The Ham Arundel News





Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

June 2019



The Prez Sez

Its June already! And June means Field Day! Every year it's a new challenge to get everything ready for that very special one day ham radio event. As usual a few of our key players will be absent. This year that list includes Brian Mary, John Williams, and Milford Craig. Think about it. Last year John was our high point man, Brian ran digital

which outscored phone where Milford scored big. These three account for the majority of our 2018 points. So the rest of us have to step up.

However, I have faith in the superb leadership David Rawley N3AT is giving us as Field Day Chairman. We can do this. Plus I firmly believe in the principle that many hands make for light work. So I am asking for your many hands. I hope you will all be there.

For those who haven't been with us for Field Day before, it's a combination ham radio, picnic, contest, demonstration, public relations, stay up half the night and party with your friends kind of event.

For those of us without day jobs, and those who can play hooky, the event starts Friday morning around 8:30am. We open up Storage 2 and out comes 3 shelters and an Easy-Up.

While one group puts those together, a second group headed by Tim Nagel KB3YQK will haul out two 40 foot masts and erect them at the prescribed spots. How Tim gets them up so straight is a mystery for sure. Our two 40 meter delta loops will go up on those masts later in the day. The shelters will go into place, and Jim Goldsberry KB3NQY will use his garden tractor and trailer to move table, chairs and other equipment into place. We go home early and come back Saturday 8:30am.

Daniel Kim K3KTW and Oliver Minall, NE3Q will relocate the rigs to the shelters, add all those cables, microphones, keys, SignaLinks and such, plus hook up the grounding system.

At the same time Jamisson Phipps W3KNH will put the generator in place, and get it running to provide power for testing by 10am.

The delta loop feedlines will be put in place through the supports by David Etherton AC3ER and then attached to the antennas. At the shelter end antenna tuners will be attached. A quick tune up and test should follow. Meanwhile an antenna crew will be assembling 40th Year of Publication

two tri-band beams, and hauling them into place on two 40 foot rocket launchers. A pulley at the top of each rocket launcher will be used to hoist two 80 meter inverted-V antennas into place, and feed lines from both will be run into the shelters.

The logging system, as pre-configured days earlier by Scott Rasmus KC3BFW will be put into place, with cardboard boxes around the monitors to deaden glare and make reading easier.

A quick test of all radios and antennas, and its into the club house for lunch as prepared by Eric Berman KC3GDV and Mark Bova W2PAW. These two can't be thanked enough. They will provide two lunches, one featuring barbecue, a first class breakfast, pizza for dinner, and coffee, cold soda and water, plus other goodies throughout the night. And I guess I should mention Richard Grace KB3ZYO and his infamous home made potato chips, which tend to show up around 2am out by the shelters. They are soooooo good. When he's not cooking chips, Richard is also in charge of a solar operated KX3 station, which will make the five contacts required for bonus points.

During the contest period 2:00pm Saturday till 2:00pm Sunday Gary McBrien K3EEZ will attempt to get us Satellite Contact bonus points. Jim Wallace N3ADF will run UHF/VHF and see to it that the bonus Field Day messages are sent to a number of individuals including our Section Manager Marty Pittinger KB3MXM. Chuck Tanner K3ACT will head up our Digital Operations, making contacts on some combination on FT4, PSK31 and RTTY. If he's really nice he'll let me make some CW contacts too.

And then there are the unsung heros of Field Day. John Bowes KB3YLY will not only be making sure everything is done safely, he will be documenting his efforts, getting us even more bonus points. Ed Santilli KB3YMU, who has already secured us points by inviting public officials to visit our Field Day site, will be on hand greeting those guests, and taking pictures of everything Field Day for us, so we can fill up a web site page with Field Day 2019 for us to enjoy the rest of the year.

Inside our easy-up, we will have an information table full of materials for guests to take home. Again, we get bonus points. But the greeters don't get off there, they will be taking visitors to the various operating positions, educating them about what is involved in Field Day, and gently arm twisting till our visitors make a few contacts themselves. And yes, if those visitors are teens or younger, we could get even more bonus points. Finally the most unsung of the unsung, Kelly Fast, N3XUJ will be heading up this year's tear down crew. It's a newly created position meant to insure stuff is stored right the first time. She already has a number of volunteers to help her including Huey Treadwell AB3GS, but she could always use more.

We still have a few weeks to go, equipment to test, software to configure, and plans to make. We have the people in place to get things ready. What we don't have are the people we need to make it all happen. So please, include Field Day at the DFRC in your plans for June 21-23. We could really use your help. And I bet you could use a weekend of ham radio event, picnic, contest, demonstration, public relations, stay up half the night and party with your friends.

ARRL Field Day Site Locator is Live, Promotional Material and FD Gear Now Available

Amateur Radio's most popular operating event, <u>ARRL Field Day</u> is June 22 - 23. See the May issue of *QST*, page 85, for the official Field Day announcement. The complete 2019 <u>ARRL Field Day</u> packet is online.



The

Field Day site locator is now up and running, and by midweek, 475 sites already were in the database. To find a Field Day site near you, enter your town and state in the "Location or Call Sign"

box at the upper left. Listings also are available by state or Canadian province. To add a site, visit the <u>Add Field Day</u> <u>Station</u> page. <u>Information</u> on promoting Field Day is available. Also, <u>visit</u> the Field Day social media page for

information on promoting your Field Day operation via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The ARRL Public Relations Committee will host a series of live video/audio conference calls every Thursday starting on May 9 to help ARRL PIOs with their Field Day publicity efforts.



Field Day public service announcements (PSAs) are set to be posted to the ARRL Field Day web page this week.

Official FD 2019 Gear!

Official Field Day gear and supplies available from ARRL including pocket <u>T-shirts</u>, <u>hats</u>, <u>pins</u>, <u>patches</u>, <u>stickers</u>, and coffee <u>mugs</u> are a great way to acknowledge -- and commemorate -- your participation in this most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio.

