



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

April 2020

President's Message

Greetings! I hope that everyone is staying healthy, staying home (for those who can), and getting on the air during this current global health concern. I'm sure everyone has noticed how our world has changed in the last 21 days. Who would have thought that we would be in the midst of a toilet paper shortage, a month ago?

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OARC MEETING

CANCELLED

Beardall Senior Center – **Closed** --
800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
ARRL Testing: **Cancelled**
For information & Updates
See www.oarc.org

OARC Board of Directors

President: John Knott, N4JTK
Vice President: Michael Cauley, W4MCA
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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).

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)*

If you are retired or able to work from home, I hope you have time to take advantage of the current situation and get on the air! The airwaves should be full of chatter. We might not be able to meet one another right now, but we can still talk to each other on the radio! This is also a goodtime to check on one another. Haven't heard from someone in a while? Give them a call and make sure they are well.

I want you to know that the Board is monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely. We have had a couple of tele-conferences so we could discuss the situation and how it is currently affecting the club.

As mentioned in a previous e-mail, the Board is following all CDC recommendations to avoid group face to face meetings. We received word a few weeks ago that the Beardall Center is closed until further notice. The center is still closed, and we have not received word when it will re-open. The Board agreed to suspend ALL meetings until June 1, 2020. If the CDC has lifted their current restrictions on meetings AND the Beardall center is re-opened by June, then our meetings will resume as normal. If this happens in time for the May meeting, then our meetings will resume earlier. Everything hangs in the balance on what the CDC feels is best for us.

If the pandemic last longer than anticipated, we are looking into other options such as holding an online video meeting. As these details become available, we'll make sure everyone is notified.

Hamfests around the country have been canceled, up to June. Many of the HamCationSM vendors are hurting because of this. Please support these vendors when you need something ham radio related. Call them or visit their websites and place an order.

Please be sure to read through this edition of the Listening Post as other important information is being shared with you.

73

John Knott

N4JTK

HamCationSM Chairman News

Greetings Everyone

I hope everyone is well and staying healthy.

We really dodged a bullet this year with HamCationSM. Not long after HamCationSM Covid-19 really started becoming an issue in the US. There are 46 hamfests scheduled for April and May that have been canceled across the country, including HamventionTM.

This is impacting all our vendors so please make sure you support them. Most of them have websites and are shipping orders.

I sent an e-mail out a couple of weeks ago letting all the volunteers know we were postponing the HamCationSM Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Since then we have decided to **CANCEL** the picnic for 2020. The decision was difficult. Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake informed me they are canceling all events at the park and would not be taking new reservations until at least August 1st. August summer heat is unbearable even under a pavilion. Also, August 1 the kick off date when **HamCation.com** website goes live and vendors and visitors start sending their orders. Therefore, we decided to cancel the picnic. We are going to have a bigger and better HamCationSM Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in 2021!!!!

Now, for some good news. I have been talking about this for almost a year and it has finally started. They have now torn down the lakeside pavilion at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and started building the new one.

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

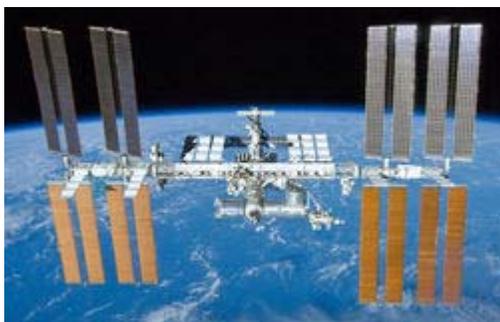


International Space Station Resupply Mission to Carry New ARISS Ham Radio Gear

(The ARRL Letter for March 4, 2020)

The scheduled March 7 (UTC) SpaceX CRS-20 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) will include the initial Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Interoperable Radio System (IORS) flight unit, which is listed as a primary payload. The IORS is the foundation of the ARISS next-generation amateur radio system on the space station. Once at the space station, the IORS will be stowed for later installation.

The ARISS hardware team built four flight units, and the first will be installed in the ISS *Columbus* module. A second flight unit expected to be launched on a later 2020 cargo flight will be installed in the Russian Service Module. NASA contracts with SpaceX to handle ISS resupply missions.



The IORS represents the first major upgrade of on-station ARISS equipment. The package will include a higher-power radio, an enhanced voice repeater, and updated digital packet radio (APRS) and slow-scan television (SSTV) capabilities for both the US and Russian space station segments. The IORS consists of a custom-modified JVCKenwood

TM-D710GA transceiver, an AMSAT-developed multi-voltage power supply, and interconnecting cables.

