



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

July 2018

President's Message

Greetings to everyone! I hope everyone had a great Field Day weekend. I want to thank James Deuel, N0XIA for coordinating OARC Field Day this year. Some new and exciting things were put in place this year. Overall, everything went well. I also would like each of you who came out and helped with setup and/or teardown. It's always a hot and tiring job and your dedication to assist with Field Day is greatly appreciated. James will have more on Field Day in this issue.

(Continued on Next Page)

OARC MEETING

No Meeting in July - Holiday

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 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

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

I would like to welcome Frank Gergits, KC9GNQ to the Board of Directors. Frank has agreed to finish Ralph's term as Director. Frank has been a member in good standing and has been on the HamCation Committee as the Onsite Tickets Chairman. Please welcome Frank at the next OARC meeting and please remember that any of the Officers and Directors would love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms, or ideas please let us know.

We are about to co-host our first General License class in a long time. We have 12 candidates scheduled to attend. Looking forward to seeing this class succeed. We wish all the candidates much success.

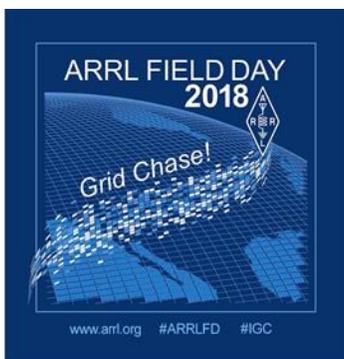
Reminder that there is NO meeting or test session in July. Beardall Senior center is closed on the 4th of July, I believe we all will have something else to do that day also, and there is not any way to reschedule the meeting.

At our August Meeting, Chris Plumblee, WF3C will be doing a presentation on the Florida Contest Group. Chris is FCG's current President. The Florida Contest Group host a large Contest Dinner each year during Orlando HamCation.

At our September Meeting, Mike Beers, KA9ZRZ will be doing a presentation on Ham Radio Hotspots. Do you have an interest in getting a Hotspot? Have one need help with? Come to the September meeting to have your questions answered.

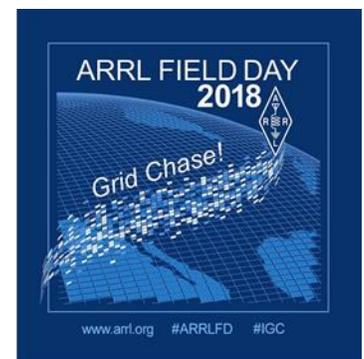
Christmas Party tickets will go on sale at the September meeting. This year's tickets will be \$10.00ea for members and a guest. Tickets will only be available at the September, October, & November meetings. Or you can send a check with a SASE in to our PO Box. We will be collecting Toys 4 Tots again this year for Orlando's under privilege children. Please bring a small unwrapped toy. We will also accept desserts for our dessert tables at the dinner. Please coordinate these with Ana.

John Knott



OARC FIELD DAY 2018, Wrap Up (By James Deuel, N0XIA)

Did you miss Field Day? That's okay. You can read about it here. Usually, Peter, AI4KM, would have tons of pictures for all to see, but he recently moved back to the Netherlands. Bob, W4KBW, is our other photographer,



but he was busy with 20 meters and working with the network logging program. With a few I could take with my cell phone and borrowing a few from others, I can still offer some show and tell.

Friday, June 22, 2018, around noon time, several of us started to enter the fairgrounds and start setting up the heavy equipment. That would be unloading stuff from the storage units, equipment brought from home, prepping the trailers that would also arrive for the stations and prepping the rooms in the block house of the Lakeside Pavilion on the Orlando Fairgrounds. It was a slow start due to coordination of the delivery of the trailer with the Vertical Lift Pole (VLP), the ARES bus not starting and finding an alternate. It did allow Bob, W2BZY, to get extra help setting up his 6 meter beam and one of two 160 meter Windom antennas. Saturday morning would have to be the time to get ready with the rest.

Saturday, June 23, 2018, 8:00 AM. Things started to roll in prepping for Field Day. The 10-15-20 meter beam was assembled, dipoles were unwound, ropes were attached to the mast of the VLP and ropes secured to the dipole ends to erect the arrays.



The start of the antenna arrays for the SSB stations.

