



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

January 2018

President's Message

Warm holiday greetings to each of you! I truly hope that this holiday season brings you much happiness, joy, love, and peace! Not to mention a new ham radio! 😊

The December issue of The Listening Post did not get published. This is no fault of our editors!! They have been after me to finish my articles and get them over to them. Here is an early January newsletter.

It has been an extremely busy month and time and electronics (computer crash) just have not been on my side. I really hope that everyone enjoyed our annual Christmas party. Ana did an excellent job in her inaugural year. Trying to balance a job, being a Mom, (Continued on Next Page)

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OARC MEETING

January 3, 2018, 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 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)*

grandmother and wife and keep on top of organizing the Christmas party! Outstanding job and many, many thanks for taking care of it.



OARC Christmas Party Set Up - Thank you ANA!!!

This year we had a few less at our party. We lost a few members this year who became Silent Keys. Our thoughts and prayers to their families as they endure the first Christmas Season without them. We also missed two of our prominent members who moved back home to the Netherlands this year! Even though their physical presence was missing, each one of them was with us in spirit.

I have to say, a couple of years ago I asked if you would bring a small unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. You guys blew me away with the mounds of toys that was sent in. Since then, you guys have lived up to the reputation that has been built and this Christmas Season, Michael and I were honored to deliver well over 100 toys to the Marines for Toys for Tots!! I cannot thank you enough for helping the less fortunate and more importantly the kids who sometimes just don't understand why "Santa" didn't visit them!! You guys (& gals) ROCK!!!!

Finally, as the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season consumes each of us in our daily lives, take a moment and reflect on the past year. Make a small list of things you might want to improve on or change. Then set some reasonable goals to make it happen in the new year!! With that, may each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Remember the reason for the season!

73
John Knott, N4JTK
President

HamCationSM Chairman Column

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone.

First let me say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hopefully everyone got stuffed at our Holiday Party. We had the most prizes every at this one. That is because of great members like you making HamCation the Great Show that it is, and we can give back to our membership because of this and remember several of the prizes were donated by HamCation Vendors for our Holiday Party. That tells me we are doing something right.

Reservations are starting to pick up for all areas. As you are reading this almost 54,000 HamCation Fliers are being delivered to the Post Office to be mailed out.

This was our booth at the Tampa Bay Hamfest December 8th and 9th. This was our first year having a Booth there. It was a great show for us. We sold over 65 Tickets along with a Swap Tables, Tailgate spots and RV Nights. We also answered a lot of questions.



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.

Keep on eye on the website it is being updated regularly now. We got the forums updated on the website now. Also in January the vendor list will be up.

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



January Meeting

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

Our January meeting will be on Wednesday January 3, 2018. Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm at the Beardall Senior Center. Our topic will be on Contesting with Tim Duffy, K3LR. Tim is the Chief Operating Officer for DX Engineering. Tim will be joining us via Skype. We would like to fill the room with members for this meeting. Please plan on attending. Tim gives an excellent presentation. Have you ever attended or wanted to attend Contest University at Dayton Hamvention? Tim organizes this event each year and has done so for about 25 years. You'll learn a lot in a short amount of time.

Don't forget our ARRL Test Session will start at 5:30pm at Beardall. Want to upgrade your license? Know someone who wants to take the tech element? Here's your opportunity.

February Meeting

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

Our February Meeting will be at the Central Florida Fairgrounds located at 4603 West Colonial Drive. The meeting will be in the Social Hall. You can park outside the East Gate area and access the Social Hall from the outside. Meeting will begin at 7:30pm. We are working on a special program for this meeting and once it is confirmed, we'll make an announcement. This meeting will be open to visitors and vendors of HamCation.

Our February ARRL Test Session will also be at the Fairgrounds starting at 5:30pm.

