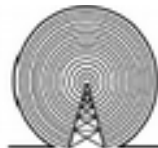


# The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

November 2019

41<sup>st</sup> Year of Publication



Keith Miller, AE3D

## The Prez Sez

Its November. Two days ago we had 4 candidates for 3 director positions. I was hopeful someone would step up and run for Secretary or Vice President. Instead one of the 4 pulled out of the race. Not what I'd hoped for. We now have just enough candidates for Director positions, and are short two officers, Vice President and Secretary. Legally we likely can't operate as a Corporation without these officers. So someone, anyone, has to run. As you ponder whether to run (and gosh I hope you're pondering) keep in mind that the Membership Secretary is keeping the Roster now, which includes adding accounts to the web site, and making sure votes for prospective members make it into the meeting agenda. So the Secretary only keeps and types the Minutes, and handles correspondence. This is not the job it used to be. And while the Vice President's duty is to find "presenters" and "presentations" for our club meetings, it is far from overwhelming. Consider that at least 5 of the 23 meetings are already spoken for, and there are ham organizations like the ARRL, the QSL Bureau, AMSAT, NCDXA, PVRC, T-MARC, and so on that can typically provide speakers. So please re-consider running. We could use your help and good judgment. We could also use a chairperson for the Holiday Party, and looking ahead, for Winter Field Day too. We seem to have lots of Indians, just no chiefs. On a brighter note, I have a tentative "Yes" from someone as Field Day Chairman for 2020, but I can't make that appointment official unless you re-elect me. Hint-hint.

At this point we must look ahead. November means adding new members from the Fall Technician Class, finalizing the Nominations, the ARRL Sweepstakes, and presentations on "Able Archer 83" and "Beekeeping". December is busy with elections, and the holidays. So with that spoken for, we need to be thinking ahead into 2020.

The Rules Committee will hit the ground running in January, tackling updated contest rules for the Maryland DC QSO Party. The Board can vote to accept them mid-February and details can be sent to N1MM and N3FJP, giving them 5 months to update software. With these new rules we hope to increase participation, create more winners, and more effectively reward effort and skill on the part of the participants. Once that is out of the way, the Rules Committee will turn its efforts toward updating the Bylaws, and creation of the Policy Book, which will contain

Rules, Policies and Procedures; and clearly define which is which. This will allow us to effectively pass on our collective wisdom to the AARC members of the future. Think of it as a resource not a rule book.

One of my major goals for this year was to complete construction of the Ham Shack, and have it be completely operational by January 1, 2020. So far I have not succeeded, But we are gettin' close. We still need to create a master "headphone/Morse key" control panel for each station keeping users out of the back of the transceivers, and we must complete networking of the logging software. So I'll take the blame for running behind, but only if I can take credit if it's all running by Winter Field Day.

If you remember a year ago, I outlined 3 goals for the Ham Shack Project. It was to be an educational tool, a fun place for members to make contacts, and a good place to participate in events like the Maryland DC QSO Party, and Winter Field Day. We came up with a shack plan to reach those goals, and assembled it. But as you know, a ham radio station is only as good as its antenna or antennas. Recently we tightened tower bolts and replaced our defective tri-band beam and rotor. The new antenna even has a 40 meter rotating dipole attached. Lest you think all the news is good, one of the OCF dipoles quit working in the wind storm a couple weeks ago. So we can basically only outfit two stations with antennas at this time. We need to fix that ASAP.

Looking forward we have plans to obtain a second tri-band beam with 40 meter rotating dipole by mid-November. A new rotor and log-periodic antenna will be operational shortly on the West Tower giving us 6m through 1296 MHz access. The log periodic is temporary. Our goal here is to have 4 separate high gain antennas for 6m, 2m, 1 1/4m and 70cm. We have two of those and are actively seeking the others. We will use the log periodic until we have them ready to go up.

As you know there are 3 types of interference; spurious emissions, harmonics and front end overload. Most spurious signals are created by one radio, and cause interference to another. The only way to fix this is to swap rigs, and long term we can do that if we have to. Harmonics are very difficult to remove completely, but a single band filter on all transmitted signals can help, plus we can work around the problem. But the big issue for multiple stations in proximity is front end overload. For instance, if you are trying to receive 80 meters and a 40 meter transmitter is on a nearby antenna, the front end filter of your radio is likely to be overloaded, causing the AGC to jump with the offending signal. For Field Day, we

correct this problem by putting single band 100 watt filters on all transceivers. These filters attenuate out of band signals, and also lower the level of harmonic output. Thus it helps with two problems not just one.

