This will be conducted outside at the Roane State (Huntsville) parking lot weather permitting. Bring a cold beverage and a comfy chair to catch some of the action. We will have an antenna and radio to try if you don't have your own.

Previous copies of 'The Modulator' are now on our web site. You can also subscribe to the newsletter there too.

MODULATOR

Aurora-Like Radio Emission Above a Sunspot



Written by: Jesse Jenkins

In a [study published](#) in *Nature Astronomy*, astronomers from New Jersey Institute of Technology's Center for Solar-Terrestrial Research (NJIT-CSTR) have detailed radio observations of an extraordinary aurora-like display — occurring 40,000 km above a relatively dark and cold patch on the Sun, known as a sunspot.

Researchers say the novel radio emission shares characteristics with the auroral radio emissions commonly seen in planetary magnetospheres such as those around Earth, Jupiter and Saturn, as well as certain low-mass stars.

The discovery offers new insights into the origin of such intense solar radio bursts and potentially opens new avenues for understanding similar phenomena in distant stars with large starspots, according to the study's lead author and [NJIT-CSTR](#) scientist, Sijie Yu.

"We've detected a peculiar type of long-lasting polarized radio bursts emanating from a sunspot, persisting for over a week," said Yu. "This is quite unlike the typical,



The second annual [Georgia State Parks on the Air](#) will be held April 6 - 7, 2024. ARRL member and event coordinator Claude Ray, AC4SH, said that the first event was a success and that participants insisted on having another one.

"For both activators and hunters, the event went far beyond our expectations. Of the 50 listed parks, 48 were activated, with 109 activators making nearly 20,000 contacts with over 4,000 hunters," said Ray. He added that the 2024 event promises to be even better, with the addition of two new Georgia parks and, based on feedback from participants, the rules have been tweaked to add new opportunities receiving awards.

As a hunter all you need to do is register at the link below as the activators will log and the system will assign points based on number of parks contacted and number of QSOs.

GA POTA

transient solar radio bursts typically lasting minutes or hours. It's an exciting discovery that has the potential to alter our comprehension of stellar magnetic processes."

Read full article at:

<https://news.njit.edu/njit-scientists-uncover-aurora-radio-emission-above-sunspot>

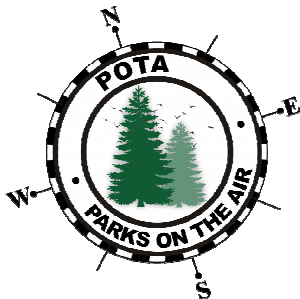
How to Improve Ham Radio Station Grounds



Posted by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#)

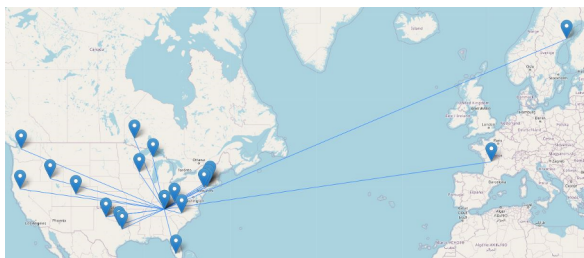
After antennas, station grounding is probably the most discussed topic in amateur radio. It's also the one having the most misconceptions—or is that myth-conceptions? One of the biggest myths: Ground is like a magic drain, diverting kilovolts from unwanted lightning and RF into the earth. Or maybe it goes through a secret portal to a black hole.

There's no magic here. Grounding involves down-to-earth planning for the protection of your home electronics, ham station, and of course, you.



POTA Updates

A 59+10 shout out to Joe N4YLA who not only just started to hunt POTA stations but also activated K-0686 as his first park on March 10th. He had some great contacts including Sweeden and France with 29 in the logbook. He just received his Gold hunter certificate. Keep in mind he passed his General class exam on February 13th so less than 30 days and he is hooked!



