



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

October 2017

President's Message

Greetings to everyone! I truly hope that everyone fared Hurricane Irma with little to no damage. I know many had no power for up to a week after the storm. Having no AC in Florida during the summer months is no fun. Being stationed at the county EOC, we had backup generators keeping the AC and lights on, which was nice. But as soon as we were released, I quickly found out how people did not know how to drive through intersections with no working traffic control devices.

If you are still trying to "clean up" Irma's mess she left behind, please be safe. There are many hidden dangers out there and we want to see each of you at our meetings and events.

There is much devastation down in the Caribbean, many islands now have little to no power, little to no running fresh water, and a communications system in much needed repair. Not to mention raw sewage in rivers and waterways, and looters running about.

(Continued on Next Page)

OARC MEETING

October 4, 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

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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

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

As many of you know, the American Red Cross and the American Radio Relay League joined forces to send 50 amateur radio operators to Puerto Rico to assist in Radio Communications. Within 24 hours of the request, all 50 amateurs were identified and by the middle of the last week of September, they were on the way to the island. Sent with these volunteers was a cache of radios from ARRL's Ham Aid project. HF Radio Kits, Mobile Dual Band Kits, and Portable Radio Kits were all sent with the volunteers to assist. Some of these kits were even sent here to south Florida and over into Texas.

The ARRL needed some help funding these kits deployment and sent out a message to the membership. Your Board of Directors decided to donate \$1,500.00 in the name of OARC and \$1,500.00 in the name of Orlando HamCation to assist in this funding. The donations were accepted on Wednesday September 27. On Thursday September 28, I received an e-mail from ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher that simply said, "Thanks a Million" as the subject and he wrote; John: I'll find time to thank you more fully when I get a moment, but thanks so much. Tom.

These donations that are made because of your membership of OARC and your hard work each year to make HamCation successful. So, when Tom says to me Thank You, he is saying it to the entire membership!

73

John Knott
President

2018 HamCation Chairman Column

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

We just wrapped up our 3rd committee meeting this past weekend.

Reservations are starting to pick up for all areas.

This coming weekend will be in Michigan at the Great Lakes Hamcon. We will be there promoting HamCation.

Then the following weekend 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.

Then to wrap up the year we will be getting a booth at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on December 8th and 9th to promote the show on the west coast of Florida. We have a new Booth Display to use at the hamfest we attend.



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These donations that are made because of your membership of OARC and your hard work each year to make HamCation successful. Without volunteers HamCation would not be successful and we would not be able to give back the way we do. So, with that said I would like to thank all the Volunteers that help with HamCation ever year. 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
2018 HamCation General Chairman



Amateur Radio Parity Act is Introduced in US Senate

(source: The ARRL Letter for July 20, 2017)



The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowners' association (HOA) or subject to any private land-use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes. The Senate bill, S. 1534, is identical to H.R. 555, which passed the US House of Representatives in January. "Amateur Radio continues to be a critical part of our emergency communications operations," Wicker said. "Mississippians learned firsthand after Hurricane Katrina how Amateur Radio operators can provide a resilient, distributed network to first responders and disaster relief organizations when other communications tools fail."



Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)

"Amateur Radio operators provide an invaluable service to their communities by assisting local emergency communication efforts when disasters occur and main lines are down," Blumenthal said. "This bipartisan measure ensures that operators have access to the tools they need to support our first responders when lives are at stake." FCC Chairman Ajit Pai applauded the bill in late January, saying that it would "help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, expressed the League's appreciation to the Senate sponsors. "ARRL is grateful for the support of Senators Wicker and Blumenthal for sponsoring this important piece of legislation, and for advocating this bill for the past 3 years," he said. "Their continuing support is critical to the success of our efforts."

President Roderick also thanked Senator John Thune (R-SD), who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, for "championing the Parity Act in the Senate since the beginning of our effort."

The bill has enjoyed widespread, bipartisan support. In the 114th Congress, nearly 130 cosponsors signed onto the legislation in the House and the Senate. The legislation, which strikes a carefully crafted balance for



Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

all concerned parties, is the result of months of work culminating in the accord reached by ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI). The measure provides for the guarantee of an effective outdoor antenna while protecting the aesthetic concerns of HOAs. In a statement, ARRL said it looks forward to working with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate and the Commerce Committee to help move the Wicker-Blumenthal legislation through the Senate and to the President's desk.

