



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

November 2016

President's Message

Greetings to everyone! I hope everyone survived Hurricane Matthew with no damage. As they say, we were able to dodge another big bullet. I'm sure everyone's eyes opened to how we are vulnerable on the east coast as we are from the west coast. For those of you who assisted with the many nets that were being held, a huge THANK YOU. Did you participate in the Hurricane Watch Net? Maritime Mobile Service Net? North Florida Phone Net?

Since we had to cancel the October meeting, we lost an opportunity to sell tickets to the Christmas Party. As we had announced, we need to know how many people will be attending the Christmas Party by the end of the meeting in November so we can provide the caterer with the info. (continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Christmas Party Update
- 3 LOTW Password Checking Problems
- 3 Operating Tip: Check Your Coax
- 4 Member Submission (from NAQCC)
- 4 Current Rules Holding Hams Back from Adopting State-of-the-Art Technology, Says ARRL
- 5 Word to the Wise: "QUAGI"
- 5 Donations of Unwanted Amateur Radio ... Support ARRL's Mission
- 5 Newsletter Articles Wanted
- 7 OARC Events for Remainder of 2016
- 8 Membership Application

OARC MEETING

November 2, 2016, 7:30pm
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
ARRL Testing: 5:30pm
For information & Updates
See www.oarc.org

OARC Board of Directors

President: John Knott, N4JTK
Vice President: Peter Meijers, AI4KM
Treasurer: Lidy Meijers, KJ4MM
Secretary: Bob Nocero, W4KBW
Directors:
Bob Cumming, W2BZY
Ralph Betts, W4ORL
Tony Darnell, KK4VRP
Val Jacyno, AK4MM
Michael Cauley, W4MCA
Joe Codeiro, WW4JC

The Listening Post is the OARC newsletter for OARC members. The LP will be distributed electronically via E-mail and the OARC web site (www.oarc.org).

Co-Editors: Thomas Husband KM4MAL and Ed Thralls NE4H.

Comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Send to info@oarc.org.
Contributing to this edition: John Knott, Peter Meijers

OARC REPEATERS

Call	Freq	Shift	PL
KB4UT	146.760*	-600	103.5
N4UMB	147.015	-600	103.5

* Fusion Repeater

D-Star

K1XC C	146.820	-600
K1XC B	443.275	+5MHz
K1XC A	1275.000	-12 MHz Voice
K1XC A	1255.000	-12MHz Digital
W4PLB C	145.160	+600
W4PLB B	442.300	+5MHz

All D-star repeaters are connected

President's Message (continued from page1)

Please don't miss this opportunity to get your tickets. Lidy will have tickets at Wednesday's meeting in the back of the room. They are \$10.00 each. Don't miss this chance for getting your tickets to our special Christmas Party; make sure your membership is paid up.

So, are you wondering where your ARRL ballot is? Have you heard that one of the candidates have been deemed elected by the ARRL Board of Directors? Wonder why this is the case? Still looking for information? Aren't you the least infuriated by the Board action and denying you your right to select who to represent you at the ARRL Board Meetings? Check out www.arrlise.org for information.

Can you believe we are already thinking of Field Day 2018? Interested in being the Field Day captain? We are looking for someone who is self-motivated and has the willingness to coordinate all aspects of Field Day. Send me an email or see me at a monthly meeting if interested.

Just a reminder that there will not be a membership meeting in December, but we will have a test session on December 7 at 5:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center.

Christmas Party Update (John Knott, N4JTK)

Hi everyone. Since we had to cancel the October meeting, that took one of our opportunities away for you to pick up your Christmas party tickets. So we felt there was a need to come up with a plan B. So let's see if this will help.

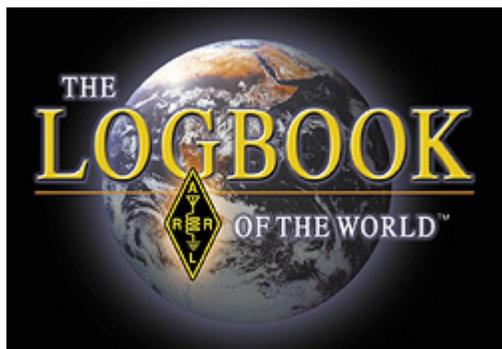
First, if you plan on being at the November OARC meeting on Wednesday November 2nd, you can still pick up your tickets there. If not, you can mail a check for \$10.00 per ticket to OARC PO BOX 574962, Orlando FL 32857-4962. Make checks payable to OARC and include "Christmas Party Tickets" in the memo line. Please include what your choice of meat is: Turkey, Ham, or Beef for each ticket. We will then hold your ticket(s) until the Christmas party and hand them to you when you arrive. **NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED**, and no tickets will be sold at the door. Unfortunately, the USPS has been losing mail too often. We don't want your tickets to be lost in the mail. If you plan on mailing a check in, please do that soon. As we need to continue with the previous deadline and have a final count right after the November meeting and provide it to the caterer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. (JKNOTT@OARC.ORG)

