



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

April 2019

President's Message

Greetings everyone, Happy April's Fools Day!

My apologies for getting this article done late. This past week has been very crazy preparing for the Tour de Cure. Tom has been waiting patiently for my article and I cannot thank him enough for getting the rest of the newsletter ready for distribution.

First, I hope that everyone enjoyed the picnic. We had great weather. Lots of food. I must thank all the board members who came out and assisted with moving all the supplies to Turkey Lake park and helped with setting up. Michael had some great door prizes to give out and not to mention an HF radio was given away as the grand prize. The venue seems to be a hit. Did everyone get to see the cake Ana made? WOW! Just amazing!

I was watching HamNation a couple of weeks ago and they had a special on Tower Safety.

(Continued on Next Page)

OARC MEETING

April 3, 2019 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: Michael Cauley, W4MCA
Treasurer: Ana Groe, KM4JVE
Secretary: Bob Nocero, W4KBW
Directors:
Bob Cumming, W2BZY
Frank Gergits, KC9GNQ
Tony Darnell, KK4VRP
Dean Groe, KD4TWJ
Frank Tagliani, KD4EZW
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, James Deuel N0XIA, Bob Nocero W4KBW, Pat Husband, and Ed Thralls NE4H

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1** • Message from the President
- 2** • HamCation General Chairman Column
- 4** • HamCationSM Appreciation Picnic Photos
- 6** • Operating Tip
- 7** • Demand is High as New ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Courses Open
- 8** • New ARRL Podcast Geared Toward Newcomers to Amateur Radio Debuted March 7, 2019
- 9** • FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Technician Enhancement Proposal
- 10** • How to Clean Up after a Battery Leak
- 10** • Next Technician Class
- 11** • Swap/Shop/Sell/Trade in the Listening Post
- 12** • Weekly Radio Network Meetings
- 13** • OARC Meetings and Events 2019
- 14** • OARC Membership Application

President's Message (Continued from Previous Page)

You might not know this, but in the last 6 months, two well-known ham radio contesters have lost their lives because of errors that they made while climbing towers. Errors that as seasoned ham radio operators know better.

Dr. Bob Heil and Tim Duffy of DX Engineering and an avid contester, asked that clubs to take some time and review tower safety with their membership to help prevent another senseless death from tower climbing. So, at our April meeting, 3 of your very own Board Members will be doing a review to include, the do's and don'ts, gear you should have, tips and tricks, and a few other things. If you currently still have a tower and still climb or thinking of putting up a tower and never have climbed one before, you won't want to miss this.

Also taking place at our next meeting, which is our Annual meeting, will be our annual elections. According to our club bylaws, to be eligible to vote you must be a Life, Regular or Family member, and who have been a member for more than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting to vote. After the announcements at the beginning of the meeting, the candidates will have a few moments to make a statement to the membership. Then during the break, you will be able to pick up your ballot and cast your vote. Election is done by plurality. Ballots will be counted during the presentation and the board members that will serve until April 2020 will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday.....

73

John Knott

N4JTK

HamCation General Chairman Column

Greetings Everyone

First let me say thank you to all the HamCation Volunteers. We had over 200 volunteers this year which is a record. Also, please help in saying thank you to all the HamCation Chairman/Chairwomen a lot of these members on the committee were new this year. People don't realize that the volunteers on the HamCation Committee put in hundreds of volunteer hours each year to make the show the success that it is. Please when you see one of the following people please thank them for what they do for Amateur Radio.

