



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

November 2017

President's Message

Greetings to everyone! Well we are just a little over 30 days from the end of the hurricane season. I hope the remainder of the hurricane season is very quiet! Matthew last year and Irma this year is enough for several years to come, not to mention the poor souls still suffering from the impact of multiple hurricanes in the Caribbean this year.

W4MCAQContinued on Next Page)

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 • Message from the President
- 2 • HamCationSM Chairman Column
- 3 • Christmas Party Information
- 4 • ARRL Expresses Gratitude for Outpouring of Ham Aid Donations
- 5 • From the Co-Editor
- 6 • Communications Interoperability Training with Amateur Radio Community Set
- 7 • ARRL Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications
- 8 • New HF Operators - Things To Do
 - Word to the Wise: Isotropic Radiator
 - Operating Tip
 - Conversation
- 9 • New Ham Bands Spring to Life; Veteran LF Experimenter Denied Access to 2200 Meters
- 11 • CW Gets the Message Through in Wake of Hurricane Irma
- 12 • OARC Events for Remainder of 2017
- 13 • Membership Application

OARC MEETING

November 1, 2017, 7:30pm
 Beardall Senior Center
 800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
 ARRL Testing: 5:30pm
 For information & Updates
 See www.oarc.org

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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).

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Comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Send to editors@oarc.org.

Contributing to this edition: John Knott N4JTK, Michael Cauley W4MCA

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)*

I do hope that everyone is able to enjoy the cooler weather we been having lately. It sure is nice to open the doors and windows and allow fresh air in. Makes you want to go out and operate in a park, which is not a bad idea. Grab a friend and find a nearby park with a clearing. Get the permission needed to throw up a wire or vertical and operate. Where your club shirts. Be friendly to the public who ask questions. Spark the interest in amateur radio. Get the youth involved. Central Florida has LOTS of parks to use. Most importantly, get out and operate!!!

Please be sure to read the Communications Interoperability Training article in this issue. A great opportunity for amateur radio to train with Army MARS and the DOD. Our annual Christmas Dinner/Party is coming up. Make sure you get your tickets at the November meeting. More info in this issue.

Mark your calendars, at our January 2018 meeting our program will be a webinar with DX Engineering and the subject will be on Contesting!! You won't want to miss it. Our February meeting and VE Test session will be at the Fairgrounds, as it will be right before HamCation.

Just a reminder that there is NO meeting in December, but we will still conduct a VE test session at Beardall at 5:30p.

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.

Reservations are starting to pick up for all areas.



This was our booth at the Melbourne Hamfest October 13th and 14th. We have not had a booth at Melbourne for several years. It was a great show for us. We sold over 85 Tickets along with a Commercial Booth, Swap Tables, Tailgate spots and RV Nights.

Then to wrap up the year we have a

booth at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on December 8th and 9th to promote the show on the west coast of Florida.

Then to start off 2018 you can come see us at the UCF Tailgate. It is January 13, 2018 @ 7:00am. This will be your last chance to get tickets for the Early Bird Prize.

We need lots of Volunteers for the 2018 Show.

You can go to <https://www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer> to sign up as a volunteer. As a HamCation Volunteer you get a FREE admission ticket to HamCation when you volunteer at least 4 hours. It's a win-win situation for all of us. So, if you have some free time and would like to help you can sign up at our website or get with any chairman. Also, you do not need to be an Amateur to volunteer, so bring your Spouse, Siblings, Friends, etc. with you to be a volunteer.

Michael Cauley, W4MCA
2018 HamCation General Chairman

Christmas Party

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

Finally! A little cooler weather! Just wanted to give a little update on 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 November meeting only! If you are reading this message in the Listening Post and cannot make it to the 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 September and because of that, losing one of our 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 two boxes each year. All go to help the local community and making sure every child has a toy to unwrap on Christmas.

Each year one of the big hits with the Christmas Party is the dessert table. Do you have a favorite dessert? Why not bring it for our dessert table! Coordinate what you want to bring with Ana. You can email Ana at agroe@oarc.org or talk to her at the November meeting.

