



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

March 2020

President's Message

Greetings!! I hope that everyone is doing well and have been able to get some rest after HamCationSM! I know that several of us came down with the flu right after HamCationSM.

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OARC MEETING

March 4, 2020 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:
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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).

Editor: 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

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

From the President's Desk *(Continued from Previous Page)*

Coming up for our March meeting, Justin Sligh, KN4MQR will be doing a presentation on "Parks on the Air". Justin filled in this year at HamCationSM with this presentation and has graciously asked if he could present it at our club meeting, to which we agreed. Looking forward to hearing this presentation.

Have you thought about running for an OARC Board of Directors position? At the March meeting, we'll open the floor to nominations. To be considered to a board positions, you must be a voting member in good standing with OARC for at least one year prior to the Annual Meeting (April) and be at least 18 years of age.

All board positions are subject to the election, President; Vice-President; Secretary, Treasurer, and the six Director positions. The slate will be announced at the end of the meeting in March. If there is a contested election, then a ballot will be created, and elections will be held at the April meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting in April to cast your vote, then you can request an Absentee Ballot from the club Secretary. Absentee Ballots must be received by Tuesday March 31st, to be counted at the April 1st annual meeting. Details on where to mail the ballots back to will be provided to those who request an absentee ballot.

Don't forget we have our monthly test session on March 4th also, be there by 5:30p. See everyone soon!

73

John Knott

N4JTK

HamCationSM Chairman News

Greetings Everyone

Who's ready for HamCationSM 2021, it is just 350 days away?

Let me thank the over 200 Fantastic Volunteers who helped make HamCationSM a success again this year.

We are still calculating the Numbers and will have them available soon.

So, did everyone like the ARRL Events App? Did you use it? If you have any feedback on it, please let me know.

Now let's talk about HamCationSM 2021. For the people who don't know we are hosting the ARRL National Convention and it will be our 75th anniversary.

We are in the works with ARRL for a joint theme for HamCationSM 2021 and it will be announced soon.

Don't forget about the HamCationSM Appreciation Picnic on April 4th at Bill Fredrick Park at Turkey Lake, Pavilion #6 at 1:00pm

73

Michael Cauley

HamCationSM General Chairman

HamCationSM Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

(By Michael Cauley, W4MCA)



April 4, 2020, 1:00pm
Bill Fredrick Park at Turkey Lake
3401 S. Hiawassee Road, Orlando, Florida 32835
Pavilion #6

On behalf of the Orlando Amateur Radio Club and the HamCationSM Committee you are cordially invited to our annual HamCationSM Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

We thank you for your devoted time and efforts with helping make HamCationSM the HUGE success it is. Your contribution has allowed us to continue to grow every year and make the show better every year.

We will be having hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, potato salad, beans and lots more. I promise you will not go away hungry. We will have some great prizes to give away. Please RSVP to picnic@oarc.org by March 21st.

When you come thru the main gate follow the road to the right. Then follow the signs to Pavilion #6. On the map below, follow the red road.

The Park Charges admission. When you get to the Main Gate tell them you are attending the HamCation Picnic and it will be free to get in. OARC is covering the fee for everyone.

(See the Map below)



VOLUNTEERS
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

BILL FREDERICK PARK AT TURKEY LAKE

407.246.4486



MAKE SURE YOU
TELL THEM AT
THE GATE YOU
ARE HERE FOR
THE HAMCATION
PICNIC

LEGEND

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Boat Dock
- Children's Farm
- Fishing Pier
- Farm Gazebo
- Horse Shoes
- Nature Connect Trail
- Playground
- Softball
- Swimming Pool
- Volleyball

