



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

May 2017

President's Message

Greetings to the best ham radio club members!

Can you believe it is May already? So much going on and so little time to write about it. It's late Sunday night before the May meeting

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OARC MEETING

May 3, 2017, 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
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 James Deuel, N0XIA

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 editors@oarc.org.

Contributing to this edition: John Knott, Michael Cauley

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	1275.00	-12 MHz	Voice
K1XC A	1255.00	-12MHz	Digital
W4PLB C	145.160	+600	
W4PLB B	442.300	+5MHz	

All D-star repeaters are connected

President's Message *(Continued from Previous Page)*

night and I'm finally getting a moment to write.

First let me say, Thank You to everyone who attended the OARC/HamCationSM Appreciation Picnic. It is one of my favorite events that we do. Why? Because we get another chance to express how much we (the Board) appreciate you! Whether you are a club member or a HamCationSM volunteer, or both! Without you, none of this would be possible. So again, on behalf of the OARC Board of Directors and the HamCation Chairman (past or present) we salute you!!



President and Chef Extraordinaire



Thank you, Peter,
10-Years
HamCationSM Chairman



The "Torch" Has Been Past
Michael Cauley is New HamCationSM Chariman

Just want to touch base on a few things coming up. This week is the statewide Hurricane drill. Check with your local ARES organization or the Emergency Managers in your area to see what simulated drills may be happening.

Coming up Thursday May 11 at the Orlando Executive Airport, you will have an opportunity to take a tour of one of the C-130 Hurricane Hunter aircrafts. The tours have a limited time of 2:30pm till 5pm. You'll also have a chance to see one of the smaller NOAA G-IV jets, although because of the size, you will not be able to get in it. Don't miss this chance.

On June 3, Orange County Emergency Management will be holding their 2017 Hurricane Expo at the Magic Gym, located at; 3850 South Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando FL 32829. The time will be 9am – 1pm. Free Hurricane Preparedness item will be given out, while supplies last.

John Knott
N4JTK



FIELD DAY 2017

(By John Knott, N4JTK)



Field Day is only a month away and will be on June 24 & 25, 2017. I will once again be organizing Field Day. Again, this year Field Day will be at the Fairgrounds in the Lake Side Pavilion. We will again request the use of the equipment from the State Medical Response Team, like we did last year.

This is what I need to find out from you, do you have a HF station that you want to setup? If you do, please send me an email with what you have for a station (radio) and if you have an antenna that can be setup. We are looking for around six stations. You'll be responsible for erecting and tearing down both the station and antenna. Help will be provided, but keep in mind we are looking for simple stations to set up. We don't want to spend HOURS getting one antenna up in the air. A simple wire or

vertical will be sufficient. Please remember that this is late June in Florida and the cool weather will be in our distant memories.



We will need to start setting up on Friday afternoon and wrap it up by noon on Saturday. Have lunch and get tuned up for the start of Field Day at 1400hrs local. We'll run for 24 hours straight and wrap it up by 1400hrs on Sunday. (Weather permitting)



Same-band Alternating CQs Now Prohibited for HF and VHF ARRL Contests

(ARRL Contest Update for April 5, 2017)

With updates to the ARRL web now in place, the ARRL's Contest Rules for HF and VHF have been updated (as a rules clarification) to clearly **prohibit Alternating CQs** on two or more frequencies in the same band. This is a clarification only to existing rules where "one transmitted signal per band" is discussed. Example is from the "General Rules for ARRL Contests Below 30 MHz", where rule 2.1.2 has now been clarified to read as follows:

2.1.2. Single-Operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal per band at any given time, regardless of mode; alternating CQs on two or more frequencies in the same band is prohibited.

Where "one transmitted signal per band" appears in HF or VHF rules, similar clarifications are now in place in the ARRL web rules (if you or anyone sees that I missed any, please advise). I noted the IARU International HF Championship already contained this verbiage.

As a paragraph describing this action:

"These rule clarifications now add clarity to the intent of prohibiting the use of more than one frequency at a time on one band for soliciting contacts (calling CQ) as well as simultaneous transmissions of any kind. The intent of the rules has always been that a participant would use/occupy only a single channel in a given band, changing frequency in-band from time to time leaving a CQ frequency to work a multiplier or to change the CQing frequency as band occupancy or changing propagation dictated, and this rules clarification will now give the needed added clarity to that intent."