- Ray Richard, W4RPR
- Ana Groe, KM4JVE
- Lidy Meijers, KJ4LMM
- Peter Meijers, AI4KM
- Tony Darnell, KK4VRP
- Benton Bonney, W4PE
- Bob Cumming, W2BZY
- James Deuel, N0XIA
- Mike Bivins, KG4BDL
- David Virden, WN4WYS
- Frank Gergits, KC9GNQ
- Andy Anderson, KJ4VQN
- John Knott, N4JTK
- Bob Nocero, W4KBW
- Brenda Davis
- Ed Thralls, NE4H
- Frank Tagliani, KD4EZW
- Mike Devine, KF4LTF

- Val Jacyno, AK4MM
- Joe Cordeiro, WW4JC
- Jim Robarr, KB2CUX
- Aaron Morrison, AE4KO
- Jim Shaw, AL7BA
- Patrick Boyd, KI4WMH
- Dean Groe, KD4TWJ
- Rich Wilson, WR4RW
- Fred Fitte, NF2F

With that said, I want to thank Ed Thralls and David Virden for volunteering the last few years for HamCation. Ed is stepping down from the committee, while David is moving into a new position.

We had another record for attendance, 23,700 attend the show.

I know all the vendors I talked to said they were busier this year than any other year.

We are already working on improvements for the 2020 show.

I am looking for some more positions I need to get filled for the committee. They are the following:

Logistics Chairman:

This person will oversee picking up and delivering all our equipment and supplies the week of HamCation. This person will also hang all the signs at the show. Must have ability to lift at least 50lbs. Be able to climb in and out of a U-haul truck.

Awards Chairman:

Will oversee the awards committee.

They will help publicize awards offered by HamCation to ensure outstanding entries.

Will actively seek and solicit nominations for awards offered by HamCation.

Will evaluate the nominees for each award and to select winners in each category.

Will need to help create new awards.

Will plan and carry out the awards ceremony held during the HamCation Chairman's Dinner and Reception.

Public Relations/Media Chairman

The PR chair may have primary responsibility for heightening HamCations visibility in the Amateur community.

Promotes HamCations image and activities in the community and informs the public of HamCations news.

- Develops and maintains personal contact with media representatives (QRZ, ARRL, CQ, and local media, etc)
- Maintains an up-to-date list of media contacts, as well as a list of organizations for networking.
- Develops all media releases, with the approval of the Chairman, and directs the releases to all appropriate contacts.
- Maintains a copy of all media releases and coverage.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Picnic. I know I did. If you did not come you missed a great event this year.

Just like HamCation we did have one of the largest turnouts that I can remember in recent years. We had 97 people this year. Which beat last year's attendance.

Hope everyone liked the prizes this year. Congrats to Jim Robarr on winning the grand prize of the day an Icom IC-718.

Again, thank you to all the great volunteers that helped during HamCation. Without you we could not be the 2nd Largest show in the world.

73's

Michael Cauley
HamCation General Chairman

HamCation Appreciation Picnic Photos

(by Bob Nocero and Pat Husband)







OPERATING TIP

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for March 6, 2019)

Microphone Settings Can Minimize Vocal Cord Wear

Save your voice, let your radio do the work. Set up your microphone gain and compression settings to let you phone contest at conversational or even sub-conversational levels. You can still be enthusiastic and excited, just do it more quietly. What good is having stealth antennas when your neighbors can hear you shouting all weekend? Your voice will thank you, and so will any other household members.

Demand is High as New ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Courses Open

(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 7, 2019)

The ARRL Lifelong Learning Department has launched a revised and updated *Introduction to Emergency Communications* (EC-001) course, and demand to sign up is prompting the recruitment of additional course mentors to expand the schedule. [Registration](#) just opened for the first of four EC-001 online sessions, which will run from Monday, April 1, until Friday, May 31.



"The demand for this course has exceeded our projections, and the four sessions scheduled for 2019 are already filling quickly," ARRL Lifelong Learning Manager Kris Bickell, K1BIC, said. "This course is designed to be interactive with mentors guiding each session, so we're seeking additional mentors and will schedule more course sessions as quickly as possible.

Thanks for your patience as we expand capacity for this updated version of EC-001." Bickell is developing a notification list to alert those who didn't get into the first round of courses when a new round of sessions becomes available.

