



# The Splatter

MCARA Monthly Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT BEN MCMATH W5SOF

*Friends and fellow Hams,*

*Welcome to the 2022 rendition of the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association and fledgling re-issue of the **Splatter** newsletter. We invite all local and visiting Hams to join us in the wonderful hobby of Amateur Radio communication. Our club members have shown great dedication to the Amateur Radio hobby through assistance, promotion, mentoring, instruction and general camaraderie within the Ham community on the MS Gulf Coast. I salute and appreciate all of you.*

*New Year's resolutions from the head table include simplification and rewrite of the Club's Constitution and By-laws, a streamlining of the membership application process, increased mentoring and training opportunities, monthly presentations and demonstrations and renewed participation in HF events. I invite ALL of you to participate in whatever manner you prefer and welcome everyone's inputs.*

*Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of and participation in the MCARA membership. There are a lot of things to do in the coming months and you ALL will make it happen! I look forward to seeing all of you in 2022!*

*v/r 73 DE*

*Ben McMath W5SOF*

## Newsletter Highlights

A Message from the club President

New "Hams" for January

Club Activities

Board Members

Appointed Positions

Meet And Eat Thursdays

MCARA Events

Member Highlight



## Let's Welcome January's New Ham



Dane Reid II - **K15TDZ**

Dane obtained his **Technician**

Ticket January 1, 2022

Dane resides in Ocean Springs with his wife Sandy.



Steve Harrison - **KB5UIO**

Steve obtained his **General**

Ticket January 15, 2022

Steve resides in Gulfport

## Getting Your Amateur Ham Radio License

The MCARA is dedicated to helping you obtain your license. There are members who willingly conduct face-to-face group instruction covering the Technician Class License, the General Class License and the Amateur Extra Class license. Once you are ready to take your test, our team of ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiners (VE's) are prepared to conduct your testing session. The testing is held the first Saturday of each month at the Bel Aire Baptist Church 15080 Dedeaux Rd, Gulfport, MS 39501



## Meet and Eat

Every Thursday night at 5:00 pm MCARA club members meet to share 'Ham' stories, dine and just visit. This is a non - sanctioned club get together; just a group of club members having fun. Check the MCARA Club Facebook page and repeater announcement to see where it is. Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association - W5SGL.NET | Facebook



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

Weekly 2-meter Net Calls on the  
MCARA W5SGL Repeater 146.730

Every Tuesday is Amateur Night @ 7:00 pm

Every Wednesday is The Roundtable @ 7:00 pm

## ***GREAT NEWS! MCARA REACH 108 CHECK-INS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY!***

### Meetings

MCARA Club Board meeting and member's meeting is the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

1st Saturday of every month - Official ARRL VE Hosted Amateur Ham Radio License Testing

### BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE

President - Ben McMath W5SOF

Vice-President - Jeff Wimmer W5JGW

Secretary - Robert Jackson WX5RJ

Treasurer - Brenda Jackson KI5OWU

Activity Chairman - Joseph Mitchell WA5FFL

### Appointed Positions

Repeater Trustee - Stu Cole N5LBZ

Club Webmaster - Jimmy Simmons K5OP

Facebook Admin - Noel Dastugue N5FTY

Net Manager - Harry Hebert AB5FU

Call Sign Trustee - Norm Gholson WB4YBY

Club Newsletter - Bill Downs KI5SCZ

### Club Repeater

Yaesu Fusion DR-2X

Freq: 146.730 (-0.600 KHz)

Tone Squelch 136.5 Hz

Mode: FM & C4FM

Location:

30°25'56.1"N 88°57'22.6"W

NET: Tuesday 19:00 CDT

NET: Wednesday 19:00 CDT



## UP COMING EVENTS

### CQ 160 Meter Phone Contest

The CQ 160 METER PHONE CONTEST is going to take place the last full weekend of February. Starting 25 FEB 2200Z until 27 FEB 2200Z. Tentatively being held at Norm's QTH in Gulfport. This is a great opportunity to have good exposure to HF radio, and the 160-meter band. It will also be a good time fellowship with other club members. Please see event announcements on Facebook for discussion or speak with Jimmy Becky Simmons. K5OP

### 40th Dalton Hamfest

February 23, 2022 500 Legion Dr., Dalton, Ga. 30721-2509

The Dalton Amateur Radio Club...Home of The Dalton Hamfest held in Dalton, Georgia every year. Last Saturday in February.

### **\*\*Volunteer call to action requested\*\***

The Hattiesburg half marathon will be April 2nd.

The Farm to Fork will be April 30th.