WORD TO THE WISE: CREPUSCULAR

(ARRL Contest Update for April 5, 2017)

Crepuscular: Adjective. Occurring during twilight. Example: Chasing Middle Eastern DX on 160 meters was a crepuscular activity.

Ham Radio Tech Class

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

So, do you know someone that is interested in Ham Radio or are you a newly licensed technician and want to learn more? Orange County ARES and Orlando Amateur Radio Club will be jointly hosting a Ham Radio Tech Class on July 22nd and 23rd. The class is FREE, but you will need to purchase Gordon West Tech Class book. The book is available via Amazon, HRO Atlanta, or the W5YI group website. There will be a test session immediately at the end of class on Sunday. There will be a \$15.00 test fee collected just prior to taking the test. Interested parties must register for the class by sending an email to techclass@ocares.org

Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test May 13

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests on Saturday, May 13 to mark the 66th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD). Armed Forces Day is May 20, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event will take place a week earlier in order to avoid schedule conflicts with those attending Hamvention.

Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the US Army MARS website at, <http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements> .

ARRL EXPO will Anchor League's Hamvention Presence

(The ARRL Letter for April 13, 2017)

At Hamvention[®] 2017 in Xenia, Ohio, on May 19, 20, and 21, ARRL EXPO will provide a spacious area focusing on ARRL activities. The ARRL Store will be the central focus of ARRL EXPO in Building 2 of the Greene County

Fairgrounds and Expo Center, where visitors will be able to peruse and purchase a wide array of ARRL publications, supplies, and official League merchandise. They'll also be able to join, renew, or extend their ARRL memberships. A

limited supply of complimentary ARRL EXPO 2017 pins will be available. With ARRL Field Day (FD) looming on June 24-25, ARRL will offer an inventory of official ARRL FD gear, including T-shirts, pins, hats, mugs, and posters.

ARRL EXPO exhibits will include:

- ARRL Laboratory: Get Your Handheld Radio Tested!



- ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative
- Amateur Radio and Education -- Meet ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) instructors and explore the resources available for introducing radio science and wireless technology into classrooms.
- Radiosport and DXCC -- DXCC card checking, ARRL contests and awards, Logbook of The World (LoTW), and QSL Bureau
- RFinder -- The Worldwide Repeater Directory
- ARRL Development and ARRL Foundation
- ARRL Public Service
- ARRL Field Organization Volunteers -- Network with ARRL Field Organization volunteers, hosted by the ARRL Ohio Section.
- HamSCI: The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation
- ARRL Visa® card -- U.S. Bank

Representatives of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) will be on hand to meet and greet visitors.



Hamvention will take place this May at a new venue, the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. [W8WWV video]

Heading the ARRL delegation will be ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. On hand to represent ARRL will be Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK; Vice Director Thomas Delaney, W8WTD, and Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY.

ARRL is seeking college students and high school seniors to help support the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative booth at ARRL EXPO. Student volunteers will sign up for one or more shifts working in the booth -- during which they will visit with Hamvention

attendees and exchange ideas to strengthen radio clubs at our nation's colleges and universities. Volunteers will receive a Hamvention exhibitor badge and ARRL Team shirts. Contact Andy Milluzzi, KK4LWR, if interested.

INTERESTING KIT FOR HF MOBILE OPERATION

(By Larry Carter, KV4LT)

A few weeks ago, I purchased a printed circuit board off EBay intended for HF amplification. I paid approximately \$20.00 for the board, and had some trepidation as to whether I was buying a "pig-in-a-poke". However, it has proven to be a rather interesting kit project:

It is advertised as a "Skywave DX350" Mobile RF Linear Amplifier PCB Kit. The board came with a 54 page, comprehensive instruction manual. It is perhaps the most thorough instruction manual I have ever seen! The engineer covered even the minutest of details.

