



The Listening Post



HamCation® 2021 Special Edition --- Feb 13-14, 2021

Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

February 2021

President's Message

Greetings to everyone. I hope everyone is doing well. Lots of exciting things are coming.

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OARC MEETING

February 3rd, 7:00pm
YouTube Live and Zoom
 Beardall Senior Center - **CLOSED**
 800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
 ARRL Testing: **CANCELED**
 For information & Updates
 See www.oarc.org

OARC Board of Directors

President: John Knott, N4JTK
 Vice President: Michael Cauley, W4MCA
 Treasurer: Ana Groe, KM4JVE
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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).

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 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

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

Let me start out by welcoming Dick DiVittorio W4QKP as our new Members Ad Manager. Dick was licensed in the early 80s as a novice, KG4QKP. He spent most of his operating time on 40 & 10 meters CW. He upgraded to Tech and to General in the late 80s. He became interested in AMSAT and enjoyed the "birds" for many years as well as VHF terrestrial work. Dick has served as the OARC Field Day Station Captain and Field Day Chairman for a couple of years. He became the OARC "Ham of the Year" and was honored to be made a life member of OARC during the 1990s. Dick has served as the HamCation® Vice Chairman during HamCation's® last year at the Orange County Convention Center and was the HamCation® Chairman for the first two years HamCation® was at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. Dick changed his call to W4QKP a couple of years ago and currently enjoys D-Star and works 40m from his home in the Lake Nona area.

I am thrilled to have Dick onboard as he is knowledgeable in the advertising area and will do a great job as our Ad manager. You can contact Dick via e-mail at ddivittorio@oarc.org or LP_ads@oarc.org and it will go directly to Dick. It is great to get re-connected from past or even current members who have been inactive. I hope we will see Dick at future meetings, Field Day, and HamCation® again soon.

At the last Board meeting, the board discussed, and we agreed that we are going to go ahead and move forward in planning for Field Day 2021. We agreed to continue planning on having Field Day as normal for this year and if COVID-19 is still an issue in June, we will cancel when it is warranted. I will ask for volunteers to Chair and staff the Field Day Committee?

Coming up at the March meeting, we will start the process in creating a slate of nominees who want to be considered for a board position at our annual election meeting in April. Please see my separate article on the elections.

At the February Meeting our presenter will be John Kruk, N9UPC. John is the National Sales Manager for Yaesu USA. John was supposed to be our presenter in January but had fallen ill right before our meeting and could not make it. He has recovered and agreed to do his presentation at our February meeting. I look forward to a most interesting topic he will be presenting. Our February virtual meeting is on Wednesday February 3rd at 7pm.

73

John Knott, N4JTK

HamCation® Chairman News

(by Michael Cauley, W4MCA)

Greetings Everyone

I hope everyone is still staying safe.

Have you checked out the awesome prizes being offered this year? Well, you might want to. We have just added another sponsor and will be adding more prizes to the list this coming week.

Wondering how you can get in on winning some of these prizes? There are 2 ways:

1. Register and attend a Webinar.
2. Purchase Prize Tickets

When you attend at least one webinar you will get one entry into the prize drawing. You **do not** get an entry into the prize drawing for every webinar you attend.

For a \$5 donation, you can purchase prize tickets. All proceeds from the Ticket sales will go toward donations to local clubs.

Prize drawings will occur:

February 13, 2021 at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm EDT

February 14, 2021 at 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm EDT

You do not need to be Present to Win.

We will be doing live prize drawings every hour via Facebook live

www.facebook.com/hamcation

<https://www.hamcation.com/hamcation-tickets>

Have you purchased your HamCation® 2021 Special Edition Lanyard yet?

We have only limited stock of these, and they are going fast.

For an \$8 donation, which includes shipping, you can be wearing the best-looking lanyard of 2021. [Get yours now](#) at HamCation.com!

