



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

September 2017

President's Message

Greetings to everyone! Peak Hurricane season is here! Make sure you have your go-kits ready. Don't procrastinate any longer! At the time of this writing Texas and Louisiana are dealing with extreme flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Please keep those being effected in your thoughts and prayers.

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OARC MEETING

September 6, 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
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
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)*

Changes on the Board: At the August Board Meeting, Vice President Peter Meijers and Treasurer Lidy Meijers resigned from the Board. Peter and Lidy has sold their home here in the US and will be departing for Holland the first week of September. As much as I hated to accept their resignation and see them go, I did. We wish Peter and Lidy all the best in Holland and can't wait till they come back over to visit from time to time. Peter and Lidy will remain on the HamCation Committee, as our International Relations Co Chairs. They'll be travelling around Europe representing and promoting HamCation at Hamfest in Europe, including ones in the UK, Holland, Germany and other locations. For the first time, HamCation is going to be represented at Friedrichshafen next June! You can keep in touch with Peter and Lidy by sending them an email at international@hamcation.com. We'll miss you Peter and Lidy!

After Peter and Lidy's resignation, I appointed Michael Cauley, W4MCA as Vice President, Ana Groe, KM4JVE as Treasurer and HamCation Finance Chairman, and Frank Tagliani, KD4EWZ as Director, filling the vacancy created by Michael accepting the Vice President position. Please support these members in their new roles in representing you on the Board.

Please look in this edition for information about our Christmas Party!

73

John Knott, N4JTK
President

HamCationSM Chairman Column

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

We had our 1st committee meeting on August 5, 2017. It was a very successful meeting that lasted almost 3 hours.

We put the 2018 Reservation form on the website and within 3 days we had our 1st reservation in the Post Office Box. Talk about not wasting any time.

We will have a Booth at the Melbourne Hamfest on October 13 and 14 2017. We will be in Booths K-1 and K-2.

The new HamCation Website went live on August 28th and at the same time we went live with our online reservation system and within 30 minutes we had our first reservation from the system of the year all the way from California.

We are always looking for Assistant Chairman. So, if you are interested in being an assistant chairman, please contact me at; chairman@hamcation.com.

Michael Cauley, W4MCA
2018 HamCation General Chairman

September 2017 OARC Membership Meeting Parity Act Update

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

At the September meeting and joining us via Skype to talk about the Parity Act is ARRL Hudson Division Director and Legislative Advocacy Committee Chairman Mike Lisenco, N2YBB.

There has been a lot of chatter on the internet, including Facebook about the Parity Act and is it really going to help Amateurs.

Come to the meeting on September 6 and ask those questions.

The Best Kept Secret (AKA Farewell to Peter and Lidy)

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

How did we pull it off.....

Early this year, March in fact, I received a call from Jim Robarr, KB2CUX asking what did I have planned for Peter and Lidy for a going away party. My answer was, I didn't have anything planned yet, but I wanted to do something. So, at that point the wheels started turning on what can we do to say farewell to two outstanding members of the club.

You see, Peter and Lidy planned on returning from their annual vacation to Holland, their home land and start preparing their home to be sold. So, while Peter and Lidy were in Holland, most of the plan was put in place. What we couldn't answer was, when?

When are we going to do this? As soon as they came back? As soon as they placed their house on the market? When they received a bid? Sold it? We really didn't know. It was decided that we would wait till a solid contract was placed on their house and a closing was scheduled.

You see, we didn't want to schedule it before their home sold. What if it didn't sell for a year! Once the closing was scheduled, then Jim and I narrowed it down to August 27, 2017. So, then the question came up how do we arrange for Peter and Lidy come over to Jim and Donna's without them knowing what was going on? Jim came up with a plan to invite them over at 2pm for dinner with him and Donna.

So, then we decided to send an email out to each member of OARC, LMARS, OCARES and Seminole ARES individually so to prevent Peter and Lidy receiving the email from an email list. We begged you, not to say anything to Peter and Lidy. With so many people knowing the plan at this point, we figured it would end up slipping out by accident. We just figured if that happened, so be it but we would cross that bridge only if we needed to.

On the day of the event, everyone arrived as scheduled at 1pm. We didn't order the rain, but like flies at a picnic, the rain showed up anyways. There was one exception, at 2:15pm, no



The Arrival

Peter and Lidy yet. Uh Oh! Did they forget? Decided not to come because of the rain? Peter and Lidy are rarely late anywhere. They're usually early. Jim called Lidy, whew! They're on the way and about 15 minutes out.