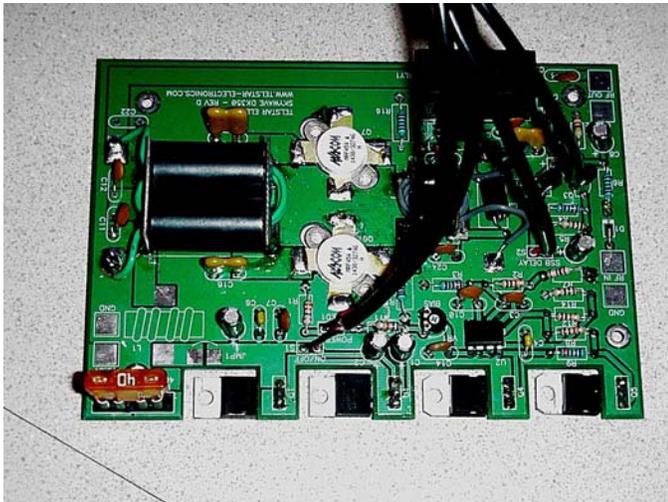
As you all probably know EBay is not known for good continuity. Often they will delete items, at will. So I can't guarantee that this board is still available. Should it not be found you might try:

Telstar Electronics (<http://www.telstar-electronics.com/>)

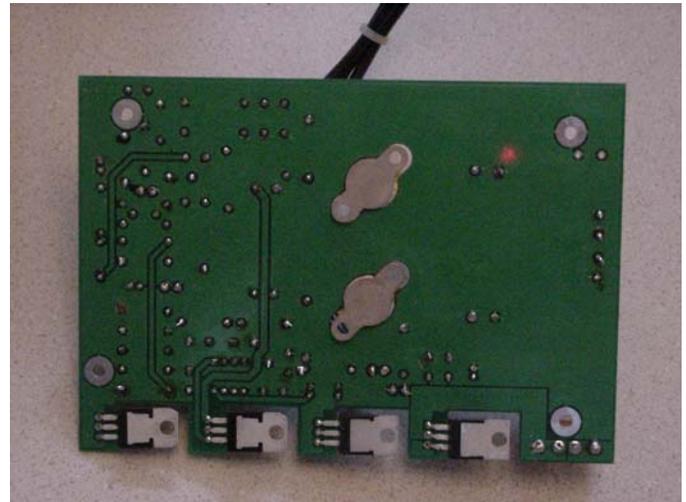
10200 E. Dry Creek, Unit #5~110, Englewood, Colorado 80112

The manual has a complete parts list which shows quantity, description, manufacturer's number, source and source's part number. While I had the majority of the parts in my junk box, most others can be purchased from the following sources: Mouser Electronics, Communication Concepts, Amidon Associates and Albany County Fasteners. They even give you sources for wire, etc. My compliments to their dedication to understandable written matter! After some of the manuals from China I have learned to appreciate such things.

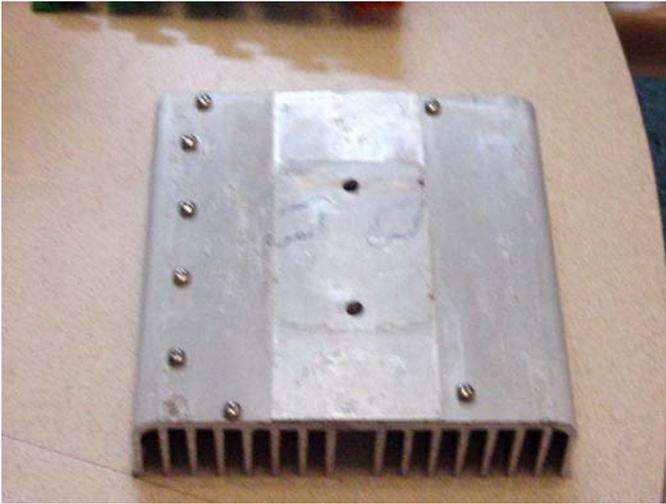
See the following photos of where I stand with the project. I found an aluminum heatsink that will work beautifully for this project with the exception that it has a step on the side where I need to mount the board.