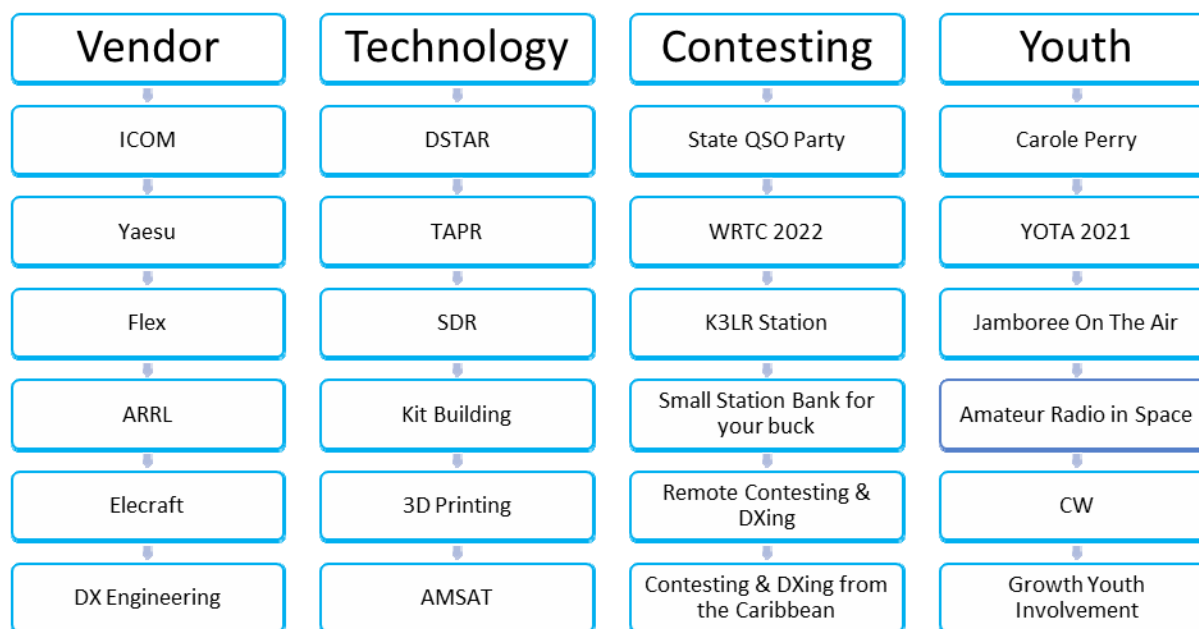


Remember all proceeds from these sales go toward donations to local clubs. You are not just helping HamCation®; you are helping your local clubs.

Now let's talk about some of our great Webinars we have scheduled.

- February 13th and 14th , 2021 from 10am to 4pm EST
- They are divided into 4 categories: Vendors, Technology, Contesting, and Youth

Here are just some of the great webinars we have scheduled:



- You must register to attend a webinar. We are using the ZOOM platform.
- All webinars will also be live streamed to YouTube.
- Now the great news all the webinars are FREE to attend.
- <https://www.hamcation.com/forums-speakers>

Please keep an eye on our website for more information. It is being updated regularly with new content.

73's
Michael Cauley
2021 HamCation® Special Edition General Chair

Orlando HamCation® Announces QSO Party, Special Edition Virtual Presentations

(The ARRL Letter for January 21, 2021)

Orlando HamCation has announced it will sponsor the [HamCation QSO Party](#) over the February 13 - 14 weekend (UTC), "to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air." The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour event on HamCation weekend. HamCation 2021 was to host the ARRL National Convention, which now will take place in 2022.

"The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19," the HamCation QSO Party Committee said. The HamCation QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on February 13 until 0300 UTC on February 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station.



Categories will be High Power (more than 100 W output), Low Power (100 W output or less, but greater than 5 W), and QRP (5 W output or less). All participants will be single operators; there is no multioperator category. The exchange will be your name and state/province/country, and the outside temperature at your location. "We are including temperature at your QTH as a way of highlighting Orlando's mild February weather," the committee said.

Nine HamCation special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs will be on the air with combined suffixes spelling out HamCation (e.g., K4H, W4A, K4M, etc). Each contact will count as one point, and stations may be worked once on each band and mode. Entrants will report their scores on www.3830Scores.com; no logs are required. Final results will be based on the information submitted to the website.

Station guest operators must use their own call signs and submit their scores individually. Plaques and certificates will be awarded.