ARES has been requested to provide communication assistance with the Hattiesburg half marathon and the Farm to Fork ride and run. I'M REACHING OUT TO ALL SURROUNDING DISTRICTS AS I AM WELCOMING ALL HAM RADIO OPERATORS WHO ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AND HELP OUT WITH THESE GREAT EVENT'S

For more information contact Justin Gleason KF7DLW

District emergency coordinator of district 8 Mississippi strmspotter@gmail.com  
601 549 9940 call or text

## Member Highlight



Tom Hammack -  
Call Sign - W4WLF

Tom is an Amateur Extra Class Ham Operator. Lives in Gulfport Ms. Award Hunting, Amateur Television (SSTV FSTV etc.), Giving License Exams, Weak Signal (VHF/UHF/Microwave), Traffic Handling, Direction Finding (Foxhunting), Radio Control, Contests, Amateur Satellites, Vintage Equipment (Restoring Operating), Teaching New Hams, Family Communications, Recruiting New Hams, QRP/Low Power Operating, Continuing Education Training/Courses, Personal Safety, Field Day, DXing, Building Equipment/Kits/Accessories, Repeater Operation, Conventions Hamfests Flea Markets Or Swap Meets, Club Meetings, Building Antennas, Making New Friends, Emergency Communications/ARES/RACES, Public Service Or Community Safety, Nets, Talking With Friends, Mobile Or Portable Operating, Ragchewing/Casual Operating

Tom is one of the club's Elmers that is willing to help a new Ham learn the art of Ham operating and he is well known CW operator. (Morse Code)  
Tom is also the Historian for the MCARA club.



## Extra Class Licensing Course

FREE, Live weekly Extra Class licensing course on Zoom beginning Thursday, January 20th through Thursday March 31st (11 sessions). These classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up, please contact [Roland.Anders@comcast.net](mailto:Roland.Anders@comcast.net)

## Hamfest/Convention

02/10/2022 - 02/13/2022 Orlando HamCation, 2022  
ARRL National Convention Location: Orlando, FL  
Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://www.hamcation.com>  
<http://www.arrl.org/expo>

## Up Coming 'Contesting'

CW: Third full weekend in February (February 19-20, 2022)

Phone: First full weekend in March (March 5-6, 2022)

Contest Period: Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday.

01/29/2022 | Winter Field Day (USA)

Jan 29-Jan 30, 1900Z-1900Z, WFD runs for 24 hours starting on Friday, and ending on Saturday, the last full weekend of January. Please see the WFD website for all of the rules, bands, and more.

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

***For Further 'Up Coming Events' Please see the MCARA Website***

**CONGRADULATIONS Harry Herbert - AB5FU**  
**For your award. Keep up the great work!**



## Member Highlight

Jimmy Simmons  
Call Sign - W5OP



Jimmy, resides in Ocean Springs with his wife Becky who is aspiring to obtain her amateur license. Jimmy's journey into this hobby started years before becoming licensed. It all happened when around the age of 12 in 1983 he found his Father's (N5MSJ) old WWII B-17 receiver, a Wells Gardner BC-348Q tucked away among all of his old test equipment in the garage. Jimmy pulled it out and brought it to his room, where he would take a spool of hook up wire and use it for the antenna. He'd spend many nights tuning around the SWL bands listening to broadcast stations, and hearing weird digital sounds. This progressed into CB radio where he'd talk with stations all over the place. From there the love of two-way radio exploded. At 17 he discovered Civil Air Patrol and joined the local unit. He then delve into anything communications and emergency services related. As he grew with CAP communications he knew the next logical step was to get his amateur radio license. Studying, he took and passed his Novice class license in early 1988. From there he obtained his Technician class, and became a member of the MCARA. He would then participate in the activation for hurricane Florence and man a storm shelter. He assisted with helping to put on the club's ham fest, and was a member of the Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES). In his time with the hobby, he's been a member of the Keesler Amateur Radio Activity, Magnolia DX Association, and the Jackson County Amateur Radio Club as well. Jimmy is also an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, and enjoys sharing his knowledge, and being an Elmer to others.

He really enjoys listening to HF military and utility stations, public safety scanning and monitoring the civil and military aero band. In addition to these things he enjoys communicating with others through satellites, contesting, DX, and rag-chewing on HF phone and digital modes. Also enjoying VHF and above using FM, SSB, DFing, and digital modes. Most recently he's become interested in activities like Parks on the Air (POTA) and has plans to get more involved in that in the near future.

In the past couple of years, Jimmy has returned to the club after taking a long hiatus from the hobby. In 2021 he created and administrated the club's Facebook page, and is now the full time webmaster for the club's website. His goals are to help the club grow, and share as much information about our hobby with all club members, and non-members alike. He's been married for 9 years. With over 25 years of experience in the information technology field, and he's the site lead for the Defense Health Agency at the 81st Medical Group, Keesler AFB maintaining all military electronic health records. Jimmy is one of the MCARA 'Group Experts'. He is the club's website manager and internet guru.

## Special Mentions

Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Club took the 2021 MS QSO Party 3rd Place Award. Awesome job to all who participated and made this is a successful contest. Let's start planning for the 2022 contest.