Also don't forget, the Christmas party is also our annual awards presentations. We'll have some great door prizes too.



ARRL Expresses Gratitude for Outpouring of Ham Aid Donations

(From The ARRL Letter for October 12, 2017)

ARRL thanks the Amateur Radio community for its generosity in support of the ARRL [Ham Aid Fund](#), which is making it possible to provide relief and recovery communications in Puerto Rico. Overall, there have been more than 600 donations to the Ham Aid program in response to a call from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and nearly \$125,000 has come in from clubs and individuals. Several Amateur Radio retailers and manufacturers also have stepped up to donate needed equipment. Roderick said he was amazed at the overwhelming response, including those who answered his call to join the "Force of 50" now deployed in Puerto Rico.



"The Amateur Radio community really came together in providing donations of equipment, funding, and personnel in response to the great need in Puerto Rico," Roderick said. "The scale of these efforts and the response is making history. This has got to be one of Amateur Radio's greatest moments. Our sincere thanks go to all involved."

The list of those offering their generosity and support is long and growing. Contributors include International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 ([IARU R2](#)), which donated two Ham Aid kits in addition to a monetary donation; the [Yasme Foundation](#), which made a monetary contribution to the Ham Aid Fund and donated critical equipment, and the Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](#)). Donations also came from the Orlando Amateur Radio Club ([OARC](#)) and from Orlando [HamCation](#)®.

Amateur Radio dealers and retailers have made in-kind donations. Quicksilver Radio ([QSR](#)) has contributed antennas and accessories, [Radiowavz](#) has provided antennas, and [Heil Sound Ltd.](#) has donated headsets with cables. Other corporate and retail in-

kind contributors include [ABR Industries](#), [AT&T](#), [Icom America](#), [Yaesu](#), Ham Radio Outlet ([HRO](#)), and [DX Engineering](#).



Monetary donations also have arrived from the CW Operators Club ([CWops](#)); the SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization ([SEDCO](#)), sponsor of W4DXCC; the Northern California Contest Club ([NCCC](#)); the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club ([FMARC](#)); the Wahkiakum Amateur Radio Club; the North Shore Radio Club ([NSARC](#)), and the Steel City Amateur Radio Club ([W3KWH](#)) **and Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)** ... (Editor).

Ham Aid was created in 2005 in response to the need for equipment and resources to support the Amateur Radio response to hurricanes in the US and the Caribbean, and Ham Aid kits are in use throughout Puerto Rico for the Hurricane Maria relief and recovery effort.

Ham Aid equipment will be needed for future disasters. "Your donation to Ham Aid will help us now, and contributions to Ham Aid are 100% tax deductible," President Roderick said.

You can [donate online](#) (select "Ham Aid" from the Donation Form list), or by mail by printing a [donation form](#) and mailing it with your check payable to ARRL, noting "Ham Aid" on the memo line, to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 USA.

From the Co-Editor

(Ed Thralls, NE4H)

After reading the above article, I sent an e-mail to ARRL asking what they used in their HF and VHF kits. And this was the reply from Ken Baily, K1FUG, Emergency Preparedness Assistant and Continuing Education Program Administrator:

These kits contain equipment we had on hand and equipment that we purchased specifically to meet the needs of the hams going on deployments. We listened to them and provided what they requested as much as possible.

What specific "Go Box" container are you using (brand/model)??

We have used Pelican cases in the past and find them very rugged. It helps that we have a local supplier. Older case models 1650, 1620, 1610 and the new series 1750, 2950 were used.

What specific radios are being used (brand/model)??

We do not get donations from the manufacturers and purchase all radio's. In the most recent Ham Aid deployments shipments included the ICOM IC-7300, and IC-7200 HF transceivers We chose these models because they are digital capable and were needed to send messages via Winlink. No digital interfaces were needed. Some kits have older ICOM IC-718 models and we built digital interfaces for digital communications.