Now consider our problem. We are going to have transmitters on all bands between 70cm and 160 meters. Any one of those can suffer from front end overload from any other, and the closer in frequency likely the more this will happen. So we need to do two things. First, we need to keep antennas as far apart as possible, and end-to-end or at right angles rather than parallel with one another. Second we need to make as many antennas as possible, single band antennas. Any antenna that is designed for multiple bands will likely receive out of band signals overly well. Thus in the long term, use of an OCF dipole is not recommended. But, we can't take the OCF's down till we have replacements up.

So your antenna committee is working toward two things. First, we need to create antennas for 160m, 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, 17m and 12m. Then we need to attach all antennas via single band filters, and multi-band antennas like the beams will need multiple switchable filters.

The fly in the ointment is that we own a 600 watt amplifier. Couple that with the fact that higher powers filters are more expensive to build or buy, and be aware we don't just have to build one 600 watt filter, we need to build them all for 600 watts. So though we have received some filters from Ed Wetherholt, who was a master at making them, they are not built for 600 watt use. I suspect since such filters can be over \$100 each, that we may want to learn to build our own, a useful skill for any ham.

One of my goals for 2020 is to create, install and render operational, antennas for 160m, 80m, 60m and 40m plus put separate 6m, 2m, 1.25m and 70cm beams on the West Tower. We will also have to install a tower at the Pedestal for use with our second 20m-15m-10m beam with 40 meter dipole attached. With luck we can create additional antennas for 30m, 17m and 12m completing our antenna system.

So 2020 is going to be a busy year. But... it will be plenty worth it.

AA

### **IARU Region 3 Provides for Satellite Uplinks on 15 Meters**

**IARU Region 3 Provides for Satellite Uplinks on 15 Meters** International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 (Asia, Pacific) has approved a modified [interim band plan](#) that provides Amateur Satellite uplink frequencies between 21.125 - 21.450 MHz. The IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans do not provide for Amateur Satellite usage. "In all cases of conflict between a band plan and the national regulations of a country, the latter shall prevail," the band plan states. "However, it is not recommended to use frequencies outside of the band plan for the Amateur Satellite Service, and it should be noted that the IARU cannot coordinate Amateur Satellite usage of frequencies outside of the band plan." The Region 3 directors [met in Tokyo](#) on September 2 - 3. -- *Thanks to AMSAT*



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## **Slate of Proposed AARC Club Officers for 2020**

As prescribed by the AARC bylaws, and as chairman of the nominating committee for 2020 officers, it is my duty to inform you of the slate of proposed officers and directors for the 2020 board of directors:

### **Slate Of Proposed Officers And Directors For The 2020 Board Of Directors**

- President** Keith Miller, AE3D
- Vice President** vacant
- Secretary** vacant
- Treasurer** Willian W. Muzlera-Mooney, KA3UQQ
  
- Director** Jim Wallace, N3ADF
- Director** Bernard Coletta NK3PS
- Director** Eric Berman, KC3GDV

**Here's a copy of the bylaws to remind us what comes next:**

*By no later than the last Thursday in October of every year, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of proposed Officers and At-Large Directors to the Board of Directors, and shall present such a slate to the Membership at the November business meeting and through the Corporation's newsletter. Additional nominations may be made by Members at the November business meeting. Nominations will be closed at the end of the November business meeting. The November newsletter shall be distributed to Members after the November business meeting, and no later than November 15. The President shall notify all Members not less than ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting for the names of the candidates, the date, time and location of the meeting*

73  
Chuck Tanner, K3ACT  
Chairman of the Nominations Committee

## The Weather Channel Cites "Old School Tech" Amateur Radio as Storm Resource

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator of [WX4NHC](#) at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) [explained](#) Amateur Radio's role during severe weather situations to interviewers from The Weather Channel (TWC). In a September 16 segment headlined, "Using Old School Tech During a Storm," Ripoll -- seated at WX4NHC -- told Weather Channel interviewers Rick Knabb and Mike Bettes, that information NHC forecasters receive via Amateur Radio volunteers and spotters "sometimes fills in gaps they can't get from satellites or reconnaissance."