Note: that cell tower behind the trailer is not part of Field Day!



The 6 meter beam, all ready from Friday.



The trailer for 40 and 75 meter stations.



Dipoles for 40 and 75 meters next.

Just before 2:00 PM when the contacting of stations was to start, the antennas were up, stations were in place and manned. Most of our struggles were on getting the networking logging program to communicate with the seven laptops. Michael, W4MCA, found the firewall issue and we were up and running. At 2:00 PM, we started and it was neat to see contacts being logged in on any computer you looked at. One was even put in the cafeteria (little room with frig and food) to watch. I don't think it was more than an hour before all stations had to shut down due to an approaching lightning storm for about an hour.



The 40, 75 meter Double Bazooka wire arrays and tri-beam antenna on top. Note the clouds (lightning capable).



Side view photos of the aerals taken before the storm.

Oh and yes, while all this was going on, Ana, KM4JVE, brought a home-prepared lunch and dinner on Saturday for everyone. Husband Dean, KD4TWJ, also accompanied her in spite of a lightning strike on their home Friday night, which took out a lot of appliances and radio equipment with a leaking roof. It was a feast that evening on Sheppard's pie, beef Chile and salad. Everyone was fed well.

Around midnight, operations were down to three operators and I do not know how many after 1 AM, because I to was asleep by then for a few hours.

Sunday, June 24th, 2018, activity started to pick up with the arrival of Barry, N2DB, who prepared waffles, scrambled eggs and bacon strips. This is a tradition that Barry has done for Field Day for years and it is greatly appreciated.



The apron is the giveaway on who is the chef. Bacon, eggs, and waffles oh my!

After breakfast, it was back to the radios and what a surprise. Bob, W2BZY, had moved over to 6 meters SSB and contacts kept coming. The CERT team was on 15 meters with one contact after another coming in. 20 meters, manned by Bob, W4KBW, did well as always, but more difficult due to it being the band of choice most

of the time and crowded. The rest of us started tearing down the stations no longer manned until close to noon and then the rest were taken down.

As stated several times, picture taking was weak in quantity, but I did some checking. Here is a site that you can visit to see more. Here is College Park CERT on Facebook that has images from the OARC Field Day. Dick, N4ORQ, told me to Google "Hamcom of Central Florida in order to find it.

<https://www.facebook.com/College-Park-CERT-66664208185/#> =

For this Field Day, the club got to try out some new antennas and equipment which was a good experience. As of this writing, I do not have the numbers on successful contacts for the club. I do know that propagation was predicted to be weak and I am glad Sunday morning gave us something on the higher bands. Many thanks to all that came out to help, participate, play, share, or visit and provided support in various ways.

73
James, NOXIA

PS – If anyone has pictures, send them to me at jdeuel@oarc.org and I will see if they can be put on the OARC Facebook page. I did get one immediate response to my request and sorry, ALF was definitely not at the OARC Field Day!



Young US Radio Amateur Will Be Sole IARU Region 2 Attendee at YOTA Camp

(Source: ARRL Newsletter June 6, 2018)

Thirteen-year-old Faith Hannah Lea, AE4FH, of Palm Coast, Florida, will be the only representative of International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 ([IARU R2](#)) at the [Youngsters on the Air \(YOTA\) camp](#), August 8 - 15 in South Africa. Faith Hannah has mounted a [GoFundMe campaign](#) to help cover her trip expenses.

"When I was chosen to go to South Africa for the YOTA summer event, I was thrilled that the committee thought I was one of the best choices to represent the United States," Faith Hannah said. "With the help and generosity of other hams, I will be able to go to South Africa for the summer event and learn more about Amateur Radio and other cultures. I am extremely thankful for any and all donations. To everyone who donates, thank you."



Licensed at age 10 and now holding an Amateur Extra-class license, Faith Hannah is very active on the airwaves and in promoting Amateur Radio via [YouTube](#) and elsewhere. She has been a presenter at the Hamvention Youth Forum. Faith Hannah

comes from an all-ham family. Her dad, James, is WX4TV; her mother, Michelle, is N8ZQZ; her brother, Zechariah, is WX4TVJ; one sister, Hope, is KM4IPF, and her other sister, Grace, is KM4TXT. Faith Hannah will be traveling to South Africa from Florida in early August with her father.