Encourage club members, family, friends, and prospective hams to take part using ARRL Field Day with recruitment <u>posters</u> and attractive "Get on the Air" (GOTA)

pins for those newcomers.

ARRL's new <u>Radio Communications</u> vinyl banner is perfect for showing off Amateur Radio at ARRL Field Day, any public exhibit or recruitment display. It's good for indoor and outdoor use and reusable for years to come.

Clubs are encouraged to order early. Place a group order and pay just \$12.50 shipping for all orders over \$50 (while supplies last). Get your 2019 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL <u>online store</u> or by calling (888) 277-5289 in the US, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. Outside the US, call (860) 594-0355.

The complete 2019 <u>ARRL Field Day</u> packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations using the <u>FD Site Locator</u>. Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 9 2019

Hams Help Trace "Mystery" Signal Disrupting Keyless Entry Devices in Ohio

A <u>recent article</u> in *The New York Times* reported that many garage door openers and keyless vehicle entry fobs in an Ohio town near Cleveland mysteriously stopped working. While the article invoked *The X-Files* and hinted initially that a NASA research center might be involved, the cause was not so much mystifying as arcane.

"Garage door repair people, local ham radio enthusiasts, and other volunteer investigators descended on the neighborhood with various meters," the May 4 article by Heather Murphy recounted. "Everyone agreed



that something powerful was interfering with the radio frequency that many fobs rely on, but no one could identify the source."

More than a dozen residents reported intermittent issues getting their key fobs and

garage door openers to operate, and most lived within a few blocks of each other. At one point, the local power utility started shutting off power to areas where the strongest RF signal was detected, but the signal persisted. Dan Dalessandro, WB8ZQH, a TV repairer, was among several hams who investigated. He initially picked up "little blips" on a signal detector, but finally, on one block and at a particular house, the signal was quite loud.

"The source of the problem was a homebrew, battery-operated device designed by a local resident to alert him if someone was upstairs when he was working in his basement," the *Times* reported. "It did so by turning off a light." The inventor, not identified for privacy concerns, had no malicious intent nor any no inkling that his device was wreaking havoc on the neighborhood until a North Olmstead City Council member and a volunteer knocked on his door. The device operated on 315 MHz, the frequency many keyless-entry devices use under FCC Part 15 rules. The device's battery was removed, the signal stopped, and all who were involved breathed sighs of relief.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 9, 2019

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Winter Field Day	winter.field.day@w3vpr.org	
	energies and a second sec	

Groups

Board of Directors	
Kit Building Committee	board19@w3vpr.org
Kit Building Committee	kitbuilding@w3vpr.org
Rules Committee	rules.com@w3vpr.org

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VE Testing Schedule

day of each month - Noon - AARC -Rick Steer / AB3XJ testing@w3vpr.org

Third Saturday of each month -9AM - Laurel ARC - John Creel, 301-572-5124 Fourth Tuesday of each month - 6PM - MMARC -

Mike Montrose / KA2JAI 443-310-4907 web site is tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers

To all exams bring:

- Picture ID ٠
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration ٠ Number (FRN)
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of current FCC amateur radio license **ORIGINAL** and a COPY of all element credits (eg., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE)

ARRL Reply Comments Stress Need to Update Technician Privileges in a Digital World

In reply comments to the FCC (comments on comments already filed) on its <u>Petition for Rule Making</u> (RM-11828), ARRL has stressed that updating HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license "is the sole subject and intent" of the petition. ARRL filed its reply comments on April 29, urging the FCC to disregard comments irrelevant to its petition and maintaining that Technician privileges must be relevant within the context of today's technological environment.



"[T]he

increasingly rapid pace of change in communications

technologies, coupled with the national need for self-training in science, technology, engineering, and math" necessitate the rule

changes requested, ARRL asserted. "ARRL made its request because of the gap between today's digital technologies and the privileges accorded the current entrylevel Technician license." ARRL characterized its proposal to update the rules as "balanced and modest."

"If adopted, there would be no change to the operating privileges for all license classes other than those of the Technician class," ARRL said. In 2018, ARRL asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters. The FCC invited comments on the proposal in April.

ARRL pointed out that some comments filed on its petition address subjects related to other open proceedings rather than expanding Technician privileges, citing comments cross-filed in such proceedings as WT Docket 16-239, RM-11708, RM-11759, and RM-11831. "Those filings should be considered in the proceedings that they address, rather than here," ARRL said.

ARRL said some opposition appears based on fears of increased interference potential due to additional digital operation by Technicians. "It is improbable that all, or even a majority, of Technician licensees suddenly would develop a passion for the same digital technology," ARRL said. "Our hope and expectation is that many will engage with digital modes on the high-frequency spectrum at issue, but it is unrealistic to suggest that every Technician licensee blessed with new privileges would suddenly appear on the same band."

The

comments note the development of very efficient digital modes, such as FT8, which

occupies just 90 Hz



of spectrum per signal. "The experience with FT8 clearly demonstrates the attraction of the digital modes and the

spectrum efficiencies that can be achieved," ARRL said. "This is why opening up limited digital opportunities to new radio amateurs so clearly would serve the broad public interest as well as the specific purposes of Amateur Radio in experimentation and innovation, as enumerated in the governing FCC rules."

ARL further said that comments regarding disagreement on the definition of encryption for masking the content of certain digital transmissions are also "out of place in this proceeding" and "should not delay initiation of a proceeding" proposing to update Technician privileges.

"Technology has changed dramatically in the Amateur Radio domain, and ARRL believes the requested Technician license enhancement would foster the regulatory goals for the Amateur Service and continue to increase amateurs' historical experimentation and service in a meaningful way," ARRL concluded.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 2, 2019

EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE!

EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE! Together with Radio and Tabletop Exercises, NIMS/ICS training and ARES® experience forms the backbone of readiness when called upon to serve our communities. Although Amateur Radio is a hobby our Emergency Communication is not so we have a to be prepared to respond to our served agencies, VOAD and NGO organizations. ARRL and FCC sign MOU for new enhanced Volunteer Monitor program, replacing the Official Observers (OO) program.

Prioritize, sequence, and focus response efforts towards maintaining or restoring the most critical services and infrastructure - Community Lifelines:

Safety and Security Food, Water, Sheltering Health and Medical Energy (Power & Fuel) Communication Transportation Hazardous Material

Used with permission MDC Section News, May 17, 2019

VEC Amateur Radio FCC License Examine

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search/page:1/ Location.section_id:MDC/model:Event https://www.laurelvec.com/

 05/25/2019 |
 Centreville MD 02161

 05/28/2019 |
 Linthicum Heights MD 21090

 06/01/2019 |
 Catonsville MD 21228

 06/08/2019 |
 Davidsonville MD 21035

 06/12/2019 |
 Fort Washington MD 20744

 06/15/2019 |
 Forest Hill MD 21050

 06/15/2019 |
 Laurel MD 20707

 06/22/2019 |
 Essex MD 21221

Used with permission MDC Section News, May 17, 2019

Former ARRL Headquarters Staffer Ellen White, W1YL, is Krenkel Medalist

[UPDATED 2019-05-07 @ 2318 UTC] ARRL Headquarters staff alumna and Life Member Ellen White, W1YL, is the sole US radio amateur to in 2019 to be awarded the Russian **E.T. Krenkel Medal**, a prestigious award granted to individuals and organizations for outstanding global contributions to Amateur Radio. In 2018, *QST* was awarded a Krenkel Medal.



First licensed in 1946. White had already learned Morse code in high school, and even today, she only rarely operates any other mode. She served for more than 25 years (1952 - 1978) on the Headquarters staff, at one point heading up ARRL contestina activities. She retired as **Deputy Communications** Manager and became

Ellen White, W1YL [Photo courtesy of MABUHAY DXstitch]

QST "How's DX?" editor. On her own time, she recorded *QST* on tape for the vision impaired through the US Library of Congress talking book program.

Her husband Bob White, W1CW (SK), was ARRL DXCC manager. Their son Jim White, K4OJ (SK), also once served on the ARRL HQ staff and was president of the Florida Contest Group, which now holds his call sign.

For several years now, Ellen White has been operating via the W7RN remote contest station in Nevada to stay active on CW as W1YL/7, usually on 40 meters at around 1000 UTC. She is on the roster of the A-1 Operators Club and has served as a West Central Florida Assistant Section Manager. The article "<u>A Conversation</u> with Ellen White, W1YL," by Rosalie White, K1STO (no relation), appeared in the May/June 2015 edition of *NCJ*.

The award's namesake, Ernst Teodorovich Krenkel, was a radio amateur who, over the years, used the call signs RAEM, U3AA, and UA3AA. Born in Poland, Krenkel was an Arctic explorer who took part in the first Soviet "drifting station," North Pole-1. He was made a "Hero of the Soviet Union" in 1938 for his exploits.

Krenkel's son, T.E. Krenkel, is among the four signatories to the award certificate. The younger Krenkel, a professor at the Moscow Technical College of Telecommunication and Informatics, said his father was an avid radio amateur who served as the first chairman of the Central Radio Club in the USSR.

Krenkel's image appears on postage stamps from the USSR and Russia, and he authored a biography entitled *My Callsign is RAEM*. In the era when all radio amateurs received QSL cards via Box 88, Moscow, Krenkel was allowed to have his own postal address on his QSLs and was issued the non-standard RAEM call sign. — *Thanks to George Wagner, K5KG*

Used with permission The ARRLLetter, May 9, 2019

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FCC Chairman By Default to Combat Robocalls

FCC Chair Ajit Pai is proposing action to help consumers block unwanted robocalls. He has circulated a declaratory ruling that, if adopted, would allow phone companies to block unwanted calls to their customers by default. In addition, companies could allow consumers to block calls not on their own contacts lists. A draft *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* would propose a safe harbor for providers that implement network-wide blocking of calls that fail caller authentication under the SHAKEN/STIR framework, once it is implemented.



FCC Chair Ajit Pai.

"Allowing call blocking by default could be a big benefit for consumers who are sick and tired of robocalls," Pai said. "By making it clear that such call blocking is allowed, the FCC will voice aive service providers the legal certainty they need to block unwanted calls

from the outset." Pai encouraged carriers to start providing these services free of charge and by default to current and future customers.

According to an FCC news release, many voice providers have held off developing and deploying callblocking tools by default because of uncertainty about whether these tools are legal. "Allowing default call blocking by voice providers could significantly increase development and consumer adoption of such tools," the FCC said. "This blocking could be based on analytics and consumer 'white lists.' Similar analytics are currently used by third-party developers in call-blocking apps." The FCC said consumer white lists could be based on a customer's own contacts list.

Pai also proposed seeking public comment on how <u>caller ID authentication</u> standards, known as SHAKEN/STIR, can inform call blocking. He has demanded that carriers adopt these standards to combat malicious spoofing. This system of signing calls as legitimate as they pass through the phone networks may be useful for call-blocking tools, the FCC said.

The May 15 action would mark the first by the FCC to directly combat robocalls that spoof legitimate, inservice numbers. This follows adoption of <u>new rules</u> in 2017, which allowed blocking of calls before they reach consumers when they are highly likely to be illegitimate. "These calls might appear to come from nonexistent area codes or from numbers on the Do Not Originate list that do not make outbound calls -- like the FCC's own consumer help line, which was added to the list following scam calls that spoofed the agency's 888-CALL-FCC number," the Commission said.

The FCC will consider these measures at its June 6 open meeting.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019



W1AW 2019 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET) 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UT(C (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 "	(5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 "	(6 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 "	(7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 "	"	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 "	(8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 "	(9 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 "	(9:45 PM ET)		Daily
0200 "	(10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 "	(11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555 DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13

and 10 WPM CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 93 in the March 2019 issue of QST or on the web at, <u>http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule</u>.