Knabb recounted an occasion when he was trying to pin down information about a storm system in Central America. "The only way I was able to accurately document what happened with that system in Central America was because of data through the ham radio operators that relayed it," he told Ripoll.

Ripoll cited the WX4NHC volunteer staff of approximately 30 radio amateurs who gather and essentially screen information gathered via Amateur Radio for weather data that may be of use to forecasters.



Over the weekend, Ripoll expressed appreciation to WX4NHC, Hurricane Watch Net, and VoIP Hurricane Net

volunteers for the time they donate during hurricanes and the reports they send to WX4NHC.

"Sometimes, we sit for hours listening to static. Sometimes, we receive many reports that are unremarkable. Sometimes, we receive very few reports. But then there are those times that one or two reports make a difference," Ripoll said. He noted that NHC Hurricane Specialist Stacy Stewart cited Amateur Radio in a Hurricane Humberto [advisory](#).

The advisory noted, "An Amateur Radio operator at Ports Island near the southern end of Bermuda reported a sustained wind of 75 MPH and a gust to 104 MPH during the past hour. An Amateur Radio operator in Somerset Village recently reported a sustained wind of 70 MPH and a gust to 89 MPH." -- *Thanks to Julio Ripoll, WD4R*

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## ARRL Creates New Online Groups for Members to Communicate with Leadership

ARRL's Committee on Communication with ARRL Members has opened new online forums where all radio amateurs — ARRL members and non-members alike — can discuss issues and topics in two-way conversation

with ARRL leadership. The new groups are aimed at enhancing communication among ARRL leadership, staff, members, and prospective members, in a manner that enables timely updates and collegial discussion.

This project was based on the success over the past several years of the ARRL-LoTW (Logbook of The World) Group in responding to Amateur Radio operators' questions and generating discussion on ways to improve that program. "The LoTW initiative has clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of online Groups as a means of achieving the desired interaction," ARRL said in announcing the new groups.

ARRL has added three online groups:

- [ARRL-Contesting](#) — moderated by ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Chairman Dennis Egan, W1UE.
- [ARRL-Awards](#) — moderated by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.
- [ARRL-IARU](#) — moderated by IARU Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ.

The existing [ARRL-LoTW](#) group, which has about 4,750 members, remains hosted by Groups.io but has moved.

Everyone who subscribes to an ARRL Group is also automatically subscribed to the "ARRL Groups" group. This administrative feature will allow ARRL to convey routine announcements relevant to subscribers of all ARRL groups.

ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, worked with Groups.io to set up the new groups. Since these new groups are hosted on a Groups.io platform, those wishing to subscribe must use a Groups.io username and password, if they have one, or create a Groups.io account if they don't.

In the months ahead, the Committee envisions creating more online groups to support two-way communication focusing on areas of additional interest to radio amateurs, including ARRL activities, services, initiatives, and policies.

ARRL currently hosts members-only online forums that include Awards and Contesting. While these forums will continue to operate, participants will be encouraged to post new threads in the appropriate new groups.

Participants will be expected to adhere to some basic ground rules:

- All questions are welcome, no matter how many times they have already been asked and answered, or how obvious the answers might be in the documentation.
- Neither personal attacks nor foul language will be tolerated. Violators will immediately be placed on "moderated" status, meaning their subsequent posts will require Moderator approval until the Moderator's trust has been regained.
- Individuals posting are reminded that these forums are open to everyone, including prospective hams and operators who are not ARRL members but may be thinking about joining. Civility and courtesy are expected, even when you may take issue with a post or thread topic. The Committee on Communication with Members

believes that providing more opportunities for two-way discussion between ARRL leadership and the broader Amateur Radio community will assist the organization in truly serving the needs of this community.

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AA

### Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has *not* turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizeable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a California Department of Forestry and



Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-

owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."

It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, since any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi this week but has not heard back.

After receiving a [lengthy communication](#) from attorney Nathan Zeliff, K6DPS, of Shingletown, California, citing Pisi's letter, Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko did some asking around of his own. He reported that Jim Price, the Communications Center Operation Officer for the State Office of Emergency Services, explained to him that the matter is not a new one, and the issue of repeater equipment in state radio vaults has been going on for 5 years or longer.