The new EC-001 course has been beta-tested by course mentors and transferred into a new online learning platform. With the closing last year of the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC), EC-001 lost its virtual home and was taken offline. At that point, the ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Lifelong Learning teams started exploring short- and long-

term alternatives to offer the course. After careful evaluation and review, a decision was made to move the course to a more modern learning management system called Canvas, which will be used while the new Lifelong Learning Initiative program is under development. EC-001 will eventually become a part of a comprehensive online learning environment.

EC-001 is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for emergency communications volunteers. With the online format, students can access the course at anytime from anywhere.

"We're very excited to be able to offer *Introduction to Emergency Communications* EC-001 once again," Bickell said. "The Emergency Preparedness staff here has been incredibly helpful as we've worked together to get the course back up and running. Input from previous EC-001 mentors has been an invaluable part of the testing phase. The timing is right to put the course back online."

EC-001 is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for emergency communications volunteers. With the online format, students can access the course at anytime from anywhere during the 9-week period and may work at their own pace and on their own schedule. As in the past, students will be able to register and take the course entirely online. The Canvas platform is also mobile-responsive, meaning that students can view the course materials, interact with fellow students, and

complete assignments from any mobile device. Individual EC-001 sessions will serve up to 30 students, supported by an experienced mentor. Courses are free of charge. To be eligible, students must meet certain prerequisites, listed on the [registration page](#). The registration page includes the entire 2019 schedule of EC-001 sessions.

New ARRL Podcast Geared Toward Newcomers to Amateur Radio Debuted March 7, 2019

(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 7, 2019)

A new ARRL podcast aimed newcomers to Amateur Radio launched on Thursday, March 7. Called, "[So Now What?](#)," the podcast will alternate new-episode weeks with the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast. "**So Now What?**" will focus on answering questions and providing support and encouragement for new licensees to get the most out of the hobby. Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. The podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that

keep newcomers from remaining active.

"No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL

Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's



The image is a promotional graphic for the ARRL "So Now What?" podcast. On the left, the text "ARRL So Now What? Podcast" is displayed in bold black and red fonts. Below this, a black bar contains the text "Available on iTunes, Stitcher, & Blubrry" in white. Underneath, it says "Sponsored by" followed by the "LDG ELECTRONICS" logo in red and black, and the website "www.LDGElectronics.com". On the right, a black square features a yellow sine wave graphic with the words "SO NOW WHAT?" in large, bold, yellow and white letters. At the bottom right of the square is a yellow diamond-shaped logo containing a circuit diagram with components labeled A, V, R, and L.

executive producer.

"**So Now What?**" will be sponsored by [LDG Electronics](#).

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

As with "ARRL The Doctor is In," listeners will be able to find "So Now What?" on [Apple iTunes](#), [Blubrry](#), or [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Technician Enhancement Proposal

(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 14, 2019)

The FCC has invited public comments on ARRL's 2018 Petition for Rule Making, now designated as RM-11828, which asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Interested parties have 30 days to comment. The Technician enhancement proposals stemmed from the



recommendations of the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its *Petition*. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technician licensees:

- Phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz
- RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills.

ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

The ARRL Board's ad hoc Entry-Level License Committee, which recommended the proposals, received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

Now numbering some 384,500 licensees, Technicians comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL said its proposal is critical to develop improved operating skills, increasing emergency preparedness participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting

overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

How to Clean Up after a Battery Leak

(Source: The ARRL Letter for March 14, 2019)

Many hams have had the unfortunate experience of old batteries leaking in a piece of gear or a flashlight, creating a mess. Business technology news site ZDNet recently offered its procedure for cleaning it up. The brief online presentation recommends



taking some precautions about coming in contact with the white discharge -- specifically potassium hydroxide in the case of alkaline cells, a caustic irritant. An old toothbrush or something similar can start the projects, along with a small scraper, and cotton swabs dipped in water. Start by removing and properly disposing of the bad cells and then brushing out the worst of the material -- preferably outdoors or over a container to catch the remnants.