Happy Birthday Hiram

This year is the 150-year anniversary of Hiram Percy Maxim death, born on September 2nd, 1869 in Brooklyn, New York. He is buried at Cemetery Rose Hill Cemetery, in the Hamilton family plot belonging to his wife's family at the oldest public cemetery in Washington County Maryland. Hiram Percy Maxim was one of the cofounders of the American Radio Relay League ARRL, founder of the American Radio Relay League ARRL, founder of the Amateur Cinema League in New York, the Aero Club of Hartford and a respected Hartford scientist, radio pioneer, inventor, mechanical engineer. The W1AW, Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station represents both the legacy and the future of our wonderful fellowship.

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Amateur Radio Roundtable will Livestream 50 Hours of Dayton Hamvention®

Amateur

RadioRoundtablewillLivestream50HoursofDaytonHamvention[®].AmateurRadio

Amateur Radio Roundtable and host Tom Medlin, W5KUB, will be back at Dayton



Hamvention to <u>livestream</u> the activity and action before, during, and after the May 17 - 19 event. Amateur Radio Roundtable's show coverage will go live on Thursday, May 16, and continue through the weekend. "This is a big event and we have viewers in about 150 countries," Medlin said. "Astronaut Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, will join us again for the 7th year as cohost. Join in the live chat room." <u>More information</u> is on the W5KUB Facebook group.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019

ARRL's Free Exam Review for Ham Radio Updated

<u>ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio</u>[™] has been updated in advance of the release of the ninth edition of *The ARRL General Class License Manual for Ham Radio*. ARRL Exam Review is a free online resource for use with current editions of <u>ARRL License Manuals</u>. The service can be accessed via a web browser, and uses the official examination question pools to construct chapter-bychapter reviews. Upon completing study, Exam Review helps the license candidate take practice exams with the same number and variety of questions that he or she will encounter on exam day. Practice tests can be taken over and over, scored in complete privacy, or even printed with an answer key. Exam Review includes quick feedback about the questions missed.



The update to Exam Review and the new edition *General Class License Manual* coincides with a new General Class question pool released earlier this year by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC). The new 2019 – 2023 General Class question pool becomes effective July 1, 2019 for examinations in the Amateur Radio Service. The 2015 – 2019 General Class pool remains in effect for exams given until June 30, 2019. ARRL Exam Review provides access to both the current and new General Class questions.

A federally licensed service, Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") provides the broadest and most powerful wireless communication capability available to private citizens anywhere in the world. ARRL, the national membership association for Amateur Radio licensees in the US, offers books, online content, and other resources for Amateur Radio licensing, operating, and lifelong learning.

For more information about getting started in Amateur Radio, visit or call 800-326-3942 (800-32 NEW HAM). ARRL can help you find local <u>radio clubs</u>, <u>classes</u>, and <u>testing sites</u>.What is Ham Radio

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 2 2019

AARC Repeaters and Nets

2 Meter Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	147.105+	107.2	AARC Repeater with morning traffic net.
Glen Burnie	147.075+	107.2	AARC repeater Located in Northern AA County.
BrandyWine	147.150+	114.8	SMARC Repeater.
Prince Frederick	145.350-	156.7	SPARC/CARC Repeater.
Laurel	147.225+	156.7	Laurel ARC Repeater.
Millersville	146.805-	107.2	Repeater.

1.25 Meter Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	223.880-	107.2	AARC 1.25M repeater *check to see if tied into 7.105
Millersville	224.560-	107.2	AARC repeater Located in Northern AA County.

70cm Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	444.400+	107.2	AARC 70 cm Repeater.
Annapolis	442.300+	107.2	AARC 70 cm repeater
Laurel	442.500+	156.7	Laurel ARC 70 cm Repeater.
Millersville	449.125-	107.2	Maryland Mobileers Repeater.
Upper Marlboro	443.600+	103.5	SMARC 70 cm Repeater.

Packet Stations

Location	Frequency	Call	Notes
Davidsonville	145.050	W3VPR	AARC Club packet node running JNOS
Davidsonville	145.010	W3VPR-5	Digipeter Relay to EOC Winlink
Millersville	145.010	W3AAC-5	Digipeter Relay to EOC Winlink
Glen Burnie	145.010	W3AAC-10	EOC Winlink system and digipeter

Amateur Radio NETS

Name	Frequenc	y (in Mhz)	Day	Time
The "Holly Net"	147.105+	PL 107.2	Weekdays	0700
AARC Talk Net	147.105+	PL 107.2	Wednesday	2000
AA County ARES Net	146.805-	PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-		Daily	1830
Boating Net	146.805-	PL 107.2	Wednesday	1930
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.920		Daily	1800
Maryland-DC-Delaware Traffic Net	3.643		Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Slow Net	3.563		Daily	1930
React Net	442.300+	PL 107.2	1st Sunday	1930

We use **simplex 146.430 Mhz** frequently enough that you should probably program that into your HT or mobile. This is the go-to frequency for many 5K race/walk volunteering efforts, local communication, Field Day setup, and the like when we're not using a repeater.

CONGRATULATIONS

April 13, 2019

Tucker, Michele Nelson, Phillip L DeMatteo. Scott S Peers. Peter S Shepherd, Rebecca S Lumb, Janice L Goswami, Debdipta Taylor, Scott A Taylor, Samantha G **IORDANIDES, PAUL D** Nealey, Alexander J Heintz, Stephen B Stansberry, Scott D Kelly, Melissa C Rogers, John D Renard, Jason T Magowitz, Niles P Cauffman. Braeden T McAllister. Paul A

Upgrade to Amateur Extra K8SWE New General KC3NGQ KC3NGR New General KC3NGS New Technician KC3NGT New Technician KC3NGU New Technician AC3EH New Amateur Extra KC3NGV New Technician KC3NGW New Technician N6QHG Upgrade to General KC3NGX New Technician KG6MNT Upgrade to Amateur Extra Upgrade to Amateur Extra KC3HGQ KC3NGY New Technician KC3NGZ New General KC3NHA New Technician New Technician KC3NHB KC3NHC New Technician KC3NHD New Technician

May 11, 2019

Reid Jr, Edwin G Traver, Zachary R KB3TBD Upgi KC3NKV New

Upgrade to General New Technician

Good job! well done.! Welcome to the Amateur Radio. Please join us in all the activities of the Anne Arundel Radio Club.