The South African Radio League ([SARL](#)) will host 80 young hams between the ages of 16 and 26 at the 2018 YOTA camp, where it's expected they will spend some time at the helm of the camp's station, ZS9YOTA.

HamCationSM Chairman Column

(Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

First let me say welcome to our newest member to the Committee Fred Fitte NF2F. He is our new Volunteer Coordinator. This position will entail Recruiting volunteers, assigning volunteers to chairman, Learning the chairman's needs for each area.

Also, I would like to thank Frank Gergits, KC9GNQ for stepping up as the Onsite Ticket Chairman. He was the Assistant Chair last year.

We will have a Booth at Huntsville Hamfest on August 18 & 19, 2018. So, if you plan on going stop by and say hello.

Our 1st HamCation Committee meeting is almost here. I am Still looking for some more Chairman.

I am looking for a Marketing and Advertising Chairman. This person needs to be familiar with Marketing and Advertising. They will need to find ways for HamCation to advertise the show and find ways to market us in the ham community.

The next position I need is a Co-Chair to work with David Virden in logistics. You will help with picking up our equipment and supplies and delivering the to each Chairman at HamCation. Then during the show moving equipment and supplies as needed. Then after the show loading everything back up and returning it to storage.

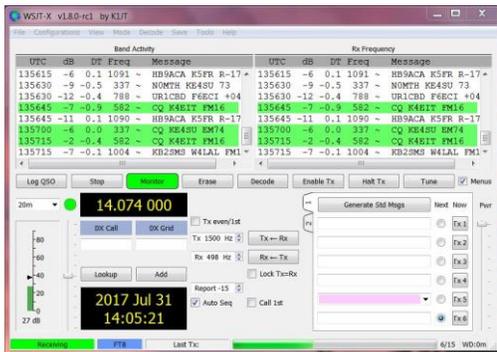
More new things are coming for HamCation 2019. Further details coming soon.

Michael Cauley
2019 HamCation General Chairman

Third Public Test of FT8 DXpedition Mode Deemed a Success

(Source: The ARRL Letter for May 10, 2018)

The third public test of [FT8 DXpedition Mode](#) on May 5 is being called a success. The goal of the exercise was to simulate a rare DXpedition pileup on FT8 by having many stations ("Hounds") calling and trying to contact a designated pseudo DXpedition station ("Fox").



"A number of participants and would-be participants reported that propagation was spotty, at best," said Joe Taylor, K1JT, on behalf of the WSJT development group, which is sponsoring the tests. "Nevertheless, at AA7A, G4WJS, K1JT, and K9AN, we copied 405 unique call signs of stations acting as Hounds, and at least one Fox was worked by 305 of them. Many Hounds worked two or three of the Foxes."

Taylor said a shift from the announced operating frequency to 14.115 MHz was necessary before the test got under way to avoid RTTY contest activity. "Soon after 1400 UTC, they also learned that W1/KH7Z had some unexpected setup problems and was unable to continue," he added. As a result, consequently W7/KH7Z took over as the Fox at 1425 UTC and continued operating until 1600. K1JT was the Fox between 1600 and 1700 UTC, and G4WJS stepped in for a short bonus run between 1710 and 1750 UTC, Taylor recounted.

FT8 DXpedition Mode permits a DXpedition station (Fox) to work several stations at a time, utilizing different "slots" for each contact. The downside is that the greater the number of parallel slots, the less power for each slot, with a penalty of 14 dB for five slots.

Taylor said the setup at W7/KH7Z is comparable to what will be used during the KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition in June. "We operated in ways expected to provide the most thorough tests of the DXpedition Mode software," Taylor said. "The low-power, simple-antenna setup at K1JT may be indicative of what can be done from KH1/KH7Z when band conditions are poor."



The WSJT development group plotted the equivalent hourly contact rate for each 5-minute interval at W7/KH7Z. "This test run has shown that peak QSO rates with FT8 DXpedition Mode can approach 400 per hour, and that sustained rates well above 200 per hour will be readily achieved in good conditions," Taylor concluded.

He said the test also helped the team to identify "a few relatively minor software bugs" that need to be fixed.