"He said this gets down to a local level, if the local officials feel there is a need to have the ham radio repeaters in vaults in their area," Bosenko told Zeliff. "As such, this gets down to authorization for vault space,

clearances and authorization to access equipment in the vaults and contract agreements for the equipment to be in the vaults. The matter of cost and who will bear the cost for contracts and vault space has also been an issue for years."

ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find "that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit," Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the [Sacramento Valley Section website](#). "What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates."



"Our contact in the California Office of Emergency Services suggests that, if any affected repeater is in any way involved with local emergency or government support activity, they should ask that agency to engage with CAL FIRE concerning the repeater. If the agency makes the case, there is a good chance that the repeater will be unaffected," Tiemstra added.

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, has been responding to inquiries with the same message.

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### ARRL to Launch New On the Air Magazine

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication.



Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal

of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.

"On the Air responds to the brand-new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers," said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

"Too many new licensees never take the next step," says Schoenfeld. "We're excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air."

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice -- *On the Air* or *QST*. Current members receiving the print edition of *QST*, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the print edition of *QST* (monthly) or the print edition of *On the Air* (bimonthly).

All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both *QST* and *On the Air*. Members who already access *QST* on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access *QST* and *On the Air* starting in January.

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## How To Get "Plugged In" To The Amateur Radio Community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

*Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your "No Nonsense" guides were very helpful.*

*I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what's happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?*

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

**Join the ARRL** (<http://arrl.org/>). The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio. *QST*, the ARRL's monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to *QST*, the ARRL publishes many

email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update* is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

**Join your local club.** While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

**Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar** (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>). This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

**Ham radio blogs.** Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what's going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what's going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can't do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
- QRP-When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)
- Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

**Mailing lists.** Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the "Find or Create a Group" link at the top of the page. I just did a search for "amateur radio" and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

**Podcasts and videocasts.** Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I'm partial to the CQPodcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what's new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows



## AARC STAFF – 2019 Officers

<b>President</b>	Keith Miller / AE3D president@w3vpr.org	240 758 0423
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Nagel / KB3YQK vice.president@w3vpr.org	
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Grimaud / W3SWG secretary@w3vpr.org	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Mooney / KA3UQQ treasurer@3vpr.org	
<b>Director A</b>	Eric Berman / KC3GDV eric.board19@w3vpr.org	
<b>Director B</b>	Larry Booth / AA3AU larry.board19@w3vpr.org	
<b>Director C</b>	Bernie Coletta / NK3PS bernie.board19@w3vpr.org	

## Support Staff

<b>Membership Secretary</b>		
<b>Information Officer</b>	Ed Santilli / KB3YMU info.officer@w3vpr.org	
<b>Safety</b>	John Bowes / KB3YLY safety@w3vpr.org	443 760 1666
<b>Security</b>	Tom Provenza / N3HLD security@w3vpr.org	

## Representatives

<b>ARES/RACES</b>	John Bowes / KB3YLY ares.races@w3vpr.org	
<b>DFRC Rep</b>	Milford Craig / N3WYG dfrc.rep@w3vpr.org	301 218 8867
<b>FAR</b>	Ed Brown / AA3EB far.rep@w3vpr.org	301 856 3317
<b>Fox Hunt</b>	Jim Wallace / N3ADF	
<b>Joint 440 Comm</b>	Gordon Davids / WJ3K joint440@w3vpr.org	410 647 2956
<b>MD Slow Net</b>	(T B A)	
<b>MDC Section Manager</b>	Marty Pittinger / KB3MXM arrl.sec.mgr@w3vpr.org	
<b>Public Relations</b>	Ed Santilli / KB3YMU pr@w3vpr.org	301 261 7561
<b>Resident Agent</b>	Justin Leishman / KC3BJT ra@w3vpr.org	
<b>Trustee</b>	Dick Mayo / WW3R trustee@w3vpr.org	

## Committees

<b>Club Sale &amp; Auction</b>	Ike Lawton / W3IKE club.sale@w3vpr.org
<b>Digital Networking</b>	Ted Ruddy
<b>Facilities</b>	Eric Berman / KC3GDV facilities@w3vpr.org
<b>Field Day</b>	(TBD) field.day@w3vpr.org
<b>Station Manager</b>	(TBD)