The article advises against using any sort of acid such as vinegar or lemon juice, lest it cause corrosion problems of its own. It suggests a fiberglass scratch brush for scrubbing the battery compartment contacts clean, although other tools may work as well. Deoxit D5 or similar contact cleaner also comes in handy, with a tiny dab of dielectric grease or silicone paste as a finishing touch to inhibit future corrosion if a leak occurs. Other tips to head off problems down the road include using only name-brand batteries, avoiding mixing old and new batteries, removing batteries from devices not in use, avoiding exposing batteries to extreme heat or cold, and minding battery expiration dates.

Next Technician License Class Announcement

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

On July 20 & 21 2019 will be our next Technician License Class. This will be a two-day class to review for the Technician License Exam that will occur immediately after the class on Sunday.

Registration is required. You can find more info and the link to register by going to our website: <http://oarc.org/events-amateur-radio-classes> Registration ends on June 20, 2019.

Swap/Shop/Sell/Trade in the Listening Post

(By James Deuel, N0XIA)

There have been no listings to post for this month's newsletter. That may be a good thing if everyone is enjoying using the equipment they have. But, if anyone would like to have their ham equipment find a new home and not be left all alone in a closet or storage unit to be forgotten, feel free to have it posted here.

This is the opportunity for you to list your amateur radio related items you either have for sale, swap or trade. Listings must be of a non-commercial nature. Pictures of the items can be included.

- OARC will not be responsible for any claims that are made in the listings. OARC reserves the right to reject a submitted item if it is deemed to be inappropriate.
- A listing will not be repeated from month to month unless it is resubmitted.
- Be sure to include your full name, call, and contact information, along with an exact description of the item.
- Send your amateur radio related items by email directly to: James Deuel, N0XIA, jdeuel@oarc.org in the following format:
 - Name, Callsign, Contact information (phone number and/or e-mail address)
 - Item #1: (Description) Asking price: \$
 - Item #2: (Description) Asking price: \$

Or

- Looking for (description) and willing to pay up to \$
- Any item received after the 20th of the month will not be included in the next month's issue of The Listening Post newsletter.
- Remember - KB4UT, Wayne Nelson's Trader Net held every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM, on the KB4UT 146.760 repeater
- If you don't hear what you want on the net, check the Listening Post.

FYI: if you were having trouble hearing the 76 repeater recently, which was discovered to be an issue during one of the trader nets, the repeater did have a power output problem and was repaired on Friday, 3/22/19. It is back to normal operation.

73's

James, N0XIA

jdeuel@oarc.org

Weekly Radio Network Meetings

Mon @ 20:00	147.460	Seminole ARES Net
Tues @ 19:00	145.350	Osceola ARES Net
Tues @ 19:30	147.195	Quarter Century Wireless Association
Tues @ 20:00	146.760	Wayne Nelson Trader's Net
Wed @ 19:00	147.300	Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service
Wed @ 21:00	432.090	Florida Weak Signal Group
Thur @ 19:00	443.050	Orange County ARES Net
Thur @ 20:30	432.090	Florida Weak Signal Group



December 2019 Meeting Announcement

This year we will be having a December meeting. The Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 4, 2019 at 7:30p at the Beardall Senior Center. There will NOT be a January 2020 Meeting as this is New Year's Day and Beardall is Closed.

OARC Meetings and Events 2019

April 3, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
May 1, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
June 5, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
June 23-24, Saturday & Sunday	ARRL Field Day 2019 , Orlando Fairgrounds
July 3, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
August 7, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
September 4, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
October 2, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
October 12, Saturday	Ride 4 Ronald
November 6, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
December 4, Wednesday	Meeting , 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
December 7, Saturday	Christmas Party *** Buy Tickets Sep, Oct, Nov at club meetings (No purchases at the door), Don't forget an unwrapped toy for a tot
January 1, Wednesday	Meeting Canceled