Our home park K-0686 Big South Fork has Kelly KI4JAV closing in on her Kilo (1,000 QSOs) as she is now over 800 logged.

Bill KF4TY added Alabama and North Carolina to his activated states (13 and counting) and now has 81 activations and quite a few certificates. While in Alabama he was able to make contact with Ricky W4NRT and helped him reach his goal of WAS (worked all states). Ricky was only missing Mississippi after that which he got recently. Getting his WAS in less than 5 months after getting his technician and

Deep Issues

It's time to dig into the topic of grounding (or "earthing" as folks in the UK call it). There are three basic ground types that hams deal with at their stations:

- Grounding an antenna mast/tower (outside, lightning protection)
- Antenna ground plane (on/under antenna—think RF, radials)
- Safety ground (inside shack, shock hazard protection)

Obviously, your goal as a station builder is to make sure as little current as possible flows through anything in your station, like expensive transceivers or amps. Here are some practical techniques to improve your ham radio ground.

Read full article at:

<https://www.onallbands.com/how-to-improve-ham-radio-station-grounds/>

about a month after his general class license is a great accomplishment.

Parks in Canada now begin with a CA as a prefix rather than the VE we were used to. Our parks transitioned from K- to US- on March 20th to better identify the country the park is in. This will make it easier as they add more parks from various countries around the world. Be sure to download the current version of HAMRS which is now V1.0.7.

Want to learn more about POTA or maybe do a joint activation (or multi-park rove) let Kelly, Ricky, Bill or now Joe as it is a great way to develop your radio skills.

Special Event Stations

Contact these stations and help commemorate an historical occasion or other special event. Many special event stations provide a special QSL card or certificate.

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9x12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

April 2024

03/30/2024 | Total Solar Eclipse in Hunt county Texas

Mar 30-Apr 10, 0000Z-2359Z, W5E, Greenville, TX. Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association. 7.235 14.280 21.400 28.450. QSL. K5GVL Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 843, Greenville, TX 75403-0843. The Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association will be celebrating a once in a lifetime solar event. On April 8th 2024 our favorite star the sun will be totally eclipsed for over 4 minutes! This will allow direct observation of the sun's corona in real time. The SVARA will be operating W5E "Whiskey 5 Eclipse" from March 30th until April 10th to celebrate this unique and magical event! <https://k5gvl.com/w5e-total-solar-eclipse-special-event-station>

04/01/2024 | Global Autism Awareness Week

Apr 1-Apr 7, 0000Z-2359Z, W2A, New York, NY. New York City DX Association. 14.250. QSL. NYCDXA, 149 Marine Avenue, 6F, Brooklyn, NY 11209. Over 90 Operators in two dozen countries will be on the air helping to spread awareness about the affliction now known as Autism Spectrum Disorder. <https://www.qrz.com/db/W2NDX>

04/08/2024 | Solar Eclipse 2024

Apr 8, 1600Z-2100Z, W2E, Rochester, NY. Roc-Ham Radio Network. 20M/14.313 10M/28.405 All Star 2585. QSL. John Derycke, W2JLD, 85 Amherst St., Apt. 2, Rochester, NY 14607. Help us celebrate the solar eclipse of 2024 www.roc-ham.net

04/17/2024 | SRH Special Event Station at the Titan Missile Museum

Apr 17, 2000Z-2200Z, K6SRH, Sahuarita, AZ. Sam's Radio Hams (SRH). 14.315. QSL. Paul Craft, 357 Morningside Terrace, Palmdale, CA 93551. See QRZ website for digital QSL and other event information www.qrz.com/db/K6SRH

04/19/2024 | Battle of Hobkirk's Hill

Apr 19-Apr 23, 1700Z-2359Z, K4H, Camden, SC. Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club. 14.325 21.325 28.325. Certificate. E-certificate only. Email, info@kc4rc.com for details. "2nd Battle of Camden"/Battle of Hobkirk's Hill <https://kc4rc.com>

04/20/2024 | Northwest Arkansas Train Mobile

Apr 20, 1300Z-2200Z, N5T, Springdale, AR. Bella Vista Radio Club. 7.190 14.260 7.040 14.040. QSL. Don Banta - K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. bellavistaradioclub.org

04/26/2024 | Handiham Program 57th Anniversary

Apr 26-Apr 28, 1900Z-1900Z, W0ZSW, Minneapolis, MN. Handiham Radio Club.