Status Report: The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017

(The ARRL Letter for November 30, 2017)

The [Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 - S. 1534](#) is alive, but with legislative action slowed to a glacial pace on Capitol Hill in recent months, there's been no real progress to report since this past summer. At present, the bill is under consideration by the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and it remains an active concern for ARRL. The League is working diligently to shake the bill loose and move it forward.

While it may appear that time is short, S. 1534 does not need to pass the Senate by year's end. The bill remains in play until the current session of Congress adjourns, which doesn't happen until December 31, 2018. Once the bill has been passed by both chambers, the FCC would still have to implement its essence in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.



Introduced on July 12, S. 1534 marked another step forward for

the landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) sponsored the bill in the Senate. The US

House version of the legislation, HR 555, passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent last January.

FCC Seeks Comments on Technological Advisory Council Recommendations

(from the ARRL Letter for December 7, 2017)

In a Public Notice released on December 1, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) has invited comments by January 31, 2018, on a wide-ranging series of Technological Advisory Council (TAC) recommendations that, if implemented, could alter the spectrum policy regulatory landscape - especially with respect to interference resolution and enforcement. An advisory body, the TAC's membership includes several Amateur Radio licensees. ARRL will file comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 17-340.



The TAC has called on the FCC to:

- * Consider adopting the spectrum management principles spelled out in the Council's Basic Spectrum Principles white papers of March 2014 and December 2015, and "set clear expectations about the affected system's capabilities regarding interference, such as harm claim thresholds."
- * More broadly adopt risk-informed interference assessment and statistical service rules. "In judging whether to allow new radio service rules, the TAC observes that the Commission has to balance the interests of incumbents, new entrants, and the public," the Public Notice explained. "The process of analyzing the tradeoffs between the benefits of a new service and the risks to incumbents has, to date, been essentially qualitative."
- * Implement "a next-generation architecture" to resolve interference, and establish a public database of past radio-related enforcement activities. The TAC also recommended that the FCC "incorporate interference hunters in the [interference] resolution process."

The TAC spelled out a set of three "Interference Realities," which, in part, assert that harmful interference "is affected by the characteristics of both a transmitting service and a nearby receiving service in frequency, space, or time," and that radio services should expect occasional service degradation or interruption."

The TAC also posed three "Responsibilities of [Radio] Services that, in part, state that "receivers are responsible for mitigating interference outside their assigned channels"

and that "transmitters are responsible for minimizing the amount of their transmitted energy that appears outside their assigned frequencies and licensed areas." The TAC acknowledged that the FCC, by and large, does not regulate receiving systems.

Another three principles under "Regulatory Requirements and Actions" the TAC suggested that the FCC may "apply interference limits to quantify rights of protection from harmful interference." According to the Public Notice, the TAC "has recommended interference limits as a method for the Commission to communicate the limits of protection to which systems are entitled, without mandating receiver performance specifications." The TAC called for a "quantitative analysis of interactions between services" before the FCC could "make decisions regarding levels of protection," The OET said.

"The TAC believes the principles can be applied to all systems and result in an optimal solution for each service," the Public Notice said. The TAC has suggested that the FCC not base its rules on exceptional events and worst-case scenarios but on reality.

"The TAC recommends that the Commission start soon, and start small, and not attempt a major overhaul of its regulatory approach," the Public Notice said.

W1AW to Start Scheduled Transmissions on 6 Meters Beginning on January 2

(from The ARRL Letter for December 7, 2017)



ARRL has announced that W1AW will start scheduled transmissions on 6 meters beginning on January 2. W1AW will add 6 meters -- specifically 50.350 MHz -- to its regular CW code practice, and CW, digital, and phone bulletin transmission schedule, starting with the 1400 UTC fast code practice on January 2.

Prior to late 1989, W1AW had a presence on 6 meters for all CW practice and routine bulletins, but it has been silent on 6 meters since then, with the exception of regular visitor operations and contests.

In addition to providing regularly scheduled transmissions on 6 meters, another goal of the W1AW transmission on the "magic band" is to act as a beacon on 6 meters, especially from the northeast US.