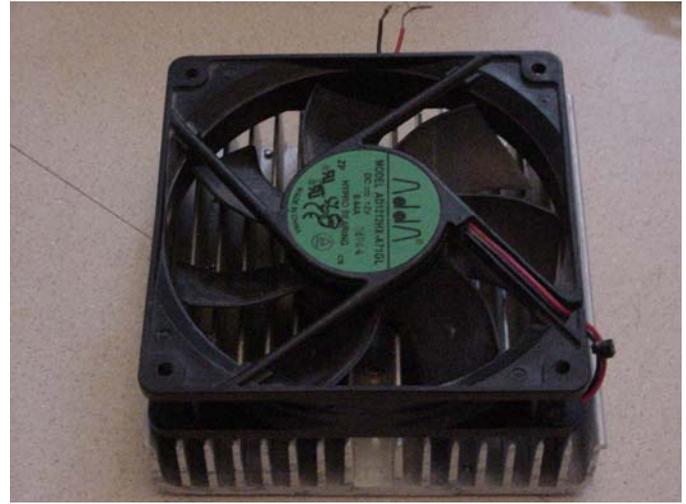
Circuit Board – Top



Circuit Board – Bottom



Heat Sink



Heat Sink and Fan

This causes me to need a milling machine operation to bring it flat. Unfortunately, I have not found a source that would give it two passes with a Bridgeport milling machine. No one is interested in doing me a favor, or even charging me a reasonable price for this simple milling operation. This problem, however, is particular to my situation and shouldn't present a problem for you.

The project utilizes two (2) MACOM MRF 454 transistors. These are the only "pricey" components. I have used these power transistors before and the RF output the manual claims is far from what I believe can truly be expected. Anyway, it is designed for AM, FM, SSB and CW. Voltage requirements are 13.8Vdc ~ 16Vdc at a maximum current of 30 amps (13.8Vdc). With "tongue-in-cheek" I will state that the manual claims an output of 280 Watts output (AM,FM,CW) and 380 Watts PEP (SSB). Input minimum is range 500 mW (AM, FM, CW) to a maximum of 10W-RMS (AM, FM, CW) and 40W-PEP (SSB).

The unit appears to be a 10 meter amplifier. I say this because the bandwidth flatness is 0.5db at 26~30 MHz.

If the specifications are anywhere accurate I do not believe one would have any difficulty getting acceptable linear amplification on 12 and 15 meters. Regardless, I am having great fun building this kit. I have built many linear amplifiers from "scratch" and this is the only kit I have ever tackled. Why not give it a try?

HamCationSM Chairman Column

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

First I want to thank everyone for coming out to Sanlando Park for the HamCationSM Picnic. We Had a great turnout and ate some good food and gave out some great prizes. We really surprised Peter and Lidy with the Legacy award and their retirement gifts.

We still have some open positions to be filled within the HamCationSM Committee. The following positions I need to get filled.

- Tailgate
- Onsite Tickets
- Logistics

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has setup and volunteered for some of the open HamCationSM Committee positions.

Help me in welcoming the following people to the HamCationSM Committee.

Ed Thralls, NE4H - R.V. Chairman
Dean Groe, KD4TWJ - I.T. Chairman
Ray Richard, W4RPR - Advance Tickets Chairman
Ana Groe, KM4JVE - Hospitality Chairwoman

Andy Anderson, KJ4VQN - Swaps Chairman
James Deuel, N0XIA - Forums Chairman

So, if you are interested in any of the following open positions please contact me at chairman@hamcation.com

Michael Cauley, W4MCA
2018 HamCationSM General Chairman

ARRL Entry-Level License Committee Digs in to Study Survey Results

(The ARRL Letter for April 6, 2017)

As its April 7 online survey deadline approaches, the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry Level License Committee is preparing for a deep dive into what turned out to be an overwhelming response. Committee Chair and New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, said the survey's 8,000 responses, when perhaps 1,500 were anticipated, reflects the high degree of interest in the overall topic. Established by the Board in 2016, the Committee has been gathering input from the Amateur Radio community with an eye toward recommending either a makeover of the Technician license or an altogether new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"I think it's our job to come up with the two best proposals," said Frenaye, conceding that the committee's work is fraught with details that include reaching a



ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, at the January 2017 Board of Directors meeting. New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, is seated behind him. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]

consensus both within the Amateur Radio community and at the FCC, which pays little attention to Amateur Radio generally. For his part, Frenaye started out thinking that a new entry-level license would be the answer, but now he's leaning more toward changing up the Technician license, in part because he thinks the FCC may be reluctant to create a fourth license class after whittling the number to three in 1999.