When Peter and Lidy arrived, you could see the shock and surprised looks on their faces. Mission Accomplished!! They couldn't believe they didn't know anything was up. 54 brave men and woman didn't let a little rain stop them from coming out and bidding a couple of friend's farewell.

North Florida Section Manager Steve Szabo, WB4OMM was there and presented Peter and Lidy with a Plaque thanking them for their many years of dedicated service and hard work to the Amateur Radio Community.



L to R: Peter, Steve, Lidy



Peter and Lidy

With Jim's famous stew, hamburgers and hot dogs and the many covered dishes that were brought for the party, no one went hungry. Jim and I would like to say a huge Thank You for helping with pulling off the "Best Kept Secret". We are forever grateful for helping us celebrate and bid farewell to two of the most wonderful people we know.



Celebration with Cake



Peter and Lidy get First Slice of Cake

On a personal note, a huge thank you to Jim and Donna Robarr for allowing us to use their home and property for this event. On behalf of everyone who attended, Thank You!!

And finally, to Peter and Lidy. Thank You for everything that you both have done to promote the hobby in Central Florida. We wish you all the best in health and happiness, and much success in continuing promoting HamCation in Europe.

73 my friends!

John Knott, N4JTK

Christmas Party

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

It's starting to feel a lot like.....Summer still? Yes, I know, it's still very warm outside still and I want to talk about the Christmas Party.

This year's Christmas Party is Saturday December 2, 2017. The location will be at the Knights of Columbus, 5727 Cornelia Ave, Orlando, FL 32807. Doors open at 6PM. Dinner is served at 7pm.

Members and 1 guest pay \$10.00 per person. Non-Members are \$25.00 per person. Tickets will be available at the September, October, and November meetings only! Please plan to attend a meeting to purchase your tickets.

We'll also be a Toys 4 Tots drop off location. Please bring a small unwrapped toy.

More details as we get closer to the party.



ARRL Board Explores Entry-Level License Options, Ways to Face Future Challenges

(Source: The ARRL Letter for August 3, 2017)

Meeting July 21-22 in Farmington, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors took steps to chart a firmer future for Amateur Radio by enhancing the value of the entry-level license and by providing ongoing support for new licensees. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, chaired the second regular meeting of 2017.

ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, presented the report of the Ad Hoc Entry-Level License Committee. He said the committee's initial, informal survey attracted nearly 7,900 responses. A second random survey drew another 375 responses. "A clear majority favored a revision to the Technician rather than a new entry-level license," the committee's report said, noting that this would require no change to the Technician examination, which already covers more material than necessary for an entry-level examination. "This choice requires the simplest revision to FCC rules," the committee report said. The committee suggested expanded digital access on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW access, as well as the addition of Technician phone privileges on those bands. Frenaye pointed out that while the Amateur Radio population is growing, the annual rate of growth has stagnated at about 1%. "There is a general consensus...that 'something needs to happen,'" the committee's report said, noting a generally favorable attitude toward attracting newcomers.

"The general goal here is to have an entry-level license that offers a way for a newcomer to experience multiple facets of Amateur Radio," the committee's report said, "encouraging them to get on the air, meet other licensees, and engage in a lifetime of learning while using Amateur Radio."

Later in the meeting, the Board charged the ARRL Executive Committee with developing a plan to implement the ad hoc committee's recommendation to make the current Technician class license more attractive and useful by expanding its operating privileges on HF to include phone and digital modes. The Board asked the Ad Hoc Entry-Level License Committee to further research and develop the details of a second recommendation to improve successful outreach to prospective radio amateurs and help them through the licensing process.



(L-R) ARRL Second Vice President Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT; ARRL First VP Greg Widin, K0GW; ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and ARRL Assistant Secretary and Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.



(L-R) ARRL Southeastern Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK; ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA; ARRL West Gulf Division Director Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV; ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Seated at rear: ARRL Field Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N.

ARRL Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair and Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, discussed the status of the US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017. Lisenco said Senate leadership is supportive of the bill, which should be scheduled for mark-up in the Senate Commerce Committee.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.

A Message from ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR

(<http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>)

Based on feedback I've received, it seems to me that some members still don't fully understand certain features of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) and what it is meant to do. To make things clearer, we have developed an FAQ in the format of questions and answers. Please take a few minutes and read the FAQ to learn more about the ARPA.

Here is the direct link:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/The%20Amateur%20Radio%20Parity%20Act%20FAQ.pdf>

Here is another link with additional information:

<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

Thanks to those of you who have written your Senators in support of the ARPA. If you have not done so, please do so by clicking on the link below. It only takes a minute.