Signal reports will be welcome. A web page will allow listeners to submit signal reports. Listeners may also [e-mail](#) their reports to W1AW.

OPERATING TIP

(from The ARRL Contest Update for December 13, 2017)

Transceiver Filtering versus RTTY Demodulator Filtering

Make sure you understand the effect of using any 'dual peak' or 'twin peak' filtering feature your transceiver may provide when used in conjunction with your RTTY program through on-the-air testing. In some cases, the transceiver filtering may help

pull out very weak single signals. In other cases such as when multiple signals may be present, the use of transceiver filters may make copying more difficult.

WORD TO THE WISE

(from The ARRL Contest Update for December 13, 2017)

Snubber - a circuit that is used to suppress voltage spikes. On older equipment, especially amplifiers, mechanical relays are sometimes used for the transmit/receive (TR) switch. When mechanical relays are de-energized the collapsing magnetic field of their coils generate a reverse voltage. This reverse voltage can be much greater than the relay voltage and may be harmful to lower-voltage solid state electronics. Snubber circuits are used to reduce the reverse voltage. Snubbers are also used in modern electronics to reduce transients where reactive loads are subject to rapidly changing current.

January 2018 QST Debuts Fresh, New Design

(from The ARRL Letter for December 14, 2017)

QST magazine is more than a century old, and with the major exception of color printing throughout the magazine starting in December 2000, it's remained mostly unchanged for the past couple of decades. Starting with the January 2018 issue of *QST*, now available to members in digital form, several noticeable changes are being made to the journal's format, design, and size. *QST* Editor and Publications Manager

Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said member feedback over the last few years, has hinted at "significant shifts in media preferences within the Amateur Radio community." Extensive research undertaken late last year, "revealed an undeniable mandate for change," Ford said.



"The majority of you told us that the 'look' of *QST* was becoming stale, that it wasn't in step with modern publications," Ford said in editorial remarks in the January 2018 issue. "You also told us that you desired different types of articles that spoke more to the needs of the average amateur. We've heard you - and we are responding."

Ford said that starting with the January 2018 issue, *QST* will sport a modern, eye-catching design, and will be easier to read. The journal has been trimmed slightly to 144 pages per issue (in addition to covers), plus a smaller size to match the 8 × 10.5-inch publishing industry standard. The current *QST* trim size is nonstandard.

"These changes will create significant savings for us in the cost of ink and paper, and will save even more on postage, which is one of our largest expenses," Ford explained, adding that cost savings will fund the development "of more of the types of the articles you've told us you want," as well as to provide more engaging social media content. In addition, fewer pages will let the editorial staff focus greater attention on each issue's content.



Ford said League members have indicated a preference for articles that provide practical, immediately usable information, guide readers to new activities, and tell more about what radio amateurs are doing -- with an emphasis on personal stories that inspire.

"While we will continue to publish *QST* in digital form each month, our research, and the research conducted by other publishers, has shown that a clear majority of readers still prefer books and magazines printed on paper, and so do our advertisers," Ford said. "So, thanks to the support of our advertisers, we will continue to publish *QST* on paper for the foreseeable future."

Ford said additional changes are possible. "As your needs change, we will, too," he concluded.



OARC Meetings and Events 2018

January 3, Wednesday	Meeting
February 7, Wednesday	Meeting *** At Central Florida Fairgrounds
March 7, Wednesday	Meeting
April 4, Wednesday	Meeting
May 2, Wednesday	Meeting
June 6, Wednesday	Meeting
June 23-24, Sat – Sun	Field Day 2018
July 4, Wednesday	No Meeting
August 1, Wednesday	Meeting
September 5, Wednesday	Meeting
October 3, Wednesday	Meeting
November 7, Wednesday	Meeting
December 1, Saturday	Christmas Party
December 5, Wednesday	No Meeting but Exams will be administered at 5:30pm at the Beardall Center





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** _____