04/09/2024 | Sun N Fun

Aerospace Expo

Apr 9-Apr 13, 0300Z-1200Z, W4S, Lakeland, FL. Sun N Fun Fly In Inc. 146.685 (127.3) 14.225 7.250. QSL. Geoff Schuck, PO Box 90853, Lakeland, FL 33804. Frequencies will be spotted throughout the day on DX Summit. QSL cards are sent to all HF Contacts.

04/12/2024 | Celebrating 60 Years of Friendship and Ham Radio with the Hatch Green Chili Pepper Run to 33 NM Counties

Apr 12-Apr 22, 1400Z-0600Z, N5M, All New Mexico. WA5LHM and WA5POK. 7.060 7.260 14.060 14.260. Certificate. Scott Kendall, WA5LHM, 1804 Louise St., Georgetown, TX 78262.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/996268021434046>

04/12/2024 | National Library Week 2024

Apr 12-Apr 13, 1600Z-2100Z, K8L, Youngstown, OH. WF8U and KC3GFU. 14.074 7.074. QSL. K8L, 239 Elvira Ct., McDonald, OH 44437. Help us celebrate National Library Week 2024. We will be operating on both SSB & FT8, 20m and 40m. Send us a QSL to be displayed in our local libraries and share the magic of amateur radio! In return you will receive a SES QSL card with this year's theme. Please send QSL to: K8L, 239 Elvira Ct., McDonald, OH 44437. Find more information on QRZ or email kd8ely@gmail.com. www.qrz.com/db/kd8ely

28.350 21.350 14.250 7.200. QSL. Courage Kenny Handiham Program, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, MR 78446, Minneapolis, MN 55422. The Handiham Radio Club will be celebrating 57 years of the Handiham Program with a special event station. The Handiham Program is a non-profit dedicated to helping people with disabilities get licensed and stay active in the amateur radio hobby. Listen for CQ Handiham 57 from W0ZSW and from other Handiham members who will be using their own call signs! handiham.net

04/27/2024 | Bolivar Lighthouse

Apr 27, 1600Z-2300Z, K5S, Port Bolivar, TX. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club. 7.220 14.250 28.405 146.520. Certificate. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club, 4839 Hwy 326N, Kountze, TX 77625. w5rin.com

04/27/2024 | International Marconi Day 2024

Apr 27, 1700Z-2300Z, W1M, Rochester, NY. ROC-HAM RADIO NETWORK. 20M/14.313 10M/28.405 Allstar2585,47620,47918,531310. QSL. W2JLD/JOHN DERYCKE, 85 AMHERST ST, APT2, Rochester, NY 14607. roc-ham.net

04/27/2024 | International Marconi Day Award Station

Apr 27, 1300Z-2100Z, K3S, Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7.1 14.1 21.1

04/12/2024 | Remembering Abraham Lincoln

Apr 12-Apr 15, 0001Z-2359Z, K9L/W9L, Effingham, IL.
National Trail Amateur Radio Club . 14.312. QSL.
NTARC/K9UXZ, P.O. Box 903, Effingham, IL 62401.
www.nationaltrailarc.org or www.qrz.com/db/k9uxz

04/13/2024 | Commemorating USS Midway conducting first airship ops on CV (7APR49)

Apr 13, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS
Midway Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320; 140.070 PSK31;
DSTAR on PAPA System repeaters. QSL. USS Midway
Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San
Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