<b>Holly Net</b>	Jim Wallace / N3ADF holly.net@w3vpr.org	
<b>HSMM-MESH</b>	(TBD) hsmm.mesh@w3vpr.org	
<b>Kit building &amp; Repair</b>	'Raven' Weiland / KB3MUJ kit@w3vpr.org	203 948 5369
<b>MDC QSO Party</b>	Jim Wallace / N3ADF mdcqsop@w3vpr.org	301 538 6233
<b>Newsletter</b>	Milford Craig / N3WYG newsletter@w3vpr.org	301 218 8867
<b>Packet Radio</b>	Jonathon Grafe / AE2JG packet@w3vpr.org	240 426 2664
<b>Program</b>	Tim Nagel / KB3YQK vice.president@w3vpr.org	
<b>Public Service</b>	Erick Graves / WA3G public.service@w3vpr.org	410 987 7670
<b>Repeater Ops</b>	John Williams / K8JW repeaters@w3vpr.org	410 647 7406
<b>Rules</b>	Chuch Tanner / K3ACT rules@w3vpr.org	301 464 2667
<b>Service Hours</b>	Jim Wallace / N3ADF service.hours@w3vpr.org	301 538 6233
<b>Tower</b>	(TBD) tower@w3vpr.org	
<b>Training</b>	Keith Miller / AE3D training@w3vpr.org	240 758 0423
<b>VE Team</b>	David Rawley / N3AT testing@w3vpr.org	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Bova / W2PAW webmaster@w3vpr.org	240 274 6294
<b>Wed. Nite Net</b>	Jamison Phipps / W3KNH wednesday.night.net@w3vpr.org	
<b>Winter Field Day</b>	Rick Steer / AB3XJ winter.field.day@w3vpr.org	

## Groups

<b>Board of Directors</b>	board19@w3vpr.org
<b>Kit Building Committee</b>	kitbuilding@w3vpr.org
<b>Rules Committee</b>	<a href="mailto:rules.com@w3vpr.org">rules.com@w3vpr.org</a>

\*\*\*\*\*



## VE Testing Schedule

**Second Saturday of each month  
– Noon – AARC –**

David Rawley, N3AT [testing@w3vpr.org](mailto: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](http://tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers)

### To all exams bring:

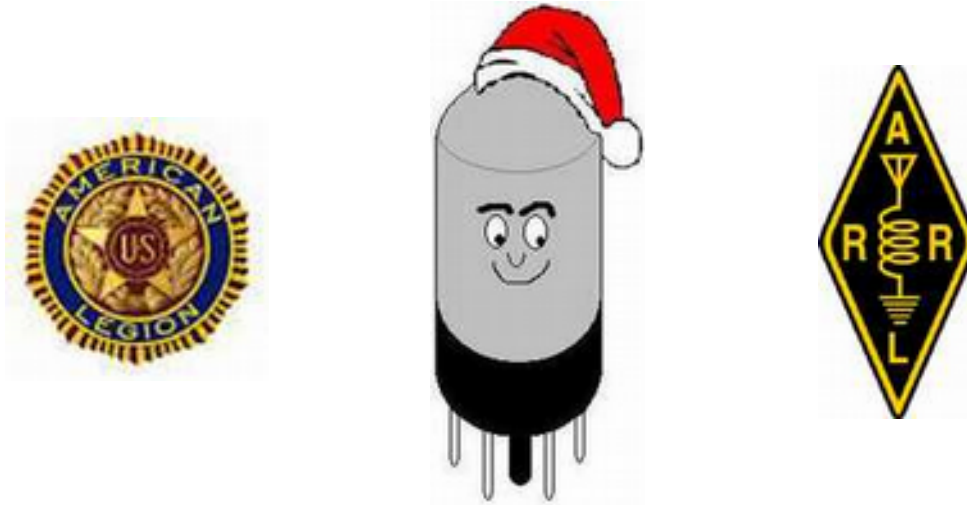
- Picture ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of current FCC amateur radio license
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of all element credits (eg., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE)