NEW Technician class (Element 2) pool will take effect on July 1, 2018

(Source: ARRL VE Newsletter May 2018)

On July 1, 2018 a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for examinations. VECs and VEs will have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool released in January 2018 (updated and re-released February 12, 2018) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) must be in use starting July 1. There are three graphics required for this pool and 423 questions in this pool, down slightly from 426 in the previous pool.

ARRL VEC will be supplying all its (near 1,000) Field Stocked VE teams with new test booklets about the 3rd week in June.

Do not destroy the 2014 versions of the Technician exams until June 30!

ARRL Executive Committee Hears Updates on Parity Act

(Source: The ARRL Letter for May 10, 2018)

Meeting on April 21 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) heard a status update on the Amateur Radio Parity Act and on regulatory matters from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Imlay reported that ARRL continues to work multiple avenues in its efforts to secure passage of the bill. He said ARRL continues to have solid support from House leadership, and most notably from Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who, Imlay noted, US Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), has worked tirelessly to see the Parity Act become law.

ARRL Asks FCC to Protect Amateur Radio Millimeter-Wave Bands

(Source: The ARRL Letter for May 10, 2018)

ARRL has asked the FCC to avoid authorizing developmental technologies in two Amateur Radio bands above 95 GHz that some radio amateurs may be unaware of. ARRL [commented](#) on May 2 in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O)* in ET Docket 18-21, released in February. The so-called "Spectrum Horizons" proceeding seeks to make the bands above 95 GHz "more readily accessible for new innovative services and technologies." ARRL said that, while it agrees that "regulatory flexibility is justified" in the millimeter-wave bands above 95 GHz, due to the extensive frequency re-use possibilities, the FCC ought to make two primary Amateur/Amateur Radio Satellite bands in that part of the spectrum unavailable for deployment of unlicensed Part 15 or Part 5 Experimental Spectrum Horizons devices. Amateur Radio has primary allocation status in the bands 134 - 136 GHz and 248 - 250 GHz, both shared with the Radio Astronomy Service, which is secondary.



"The amateur allocations require protection against increases in the noise floor due to aggregate radio frequency devices," ARRL said. "The bands are used ubiquitously and unpredictably, typically, but not always, at high elevations for research and development purposes and propagation studies, for terrestrial point-to-point, satellite, and Earth-Moon-Earth communications experimentation."

ARRL said it would oppose "any proposal to permit unlicensed devices or largely unregulated experimental operations" in the two primary Amateur Radio allocations in the range of spectrum the FCC is considering. "It is critical to preserve for Amateur Radio experimentation the current relatively quiet noise floor, and the positive RF environment that now exists in those two relatively small band segments," ARRL told the FCC. The League's comments noted that the secondary Radio Astronomy Service



in those two bands also requires a quiet RF environment.

ARRL said it also would oppose the authorization of Spectrum Horizons experimental authorizations in the two primary Amateur/Amateur Satellite allocations, operating under a new subpart for "Spectrum Horizons Experimental Radio Licenses" in the spectrum at issue.

"Overall, the Commission is on the right track in this proceeding," ARRL allowed. "Opening the millimeter-wave bands to expanded unlicensed operation is not unreasonable. Some, but not all, of the bands above 95 GHz can be removed from the Part 15 restricted band list without significant concern." But, ARRL concluded, "the Amateur Radio primary allocations at 134 - 136 GHz and 248 - 250 GHz, which are shared with radio astronomy, should be unavailable for either Part 15 operation or for other commercial development."

The "Scouts BSA" Program Change is Expected to Enhance Ham Radio Opportunities for Young Women

(Source: The ARRL Letter for May 24, 2018)

Boy Scouts of America's Radio Scouting Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, says that, although the program name for ages 11 to 17 will change to "Scouts BSA" and begin admitting girls starting on February 1, 2019, the organization's name remains the same.

"Perhaps the big difference is that girls will now be eligible to earn the Radio Merit Badge as part of their Scouting program," Wilson told ARRL. "Girls are already a part of Venturing, a coed program for ages 14 to 20." He pointed out that Venture Scouts of both sexes have always been able to earn the [Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip](#)

and the [Morse Code Interpreter Strip](#). "Girl Scouts have always been welcome to participate [in JOTA]," Wilson added. "Now, they'll be participating in not only Girl Scouts, but also in Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA." Wilson noted that Scouting



organizations in most other countries have had female members for quite a while now.