Virtual HamCation® Set

(The ARRL Letter for January 21, 2021)

The [Orlando HamCation](#) Special Edition online event over the February 13 - 14 weekend will take the place of what would have been the HamCation 2021 in-person show.

The online event will include youth, technology, contesting, and vendor [webinar tracks](#). ARRL will also present two webinars on Saturday, February 13. They are:

- ARRL Member Forum at 1 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) presentation at 3 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. The ARES presentation will include panelists from ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators in Florida.

Live, online prize drawings are also scheduled during the HamCation Special Edition online event.

OARC ELECTIONS ARE COMING

(John Knott, N4JTK)

The OARC Bylaws state that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Corporation shall be held in the month of April of each year. The purpose of the annual meeting is the election of the officers and directors of the Corporation, and for other purposes as determined by the board.

In March, a Nominating Committee will be selected. The Nominating Committee will gather the names of everyone who is interested in becoming an officer or director. The names will be added to the slate and presented to the membership at the end of the Membership meeting in March. I will announce who the Nominating Committee Chairman is at the February Meeting. This person's contact information will be provided so that you may submit your name as a candidate.

To be considered for a position on the board, you must:

- A voting member in good standing for at least 1 year prior to the Annual meeting.
- Be at least 18 years of age or older.
- Submit your name to the Nominating Committee Chairman before the close of business at the March OARC Membership meeting.

Below are the Duties of the Officers:

1. **President.** The President shall be responsible for the coordination and supervision of the work of the other Officers and any employees, agents, professional advisors, and consultants. The President shall appoint a Property Manager and a Repeater Manager each having duties as defined in ARTICLE VIII. He/she may sign, execute, and deliver on the name of the corporation all deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts and other instruments when specifically authorized by the Board, except in cases where items are expressly delegated by these By-Laws or the Board to some other Officer or agent. He/she may perform such other duties as may be assigned by the agent. He/she may perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. Unless otherwise provided by the Board or these By-Laws, he/she shall preside, when present, at all meetings.

2. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board or the President. In the absence of the President, or in the event of his/her death, inability or refusal to act, shall perform all duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all of the restrictions of the President as set forth in these By-Laws.

3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, see that notices are duly given as required by law or these By-Laws, and be the custodian of the Corporate records. He/She shall see that the books, reports, statements and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed and kept available to the Board on request.

4. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds, securities, notes, contracts, deeds, and other indices of title and valuable assets of the Corporation. He/She shall receive and give receipt for moneys payable to the Corporation and deposit all moneys in such depositories as shall be selected by the Board. He/She shall cause such funds to be dispersed by check or draft, signed as the Board may require, and be responsible for the accuracy of the amounts of, and cause to be preserved proper vouchers for, all moneys dispersed. He/She shall have the right to require from time-to-time reports or statements giving such information as he/she may require with respect to any and all financial transactions of the Corporation. He/She shall keep or cause to be kept at such place as the Board shall designate, correct records of the moneys, business, and transactions of the Corporation, and exhibit them to any Officer or Director. He/She shall render to the Board, whenever requested, an account of the financial condition of the Corporation and of all of his/her transactions as treasurer, and as soon as may be possible after

the close of the fiscal year, make and submit to the Board a like report for such fiscal year, and lay before each Annual Meeting, the financial statements of the Corporation. The Treasurer is to be bonded at Club expense.

We welcome any member who meets the qualifications to hold either an Officer or Directors position to run, but I do ask that before submitting your name to please take a second and reflect for a moment that you are able to commit the time that is needed to fulfill the position that you are seeking. The above information about the duties of the officers is straight from the by-laws. What it does not say is the amount of time it does take to run the club. I have stated this many times before a nominating period, be ready to **WORK**. Be ready to spend time on e-mail, the phone, reflecting, communicating (yes, this is an area where people on any board fail first) make sure you have fresh batteries in your thinking cap because this club does not need members of the board just occupying space and wanting to be on the board for prestige. It must have willing, ready, capable, and motivated individuals to run this corporation.

A Board position is not for everyone, we know that. But this club has a lot of opportunities for members to step up and help. So even if a Board position is not something that you are interested in but still want to give the club a hand in something, send me an e-mail. Call me. Text me. Let me know. I have lots of ideas that this club can do, I just do not have the time to do it all, but one of you could be the perfect fit, but I would not know that unless you let me know. Much like Dick just did as our Ad Manager.