October 2017 OARC Membership Meeting

At the October 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 October 4 and ask those questions.

This was originally scheduled for the September meeting but was rescheduled to the October meeting because of Irma.

Christmas Party

It's starting to feel a lot like.....Summer still? Yes, I know, it's still very warm outside 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 October and November meetings only! If you are reading this message in the Listening Post and cannot make it to the October or November Membership meeting but still want to attend the Christmas Party, send me an email. Since Hurricane Irma was the reason for not having a meeting in October and because of that, losing one of opportunity to sell tickets, I will make an exception on how we make the tickets available, but you must contact me ASAP.

We'll also be a Toys 4 Tots drop off location. Please bring a small unwrapped toy for our collection. The past couple of years we have filled over two boxes each year. More details as we get closer to the party.

OPERATING TIP

(The ARRL Contest Update for September 20, 2017)

"Mind Over Mode" - In contests that allow multiple modes, always be mindful of the fastest way to make contacts. It makes sense to use FT8, JT65, or other digital modes when a path does **NOT** exist on CW or SSB. However, if the band conditions permit CW or Phone Qs, they are often faster to complete than digital contacts.

WORD TO THE WISE

(The ARRL Contest Update for September 20, 2017)

"Ground Gain" - The increase in signal level possible at elevation angles where the direct radiation and the ground image of an antenna are additive in phase. For horizontally polarized antennas, this can be as much as 6 dB.

OPERATING TIP: Time Synchronization

(From The ARRL Contest Update for September 6, 2017)

```
Checking current status of NTP service with ntpq -p
remote refid st t when poll reach delay offset jitter
-----
+192.168.88.111 .GPS_ 1 u 10 16 377 0.692 1.541 0.783
+neoknet.com 108.61.73.243 3 u 30 64 377 71.148 -6.266 7.805
+ntp.your.org .CDMA_ 1 u 50 64 377 59.358 -1.672 1.434
+Time_FuncubeC 128.227.205.3 2 u 4 64 377 74.241 -6.981 2.542
[Auto-Refresh every 10s --- CTRL+C to Cancel]
```

Example output showing millisecond offsets from various time sources using the Meinberg NTP utilities. View the image to expand.

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
170345	-4	0.7	739	~ KG4OLG W3IH RRR
170345	-18	0.1	988	~ WA9ONY WX2CX FN31
170400	-15	0.2	740	~ W3
170400	-12	0.1	775	~ F1
170400	-4	0.2	936	~ I9
170400	-10	1.2	202	~ CQ
170400	-3	0.1	684	~ K5RUE N0DL1 R-UG
170400	-15	0.6	915	~ ADOQI N27M 73
170415	7	0.1	784	~ KG5RJR WB2JEP 73
170415	-18	0.1	987	~ WA9ONY WX2CX FN31
170415	-19	-0.1	203	~ KB5VJY W2HTS FN20
170415	4	0.2	626	~ K6LG W0TK -16
170415	-13	0.1	695	~ N5SLY K5ROE RRR
170415	-24	0.2	916	~ MW0CSO N4DA 73
170415	-3	0.2	739	~ KG4OLG W3IH RRR
170430	-24	0.5	313	~ F4GUK WX2H FN20
170430	-16	0.5	740	~ W3IH KG4OLG 73
170430	-15	0.1	784	~ WB2JEP KG5RJR 73
170430	-8	0.3	636	~ T0WRY K4BSC DDD

A snippet from the WSJT-X screen. The "DT" column is the Delta Time -- the difference between your computer's clock and the other station's clock. You want this to be as close to zero as possible.

If you're using the new digital modes like JT65 and FT8, it's more important than ever to make sure your computer's time is correct. If your computer's clock is off by more than a second or two, contacts with other stations may be difficult or impossible. For internet-connected computers, time synchronization could be as easy as turning on and configuration Internet time synchronization in your operating system settings. For those on DXpeditions or otherwise not connected, alternative means of time synchronization such as WWVB or GPS can be used.

The WSJT-X documentation recommends using Meinberg NTP on Windows machines to synchronize with Internet timeservers. Meinberg comes with utilities that help you better monitor the quality and health of your clock synchronization source(s).



OARC Meetings and Events for the Remainder of 2017

October 4, Wednesday	Meeting
October 15, Sunday	2017 Ride for Ronald
November 1, Wednesday	Meeting
December 6, Wednesday	No Meeting