It's not just about numbers, but Amateur Radio's future. Amateur Radio growth, at approximately 1% a year, is "pretty good," Frenaye conceded, and in tune with US population growth, but he thinks it could be better, and a big step in that direction is to take a hard look at ham radio's entry gate. He suggested a new pool of prospective radio amateurs might be more drawn to the hobby from the Maker movement, for example, or from among those who tinker with computer technology or experiment with electronics -- areas with high appeal to some young people.



The Entry-Level License Committee wants to see better outreach "on both sides of the license" -- from exam preparation to operator training and mentoring.

CW privileges on HF below 10 meters, "and CW isn't even a requirement anymore," Frenaye pointed out. He suggested some HF digital privileges may provide one incentive.

Whether it's retooling the Technician license to offer newcomers a larger, more attractive slice of Amateur Radio privileges or developing the framework for an entirely new entry-level license, the panel wants to see a more relevant examination with privileges more appropriate to newcomers and better outreach "on both sides of the license" -- from exam preparation to operator training and mentoring.

Frenaye is not afraid to respond to critics who say the entry-level license effort and such initiatives as reaching out the Maker Movement are just ARRL ploys to boost the Amateur Radio population and, in turn, League membership.

"I guess the answer to that is, 'Yes, what's wrong with that?'" he said. "The more trained ham radio operators we have, the more likely we are to actually be able to keep our bands and maybe get new ones."

Frenaye said a lot of young newcomers don't seem to find the current license manual very enticing, possibly due to the Amateur Radio terminology and the manual's 12th-grade reading level, which he believes should be lower. One interesting statistic plucked from the survey: Just 23% of recently licensed Technicians went through a club, while 65% studied on their own.

The current Technician license is mainly a VHF/UHF license, Frenaye pointed out, with limited privileges on HF, where he believes a lot of newcomers would prefer to operate. "Either the test covers material that's not needed for a newcomer, or the privileges don't match well enough with what a newcomer needs to see in ham radio in order to decide whether to continue," he said. Technician licensees have only

The committee has only looked at the first "several thousand" survey responses, Frenaye said. The hard work lies ahead. "It's going to take a little time to sort through it all," Frenaye allowed, adding that the committee hopes to have a report to the Board of Directors in July.

The First Step: Begin

(BRIAN, N9ADG in ARRL Contest Update for April 5, 2017)

While I was working on a few new projects recently, I had some time to consider how homebrewing of radio equipment is changing. One project was a commercial kit QRP transceiver, designed over 15 years ago, and still in production as a kit today. With printed circuit board construction, through-hole components, and an excellent construction manual, it is approachable by nearly anyone. While I enjoyed my time building the kit, and have a useful and fun new rig to play with, the most important skills necessary to build the kit were the ability to read and follow instructions, be patient, solder properly, and use a magnifying visor to read inscrutable component values. I'm not sure what feeling I should have about having successfully completed it. Should I be proud that my multi-hour build effort resulted in something that a pick-and-place machine could have done in a few minutes? Relative to the performance and features of today's commercially assembled radios, this radio represents a luxury, and probably would not be a practical choice for a newcomer just wanting to get on the air. But it sure was fun to build! I suspect that the declining availability of through-hole parts in general will eventually signal the end of this kit and others like it.

Emboldened by my "mad PCB skillz," I have added a number of new projects to the build list, confident that I can go from schematic to working circuit. And one that's still ongoing, is a Raspberry Pi daughterboard to interface with some ham gear. With some especially close-pitched leads on some interface ICs, it's going to offer some new challenges. Because I'm laying out the board, I can choose how close to place the components to one another to make assembly easier.