Florida Statehood 1845 Special Event

(John Knott, N4JTK)

Coming up on March 3, 2021 the State of Florida will celebrate its 176th year as the 27th state of the Union. To celebrate this, Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society has asked the Orlando Amateur Radio Club and other neighboring clubs to assist them in running a weeklong amateur radio special event.

A committee has been formed and is in the early stages of planning, with much work that still needs to be done in a short amount of time. The special event callsign will be **W4F**. This will be a "work from home" special event.

A website will be developed and announced where you can sign up. The operations of the special event will be 10am – 10pm with 2-hour time slots with no more than three operators on a band (CW; SSB; Digital Modes)

We want this to be a **fun event**. An event that even the most novice of radio operators **will have fun and learn**. The concept is to make as many contacts as possible and to come and join the fun with us in Florida!

Florida has taken a huge hit in the economy because of COVID. With what we hope will turn out to be a light at the end of this long, long tunnel called COVID and the recent release of a vaccination, it is time to start planting a seed in the minds of all our friends to the north about what a great place Florida is to visit, especially in the winter.

We are still working on the details of the exchange to be given. The committee is in contact with the governor's office and they have been incredibly supportive of the idea. We are negotiating with a score keeper and a way to issue certificates.

For now, clear your calendars (there is something more important to do than work) and watch for more information as it becomes available. My next update on this subject will hopefully include a way to sign up as an operator.

Since we are still in the initial planning of this event, details are subject to change.

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

(The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021)

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or e-mail address, are exempt.

ARRL had filed comments opposing the FCC's \$50 fee and application fees and [urged its members](#) to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its *R&O*, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service." The fee proposal was contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in MD Docket



20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 -- the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)."

"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the *R&O*. "We adopt the proposal from the *NPRM* to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated."

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it had no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists." The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

"[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public," the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called "Ray Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC noted. "[W]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a congressionally mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual *regulatory* fees, but not from *application* fees.

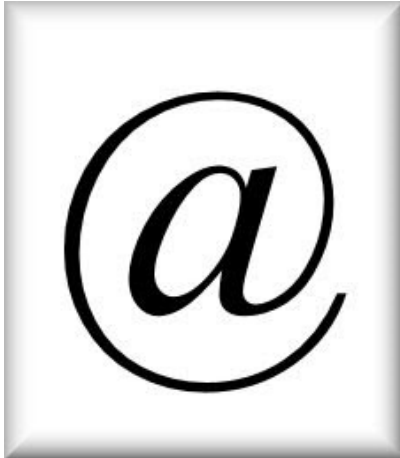
The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established. Read [more](#).

FCC to Require E-mail Address with Applications and on File

(The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021)

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an e-mail address on all applications. If no e-mail address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective." On September 16, the FCC adopted a *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) in WT Docket 19-212 on "Completing the Transition to

Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services," which [appeared](#) on December 29 in the *Federal Register*. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an e-mail address and will e-mail a link to an official electronic copy of the license once it's granted.



While many, if not most, amateurs already have provided an e-mail to the FCC, this also will become a requirement. Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, as amended, the holder of a valid amateur radio station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and e-mail address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, as amended, each license must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and e-mail address. "The e-mail address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the revised rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct e-mail address."

Licenses can log into the ULS [License Manager System](#) with their FRN and password to update their FCC license record, including adding an e-mail address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday - Friday, 1300 - 2300 UTC) or [reset the password](#) on the FCC website. Read [more](#).

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returning in March

(The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021)

The [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will return March 13 - 14 for a full 48 hours, *QSO Today* host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. [ARRL](#) is a *QSO Today* Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural *QSO Today* Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming *QSO Today* Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that



attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

"At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or local events," Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

[Registration](#) is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period. At the Expo, visitors can:

- Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on "My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;" Michael Foerster, W0IH, on "Using the Arduino in Your Shack," and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on "3D Printer Basics."
- Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)



- Walk through the virtual exhibit hall to visit an array of amateur radio vendors and see live demonstrations of the latest equipment. This show will leverage newer video technology to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar.