**Fourth Annual American Legion PGCERA**

**“SantaFest”**

**December 7, 2019**

**Remember the Lives Lost in Pearl Harbor**



**Tables are \$20.00 Each** *(Includes one Admission per Table)*

**Tailgating \$15.00 Per Space** *(Includes one Admission per Space)*

**Information, Table and/or Tailgate Space**

**Contact: “[selbynet@hotmail.com](mailto:selbynet@hotmail.com)”**

**Admission is \$6.00**

**SantaFest 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**American Legion Youth Camp**

**9201 Surratts Road**

**Cheltenham MD 20623**

**VE EXAMS 0900 Hours to 1100 Hours**

**Walk-In Must Sign In No Later Than 1030 Hours**

**SantaFest will take place regardless of the weather.**

**Talk-In K3ERA Repeater 145.230 PL 110.9**

**Set-Up Starts at 7:00 AM**





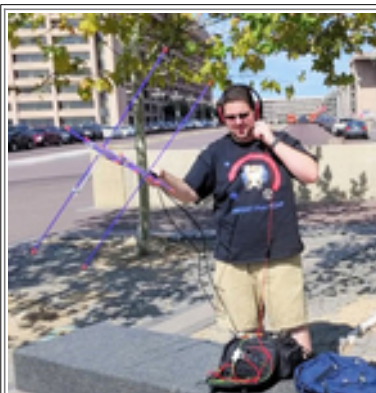


## AMSAT Goal: "Amateur Radio in Every CubeSat"

AMSAT wants to see Amateur Radio in every CubeSat, and it's partnering with non-Amateur Radio partners to make that happen. In the "Apogee View" editorial for the September/October issue of *The AMSAT Journal*, Executive Vice President Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, wrote,

"[W]e continue to support a stream of LEO satellites. RadFxSat-2/Fox-1E is ready for launch no earlier than December 1, 2019, on the ELaNa XX mission. The linear transponder and telemetry system carried aboard Fox-1E was designed for use in different CubeSats by merely adding an interface adapter for connection to the host bus."

Stoetzer said CubeSat programs interested in launching an Amateur Radio payload may partner with AMSAT to carry a Fox-1E module on their spacecraft. "By providing Amateur Radio capability, the CubeSat program gets a worldwide ground station network to receive their telemetry and experiment data while the Amateur Radio community gets a transponder to use in orbit," he pointed out.



AMSAT Executive Vice President Paul Stoetzer, N8HM.

Stoetzer said the first such partnership will be with the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington. Its 3U CubeSat -- HuskySat-1 -- is set to launch on the ELaNa XXV mission from Wallops Island, Virginia, no sooner than November 2. A Northrop Grumman *Cygnus* spacecraft will carry HuskySat-1 to the International Space Station, and after completing its mission there, *Cygnus* will continue to an orbit of approximately 500 kilometers (310 miles) to deploy HuskySat-1.

"After a 30-day mission to complete tests of its experimental payloads -- a pulsed plasma thruster, and a K-band (24 GHz) communications system -- the satellite will be turned over to AMSAT, and the linear transponder will be made available to the Amateur Radio community," Stoetzer said.

AMSAT will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its 2019 Board of Directors meeting and AMSAT Space Symposium October 18 - 20 in Arlington, Virginia. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

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## US Coast Guard Airs Proposal to End MF Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) Broadcasts

The US Coast Guard is seeking comments on a [proposal](#) that it may stop broadcasting medium-frequency (MF) Navigational Telex ([NAVTEX](#)). The service says it first will ensure that the information contained in NAVTEX broadcasts is available via International Maritime Organization-recognized satellite services. Interested parties may submit comments [online](#) by November 12. The proposal is docket USCG-2019-0702. Comments should include the docket number, specific section of the document to which each comment applies, and a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

Comments may be anonymous.

"Current MF NAVTEX equipment is in dire need of replacement. The equipment is antiquated, and essential replacement parts are difficult to find and expensive, placing overall operation of MF NATEX at risk," the Coast Guard said. "Any approved GMDSS satellite terminal will be able to receive this information."



NAVTEX is an international automated service for radio delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent maritime safety information. It provides a low-cost means of broadcasting this information to ships out to approximately 100 nautical miles offshore. NAVTEX is part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) which has been incorporated into the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) treaty, to which the US is a party. The US Coast Guard operates the system nationwide.

System coverage is reasonably continuous in the east, west, and Gulf coasts of the US, as well as the area around Kodiak, Alaska; Guam, and Puerto Rico. The US has no coverage in the Great Lakes, although coverage of much of the Lakes is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard. The US Coast Guard originally only installed NAVTEX at sites where Morse code messages had been previously transmitted, and some coverage gaps exist.