Some kits consists of ICOM IC-V82 144 MHz handhelds with sufficient batteries to power them. We also sent a number of Kenwood TH-KAT 144 MHz handhelds. Some 20 dual band mobile transceivers to be used where needed, ICOM, Yaesu models that we had on hand.

What specific antenna tuner is being used (brand/model)??

We have been using the LDG IT-100 auto tuners.

What specific power supply is being used (brand/model)?

MFJ-4225 Mighty lite 25 Amp power supplies and MFJ-4230 30 AMP.

What specific mic and headset is being used (brand/model)?

Hand mike that comes with the transceivers and we purchased Heil Pro 7 Boom Sets to use with some of the radios.

Antennas were Alpha Delta 40 meter dipoles that we purchased or wire antennas were built for 40 meters. 40 meters was chosen because of the propagation in the Caribbean and they work well on 20 meters with the tuners.

In most kits we supplied an assortment of tools, electrical tape, rope for antennas. 100 feet of RG-8X, jumper cables, barrel connectors and other things we had on hand that the operators might find useful.

You do not need to copy the kits we put together. Use what you have and build a kit around that.

Communications Interoperability Training with Amateur Radio Community Set

(From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT October 24, 2017)

Elements of the US Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct a "communications interoperability" training exercise November 4-6, once again simulating a "very bad day" scenario. Amateur Radio and MARS organizations will take part.

"This exercise will begin with a national massive coronal mass ejection event which will impact the national power grid as well as all forms of traditional communication, including landline telephone, cellphone, satellite, and Internet connectivity," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained in an announcement.

During the exercise, a designated DOD Headquarters entity will request county-by-county status reports for the 3,143 US counties and county equivalents, in order to gain situational awareness and to determine the extent of impact of the scenario. Army and Air Force MARS organizations will work in conjunction with the Amateur Radio community, primarily on the 60-meter interoperability channels as well as on

HF NVIS frequencies and local VHF and UHF, non-Internet linked Amateur Radio repeaters.

Again this year, a military station on the east coast and the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, HF station will conduct a high-power broadcast on 60-meter channel 1 (5330.5 kHz) on Saturday from 0300 to 0315 UTC.

New this year will be an informational broadcast on Sunday, on 13483.5 kHz USB from 1600 to 1615 UTC. Amateur Radio operators should monitor these broadcasts for more information about the exercise and how they can participate in this communications exercise, English said.

"We want to continue building on the outstanding cooperative working relationship with the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community," English said. "We want to expand the use of the 60-meter interop channels between the military and amateur community for emergency communications, and we hope the Amateur Radio community will give us some good feedback on the use of both the 5-MHz interop and the new 13-MHz broadcast channels as a means of information dissemination during a very bad day scenario."

Contact Paul English for more information or questions about this exercise via email at, mars.exercises@gmail.com .

ARRL Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

(From The ARRL Letter for October 12, 2017)

The ARRL Foundation Scholarship program is now accepting applications from eligible applicants. The deadline to submit applications is January 31, 2018. *All* applicants must be FCC-licensed radio amateurs, and many scholarships have other specific requirements, such as intended area of study, ARRL Division, Section, or state, and license class.



This year, the Foundation Board of Directors is offering several new scholarships. These include The Old Man International Sideband Society Scholarship; The K6GO Gale Olson and NA6MB Mike Bender Scholarship; The Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, Scholarship; the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) Scholarship, and The Ladies Amateur Radio Association of Orange County Scholarship.

Applicants should review all scholarship descriptions and check off the ones for which they are eligible. [More information](#) is on the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program page.

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

(from The ARRL Contest Update for October 18, 2017)

Putting a serious effort into a major HF contest demands being at the rig for a significant number of consecutive hours. Make it easier on your body and improve your scores by making sure the ergonomics of your station are good. You don't want to have a sore neck or back muscles. There are a lot of sources of information on the topic of computer ergonomics, but things that matter include desk height, good posture, monitor viewing angle, and having every control within easy reach.