Registrants may return over the 30 days following the live event to catch speakers and presentations missed during the live period, as well as to explore and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

"The *QSO Today* Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn," ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. Read [more](#).

After 41 Years, Ham-Com has Decided to Close its Doors

(The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021)

Ham-Com President Bill Nelson, AB5QZ, cited difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising costs of putting on a show. "The decision was not made lightly, but the safety and wellness of our volunteers, vendors, clubs, presenters, and attendees is our paramount concern," Nelson said on the Ham-Com website. Ham-Com has been held each June at the Plano Event Center in Plano, Texas. "We sincerely thank each and every person for their support over the past years."

SEA-PAC Cancels In-Person Convention

(The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021)

[SEA-PAC](#), designated as the 2021 ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, will not



take place as an in-person gathering this June. "The SEA-PAC Executive Committee has been closely monitoring the continuing COVID-19 pandemic situation and has determined that the safest course of action for all is to cancel the 2021 in-person event," SEA-PAC 2021 Chair John Bucsek, KE7WNB, announced this week. "This decision was based on the uncertainties of more COVID outbreaks, vaccine availability to all, and the probable social distancing requirements. But most important, it is based on our genuine concern for the health and safety of you, the attendees, vendors, and presenters. We firmly believe that providing our ham radio community with a safe and quality convention experience is paramount." Bucsek said the SEA-PAC Committee is exploring alternative online and on-air activities.

Dayton Hamvention Cancels 2021 Show

(The ARRL Letter for January 14, 2021)

[Dayton Hamvention](#)[®] has been canceled for the second year.

"Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021," a January 11 announcement from the Hamvention Executive Committee said. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)), Hamvention was set to take place May 21 - 23 in Xenia, Ohio.



"Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the

Dayton Hamvention," the committee continued. "Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors." Tickets deferred last year will be deferred again until 2022.

The Hamvention Committee hinted at a QSO party for Hamvention weekend. In November, Hamvention had announced that "The Gathering" would be the theme for the 2021 show.

Hamvention is the largest annual amateur radio gathering in the US, and was the host of the ARRL National Convention for its last event, held in 2019. The ARRL [Hamfest and Convention Calendar](#) includes a searchable database that includes other [canceled](#) in-person events.

FCC Invites Comments on Expanding the Number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

(The ARRL Letter for January 14, 2021)

In a January 5 [Public Notice](#), the FCC requested comments on whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([VECs](#)) are sufficient to facilitate the efforts of their accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations, or whether it should authorize up to five additional VECs. Comments are due by February 5, and reply comments are due by February 19. After Congress authorized it to do so, the FCC adopted rules in 1983 to allow volunteers to prepare and administer amateur radio examinations, and it established the system of VECs and VEs. The ARRL VEC is the largest of the 14 VECs in the US.



"VECs introduced consistency into the volunteer examiner program by centralizing accreditation of volunteer examiners, coordinating the dates and times for scheduling examinations, and managing the various administrative tasks arising from examinations," the FCC said. Authorized VECs may operate in any of the 13 VEC regions, but must service at least one region. The FCC pointed out that some VECs now offer remote examinations.

"The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community, or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs," the FCC said.

The FCC *Public Notice* provided questions for framing comments:

- Are the existing 14 VECs sufficient to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio operator licenses, or are additional VECs needed?
- What needs are currently being met, and which needs, if any, are not?
- If the FCC were to allow additional VECs, how many more would be needed to satisfy existing Amateur Radio Service license examination needs? (The FCC indicated that it would likely cap the number of additional VECs at five.)
- Given that VECs use a collaborative process to create examination question pools and volunteer examination administration protocols, would additional VECs enhance or hinder this process?
- How would increasing the number of VECs address the unmet needs, if any, of the amateur radio community, and what obstacles or complications could result from increasing the number of VECs?

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket No. 21-2 via the FCC's [Electronic Comment Filing Service \(Express\)](#). Visit the FCC's "[How to Comment on FCC Proceedings](#)" page for information on filing extended comments.