1 RENTAL PAVILIONS

P PARKING

RESTROOM

FISHING

DRONE ZONE

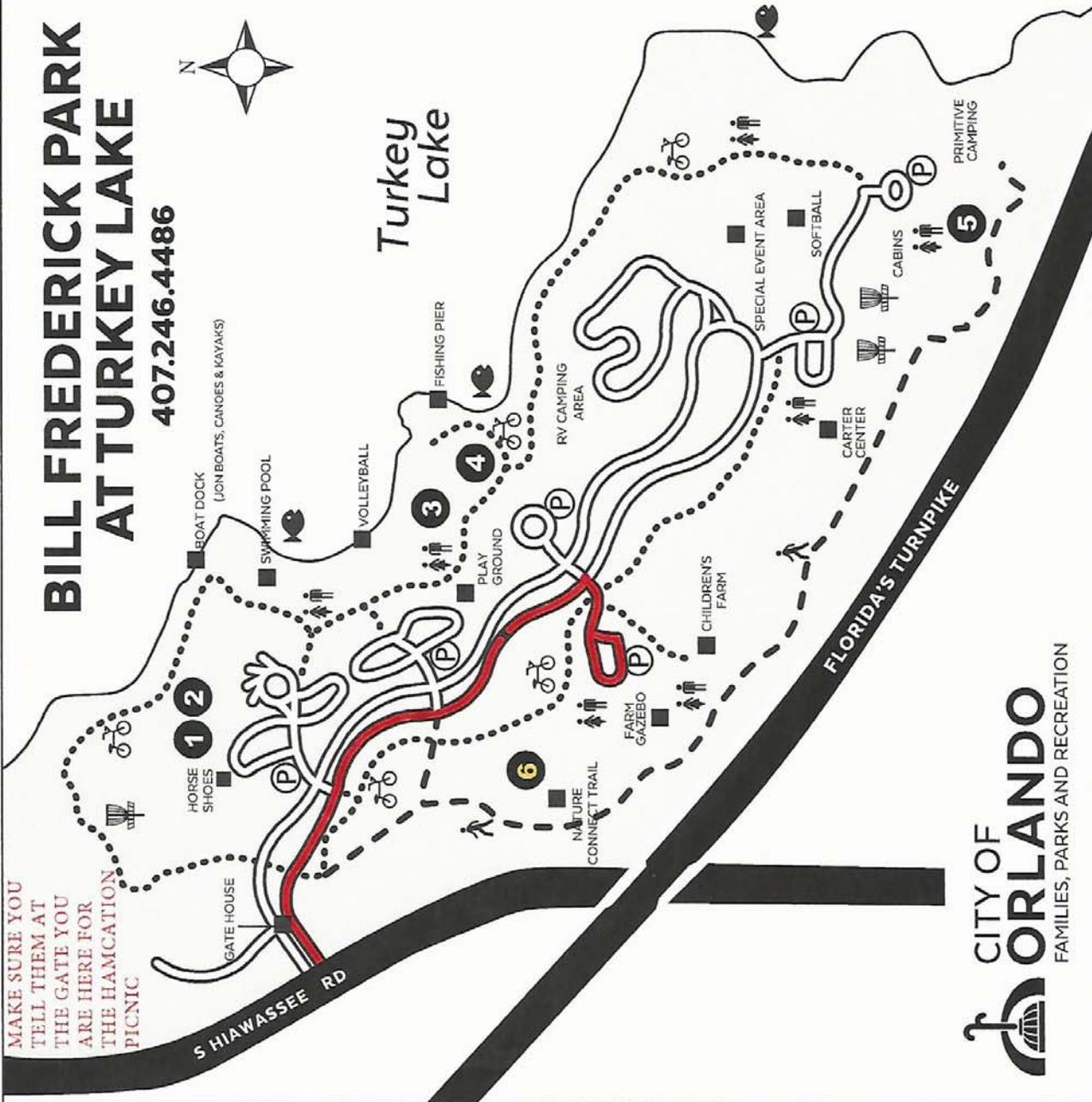
DISC GOLF



BIKE & WALK PATH



MULCH PATH



CITY OF
ORLANDO
FAMILIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

Barry Shelley, N1VXY, is ARRL Interim CEO

(The ARRL Letter for January 23, 2020)

At its January 17 - 18 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors did not elect Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer.