Station automation can reduce fatigue, which makes operating in the wee hours less error prone. Strive to use the operator to make contacts, and use technology to do everything else, like switching antennas.

WORD TO THE WISE

(from The ARRL Contest Update for October 18, 2017)

Isotropic radiator - An antenna with the characteristic of radiating equally in all directions.

OPERATING TIP

(from The ARRL Contest Update for October 18, 2017)

When good cables go bad: To avoid problems during a contest, it pays to check your cables inside the shack periodically. This includes all connectors in the signal chain, such as those to your power/SWR meter, filters, or amplifiers. Coax connectors should be tightened beyond finger-tight using pliers. After tightening, wiggle the cable while listening closely to a signal going through the cable to detect gross problems. Use quality cables for audio connections - a bad audio cable in the RTTY received signal chain can exhibit the same characteristics as selecting the wrong audio input device for your computer. Audio connectors can fail, as well. Is your sub-receiver not working, or did one side of your headphone cable or connector just go bad?

CONVERSATION

(from The ARRL Contest Update for October 18, 2017)

Earthly Concerns: This week, the world's astronomers are marveling at the first instance of gravitational wave detection correlated with visible-light astronomy. In some circles, that news overshadowed the more earthly concerns of a vulnerability being found in one of the protocols that is used for wireless networking, WPA2. The vulnerability that was found could allow an adversary to decrypt network traffic

without the need of the network password, and depending on the protocol settings, to even spoof devices on the network with fake packets. In effect, it is like being on a public wireless networks, or a wireless LAN that doesn't have any security. Most private networks don't find it appealing to let just anyone access the devices on their networks.

Vendors of networking gear are scrambling to release new versions of firmware for their devices that mitigate the multiple issues that have been discovered. The vulnerabilities pertain to access points and to **all** of the client devices that connect to the access points via WPA2. It's possible that many IoT (Internet of Things) devices with embedded network stacks won't be updated, especially if they're older than a year or two. Many inexpensive consumer devices with a wireless feature were never intended to have with software upgrades.

Networking has crept into much of our Amateur gear, but remember, this particular vulnerability is only applicable to gear using the WPA2 wireless protocol.

What's the shack maintenance to-do item? There's likely a little bit of time before scripts or programs to take advantage to this vulnerability are readily available to those that want to cause mischief. Start watching for firmware and/or wireless setting updates from equipment manufacturers. Make a list of all of the devices you have on your wireless network, and make sure that your networking gear has the latest firmware updates. When you're ready, change your access point's wireless password, and enter that new password into all of the client devices. Watch for devices weren't added to the list on the first go round, and add and update those. You have a tough decision to make about devices that can't be updated - they each represent a potential way in to your secure wireless network. It might be time to replace them with newer devices that are secure.

New Ham Bands Spring to Life; Veteran LF Experimenter Denied Access to 2200 Meters

(from The ARRL Letter of October 19, 217)

Amateur Radio's two newest bands came to life on Friday the 13th. Both 630 meters (472-479 kHz) and 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) are now available to radio amateurs who have notified the Utilities Technology Council ([UTC](#)) of their intention to operate and did not hear anything back during the ensuing 30 days.



"Many of us filed notices with the Utilities Technology Council on September 15, the day the notification procedure was announced," said Fritz Raab, W1FR, who coordinated the ARRL [WD2XSH 630-Meter Experiment](#). "We did not expect to hear from the UTC, unless they were objecting to amateur operation. Much to our surprise, on Friday, October 13, a number of operators received 'okay' notices. So, the first

amateur operations commenced that night."

Denied!

UTC e-mails went out to an undetermined number of US radio amateurs who had notified the Council, but not everyone got the thumbs up. One of those thwarted in his hopes of operating under his Amateur Radio license on 2200 meters was John Andrews, W1TAG, of Holden, Massachusetts, a long-wave veteran with thousands of hours on the band over the past 13 years under his FCC Part 5 Experimental license. Andrews, an ARRL 630-Meter Experiment participant, said UTC denied his request because he was within 1 kilometer of a power line using PLC (power line carrier). Another who did not pass UTC muster for 2200 meters was Alabamian Dave Guthrie, KN4OK. UTC encouraged him to apply for permission to operate on 630 meters.