ARRL Life Member Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, is 2021 Carole Perry Educator of the Year

(The ARRL Letter for January 14, 2021)

Orlando [HamCation](#)[®] has announced that ARRL Life Member Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, of Bloomington, Indiana, is the 2021 recipient of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. The award recognizes an outstanding individual contribution in educating and advancing youth in amateur radio. It was first awarded in 2018 to its namesake,

Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator teaching students about ham radio. Rapp was ARRL 2004 Professional Educator of the Year. He's an Assistant Central Division Director and an ARRL VEC certified examiner.



An educational professional for more than 28 years, Rapp currently teaches chemistry at Bloomington High School South. He's also the school's amateur radio club sponsor and has introduced 3,600 students and parents to amateur radio through his involvement in the organization. Among his educational achievements, he was able to send an experiment involving protein crystallization to the International Space Station (ISS). He also mentored 2013 *Amateur Radio Newsline* Young Ham of the Year and

ARRL William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship recipient Padraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS.

Rapp got his license when he was 5 years old, and, at the time, was touted as the world's youngest ham. Now 50, he's the host and founder of the amateur radio podcast *Ham Talk Live!* He's also a member of AMSAT and was the youngest person to both join and be eligible for membership in the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). He is the editor of the "Next-Gen Contesters" column for *NCJ*.

Seven US Schools Move Forward in ARISS Selection Process

(The ARRL Letter for January 14, 2021)

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) has announced that seven schools or host organizations selected for the July - December 2021 contact window have moved forward in the processes of planning to host a scheduled amateur radio contact with a space station crew member. ARISS' primary goal is to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) activities and raise their awareness of space communications, radio communication, space exploration, and related areas of study and career possibilities.



The schools/organizations are:

- Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee
- Tarwater Elementary School in Chandler, Arizona
- Museum of Science & Technology in Syracuse, New York
- **SpaceKids Global and Girl Scouts of Citrus in Winter Park, Florida**
- Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol in St. Charles, Illinois
- Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC
- Savannah River Academy in Grovetown, Georgia

ARISS is now working with hosts to complete acceptable equipment plans that demonstrate their ability to carry out a ham radio contact. Once their equipment plan is approved by the ARISS Technical Mentors, the final list of host schools/organizations will be scheduled as their availability and flexibility match up with contact opportunities offered by NASA.

This year, ARISS celebrates 20 years of continuous amateur radio operations on the ISS.

WSJT-X 2.4.0 to Introduce New Digital Protocol Q65

(The ARRL Letter for January 14, 2021)

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 will introduce a new digital protocol called Q65, which, according to the [Quick Start Guide](#), is designed for "minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths." The *Guide* said, "On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."



The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, introduced in 2016. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4, and MSK144. Q65 employs a "unique tone" to sync time and frequency. "As with JT65, this 'sync tone' is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display," the *Guide* said.

"Unlike JT65, synchronization and decoding are effective even when meteor pings or other short signal enhancements are present. Transmit/receive sequence lengths of 15, 30, 60, 120, and 300 seconds are available. According to the *Guide*, "Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more and to work one another on 6 meters at distances up to ~1,600 kilometers at most times, in dead-band conditions."

WORD TO THE WISE

(The ARRL Contest Update for December 23, 2020, January 6 and 20, 2021)

FFMA

In discussions of some 6-meter contests, the letters "FFMA" may be mentioned. [The Fred Fish Memorial Award](#) was created in honor of Fred Fish, W5FF (SK). He was the first to have worked and confirmed all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the (contiguous) US on 6 meters. As of this writing, 12 hams have achieved this award.

Auroral Flutter

Rapid changes in the ionosphere influence the radio signals using it as a medium. On HF, signals traversing the polar regions may [experience flutter](#) in slightly disturbed geomagnetic conditions. In the northern hemisphere, when strong Aurora Borealis is present (along with a [high Kp index](#)) HF polar paths are likely shut down, while North

American VHF and UHF operators can beam north and use the aurora itself as an imperfect reflector to make contacts. Signals have a distinctive sound, both on [SSB](#) and [CW](#).

Latency

From [Wikipedia](#): "(Audio) Latency refers to a short period of delay (usually measured in milliseconds) between when an audio signal enters a system and when it emerges." In the radio realm, latency can be a factor in certain types of filters, in encoding and decoding of signals, and in transmission of information between your remote station and the control point.