As of January 20, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, became interim CEO. Mr. Shelley was ARRL's Chief Financial Officer for 28 years and CEO during 2018 before his retirement.

The Board has created a search committee to select the next CEO. More details on this and other matters that took place at the Board meeting will be released shortly.



ARISS Opens Window for ISS Ham Radio Contact Proposals on February 1

(The ARRL Letter for January 23, 2020)

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) is once again seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations -- individually or working together -- interested in hosting an amateur radio contact with an International Space Station (ISS) crew member. A window to accept proposals will open on February 1 for contacts that would be scheduled between January and June 2021. The majority of ARISS contacts involve schools and educational institutions. ARISS is looking for organizations able to attract a large number of participants that can integrate the contact opportunity into a well-developed education plan.



"ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS," ARISS said in announcing the proposal period. "Students will also have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science."

Proposal information and documents are available on the ARISS website. Two identical ARISS introductory webinars have been set for January 23 at 9 PM EST

(0200 UTC on January 24) and for January 27 at 6 PM EST (2300 UTC). [Registration](#) is required.



Astronaut Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, on the air at NA1SS on board the ISS in 2014. [NASA, photo]

Contacts with ISS crew members run approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session. ARISS contacts are voice-only amateur radio communication opportunities. Schools and organizations typically work with a local amateur radio club to assist in handling the technical aspects of carrying out a successful contact with the ISS.

ARISS stresses that because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, schools and organizations must be flexible in accommodating changes in radio contact dates and times.

"Amateur radio organizations around the world with the support of NASA and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe present educational organizations with this opportunity," ARISS said. "The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using amateur radio."

Proposal information and more details are available on the [ARISS website](#). [Contact](#) ARISS with any questions.

ARRL Creates New HF Band Planning Discussion Group

(The ARRL Letter for February 13, 2020)

ARRL has created a new [HF Band Planning Discussion Group](#). HF Band Planning Committee Chair Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, will moderate the group, which will focus on the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee's recommendations and other band-planning activities. Earlier this month, the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee [invited comments and suggestions](#) from the amateur radio community on its [report](#) to the ARRL Board.

At the Board's January meeting, the committee presented its [specific recommendations](#) in graphical form for each HF band and US license class, with the goal of increasing harmony on the HF bands, particularly between CW and digital users.



Those responding to the initial call for comments and suggestions are encouraged to cross-post their remarks to the new HF Band Planning Discussion Group.

President Signs PIRATE Act to Combat Illegal Broadcasting

(The ARRL Letter for February 6, 2020)

On January 24, President Donald Trump signed into law the "Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act," or the PIRATE Act. The measure, which amends the Communications Act of 1934, authorizes enhanced penalties for violators. Under the new law, pirate radio broadcasters would be subject to a fine of not more

than \$2 million, and violators could be fined up to \$100,000 for each day during which an offense occurs. The new law stipulates that the FCC "shall not decrease or diminish the regular enforcement efforts targeted to pirate radio broadcast stations for other times of the year."

The FCC is to submit to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report summarizing the implementation of this section and associated enforcement activities for the previous fiscal year. The new law also requires "annual sweeps," during which FCC personnel will be assigned to "focus specific and sustained attention on the elimination of pirate radio broadcasting within the top five radio markets identified as prevalent for such broadcasts." The Commission also "shall conduct monitoring sweeps to ascertain whether the pirate radio broadcasting identified by enforcement sweeps is continuing and whether additional pirate radio broadcasting is occurring."

Under the new law, the FCC will change its rules so that it proceeds directly to issuance of a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* without first issuing a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NOUO)*.