Conventional ham wisdom is that building our own equipment can provide a deeper understanding of our gear, and helps to hone technical skills. As the underlying technology changes so do the skills required to design and build with it. If you've enjoyed building your gear in the past, but you're still hesitant about trying surface mount technology, realize that the biggest barrier is just getting started. Once you get acquainted with some new tools, you'll be proud of the new projects you can build. Don't forget your magnifying visor.

(Editors' Note: Remember to send stories, home-brew projects, ham radio related book reviews, tips, techniques, pictures, stories, portable outings, and anything else related to Amateur radio to editors@oarc.org).

Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators

Hams standing by and ready to help during disasters or other events.

**by James Careless, April 11, 2017 , "Emergency Management" Magazine
(Editor's Note: In case you missed John's E-mail 4/12/2017)**

More Americans than ever have been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as amateur radio operators, and those in the know say that emergency communications is driving their passion to be "hams."

"There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the amateur radio community as well," said Mike Corey, the emergency preparedness manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). "Emergency communications is a gateway into amateur radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community."

"This is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma last year. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014. Total active FCC-issued ham radio licenses hit an all-time high of 743,003 in November 2016.

The public's growing interest in amateur radio for emergency communications is a legacy of 9/11, when Americans saw their cellular telephone networks become overwhelmed by excess traffic and system outages. When regular phone service fails, amateur radio operators fill the communications gap with their independent transceivers and battery power backups.

"I think we have experienced an uptick in new licenses due to the emergency capabilities of ham radio," said Jack Ciaccia, ARRL Colorado section manager. "Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized."

Amateur radio operators played a substantial role in restoring vital communications links in the wake of 9/11, hurricanes, tornadoes and other major disasters that have affected the United States. They assist in directing first responders to victims, providing real-time situational updates from the disaster scene to emergency management agencies, and offering victims a way to contact their families and friends when normal communications channels have failed.

"Generally, amateur radio operators assist other organizations and agencies by adding communications capacity when normal means of communications are down or overloaded," Corey said. "Amateurs work with local emergency management, first responders, hospitals, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center and VOADs [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters] and the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Many also use amateur radio as part of their own family communications plan

and use the skills they learn as amateurs to assist neighbors during emergencies and disasters.”

Walt Palmer is a licensed ham radio operator, and also director of broadcast operations, engineering and programming at NewsRadio WGMD 92.7 FM in Rehoboth Beach, Del. “Through an arrangement with our local EOC, I have a 2-meter ham radio set and antenna at my desk, which can be patched into our FM transmitter during emergencies,” he said. “If regular communications fail, the EOC can put the mayor or one of their officials on the 2-meter band, and I can rebroadcast it via our FM channel to our entire coverage area.”

Emergency managers have taken note the usefulness of amateur radio operators during manmade and natural disasters — and many have ongoing relationships with their local ham communities. This includes assigning amateur radio operators specific roles within each agency’s emergency response plan, and even setting space aside for hams in their EOCs.

For many years, ARRL has created special Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) units to assist during times of crisis. Each ARES unit “consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes,” according to the ARRL website. ARES members are trained to work with local emergency management; to have their own food, sleeping equipment and other supplies to survive during emergency situations away from home; and to have pre-planned for their families’ well-being during the ARES team member’s absence.

“In most cases, the amateur radio response to an emergency or disaster is handled by local ARES teams,” said Corey. “However, in the case of large-scale disasters such as a large hurricane or earthquake, ARRL headquarters will assist local and state ARES teams with equipment, media support, regulatory guidance and coordination with national partners.”

“Most of our ARES teams around the country partner with local and state emergency management,” he added. “In most cases this relationship also allows for closer work with other local response groups such as public safety, hospitals and local VOADs.”

This is certainly the case in Colorado. In 2016, the state Legislature officially designated qualified hams as members of Colorado’s new Auxiliary Emergency Communications Unit, under the authority of the state’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in the Department of Public Safety.

As a result of this new law, Colorado ARES teams are now part of their state’s emergency management team, with their own roles with their state’s emergency management plans and facilities.

“In many EOCs, including the Colorado EOC, ARES has its own space with its own permanently installed radio gear and antenna installations,” Ciaccia said. “In Boulder, they also maintain a cache of portable equipment that can be deployed as soon as manpower is available. This way, they never have to worry about obtaining anyone’s personal gear for use in an emergency.”