<https://arrrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Thanks. Let's keep the effort moving!

FT8 Mode is Latest Bright Shiny Object in Amateur Radio Digital World

(Source: The ARRL Letter for August 3, 2017)

It's still in beta testing, but FT8 -- the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community -- has been luring away many of those already using the already-popular JT65 "weak-signal" mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of WSJT-X, version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The notes for the "candidate" release say

that FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel." Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's eight-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires

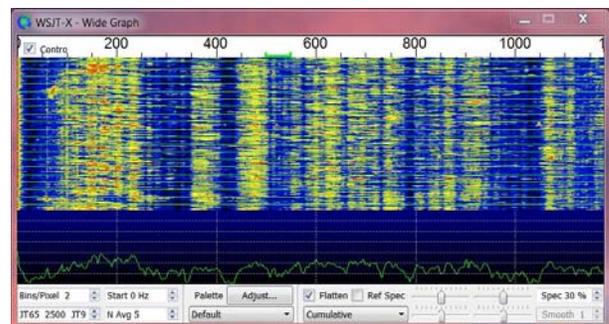
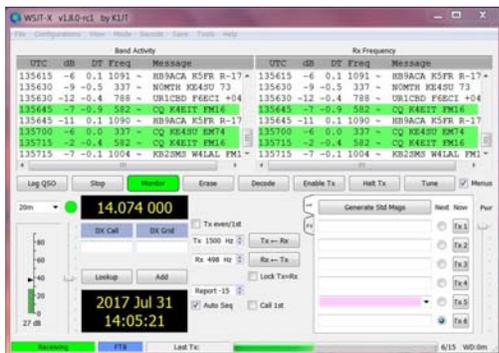
accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

"FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop E_s on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable," Taylor's release notes assert.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, has been using FT8 from the start and put W1AW on FT8 for the first time a few weeks ago on 6 meters.

"This mode is a game changer for 6 meters," Corey said. "Activity is intense, and contacts are possible using this mode when the band seems totally dead." Corey said it's easy to get on with FT8, call CQ, and "quickly fill the log," and he rated the auto-sequencing feature as "awesome."

"FT8 gives small and modest stations a real chance at participating in programs like DXCC, VUCC and WAS; and, to top it off, at a time when band conditions are far from optimal." Corey said.



The beta release came out just days before the July CQ VHF Contest and proved to be a boon to many operators who took advantage of FT8 on 6 meters. In a limited outing for the CQ VHF, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, made 22 FT8 contacts on 6 meters, some of which "may have been difficult to complete on CW," he said.

"We know that the advent of new mode FT8 means that new material is needed for the *User Guide*," Taylor told the Yahoo Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group this week. "We will be working on that in the near future." A new Facebook group has been established for FT8 experimenters.

A Few Changes to Reflect Current "Best Practices" in Contesting

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for August 9, 2017)

For the 2017-2018 Contest Season, ARRL has announced in the upcoming September QST (p91) a few changes to reflect current "best practices" in the contest community and help us improve the quality of the competition and reporting of results. Some of the subjects discussed in the announcement include:

- Increased focus on online log submissions via web app as we phase out email Robots.
- Shortening log submission deadlines to help get the log data into log checking more quickly.
- Encouraging in HF competition that logs use 1 kHz accuracy for improved log checking.
- Making all logs public, once the contest results are made public.
- Club Competition (discussion of past seasons updates and improvements).
- Remote-Controlled-Station contest entries.

The announcement can be viewed at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-contests-changes-for-2017-2018> - Bart, W9JJ, ARRL Contest Branch Manager

WORD TO THE WISE: FILL

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for August 9, 2017)

Fill An item of information necessary to complete a contact that is not pre-programmed into a logging program's standard macro messages, and consequently must be sent by paddle or keyboard-generated CW. Example: WX3XXX is calling CQ in the Maryland-DC QSO Party, on 20 meters CW. 20 meters opens suddenly, and DJ7ZZZ, who is in the WAE DX CW Contest hears and responds to the CQ. WX3XXX sends 'STD CEC' for his exchange, indicating a 'Standard' station in Cecil County per

the MDC rules. DJ7ZZZ sends NR? so WX3XXX responds with '5NN 01' manually, using paddles to send CW. DJ7ZZZ's logging program sends '59 894' with a single keypress since this is his 894th contact, and then the operator sends 'STD' manually since she's aware that the MDC QSO party requires a station classification. WX3XXX logs Standard DL as the exchange. Both log a contact for their respective contests.