The FCC will develop and publish a database of all licensed AM and FM broadcasters, accessible directly from the FCC home page. The FCC is also required to publish a list of "all entities that have received a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation, Notice of Apparent Liability, or forfeiture order,*" as well as "each entity...operating without a Commission license or authorization."



The law defines pirate radio broadcasting as transmitting within the AM and FM bands without an FCC license, but excluding unlicensed operations in compliance with Part 15.

US Marines with Information Group II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MIG) participated in an amateur radio general licensing course

(The ARRL Letter for February 13, 2020)

The course was conducted on base January 27 - 31 as part of the group's High Frequency Auxiliary Initiative. Members of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club of Greenville, North Carolina, helped the Marines in the class learn the principles of HF radio operations as a contingency against a peer-to-peer adversary in real-world operations.

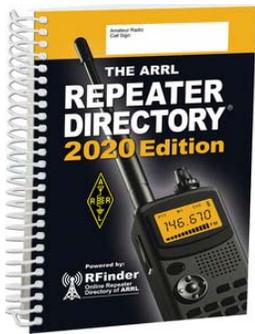
During the course, Marines learned ham radio theory, band allocations, conventional and field-expedient antenna theory, and general ham radio operation and control. II MIG Commanding Officer Colonel Jordan Walzer created the High Frequency Auxiliary Initiative after recognizing the need for additional options in combat environments. "Right now, our adversaries are aggressively pursuing counter-space weapons to target our satellites and ground stations," Walzer is quoted in the article. "If our satellites get knocked out, what do we do then? [High frequency] radio has been around for well over a century and is still used today. Why? Because it's a reliable, low-cost alternative to satellite communications.

With the right training and education, a Marine with a radio and some slash wire can communicate over-the-horizon for long distances, even between continents."

New ARRL Repeater Directory Now Shipping

(The ARRL Letter for February 13, 2020)

The [2020 ARRL Repeater Directory](#)[®] is now shipping. It includes "crowdsourced" listings contributed by users, repeater owners, and volunteer frequency coordinators. This means more listings that are updated more often. With 21,000 listings, it's the most complete printed directory of on-the-air repeaters, covering repeater systems throughout the US and Canada.



Repeater systems are listed by state/province, city, and operating mode. Digital repeater systems included are System Fusion, D-Star, DMR, NXDN, and P25 systems. It is available in one size -- 6 × 9 inches -- with a convenient lay-flat spiral binding. The cover includes space to personalize your directory, so you can make it yours.

Pages of supplemental information include VHF/UHF and microwave band plans, and repeater operating practices. For decades, *The ARRL Repeater Directory* has been an invaluable source for locating repeater frequencies while traveling. New hams often use the *Repeater Directory* to find local activity after purchasing a new handheld radio, and public service volunteers keep a copy nearby or in their emergency "go kit."

WORD TO THE WISE

(The ARRL Contest Update for January 22, February 5, February 19, 2020)

Bodge: This word is more likely to be heard in the UK, or by "other English" speaking hams, meaning a temporary repair or temporary construction. In common usage, it has a more negative connotation, but for radio and electronics lash-ups, seems similar to a "kludge."

Precipitation Static: A buildup of charge on metal antenna elements from strong atmospheric electric fields, thought to be related to the conditions that cause the phenomenon known as [St. Elmo's fire](#). Potentials generated can be great enough to cause arcing and destroy improperly protected circuits.

Claimed Score: The *claimed score* is the point total calculated by your logging program as you're logging contacts during a contest. It represents the encoding of the interpretation of the contest rule scoring algorithm by the contest program authors, using the contacts that have been entered in the logging program. The claimed score itself is not even used by contest sponsors. Contest sponsors use the "raw contacts" - the individual entries representing each contact - to calculate an official score, after accounting for duplicates, busts, or NILs. Claimed score calculations by a logging program may not be accurate; for example, in the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge contest, a contact's point value is based on the distance between each station and the power used by the stations in the contact. The power used is not part of the exchange; only the contest sponsor knows the right value to apply to each contact. Some oversea territory/possession call signs can make contest scoring problematic, since the call sign's use can affect its status as a multiplier or counter.