OPERATING TIP

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for May 16, 2018)

If you can't operate in the contest...

Invite someone else to operate your station, or allow a group of operators to do a multi-op. This will require preparation on your part to make sure other operators know how to operate your station safely and effectively. It can also point out areas of your station that you might need to improve, for example if you have to show the right technique to wiggle the antenna switch to get reliable contact, it may be time to replace that antenna switch.

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for May 16, 2018)

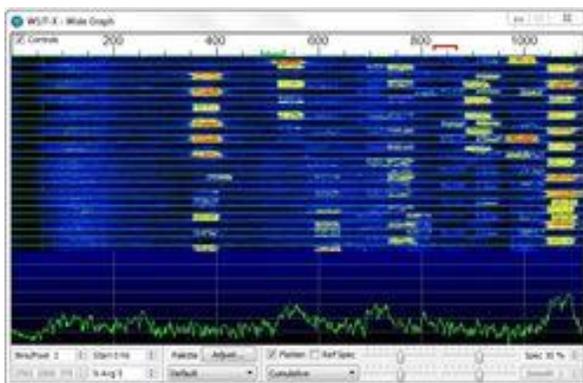
Use WWV to Detect Band Openings

This one was suggested by a post by Wayne, N6KR, on the Elecraft mailing list: Listen for WWV on 25 MHz to suggest if the 15 meter band is open to your location. A very strong WWV presence could also suggest that 10 meters is open. Note that this works if WWV is *not* within ground wave distance to you.

FT8 Activity Bumping Up at Some Expense to Other Modes

(Source: The ARRL Letter for May 17, 2018)

Despite largely dismal HF conditions, there is no doubt that the recent FT8 digital protocol has hams on the air. The mode has caught on so quickly that co-developer Joe Taylor expressed surprise last fall at the rapid uptake of FT8 for making contacts on HF bands. Judging by Logbook of The World (LoTW) data, more than 2.3 million FT8 contacts were uploaded in 1 month -- a net gain of 1.2 million contacts on all modes over the same month last year, ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said. Over the same period, activity in some of the other modes has declined.



"Year-to-date DXCC applications are up by 11% over the same period last year," Fusaro said. "So far, we have processed 898 Worked All States (WAS) applications -- a 72% increase over the same period last year. Of those applications, 347 -- or 39% -- were FT8 endorsements. Application for VUCC are also up by 33% over 2017."

Fusaro said that while some feel that FT8 is "taking over the world," subsuming all other modes, that's not the case. "Activity in the

traditional modes of SSB and CW has decreased only slightly, by 10%," he said. "The *real* decrease is in RTTY and PSK activity and in the other *WSJT-X* modes. I believe poor propagation would have cut into SSB and CW activity, regardless of the new mode." Anecdotal reports support Fusaro's hard numbers, with wall-to-wall signals surrounding the FT8 watering holes.

Late last year, Denny Berg, WB9MSM, achieved his goal of completing DXCC using FT8. It took him just 4 months.

"I can tell all of you that this mode is spreading like wildfire throughout all the HF bands," Berg told [The Daily DX](#) at the time. He said he was able to work all states on FT8 in about 6 weeks of operating.

Taylor has characterized SSB and CW as "general-purpose modes" that are good for rag chewing, DXing, contesting, disaster communication, and other purposes. On the other hand, he has said, FT8 and the other protocols in the [WSJT-X](#) suite are "special-purpose modes," designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using signals that may be too weak to work using more traditional modes -- and sometimes even too far down in the noise even to hear.



Denny Berg, WB9MSM, completed DXCC on FT8.

OARC Meetings and Events 2018

July – No Meeting	No Meeting (1st Wednesday is National Holiday)
August 1, Wednesday	Meeting – Chris Plumlee WF3C – FCG President
September 5, Wednesday	Meeting – Mike Beers KA9ZRZ – Ham Radio Hotspots
October 3, Wednesday	Meeting
November 7, Wednesday	Meeting
December , Saturday	Christmas Party *** Date TBD
December 5, Wednesday	No Meeting but Exams will be administered at 5:30pm at the Beardall Center