LoTW Password Checking Change Causes Problems for Some Users

(The ARRL Letter for October 6, 2016)

An upgrade to the password checking mechanism that authenticates Logbook of The World (LoTW) users has caused log-in problems for some clients. Under the system in place prior to approximately 2300 UTC on September 19, the LoTW log-in system ignored the case of any characters in a password when checking for a match, storing them all as lowercase. The new system is case-sensitive, however. While passwords once were randomly generated, the ARRL IT staff recently implemented a new LoTW password mechanism that lets users choose their own passwords. Under this new system, when users first log in, their passwords are encrypted.



Some users attempting to log in with mixed-case passwords were rejected, however, because the system had stored their passwords as all lowercase. A subsequent modification allows the system to accept a user's mixed-case password and changes the stored password to the user's mixed-case specification. The issue also can present problems for applications, such as logging programs, that employ a user's credentials to access a LoTW account.

Users who encounter trouble logging in to LoTW are being asked to enter their passwords in all lowercase. If that doesn't work, [contact](#) the LoTW Help Desk or explore [other methods](#) available for LoTW.

Any LoTW users who logged in before this modification was made -- at around 2300 UTC on September 19 -- had their passwords stored in lowercase, no matter which case they used in entering them. These passwords now must be entered as lowercase. Users who have changed to a new password with mixed-case letters must continue to enter their passwords in mixed-case letters.

ARRL apologizes for underestimating the extent of the problems that would be caused by the lack of password case-sensitivity in the previous LoTW authentication mechanism.

Operating Tip: Check Your Coax

(from ARRL Contest Update for October 5, 2016)

Check your coax before the contest season. Faulty or degraded coax cable can be the root cause of a number of hard-to-find issues, and you may not even know that you have an issue. Besides checking for open or short circuits, check for degraded or intermittent shielding, or water intrusion if conditions warrant. Many of today's antenna analyzers have a setting to measure cable loss; if tracked over time, you will be able to note changes in your station.

Member Submissions

(from NAQCC, October 2016 "NAQCC News" newsletter)

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

If I home brew a piece of gear, I enjoy putting a name on it. Here are some examples which you other home builders may be able to use:

- A one watt crystal controlled 40M transceiver, the "Kilomilliwatt".
- A three watt 40M transceiver, the "Band Blaster".
- A one watt 20M transceiver, the "Smurf".
- A one watt 30M transceiver, the "WARC Horse".
- A one watt 40M VXO transmitter, the "Peanut" with matching superhet receiver, the "Mere Ear".
- A one watt 80M VXO transmitter for 3.579 Mhz, the "Color Burster" with matching superhet receiver, the "Eighty Lady".
- A two watt crystal controlled compactron tube transmitter built into a prune tin, the "Prune Tin" (a larger version of a tuna tin!).
- A five watt miniature tube crystal controlled transmitter, the "Rock Crusher".
- A one watt 17M transceiver initially named "Work of Art", later shortened to "W. Art" and finally to "Wart".

(Some of you may ask, what is NAQCC? Inquiring minds want to know:

<http://naqcc.info/> -- NE4H)

Current Rules Holding Hams Back from Adopting State-of-the-Art Technology, ARRL Says

(<http://www.arrl.org/news/current-rules-holding-hams-back-from-adopting-state-of-the-art-technology-arrl-says>)

In comments filed on October 12 with the FCC, ARRL reiterated its case that the FCC should impose a 2.8 kHz limit on symbol rate for digital modes, arguing that its approach is both balanced and necessary. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a July *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's *Petition*, but it declined to propose a *bandwidth* limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

ARRL told the FCC in its comments that the current HF symbol rate "speed limit" reflects 1980s technology and has no place in an experimental radio service in which modern protocols could be efficiently deployed in crowded RTTY/data subbands.