OPERATING TIP

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for January 22, February 19, 2020)

LoTW Takes Cabrillo Log Files, Too

Fred, K6DGW, inspired this little gem of an operating tip:

"I've been more than a little surprised to find that a goodly number of people are unaware that LoTW takes Cabrillo logs as well as ADIF. They've been going thru more work than necessary to produce and upload ADIF logs when their loggers will do a Cabrillo almost automagically." The [LoTW documentation for submitting contacts](#) reveals that TQSL can sign Cabrillo logs for [some known contests](#). For contests that aren't explicitly supported, it will scan the Cabrillo file for contact information and try to do the right thing. It's also possible to update your LoTW configuration data manually to add your own Cabrillo Spec. But chances are, the contest you're uploading is already supported.

SOU: Take Care With Spot Sources

In "[General Rules for ARRL Contest Below 30 MHz](#)" for Single Operator Unlimited entries, spotting data is allowed, but ONLY if the spotting data source is inside the boundaries of the station, or the spotting sources is generally available to the public. If you have your own skimmer set up, it must be within the boundary of your station; you can't use a skimmer you've set up for your private use in a low-noise environment in the next town. Note that spots provided via a phone call, email, SMS, etc. from a source outside the station boundary are also not allowed by the rules.

CONVERSATION

(Source: ARRL Contest Update for February 19, 2020)

Multi-Multi-Multi-Mentoring

Time and commitment can be significant barriers for new hams to learn how the contest to decide whether they *like* to contest. Mike, K5NZ, took up the challenge to devise a way to mentor some potential new contesters without making them commit to an entire weekend of serious contesting. He even minimized the overhead of traveling, maximized the amount of contesting time, and made the techniques relevant to the operator's home station ... by using the operator's home station!

Mike drew upon his experience setting up for a W1AW event where logging computers were linked via the Internet. Consulting with Steve, N2IC, who has extensive experience using Virtual Private Networks to link *N1MM Logger+*, Mike set up each prospective contestant's station to link to his own, so it was "as if we were sitting in the same room" on the same network, just the a big multi-multi. The group was able

to virtually contest together, gaining an understanding of how a multi op works, how to use the software, recognize changing propagation, software use, propagation, and so on, with the familiarity and convenience of their own station.

The operators communicated with one another via VPN chat windows and also via the built in "gab" function in *N1MM Logger+* "as if they were in the same room doing a big multi-multi."

How did it work? According to Mike, once it was set up, "flawlessly! The new operators loved it, got excited working multipliers, watching the rate in real time, chasing packet spots while not leaving their own home and obligations." The operators gain positive reinforcement by "seeing their limited dipoles or verticals make a difference when all were playing together." Charlene, K5MXG, one of the first that Mike mentored, mentioned that the "teaching" aspect of this was the most impactful. For example, when she encountered difficulty hearing a station on 40 meters, a suggestion of "try a non 40 meter antenna" followed by success was immediate reinforcement. By the way, after just a few times multi-mentoring sessions, she was invited to K5NA for a multi, did great, and has an invitation to return anytime!

73, Brian N9ADG

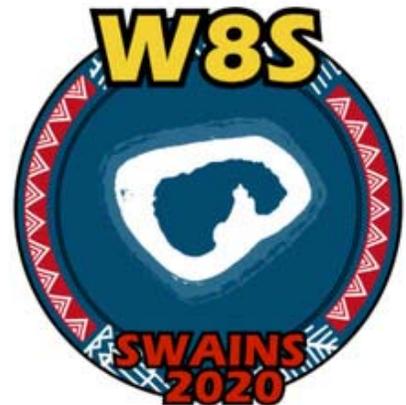
Coronavirus Outbreak Postpones Swains Island W8S DXpedition

(The ARRL Letter for February 20, 2020)

The [W8S DXpedition](#) to Swains Island in the Pacific, set to take place in mid-March, has been postponed until September as a result of travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa, stemming from the recent coronavirus outbreak. The Department of

Health allows non-residents to enter American Samoa only via Hawaii after a 14-day mandatory quarantine, and the DXpedition was unable to accommodate that requirement.