President and board of Directors Anne Arundel Radio Club June 2019

World Scout Jamboree Gearing Up for Significant Amateur Radio Presence

Amateur Radio will be a part of this summer's 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, the first World Jamboree held in North America since 1983. The Jamboree has chosen the theme "Unlock a New World." Thousands of Scouts and Scout leaders from some 200 countries are expected to attend. The Jamboree's Amateur Radio Exhibit will use the call sign <u>NA1WJ</u> -- **N**orth **A**merica's 1st World Jamboree. It will be on the air during the event, July 22 until August 2, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the US. Amateur Radio testing is expected to begin as early as July 14. Operating frequencies will be posted in real time via <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> or via an <u>NA1WJ email group</u>.



"The goals of the Amateur Radio station at the World Scout Jamboree are to introduce Amateur Radio to Scouts and Scout leaders through hands-on participation in two-way communication with other

stations across the globe. This activity will also serve as the Amateur Radio voice of the Jamboree," the <u>World</u> <u>Scout Jamboree Amateur Radio Exhibit Operational Vision</u> <u>document</u> states. Other facets of Amateur Radio at the Jamboree will include Amateur Radio direction finding (ARDF), Amateur Radio satellite contacts, and a scheduled Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with an ISS crew member.

"We also expect to launch one or two balloons with Amateur Radio payloads and track them as they cross the Atlantic," the vision document continues.



Organizers are encouraging radio amateurs around the globe to get on the air during the World Jamboree to help NA1WJ demonstrate Amateur Radio for Jamboree visitors.

The 2019 World Scout Jamboree operation at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve will take advantage of lessons learned by the K2BSA Amateur Radio operation during the 2013 and 2017 USA National Jamborees. It will also take advantage of the existing infrastructure, which includes three VHF/UHF repeaters installed by Icom America, as well as the utility poles for installing antennas. K2BSA ham gear stored in West Virginia includes antennas, rotators, and cables.

Evening operation from NA1WJ will involve at least two operators using the buddy system. VHF/UHF repeaters will offer full coverage of the Jamboree area via handheld transceivers, facilitating networking as well as emergency communication. The exhibit will include an Amateur Radio station with the special event call sign W8J. The demonstration station will include multiple operating positions offering a variety of modes. These include six stations with 100 W HF transceivers, computer logging software, and large screen computer displays; two VHF/UHF stations for demonstrations and repeater monitoring, and two satellite communication systems. The antenna farm will include two HF directional antennas, three HF dipoles, three HF vertical antennas, VHF/UHF verticals and satellite antennas with azimuth and elevation control, a trailer-based crank-up tower, a five-band Yagi, a 40-meter rotatable dipole, and a 6-meter Yagi.

Each station will be able to accommodate four participants at a time, plus one control operator. The goal is to give each participant up to about 10 minutes of operating time.

The K2BSA Amateur Radio Association will host a "Radio Scouting" booth at <u>Dayton Hamvention</u> $\hat{A}^{\mathbb{R}}$ (Booth 2205 in Building 2).

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 2 2019

44th Marine Corps Marathon -Call to Volunteer!

Volunteers share a special connection with the United States Marine Corps. Like those in uniform, Marine Corps Marathon volunteers are always the first to fight, arriving in the early morning hours and staying until wellafter the final participant has finished. MCM Volunteers are a willing, capable and agile force ready to tackle any number of critical responsibilities to support the overall mission of promoting physical fitness.

Take the bold step forward and join the Marine Corps Marathon Organization by volunteering for the 44th **Marine Corps Marathon** to be held on **October 25th-27th**, **2019** in Arlington, VA. Volunteer registration begins **today!** As a well-trained volunteer or someone who seems uniquely equipped to accomplish the mission, you are being issued access to this information in advance of others, so you may claim your preferred duty station.

Register to volunteer for the 44th Marine Corps Marathon at

http://xactllc.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=38574

Additional event details including start times, parking locations, and course maps are featured on <u>http://www.marinemarathon.com/events/marathon</u>. Re-up for other critical volunteer missions or learn more about the 2019 schedule by visiting the MCM website at <u>www.marinemarathon.com</u>

If you would like to create a group to volunteer at the Marine Corps Marathon, contact <u>jared.kline@usmc-</u><u>mccs.org</u> with the group name and size of your group.

It is only with the support of motivated individuals like you who are focused, alert and in control that the MCM is able to organize successful events in support of the runners and the Marines. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic support and generous commitment of time to the MCM.

Semper Fidelis,

Jared Kline – Volunteer Coordinator, 571-238-4916 Marine Corps Marathon Organization Used with permission

The Ham Arundel News is the monthly official publication of

The Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc. (ARRL Club No. 0484).

Editor: Milford Craig / N3WYG

Send newsletter articles, questions and information to **Milford** at **newsletter@w3vpr.org** Deadline for submissions – The Saturday after the 3rd Thursday of the month

Mailing Address:

Anne Arundel Radio Club Post Office Box 308 Davidsonville, MD 21035

Meetings:

General Business 1st Thursday at 7:30 PM Board Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM Program/Activity 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM

Dues:

\$30 per year, payable December 1st Discounts available for family members and students

World Wide Web:

www.w3vpr.org

AARC Supports The Maryland Slow Net: 3.563 MHz CW 7:30 P. M. Daily

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Free Money for AARC! ARRL Membership Reminder

ARRL affiliated clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters:

Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). Clubs retain \$2 for each renewal, A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at any time, even befor

A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at any time, even before their current membership expires.