Super bonus extra Word to the Wise:

Experiential Density

A term [coined by Valve Software's Half-Life team](#) to characterize the number of events per unit time that a game player experiences. Too many, and a game can become tedious. Too few, a game may be boring. Different people may prefer different levels of experiential density. This term could be a characteristic of contests, or even certain ways to approach contest operating, for example, S&P vs. running

OPERATING TIP

(The ARRL Contest Update for December 23, 2020, January 6 and 20,2021)

RX and TX Operating Tips

These are from Doug, K1DG, as part of [his presentation at the 2020 Contest University](#). Basically, learn how to use your transceiver effectively on various bands.

For receiving, don't use the preamplifier, except maybe on 10 meters. In crowded band conditions, make sure you know how to use your radio's built in filters, or filtering (you can hear a comparatively narrow filter setting in EI2KC's video referenced in the Sights and Sounds section).

For transmitting, you can use your radio's compression features to put more energy and punch into your SSB signal, but don't overdo it and cause splatter, pick up background noise, or reduce intelligibility. You can monitor your signal to make sure you're consistently putting out a good one. For CW, make sure the rise time on your CW signal is not too fast, which can increase your transmitted bandwidth. Five milliseconds (5ms) or more is a suggested rise time. Some radios even shape rise time to further reduce energy in the sidebands.

You Can Never Have Too Many Antennas -- Except You Can

This one is from Frank, W3LPL, excerpted from a [discussion about takeoff angles](#): "You can never have too many antennas -- but this is very important -- unless they interfere with each other as they very often do."

It takes a huge piece of property to avoid antenna performance degradation caused by multiple antennas within a few wavelengths (or more) of each other."

Use the Right Mode for the Job

Many contests allow the use of multiple modes as appropriate to make contacts. If you want to maximize your contest score, it pays to be where other stations are to make contacts, and also to make those contacts as quickly as possible. If conditions can support them, SSB and CW modes will probably provide a better rate than the FTx modes. Among the FT modes, FT4, with its shorter transmission time, can have higher rates than FT8. The savvy VHF/UHF contest operator will listen on the calling frequencies for SSB, FTx frequencies for FT8, scan for CW beacons, be watching for spots, and also monitor various contact coordination websites (if allowed by contest rules). They will also likely be ready for opportunistic contacts on FM. They'll be prepared on multiple frequencies, and actively switch modes to make contacts by whatever means possible, maybe even [rainscatter!](#)

CONVERSATION

(The ARRL Contest Update for January 6, 2021)

This issue's Conversation section is from ARRL CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA

Thinking Anew in the New Year

At last, a new year is here! And hopefully, with it, changes for the better and a brighter outlook than 2020!

One of my roles as ARRL CEO, as I see it, is to challenge the status quo and explore ways to innovate within the hobby. Contesting is my favorite of all aspects of amateur radio, and I have many ideas about it. As we look farther into 2021, perhaps it is time to start thinking anew. To that end, I want to touch on three simple notions: Evolution, Revolution, and Fair Play.

My favorite of all forms of contesting is multi-operator. Dealing with planning, operating, and the variabilities that arise out of human interaction leads to an adrenalin-filled and unpredictable experience. With this said, are you aware of any organized sport, other than radiosport, where the team sizes are not defined? Perhaps the time has come for contest organizers to *evolve* and take a position on exactly how

many participants should be allowed on a "team." What is your view on how this makes sense in making radiosport more competitive?

Then there's the big-picture issue of remote operating in contests -- and, more specifically, the question of creating yet another category for remotes. I look at it this way: I travel to PJ4 to operate, and I remote into PJ4 to operate. In both cases, I must pay to rent the station. Whether I fly there or connect there, it's still me, a radio, and an antenna. Why wouldn't one category cover both scenarios? What are your thoughts on needing a new category for remote stations?

There are legitimate issues with remote stations, such as when one station is being accessed by different operators over the course of a contest, but the station itself is limited to one call sign. The rules that exist today did not foresee this issue! John, W2GD, recently did a fantastic [write-up](#) (pages 14-17) for the Frankford Radio Club's newsletter, covering the issues and considerations of remote radio and contesting.