"We believe the transition from terrestrial broadcast to satellite will provide for more reliable delivery of NAVTEX information and allow better, more cost-effective products in the future," the Coast Guard said.

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**LIFE IS SIMPLE**









## Hawaii Contest Station and Winlink Leveraged for 2019 Simulated Emergency Test

ARES volunteers in Hawaii took the opportunity of the 2019 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 6 (UTC) to test [Winlink](#) radio messaging to the US mainland, using the [KH6YY](#) (KH6J) contest station on O'ahu. One of the premier contest stations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, KH6YY offers a commanding propagation path over an expanse of saltwater.

"You have to start with digital modes somewhere," ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, said.

A group of radio amateurs has developed a robust Winlink system in the Hawaiian Islands to help support communication in a natural disaster. The Amateur Radio email system is well known for its role in emergency and disaster relief communications, providing the ability for users to exchange email with attachments, photos, position reporting, weather, and information bulletins.

KH6YY sports eight antennas, most on 90-foot towers, and nine operator positions. For the SET, the station was configured to receive traffic on 7,100 kHz (dial frequency) in PACTOR, WINMOR, ARDOP, and VARA modes. The four-element 40-meter beam was aimed at Hilo. Simulating an internet outage, the setup was used to pass received traffic to a second 20-meter gateway on 14,100.5 kHz and forwarded to a mainland gateway with internet access.

Incoming message traffic on 40 meters would be automatically forwarded to the mainland on 20 meters. Most of the traffic went to gateways in Mexico and Texas for forwarding to the internet. One user reported receiving email confirmation that a message was received within minutes. Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Stacy Holbrook, KH6OWL*

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AA

## Tokelau Islands ZK3A DXpedition

The Tokelau Islands ZK3A DXpedition has ceased operation early. Due to the illness of an Island resident, the [ZK3A Tokelau Islands DXpedition](#) shut down a couple of days ahead of schedule. "ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE FINE!" said an announcement on the ZK3A website. "A person on the island is ill.



So, they have sent the boat there early to get this person medical help. The team has ceased operations and [is] packing up all equipment to get on that boat, because there will not be another boat for 10 days." As of October 8, ZK3A had logged approximately 50,000 contacts in 7 days of operation on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and EME, as well as 10 contacts on slow-scan TV. The DXpedition had been set to conclude on October 11.

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AA

## Ohio Sheriff Observes and Participates in ARES Simulated Emergency Test

One public official in Ohio not only observed the ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this month but participated in it with Greene County ARES ([GCARES](#)). Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS ("Greene County Sheriff"), checked in when the Resource Net Control, Bob Baker, N8ADO, called for volunteers. Although the suggested scenario called for only using simplex, GCARES employed the Xenia Amateur Radio Weather Net (XWARN) repeater to reach out for as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers then switched to a simplex tactical net to communicate with the GCARES Command Center.

Before the SET, Fischer let Greene County ARES Emergency Coordinator Henry Ruminski, W8HJR, know that he planned to participate in the SET to determine how well his handheld radio would perform in an emergency situation. While he found it okay for getting into the resource net, it was less than adequate for effective simplex operation.

Sheriff Fischer had an intense introduction to ham radio in the spring of 2017 when the Dayton Hamvention® moved to Xenia, and his department dealt with traffic control and other issues created by the influx of more than 25,000 visitors. At the urging of several hams, Fischer subsequently got his license, and his wife became relicensed. Fischer has since upgraded to General.

Ruminski said the SET was "relatively successful." Signals could have been better from some locations, but most stations were able to communicate with command, he said. Lessons learned will be used to improve future emergency communication plans.

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AA



Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS.

## 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 Oct. 20, 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	Frequency (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.*



## REPEATER FREQUENCIES

<b>Davidsonville</b>	<b>Millersville</b>	<b>Glen Burnie</b>	<b>Annapolis</b>
<b>147.105+</b>		<b>147.075+</b>	
<b>223.880-</b>	<b>224.560-</b>		
<b>444.400+</b>			<b>442.300+</b>

**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.*

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### Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

#### Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
The "Holly Net"	147.105+Mhz PL 107.2	Weekdays	0700
AA County ARES Net	146.805- Mhz PL 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

# 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.