The ARISS hardware team remains busy on IORS development and final certification. While the initial unit has been certified for launch and stowage on ISS, the team is still deep into the final certification of the IORS for flight operations, and construction of a second flight unit is in progress.

ARRISS will mark 20 years of continuous amateur radio operation on the space station in November.



Dayton Hamvention Cancels 2020 Show

(The ARRL Letter for March 19, 2020)

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak.

The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

"The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this



year," Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. "This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis."

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year's show. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention's announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner. The QRP Amateur Radio Club International's "Four Days in May" event has also been cancelled. Presumably, the DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association ([SWODXA](#)) and AMSAT Academy have also been called off, although no formal announcements have been made.

The Hamvention advisory pointed out the best ways to prevent becoming infected or spreading the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Cover coughs/sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Avoid exposure to others who are sick.
- Stay home if you are ill and avoid close contact with others.
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The Ohio Department of Health also offers helpful [information](#) regarding COVID-19.

Dayton Hamvention takes place May 15 - 17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Coronavirus May Impact Amateur Radio License Testing

(The ARRL Letter for March 19, 2020)

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, anticipates that the number of new and upgraded radio amateurs will take a dip in March as VE teams cancel exam sessions due to coronavirus social distancing guidelines. She cited FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) figures showing that new ham licenses granted for the first half of March totaled 1,298, while another 296 licensees upgraded. Those numbers are down from the 1,697 new ham licenses granted during the same period last year, which also saw 467 upgrades.

"Some sessions are still going on, because they don't have bans in place yet. Also, some teams that only test one or two candidates every month may be able to continue, since that is well below the number of people that most authorities are advising should gather," Somma said. She anticipates a surge will come after bans on larger gatherings are lifted, because examinees are eager to take the exams they have been studying hard for.



Somma cautioned that, while March 2020 license numbers appear to be trending downward, it's not possible to reliably predict how an entire month will play out by extrapolating partial-month numbers. "March is the beginning of the busy part of the year, but depending on how the weekends fall and when licensing classes end, a month may peak at different points or be busy the whole way through," she said. More than 764,000 US amateur radio licensees are in the FCC database.

ARRL VEC's March [VE E-Newsletter](#) assured Volunteer Examiners that their health and safety are top priority and that the ARRL VEC is taking the coronavirus outbreak very seriously. "We understand that with the rapidly changing updates on restrictions and canceled or postponed public events, our VE teams are in different locations and should do what is best for them and their communities," Somma said. "We urge you to stay informed, so you can make informed decisions based on your local community's guidelines, as each community is unique. Then use your best judgement when deciding whether or not to conduct, postpone, or cancel an exam session."

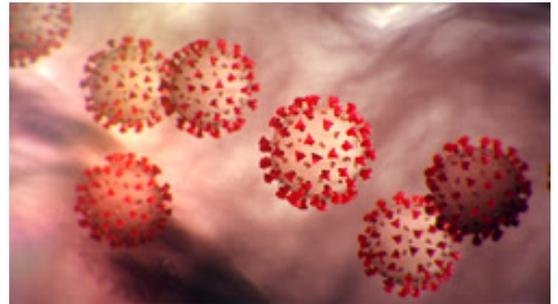
Somma directed ARRL VEC VEs and teams to the Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) website or to local health departments for the latest information.

Visalia International DX Convention, Other Events, Cancelled Due to Coronavirus Concerns

(The ARRL Letter for March 12, 2020)

Concern over COVID-19 has led to the cancellation of the 2020 International DX Convention ([IDXC](#)) and of several other amateur radio-related events here and abroad. The IDXC was to be held April 24 - 26 in Visalia, California.

"We send out our apologies to all our prospective patrons of the 2020 International DX Convention," IDXC Co-chairs Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, and Kris Jacob, K6TOD, said on behalf of the convention committee. "Due to concerns, health and well-being of our amateur radio family, our age group, and possible compromised health issues, we are taking the side of safety and canceling the convention." They conceded that, although the number of COVID-19 cases remains low, it only takes one person to pass the virus. IDXC is processing refunds.



On March 11, the Dayton Hamvention® Executive Committee, said, "As of now we plan on holding Hamvention unless otherwise directed. It is our intention to follow the orders of the State of Ohio and the Greene County Health Department." On March 12, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued an executive order barring public participation in sporting events and other large gatherings (defined as 100 or more attendees). Ohio has reported four confirmed COVID-19 cases.