Awash with Signals

Raab said a few operators reported making contacts on 630 meters the first night, although noise levels were high, and a geomagnetic storm was in progress. Saturday night, October 14, "was a bust," he said. The next evening, however, things broke open. "The band was awash with CW and digital signals," Raab reported. "Operating modes included CW, JT9, SSB, and WSPR. Many operators were new to the band and not previously experimental licensees."

On October 17, W7IUV and VK4YB completed a JT9 contact, possibly the first US-to-DX Amateur Radio contact on 630 meters.

Andrews said he was an early applicant for a Part 5 license in 2003, after the FCC turned away from its own proposal, in response to an ARRL petition, to allocate a 2200-meter band. He estimates that he's racked up 11,000 hours of transmit time since 2004.

"I was never notified of any interference problem other than from a neighbor trying to run outdoor security cameras with CAT 3 network cable," he told ARRL. "While 2200 meters is a pretty tortured part of the radio spectrum for receiving over-the-air signals, there was nothing audible that suggested PLC use."

He plans to apply for 630-meter permission from Massachusetts. His notification for permission to operate on both bands from his summer home in Maine has not been denied.

The Rules

Section 97.313(g)(2) of the Amateur Service rules requires that, prior to starting operation on either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend to operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

"Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of PLC systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies," the FCC said in announcing approval of the notification system on September 15.

CW Gets the Message Through in Wake of Hurricane Irma

(from The ARRL Letter of October 26, 2017)

Any CW operator worth his or her salt will tell you that CW is the mode that gets through when all others fall short of the mark. CW certainly did the job for Chet Hogue, N3BK, who handled dozens of messages for residents of Florida's Lower Keys in the days following Hurricane Irma in September.

"A message from a Big Pine Key man to his girlfriend, who evacuated with their young daughter and was waiting to hear how he weathered the storm, was one of about 80 sent out over the airwaves by ham radio enthusiast Chet Hogue in the days following Irma's destruction," reporter Katie Atkins wrote in *The Keynoter* in describing Hogue's activity.

"Things here are still incredibly a mess!" Hogue told ARRL this week. The Summerland Key charter captain, known as "Captain Chester," weathered the storm in place. He noted that the primary frequencies handling traffic were quite busy, so he got on CW, which, he told Atkins, allowed him "to relay messages clearly." He operated from a station at his home as well as from his boat.

According to the news report, Hogue would transmit message traffic gathered from residents trying to get in touch with family and friends outside the area. He urged anyone interested in Amateur Radio to visit the ARRL website.

"It's just neat, this system," he told Atkins. "With a piece of wire and a car battery, you can talk around the world."

Hogue told ARRL that he "escaped" to the Keys in 2010 after recovering from an injury suffered in a vehicle accident. "I haven't been active in some time, but have kept my 'bug-out bag' ready for just this situation," he said. "[This] was my first emergency, as it was for many who passed traffic for me."

Hogue's father -- also Chester -- is N3VA, and his dad and some of his friends got him interested in Amateur Radio. Hogue entered the military as a teenager and, he said, realized the vital importance of communication.

Hogue used a 100 W radio powered from deep-cycle marine batteries, a G5RV antenna on shore and a fiberglass vertical antenna on his charter boat. He kept a handwritten log on a piece of cardboard.

"This is a good reason for all of us to learn CW and use it on the bands, and become skilled at sending and receiving CW," remarked Whitey Doherty, K1VV, a CW stalwart who shared the news story with ARRL Headquarters. -- *Thanks to "Captain Chester" Hogue, N3BK, The Keynoter, and Whitey Doherty, K1VV*



Chet Hogue, N3BK.
[Photo courtesy of Chet Hogue, N3BK]

OARC Meetings and Events for the Remainder of 2017

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