Send your application and payment (made out to AARC) to the club treasurer.



Mark Your Calendars

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Club Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7:30 to 9PM at the clubhouse located at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center in Davidsonville, MD

Free License Exams every 2nd Saturday of the Month - Check in at Noon, Exams at 1PM - At the clubhouse - Contact David Rawley / AE5Z, testing@w3vpr.org

Weekly AARC 2-Meter Net on 147.105 (Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400 with CTCSS tone of 107.2 Hz) every Wednesday at 8 PM - All Welcome

2 meter "HOLLY NET" on 147.105 (Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400 with CTCSS tone of 107.2 Hz) every morning 7:00 am to 9:00 am. All hams are welcome.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 1 8:30am AARC - General License Class

Thursday, June 6 7:30pm AARC - Club meeting, newcomers always welcome.

Saturday, June 8 8:30am AARC - General License Class

12:00pm AARC - Free License Exams Thursday, June 13 7:30pm

AARC - board meeting

Sunday, June 16 1:00pm AARC - Mesh Networking group, Every 3rd Sunday, 1 to 4 PM at the clubhouse

Thursday, June 20 7:30pm AARC - Club meeting, newcomers always welcome.

Friday, June 21 8:00am Field Day Setup

Saturday, June 22 2:00pm Field Day

8:00am Field Day Setup

Sunday, June 23 » 2:00pm Field Day 1:00pm Open Shack Hours

2:00pm Field Day Teardown

Sunday, June 30 1:00pm

AARC Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair, at 1 to 4 PM at the clubhouse

Radio Amateurs to Demonstrate Emergency Messaging Capabilities for Red Cross, FEMA

Just days ahead of the 2019 hurricane season, dozens of hams along the US East Coast will demonstrate Amateur Radio's ability to deliver messages without commercial power, infrastructure, or permanently established stations for officials of the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Thursday, May 23, event will take place in coordination with ARRL, during a joint meeting with Red Cross and FEMA officials in Baltimore. The demonstration



American Red Cross will be a mock response to a simulated disaster scenario -- a major hurricane with mass casualties striking

the east coast. Amateur Radio operators at portable stations from New England to the Carolinas will deliver messages to W1AW, which will then coordinate and deliver the information to officials attending the joint FEMA-Red Cross meeting in Baltimore.

Messaging will be handled using digital modes, which can allow for the transmission of images as well as text, as a showcase for the full range of modern Amateur Radio technology. The American Red Cross will also have a NexGen Emergency Response Vehicle parked at W1AW in Connecticut as part of the



training exercise, which will take place from 1330 to 1530 UTC.

ARRL and its members have a long history of working with emergency response agencies, such as the American Red Cross and FEMA, to provide or support communication in times of disaster for <u>served agencies</u> and <u>partners</u>. A principal served agency, the Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019

Selected Sessions of the 2019 Contest University (<u>cru</u>) will be Livestreamed, Compliments of Icom America



Selected Sessions of the 2019 Contest University (CTU) will be Livestreamed, Compliments of Icom America. Streaming on the CTU website will begin on May 16 at 1200 UTC. Topics include Radiosport Contesting with

Integrity; 2BSIQ & SO3R: Riding the Edge of Human Capabilities, and No-Compromise Remote Contesting. Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019

ARRL Invites Applications for Volunteer Monitor Positions

ARRL is now accepting <u>applications</u> from individuals interested in becoming part of the new <u>Volunteer Monitor program</u>, a joint undertaking of the FCC and ARRL. The program seeks volunteers who -- working under the direction of ARRL -- will monitor and survey the Amateur Radio bands both to detect improper activity and to recognize exemplary on-the-air behavior.



Prospective Volunteer Monitors must be ARRL members. They will undergo a training and certification program administered by ARRL, and will be vetted by ARRL through at least one oral interview and a preliminary evaluation by ARRL staff. Such requirements will continue for Volunteer Monitors once they are selected.

Volunteer Monitors will serve 3-year terms at the pleasure of ARRL, and ARRL will reserve the right to terminate the participation of any Volunteer Monitor for any reason.

Volunteer Monitors must be able to utilize state-ofthe-art receiving equipment and to access no-cost remote receive sites, if requested. Applicants must possess strong writing and communication skills and an understanding of the importance of thorough documentation. They must have basic word processing and data entry skills and be able to send such information, including recordings, to ARRL electronically.

Applicants must have no history of warning letters or other enforcement-related action from the FCC, must hold a Technician or higher class license, and must have been licensed for at least 3 years.

Applicants should send applications to **volunteermonitor@arrl.org** for processing.

In February, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, was named to oversee the development and implementation phases of the Volunteer Monitor program, which will replace the Official Observer (OO) program. Hollingsworth once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019



We are pleased to receive any

donations over your yearly dues.

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER'S REPORT

MDC NTS NETS:

 MEPN 1904 W3YVQ QND/30 QNI/357 QTC/51 MINS/631

 BTN
 1904 AB3WG QND/30 QNI/363 QTC/39 MINS/533

 MDD
 1904 AA3SB QND/59 QNI/274 QTC/87 MINS/498

 MSN
 1904 W8CPG NO REPORT

PSHR: KK3F 140, W3CB 136, W3YVQ 135, K3IN 110, N3JET 100, WB3FTQ 100, AA3SB 99, NI2W 96, AB3WG 77, TFC: KK3F 2900, K3IN 219, W3YVQ 98, AA3SB 75, N3JET 61, WB3FTQ 43, NI2W 36, W3CB 31, AB3WG 30,

HF PROPAGATION:

MEPN: The net NVIS propagation was functional throughout APR, 2019, with good signals. Outbound traffic to MDD may be routed via the Digital Traffic Net if it is anticipated that MDD may not be able to conduct a net, a tricky prediction at best; or may be carried by the MDD liaison to an MDD EchoLink session, if held, for DTN; or outbound traffic may be sent to one of the MDC DTS stations via WL2K (as advised by the MDD NM) if MDD or 3RN/C4 fails.