An in-person version of the [HamSCI workshop](#), set for March 20 - 21 at the University of Scranton, has been canceled because of the coronavirus situation. HamSCI's Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, who's organizing the event, said alternative plans are in play to hold a virtual workshop.

The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Spring Hamfest on March 14 and the Great Lakes Convention on March and the March 15 Toledo Hamfest in Ohio have been canceled. Also canceled: [Communications Academy 2020](#), due to be held in Seattle, Washington, April 24 - 26.

ARRL has created a [URL](#) that will search the ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database for canceled events.

FCC Headquarters has barred the door to visitors, employees, and contractors who have been in any country subject to a COVID-19-related CDC Level 3 Travel Warning. It also has suspended until further notice any FCC involvement in large, non-critical gatherings involving national or international participants.

ARRL Suspending Tours and Guest Visits to Headquarters, W1AW

(The ARRL Letter for March 19, 2020)

As part of efforts under way to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees and volunteers from the impacts of the coronavirus, ARRL suspended all tours and guest visits to Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW and ARRL Headquarters, effective Monday, March 16.



Out of an abundance of caution, this suspension will be in effect until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to our members and their guests who had been planning to visit us in Newington, Connecticut. We feel, however, that this is a necessary precaution and is in keeping with the guidance being provided by federal and local health professionals. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we all endeavor to deal with this

difficult public health situation.

Henry Radio Los Angeles Founder Ted Henry, W6UOU, is 100!

(The ARRL Letter for March 4, 2020)

Henry Radio Los Angeles founder Ted Henry, W6UOU, turned 100 years old on January 25. The fascinating Henry family history in amateur radio marketing and manufacturing dates back to the late 1920s.

The original Henry Radio shop, started by Ted's brother Bob Henry, W0ARA (SK), opened in 1927 in Butler, Missouri. It stayed in business until Bob died in 1985. Ted and another brother, Walt, later W6ZN, worked with Bob Henry during the early years and became fascinated with ham radio. After Ted moved to Los Angeles in 1941, he opened a small radio shop, which he operated while attending college at UCLA

with the intention of going into teaching. His shop survived the suspension of amateur radio during World War II by purchasing gear from hams and reselling it to MARS stations around the world, and by manufacturing crystals (in Butler and Los Angeles) for Hallicrafters' war production. The LA store grew quickly after the war, expanding to a new location where it operated for nearly 35 years, becoming a gathering spot for hams visiting from around the world.

Walt Henry opened a Henry Radio branch in Anaheim, California, in the 1960s, which closed in 1990, after his health declined.

In 1962, Ted Henry began manufacturing tube-type power amplifiers for the ham radio market, starting with the original Henry 2K. Many of the popular line of HF amplifiers remain in use today. The plant expanded into the industrial RF equipment sector. In the 1970s, the company developed its own line of solid-state amplifiers, which it still manufactures for various services.

Henry Radio also became the first Kenwood dealer in the US, marketed the Tempo line of ham gear, and is the oldest dealer for Bird RF test equipment. The current store on South Bundy Drive in Los Angeles opened in 1981.



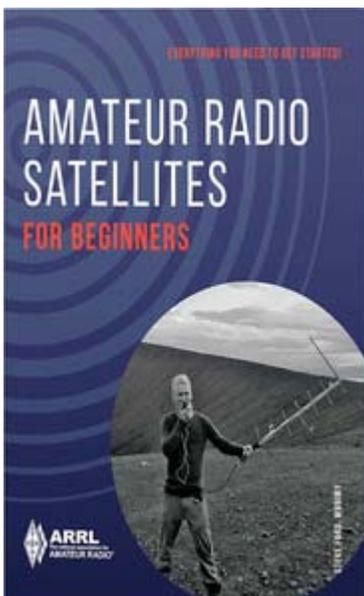
Ted Henry, W6UOU, operating from American Samoa in 1957.

Outer Space is Your Next Radio Frontier!

(The ARRL Letter for March 12, 2020)

You can make contacts through amateur radio satellites, and even with the International Space Station, using equipment you probably own right now! All it takes is the right information, which you'll find in ARRL's new book,

[*Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners*](#).



Dozens of spacecraft are in orbit just waiting for your signals, and more are being launched every year. This book is your guide to a whole new world of operating enjoyment. Inside you will be able to locate satellites and determine when they will be available in orbit, gain tips for building your own "satellite station, find a simple step-by-step guide to making your first contacts, and discover satellite antenna projects you can build at home.