It is worth noting that hams also aid emergency managers in less dire situations. For instance, "throughout the United States, amateurs assist the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program in providing ground truth reports during severe weather events," Corey said. All told, the growing number of amateur radio operators in the U.S. are self-funding, fully equipped communicators, many of whom want to support local emergency managers and first responders any way they can.

"We have worked extremely hard over the years to become useful and professional with our assistance to our community OEMs and EOCs," Ciaccia said. "The major capability that hams bring to emergency management is our varied modes and frequencies: We can usually make a communications path when others do not exist. Because of those two important and valuable commodities that are usually not available to public service entities, we are an important asset to local authorities in times of need."

CONVERSATION : The Internet is My Elmer

(By Brian, N9ADG in The ARRL Contest Update for April 19, 2017)

We're at the highest number of licensed Amateurs in the U.S., ever. But, if you're on HF on a weekday, the bands seem pretty quiet, and not just because of conditions. According to the licensing statistics, the major growth has been in the Technician license class. So it's easy to rationalize that's the reason we're not seeing people on HF. Yet, most UHF and VHF repeaters don't seem that busy, either, with the exception of some of the DMR talk groups. The UHF/VHF contest participation numbers are not showing growth reflective of those thirty thousand new hams last year. Some recent evidence suggests the growth is coming from those that are using their privileges as part of their interest in emergency preparedness. Whew! Conventional wisdom is that EMCOMM is a "gateway into Amateur Radio" and that a reasonable number of those new hams will eventually discover the fun of other aspects of Amateur Radio, and we'll see them on HF, or in contests, or DX pileups, eventually. But is that really true?

I posit (assume) that it's likely that now, people entering Amateur Radio for a particular purpose never will discover all our hobby has to offer - because they don't have to leave the comfort zone of their own special interest, and don't perceive a need for Amateur Radio for anything else.

Back in the old days, AKA pre-Internet, someone entering the hobby likely did so with the assistance of an Elmer, someone with whom they had personal contact. It could have been a schoolteacher, neighbor, relative, someone from a local radio club. That person would have had their own interests, and being a ham, their own opinions, on the kind of Amateur their protégé should become. Sometimes that would help, and sometimes that would hinder someone's journey to getting their ticket... but they'd get exposed to things that their Elmer thought they should know about.

Today, one can realize they need a license to further their goal to say, fly a high-altitude balloon around the globe and track it via the Internet. But, with thousands of information sources available via their web browser on how to quickly get their

license, they don't get exposed to anything other than the minimum. They don't even need to talk to anyone except the Volunteer Examiner.

For all of these new specific-use-focused licensees, how are they going to learn about the breadth and depth of opportunity that their license represents?

Midway and Kure Islands Placed on List of Deleted DXCC Entities (The ARRL Letter for April 6, 2017)

Midway and Kure Islands have been placed on the list of deleted DXCC entities, effective as of August 26, 2016. This came about as an unintended consequence of action last summer by then-President Barack Obama that expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to include the northwestern Hawaiian Islands west of Ni'ihau Island, making it the largest contiguous protected conservation area under the US flag.

Only contacts made on August 25, 2016, or earlier will count for these two entities.

OPERATING TIP: Try the Wrong Antenna (ARRL Contest Update for April 5, 2017)

If you can't hear the station you need well enough on your transmit antenna, try any antenna you do have. Especially at grayline, a "wrong" antenna used for listening may yield a contact. For example, if you have an inverted L on 160 meters but fade and receive noise is too great to copy the exchange, you can try listening on an 80-meter dipole, or a 40-meter vertical. The received noise may be diminished enough to make the contact. Don't forget to switch back to the correct antenna before transmitting.



OARC Meetings and Events for the Remainder of 2017

May 3, Wednesday	Meeting
June 7, Wednesday	Meeting
June 24, 25	Field Day (set up June 23)
July 5, Wednesday	Meeting
August 2, Wednesday	Meeting
September 6, Wednesday	Meeting
October 4, Wednesday	Meeting
November 1, Wednesday	Meeting
December 6, Wednesday	No Meeting