04/13/2024 | Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

Apr 13-Apr 14, 1500Z-2000Z, K4S, Nokomis, FL.
Tamiami ARC. 14.320 SSB. QSL. Tamiami ARC, PO Box
976, Nokomis, FL 34274. Celebrating the area in Florida
known as the "Shark's Tooth Capital of the World". All
QSLs with SASE receive custom event QSL and a
genuine, prehistoric shark's tooth memento of the
contact. tamiamiarc.org

04/15/2024 | WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2024

Apr 15-Apr 22, 1600Z-1600Z, W2W, Rochester, NY.
ROC-HAM RADIO NETWORK. ECHOLINK CONFERENCE
ROC-HAM 531091 ALLSTAR2585,47620,47918,531310

28.1. QSL. K3LU, 980 PATUXENT ROAD,
Odenton, MD 21113. Single transmitter SSB
and CW aboard N/S Savannah. Please check
spotting networks for frequencies. Info on
QRZ.com qrz.com/db/k3s

04/27/2024 | MERT20

Special Event

Apr 27, 1200Z-2359Z, KG4NXO, Ocala, FL.
Marion County Emergency Management.
14.262 7.262; D-STAR 146.790 REF-037;
3.862. Certificate & QSL. Kraig Pritts, 6637 NE
5th Lane, Ocala, FL 34470. www.mert20.org

04/27/2024 | N1D - Number One Dawgs

Apr 27-Apr 28, 1700Z-1700Z, N1D, Athens, GA.
Radio Club at the University of GA. 3.925 7.250
14.200. QSL. Athens Radio Club, P.O. Box 782,
Athens, GA 30603. Celebrating the National
Championship University of Georgia football
team. We will be operating from the Tate
Center, adjacent to Sanford Stadium.
<https://www.athensradioclub.org>

04/27/2024 | The 125th Anniversary of the founding of St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI

Apr 27, 1400Z-1830Z, K9N, De Pere, WI. Green
Bay Mike & Key Club, inc. 3.915 7.270 14.285.

14.313 28.405. QSL. W2JLD/JOHN DERYCKE, 85 AMHERST ST, APT2, Rochester, NY 14607. This will be our 9th annual WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY celebration. Many conferences and nodes will be connecting for this event. Special event. T-shirts will be available to mark the occasion. Special event net is on APRIL 18TH@1700 UTC-0200 UTC CHECK OUT ROC-HAM.NET for more details roc-ham.net

Certificate. E-certificate only,, email, contact@k9eam.org. www.k9eam.org

04/28/2024 | HAMS for PanCAN-Bonus station

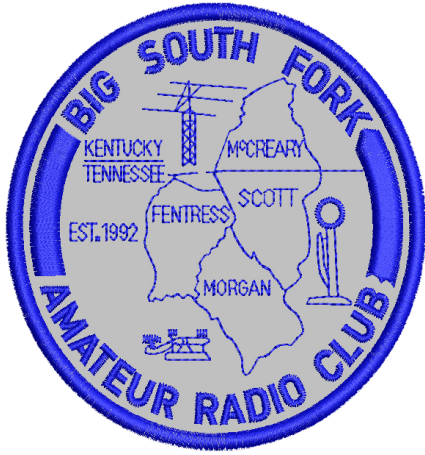
Apr 27-Apr 28, 0200Z-2300Z, N3P/PanCan, New Kensington, PA. Skyview Radio Society. 3.960. 7.172. Certificate. Skyview Radio Society, N3P, 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068. This special event's purpose is to raise awareness of the PanCAN resources for patients and families affected by pancreatic cancer. This bonus station is for an additional contact recognition for participants who can make contact with this remote station's location. All contacts are on SSB. rybar1949@gmail.com or <https://www.skyviewradio.net>

ARRL LINK

To learn more about and to search even more special event stations click the adjacent link:

We have a exam license page to our web site focusing on new hams. More pages are being developed and content will be added in the coming months. Come and visit us!

SEARCH OR



Be sure to like and follow us on FaceBook



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<https://BSFARC.ORG>

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