"Even with just a dual-band FM transceiver and a mobile antenna, you can make contacts through an amateur satellite!" said ARRL author and *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

Building amateur radio satellites is difficult; communicating through amateur satellites is not. [*Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners*](#) will introduce you to new experiences that you may have thought were out of your reach. Start reading and discover how easy it can be!

[Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners](#) is available from the [ARRL Store](#) or your [ARRL Dealer](#). ARRL Item no. 1304, ISBN: 978-1-62595-130-4, \$22.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price \$19.95. Call 860-594-0355 or, toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289. It will also be available as an e-book for the Amazon Kindle.

WORD TO THE WISE

(The ARRL Contest Update for March 4, March 18, 2020)

Low Tones

Amateur Radio RTTY communication traditionally uses two frequencies, mark and space, with a 170 Hz offset. Traditionally during receive two audio tones are decoded at 2125 Hz and 2295 Hz. Other frequencies can be used, as long as the offset remains 170 Hz. "Low tones" for RTTY refers to alternate mark and space frequencies, for example 1275 Hz and 1445 Hz, that may be easier to hear or more tolerable to listen to for extended periods of time.

Rubber Clocking

The name of a cheating technique where the logged time of a contact is changed from the actual time so that the contact will conform to the contest rules. For example, changing the time of a contact completed and originally logged at 00:00:05 UTC to when the contest ended at 23:59:59 UTC. Like any form of cheating, rubber clocking can be grounds for disqualification.

OPERATING TIP

(Source: The ARRL Contest Update for March 4, March 18, 2020)

Get to Know Multiplier Band Plans

It pays to be familiar with the frequency allocations of some of the multipliers you might need in a particular contest. If you're looking for the Japan multiplier on 160 meters in a CW contest, you'll have to look or CQ between 1.810 and 1.825 MHz, or between 1907.5 and 1912.5 MHz. Those are the only places that JA hams are allowed to operate on 160 meters. In a DX phone contest, you'll hear stations outside the USA operating on 40 meters starting at 7.050 MHz. US frequency allocations for phone operation on 40 meters start at 7.125 MHz, depending on license class.

Use Ushift On Space

Better known as UOS or USOS, Unshift On Space is a setting in your RTTY decoder that will change from FIGS mode to LTRS mode when a space character is encountered in the decode stream. This helps in noisy conditions to more reliably decode exchanges that are sent with spaces separating the fields. Most amateur radio RTTY decoders are by default set to use enable unshift on space

Swap/Shop/Sell/Trade in *The Listening Post*

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.



Icom 746 with matching Icom Power Supply and Heil Mike and boom (Icom Model) Asking \$650

Ameritron AL-80B amp (Single 3-500Z - 1 KW out) and MFJ Roller inductor tuner Asking \$650



Icom IC91AD DSTAR HT Asking \$200 (Note: Could not find an image of the IC-91AD model that is for sale, but looks the same except for the model number)

60' Rohn 25 tower with KLM KT-36 beam and Tailtwister Rotor with Philistran Guys (Needs to be taken down)

This equipment is from the estate of James Williams, N4ZKT, a recent SK. Bob Cumming, W2BZY, is handling the sale of the below listed equipment. You can reach Bob at bcumming@oarc.org. Pictures have been added as to what the equipment should look like and is not the actual equipment itself.



Ed Thralls, NE4H, 407 254 9209, rusty.trowels@gmail.com

Item #1: GAP TITAN DX

The Titan is the ONLY antenna marketed with total continuous coverage under 2:1 on 10m 12m 15m 17m 20m 30m 40m and 100 KHz on 80m. The Titan is a respectable 25' tall and weighs a solid 25 pounds. The Titan is configured to mount easily on a 1-1/4" O.D. mast. Additional details can be seen at: <http://gapantenna.com/shop/antennas/titan-dx/>

Asking price: \$275.



Ed Thralls, NE4H, 407 254 9209, rusty.trowels@gmail.com

Item #2: Cushcraft AS3 multi-band three element beam antenna. Used three months; stored in attic for several years. Weighs 27 pounds has a 15.5' turning radius and offers 4.36 sq.ft. wind surface area. Additional details can be seen at: <https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/csh-a3s>

Asking price: \$375.

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.

Weekly Radio Network Meetings

Mon @ 20:00	147.090	Seminole ARES Net – Except – First Monday of the month (146.460 Simplex)
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

April 1, Wednesday	Cancelled, the Beardall Center is closed
May 6, Wednesday	Cancelled, the Beardall Center is closed
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