Northern California DX Club Launching Initiative to Get Newcomers on HF Bands

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for August 9, 2017)



The Northern California DX Club ([NCDXC](#)) has announced an initiative aimed at getting more new Technician and General class radio amateurs active on HF. The NCDXC [Elmering Project](#) will launch in mid-September.

"Looking around the room at local club meetings makes it very clear that we are all aging," NCDXC's John Eisenberg, K6YP, said. "It is critical to the ongoing life of our hobby to recruit new blood into our ranks. We all know this, but it is difficult to organize and take effective action to start programs to introduce new people to the joys of HF operating. We can't generate new DXers until we have new HF operators."

NCDXC said its Elmering Project is aimed squarely at swelling the pool of new HF operators and getting them on HF. After some introductory classes, three curriculum tracks are offered: General License Exam Preparation, HF Operating and Station Building, and Advanced Topics. Students sign up only for the classes that interest them; instruction will be at the participant's skill level. The club said classes will cover such topics as advanced HF phone, CW, and digital mode operating skills, propagation analysis, and antennas. Some classes will be taught using *PowerPoint* presentations delivered to a student's computer via [WebEx](#).

"Participants need no special software, as *WebEx* allows each user to see and hear the presentation and participate in the two-way audio stream," Eisenberg said. "Students may be local or on the other side of the country." Additional instruction by personal Elmers will take place at the Elmer's shack, where students will gain on-the-air experience using the skills they've been learning.

"Our goal is to put new hams on the air on the HF bands and give them the tools to enjoy the many aspects of the HF experience," Eisenberg said. "We will strive to make each class fun. We want each participant to succeed!"

More information about each track and the classes it contains are on the NCDXC website, along with the *PowerPoint* presentations.

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Fall Classic Set for First Weekend in October

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for August 24, 2017)

The main weekend for the 2017 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is only a little more than a month away -- Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8. This primary League-sponsored national emergency exercise is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of ARES® and other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response.

"Every local ARES team and/or ARRL Section will come up with their own scenarios and work with [served agencies and partner organizations](#) during the SET," said ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, who pointed out that not all SETs will take place on the first full weekend of October.

"SETs can be scheduled at the local and Section levels and conducted throughout the fall season to help maximize participation," Ewald said, "and ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their SETs on another weekend if October 7 and 8 are not convenient."



ARRL Field Organization Leaders -- Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Section Traffic Managers, District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and all of their Assistants and Net Managers -- are among those tasked with developing plans and scenarios for this year's SET, Ewald explained.

"The SET invites all radio amateurs to become aware of emergency preparedness and available training," Ewald said. "ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Traffic System™, SKYWARN, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are encouraged to participate."

The object of the annual nationwide exercise is to test training and skills and to try out new methods. "It's a time to work with partner organizations and served agencies to get to know them better and to determine their needs *before* an emergency or disaster strikes," Ewald said. "Knowing who to contact within partner groups with the planned procedures will help everyone accomplish their goals and succeed in their missions."

To get involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. See the [ARRL Sections](#) pages or get in touch with your ARRL Section Manager (see page 16 of *QST* for contact information).



OARC Meetings and Events for the Remainder of 2017

September 6, Wednesday	Meeting
October 4, Wednesday	Meeting
November 1, Wednesday	Meeting
December 2, Saturday	Christmas Party (see information in this issue)
December 6, Wednesday	No Meeting





OARC Membership Application

Make Checks payable to
Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Orlando Amateur Radio Club, OARC
Post Office Box 574962
Orlando FL 32857

To have your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE with your check.

Date: ___/___/20___ [] Regular Member [] Family Member [] Associate Member
[] New Membership [] Renewal [] CMP

Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address (print) _____

(Home) Phone: _____ (Cell) Phone _____ Birth Month _____

Rates: Regular [] 1 year \$15.00 [] 3 years \$40.00 [] 6 years \$75.00

Rates: Family [] 1 year \$5.00 per family member Husband, Wife or Child under 18

Rates: Associate [] 1 year \$15.00 Dues Total: _____

All Membership(s) will expire ONE year from date paid.

Other Club Affiliation: _____

Are you an ARRL Member: [] Yes [] No

Name Badges: White letters on Black background with Gold embossed OARC logo.

[] Regular 3" x 1.5" @ \$10.00 each

Name: _____ Call _____

All badges are to be picked up at the General meeting or add \$2.00 for shipping & handling.

Shipping & Handling: [] Yes [] No

Badges _____ **S&H** _____ **Total** _____