"The symbol rate limit was created in order to maximize the efficient use and reuse of that crowded, shared spectrum, but the assumptions made at the time are no longer valid," ARRL said, "and the rules now prohibit radio amateurs from utilizing state-of-the-art technology, thus precluding or substantially inhibiting any meaningful contribution to the advancement of the radio art in this area." ARRL said earlier assumptions are no longer valid mainly because there is no correlation between the data rate and the occupied bandwidth in the rules now. For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/current-rules-holding-hams-back-from-adopting-state-of-the-art-technology-arrl-says> .

WORD TO THE WISE : QUAGI **(The ARRL Contest Update for October 19, 2016)**

The [Quagi](#) is an antenna for UHF or VHF that combines helpful characteristics of a Yagi with those of a cubical quad antenna. It generally consists of a quad-style loop for the reflector and driven elements, with Yagi-style director elements. An eight-element design was originally described by Wayne, N6NB, an April, 1977 issue of *QST*, followed up by an easy to build 15 element "Long Boom Quagi" in *QST* for February, 1978. The quad elements allowed for ease in construction and impedance matching.

Donations of Unwanted Amateur Radio, Test Gear Support ARRL's Mission **(The ARRL Letter for October 13, 2016)**

Downsizing your shack? Want your now-unused equipment to help promote and preserve Amateur Radio for future generations? Consider donating your used Amateur Radio and test equipment to ARRL.



The ARRL Lab accepts used equipment from radio amateurs and their families. Once evaluated, much of the donated equipment is sold, and proceeds help to fund programs that educate, promote, and preserve the values of Amateur Radio. Assistant ARRL Laboratory Manager Bob Allison, WB1GCM, is spearheading the donation program.

"A common problem for hams and their families is what to do with surplus Amateur Radio equipment," Allison said. "We have, for a number of years, accepted in-kind donations on a limited

basis. Now, thanks to dedicated volunteers in the ARRL Lab, we have additional help to efficiently clean and test donated equipment. So, we're letting our members know that the donation door is open; all are welcome!"

Allison said that many donors have expressed satisfaction and, at times, relief that their equipment is going to a good cause. "An alarming amount of relatively new equipment has ended up in dumpsters, because family members had no idea what the equipment was or what to do with it. That is a shame," he said.

For more information on how to donate used amateur equipment, accessories, and test equipment, [contact](#) the ARRL Laboratory via e-mail at labdonations@arrl.org or by telephone at (860) 594-0214 during ARRL Headquarters business hours.

ARRL is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) organization holding federal tax identification number 06-6000004. While ARRL gladly acknowledges receipt of all in-kind donations, the League cannot, by law, provide donors with a dollar value for items donated.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WANTED

(A message from the Co-Editors of The Listening Post)

It is that time of the month that the next "The Listening Post" is starting to take shape. Sometimes it could be in better shape but only if you get involved. Please send items to be included in the newsletter. This makes it easier to put a newsletter together each month when there is a repository of articles for the newsletter.

You don't need to produce some piece of exalted prose or worry about fancy formatting. Articles should be related to amateur radio. Just a simple text file along with a few pictures would be great.

These are just a few items that you may think mundane but others may enjoy reading about.

1. Pictures related to OARC or ham radio and a few words about the pictures are always helpful.
2. Did you work a contest or other event that you are passionate about and wish to share your activity?
3. Did you reach a milestone in ham radio recently that you would like to share such as an upgrade, anniversary in ham radio (10,20, 30, 40 ... years), or earned DXCC, WAS, or made your first ham radio contact?
4. Did you "Elmer" a new ham recently and enjoyed the experience enough to share it with us?
5. VEs, how many new hams joined the ranks last month, how many upgrades, etc?

6. Is there a member of the club who needs our support, prayers, etc?
7. Is there anything coming up in the near future that we need to know about now to get ready for that event?

Send your articles for The Listening Post to Ed Thralls (rusty.trowels@gmail.com) or Thomas Husband (husbandt55@gmail.com)

Thank you.

OARC Meetings and Events for the Remainder of 2016

November 2	Meeting
December 3	<p>Christmas Party: Tickets for the Christmas party are \$10.00 per OARC member. You need to have a current paid membership. Tickets will be on sale at the September-October and November meetings. You can bring 1 guest with you for \$10.00. Nonmembers but related to our hams pay \$25.00. No ticket sales at the door. Doors open at 6pm. Please do not come earlier we need time to get everything ready.</p>
December 7	No Meeting (Testing only)