"Everything is prepared for our DXpedition, and we are eager to go, but unfortunately the coronavirus outbreak is out of our control," the DXpedition team said in announcing the delay. "Although this is a disappointment for everyone, the W8S DXpedition is not cancelled, just postponed for later this year."



The DXpedition said it would alert the DX community as soon as it has new firm dates for the trip.

VP8PJ South Orkney DXpedition Team Arrives (The ARRL Letter for February 20, 2020)

The [VP8PJ South Orkney DXpedition](#) team, on board the *Braveheart*, reached Signy Island in the South Orkneys just after 1000 UTC on February 20. Team members are now preparing to land Zodiacs and transfer equipment.

"We have ice to contend with regarding our planned landing area," the DXpedition reported. "The ice was pushed in during the previous days, but we are expecting the winds to change and blow the ice out. We are currently looking for an alternate site to unload, then move the equipment to the planned site. An alternative camp/operations area is being considered as we evaluate current conditions."



The Perseverance DX Group-sponsored DXpedition was set to commence operation on February 20 (UTC), but it appears that could be delayed. Team members operated as ZL1NA/mm during their voyage, generating heavy pileups, and they expect to continue doing so once they get set up as VP8PJ.

Operation on CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 (always fox/hound mode except on 60 meters) will continue until March 5 (UTC). Stations in Africa and Oceania may call at any time, regardless of operators' directional instructions.

FAA's Proposed Remote Identification Rules Would Affect Drones, Hobby Planes (The ARRL Letter for February 20, 2020)

The Federal Aviation Administration ([FAA](#)) is proposing to require remote identification of so-called "unmanned aircraft systems" (UAS), which include drones and hobby aircraft. A growing number of radio amateurs utilize camera-equipped drones for aerial photography purposes, to examine antenna systems, and to operate hobby aircraft remotely on amateur radio frequencies. Comments on the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in [Docket FAA-2019-11](#), are due by March 2.

"The remote identification of unmanned aircraft systems in the airspace of the United States would address safety, national security, and law enforcement concerns regarding the further integration of

these aircraft into the airspace of the United States while also enabling greater operational capabilities," the FAA said in proposing the new requirements.

The FAA defines remote identification, or Remote ID, as the ability of an in-flight unmanned aircraft "to provide certain identification and location information that people on the ground and other airspace users can receive." The FAA called the move "an important building block in the unmanned traffic management ecosystem."



"For example, the ability to identify and locate UAS operating in the airspace of the United States provides additional situational awareness to manned and unmanned aircraft," the FAA said. "This will become even more important as the number of UAS operations in all classes of airspace increases. In addition, the ability to identify and locate UAS provides critical information to law enforcement and other officials charged with ensuring public safety."

The FAA said it envisions that the remote identification network "will form the foundation for the development of other technologies that can enable expanded operations."

With few exceptions, all UAS operating in US airspace would be subject to the rule's requirements and would have to comply, "regardless of whether they conduct recreational or commercial operations, except those flying UAS that are not otherwise required to be registered under the FAA's existing rules."



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



OARC Meetings and Events 2020

March 4, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
March 29, Sunday	American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure
April 1, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
May 6, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
June 3, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
June 27-28, Saturday and Sunday	ARRL Field Day
July 1, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
August 5, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
September 2, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
October 7, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
November 4, Wednesday	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
December 2, Wednesday	No Club Meeting
December 5, Saturday	Christmas Party