Contesting from remote stations is here to stay. It will continue to grow. Opportunities to rent stations that are not yours will also grow. We can choose to deal with the implications, or continue to bump into restrictions that never took these scenarios into consideration. At ARRL, we have begun reviewing how the issue of remote operating impacts all ARRL contests, and will be providing suggestions to the PSC on how contest rules might evolve accordingly.

In terms of *revolution*, it seems to me that contesting is being affected by the one real truth of the digital transformation of society: people are "on" 24 hours a day, and yet never have time for anything. We must revolutionize radiosport to create "contests within contests" that offer ways to spend a portion of the weekend operating and competing for a win. Brooke Allen, N2BA, a brilliant Wall Street technology guy, has many ideas on creating new forms of contesting, especially for younger hams who may be more driven by shorter "games" where real-time scoring drives the adrenalin rush of competition much in the way a first-person shooter game does.

When writing my column for an upcoming issue of *QST*, I went into the scores database of CQWW to do some analysis. As I went through the results year by year, there was one thing that never changed: if you don't operate from Africa, it is very likely you cannot win, place, or show in CQWW. It may be time to take a page from Stew Perry and analyze what a big DX contest looks like when your score is based on band, distance, and power for each contact made. What becomes important? Does location get neutralized so that a station in Asia now has a chance of winning? Analyzing the years of excellent data from both CQWW and ARRL DX could revolutionize these events and lead to the creation of a more globally competitive contest.

And finally, on the issue of *fair play*, there are a number of topics worthy of mentioning: excessive power, VPN self-spotting, and the implications of an operation streaming in real time, among others.

One contesting issue that ARRL is looking at is the consequences of a wide or dirty signal. On one hand, there are those who shun one type of radio because it is "too clean," and allow stations to elbow in too close to hold a run frequency. On the other hand, hearing key clicks on the bands during a CW contest today is unforgivable, and yet, they are there, in every contest. In the name of fair play, ARRL is evaluating ways to create operating standards, use voluntary reporting and education to improve conditions, and ultimately hold accountable those stations that are not living up to proper signal quality.

The views and ideas that I have highlighted here are far from being the only ones that are worthy of attention. For me, the steps toward innovation in contesting come down to identifying an issue or idea, fearlessly challenging the status quo, and seeing how we can make radiosport more exciting, and engaging -- and for more participants, so that it can grow! I'd love to hear your ideas. Drop me an e-mail at ceo@arrl.org.

Here's wishing you a great remaining contest season, and a very happy and healthy 2021.

David A. Minster, NA2AA

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 2021

February 3, Wednesday	Virtual Meeting, 7:00pm YouTube Live! and Zoom
February 12-14	HamCation™ Special Edition 2021
March 3, Wednesday	Virtual Meeting, 7:00pm YouTube Live! and Zoom
April 7, Wednesday	Virtual Meeting, 7:00pm YouTube Live! and Zoom
May 5, Wednesday	Virtual Meeting, 7:00pm YouTube Live! and Zoom
June 2, Wednesday	Virtual Meeting, 7:00pm YouTube Live! and Zoom
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day
July 7	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
August 4	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
September 8	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
October 6	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
November 3	Meeting, 7:30pm at the Beardall Center
December 1	No Club Meeting
December 4	Christmas Party





OARC Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
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Mail to:
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Post Office Box 574962
Orlando FL 32857

To have your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE with your check.

Date: ___/___/20___ [] Regular Member [] Family Member [] Associate Member
[] New Membership [] Renewal [] CMP

Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____

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E-mail Address (print) _____

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Rates: Regular [] 1 year \$15.00 [] 3 years \$40.00 [] 6 years \$75.00

Rates: Family [] 1 year \$5.00 per family member Husband, Wife or Child under 18

Rates: Associate [] 1 year \$15.00 Dues Total: _____

All Membership(s) will expire ONE, THREE or SIX year(s) from date paid.

Other Club Affiliations: _____

Are you an ARRL Member: [] Yes [] No

Name Badges: White letters on Black background with Gold embossed OARC logo.

[] Regular 3" x 1.5" @ \$10.00 each

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