MDD: NVIS propagation for local MDC stations on MDD early and late, and on RRI/3RN/C4 nets, was greatly improved. As April progressed the higher sun angle allowed the MUF to remain above the net frequency on most nights. Outbound traffic may be posted via WL2K to one of the MDC DTS stations as advised by the MDD NM if the net fails. If 3RN fails and the MDD rep cannot go to RRIE, the outbound traffic may be posted with one of the MDC DTS stations as advised by the MDD NM. In May we should continue to experience good NVIS on all four Cycle 4 CW nets barring any unusual solar flare or CME activity.

CW OPERATORS NEEDED:

Additional CW operators are needed for liaison to MDD and to the higher nets, and Net Control Stations are also needed on MDD and 3RN/C4. The evening NTS and RRI nets in Cycle-4 nation-wide are conducted on CW, a very efficient mode for traffic handling. Grab your key, join in on MSN to help sharpen your skills, have some fun QSOs to help build confidence, and come participate in the evening nets.

MEPN/MDD/3RN ECHOLINK:

MEPN (Maryland Emergency Phone Net) representatives check for EchoLink check-ins starting at net call daily via the WB3GXW-L link node (or ***WASH_DC*** conference node backup if the -L node is not available). WB3GXW has kindly given permission for the MDD and 3RN operators to coordinate message handling on the WB3GXW-L conference bridge as needed during this solar minimum period.

MSN CW TRAINING:

Remember that the MSN (Maryland Slow Net) provides CW training daily for newcomers to the mode, or those wishing to refresh their skills, daily at 7:30 PM Local on 3563 kHz. Each trainee works with an assigned instructor off the net frequency to receive Radiograms containing training information. Instructors work with each student at their own desired speed and check-in schedule. All are encouraged to master the art of CW via this net or personal training in order to support and join the ranks of our MDD Section CW net. Robin, AA3SB, MDD NM, and the veteran staff, will be glad to help you advance to the evening CW full Cycle 4 RRI. By the end of March, the NVIS propagation improved enough to allow local stations to participate in MSN with good signals.

BTN LOCAL NTS TRAFFIC AND TRAINING NET:

The BTN (Baltimore Traffic Net) continues to meet on 145.33/R (no tone) daily at 6:30PM local time and continues to welcome new amateurs. The availability of an active directed traffic net of the NTS on VHF is exactly why the BTN was established, providing a welcoming place for newcomers to the Amateur Service. Thanks to all the BTN stations checking into the MEPN via EchoLink. The NM, AB3WG, has initiated plans for broader cooperation between BTN and MSN to foster more awareness between operators using the respective modes. Instructive message swapping and liaison duties should be in effect in May 2019.

MESSAGE TYPES:

MDC NTS and RRI handle:

1) The traditional Radiogram (all-cap letters, figures, and slant- bars, with spelled out punctuation);

2) The Hybrid Radiogram (which is formatted in the Preamble, Address, and Signature, plus any OP NOTES, the same way as the traditional Radiogram but with an email-formatted text with upper/lower case, figures, plus all the standard email punctuation symbols, permitted between the breaks in order to carry ICS and other form content - handled by RRI's Digital Traffic Network); and

3) Operators use the Winlink Radio-email system for transport of both types of Radiograms as well as regular email-formatted messages. FL MSG also provides for ICS form entry and export of content to facilitate handling such texts within Amateur Radio; and it also provides an attachment export which may be used to print out ICS forms on the receiving end including the form's box borders.

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Please encourage newcomers in your clubs and areas to learn how to format the various message types; participate in our directed traffic nets; and become familiar with the equipment, software, and operational experience needed. These are critically important skill sets to bring to all NTS, RRI, ARES®, RACES, and NIMS/ICS support activities; and are now required in ARES® guidance. The Section's NTS staff will be glad to provide introductory and advanced training via EchoLink to help you. As mentioned on our Section EchoLink conferences, it is efficient to do this for the instructors in reasonable class sizes. ARES® ECs, etc., or designated specialists in your jurisdictions, are good candidates for this. Rank and file training should continue on local ARES® and club nets. The training references for many of the topics are on the Section's web site under General Information (<u>http://www.arrl-mdc.net</u>).

Thanks to all the Section traffic net NCS stations, DTN/RRI and WL2K stations, liaisons, and traffic handlers for the continuing effort to keep the nets running and traffic moving.

Thank you for your continued support of MDC integrated ARES(r), RRI, and NTS operations.

73, W3YVQ, MDC ASM, STM w3yvq atsign arrl dot net w3yvq atsign winlink dot org from WL2K

Used with permission MDC Section News, May 17, 2019

AARC Mesh Networking Group

1:00 to 4:00 PM monthly, on the 3rd Sunday of the month AARC Clubhouse, Davidsonville, MD (Next Meeting will be May 19, 2019.)

FCC is Not Reinstating a Vanity Call Sign Fee

An erroneous report this week suggested that the FCC planned to again impose an Amateur Radio vanity call sign application (regulatory) fee of \$70 for the 10-year term. This incorrect conclusion resulted from an incomplete reading of the May 7 FCC *Notice of Proposed*

Rulemaking (NPRM) in the matter of the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal year 2019.

Although the Schedule of Regulatory Fees does show a \$7 annual fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs, a boldface heading in that section of the *NPRM* states,



"REGULATORY FEES. This section is no longer in effect as it has been amended by RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018..." Section 9(e)(2) of RAY BAUM'S Act gives the Commission discretion to exempt a party from paying regulatory fees when the FCC determines that the cost of collection exceeds the amount collected. A new section 9(e)(1) incorporated the Amateur Radio vanity fee exemption from FCC rules into the statute. The *NPRM* makes clear in several other places that regulatory fees no longer apply to Amateur Radio licenses. The FCC eliminated the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs in 2015.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019

"Weather the Storm!"

The Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management is hosting a community-wide emergency preparedness seminar titled "Weather the Storm!"

Come spend the evening learning about and preparing for nature's worst!

This free seminar will be held at two locations within the County.

The **North County location** will be held at the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (7480 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Glen Burnie, Maryland) on Wednesday June 5, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

The **South County location** will be held at the Edgewater Community Library (25 Stepneys Lane, Edgewater, MD) on Thursday June 6, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Used with permission

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Amateur Radio Weather Warning Alerted Residents Of An Ohio Town To A Possible Tornado

An Amateur Radio weather warning alerted residents of an Ohio town to a possible tornado. A



handful of Ohio SKYWARN weather spotters on April 14 forwarded reports to National Weather Service (NWS) Cleveland of a possible tornado near Shelby. As a result, NWS Cleveland was able to issue a tornado warning before the storm struck

the town. No lives were lost, but six were injured.

The tornado was rated as an EF-2 storm, but it was on the ground for 17 miles and covered a swath of 1/2 mile. Immediately after receiving word of the strike, coordinating through the county emergency management agency (EMA), District Emergency Coordinator Danny Baily, W8DLB, and others headed immediately to Shelby, where they met with law enforcement.

Because all of District 6 was activated, it was decided to activate two counties to the north and three counties to the south of Richland. DMR Ohio Talk Group 3139 was used to coordinate resources. While no telecommunications were knocked out of service, hams were assigned to walk the perimeter to keep an eye open for any problems. -- *Thanks to Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, in* DELARA News Used with permission The ARRL Letter for May 16, 2019

REPEATER FREQUENCIES

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560-		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets. Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD. For en-route directions,make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

Copyright © 2011 Anne Arundel Radio Club



Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147,105

Name	Frequency		Day	Time
The "Holly Net"	147.105+Mhz P	L 107.2	Weekdays	0700
AA County ARES Net	146.805- Mhz P	L 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670- Mhz		Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz		Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz		Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805	PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz		Daily	1930
REACT Net	442.300+Mhz	PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

Other Amateur Radio nets



May 14 FT4 Mock Contest Session Canceled, New WSJT-X Beta Version Pending

A second hour-long FT4 "practice contest" set for May 14 UTC has been cancelled, following the success of an initial mock contest held on May 9 UTC (the evening of Wednesday, May 8, in continental US time zones). The event followed <u>ARRL RTTY Roundup</u> rules, with everyone working everyone. *WSJT-X* program suite developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, was among those jumping into the fray. He called the exercise "very useful" and has drawn some preliminary conclusions as to how the FT4 protocol functions in a contest setting.

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"FT4 works well, but — as implemented *WSJT-X* 2.1.0-rc5 — it has some rough spots and performance issues," Taylor said in a post to the Yahoo WSJT Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group. "Many of these have been fixed already during this beta-testing period, and more improvements are still to come."

Taylor said a second mock contest session using the current -rc5 "release candidate" (beta version) would not be helpful, and it's not convenient for the developers to build and distribute -rc6 in time for a session early next week, a few days before the Dayton Hamvention. "Instead, we are aiming now to release *WSJT-X* 2.1.0-rc6 about 2 weeks later — probably in the last week of May or the first week of June," Taylor said. "Another mock contest practice session will be scheduled soon after that release." The current -rc5 beta version will expire automatically on June 7. Taylor said he used a program build that was probably closer to the pending *WSJT-X* 2.1.0-rc6 beta version than to -rc5. "With my dial set at 7.090 and a 4 kHz displayed spectral window, my waterfall was mostly filled with FT4 signals from well before 0000 UTC to well after 0100," he said. Taylor managed some 60 stations in 22 states, four Canadian provinces, and in two DXCC entities.

"Generally I found *WSJT-X* to work well in FT4 contesting mode, but I noted several behavioral oddities that still require attention," Taylor continued. For example, he said the "TU" message need only be sent once, and if the new station needs to be called again, the leading "TU" should be stripped. He also noted that the "Call 1st" check box becomes unchecked in certain circumstances. "This was intentional, part of an attempt to defeat robo-QSOs; but there may be a better way to address this issue," he remarked. He said the "Best S+P" button was effective, but feels its behavior can be improved. "Its selection of a 'best' caller should favor new multipliers, and perhaps also stronger signals," he said. "Currently, the button only functions as desired during a reception interval."

In a post to the <u>Yahoo WSJT Group</u>, Rich Ferch, VE3KI, described the mock contest in one word: "chaotic." He requested eliminating the "feature" that lets the operator continue to call a CQ-ing station, even after the station has come back to someone else. "At the very least, make it wait until the other QSO is over before calling," he said.

Before the practice event, Taylor said the developers were "looking for feedback on what works well, what does not, and what an FT4-enabled contest might be like."

If you took part, post your observations and comments to the <u>Yahoo WSJT Group</u> reflector, the <u>WSJT</u> <u>Development Group Mailing List</u>, or the <u>RTTYDigital</u> <u>list</u>.

The WSJT-X Development Group reports that it's aware of several other anomalies in the -rc5 version of WSJT-X 2.1.0. In addition to unexpected program crashes, the program will reset itself to FT8 protocol after the operator accesses the Settings screen. The current build of WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 does not run correctly under macOS.

Installation packages for Windows and Linux are on the <u>WSJT-X page</u>. A full release of WSJT-X version 2.1 is targeted for release in July 2019.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, May 9, 2019

THE HOLLY NET

Net Control Radio Operators ARE NEEDED

during the work-weekdays -

from 0700 to 0900 am.

Contact: Jim Wallace, N3ADF

The Radio Amateur Operator is...

CONSIDERATE

...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL

...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE

...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY

...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED

...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC

...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928The Radio Amateur's Code