The Ham Arundel News







Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

August 2016

38th Year of Publication



The Prez Sez...

Like many of you, I was on vacation this past week and delayed Milford from his appointed rounds of getting this edition delivered to you.

In more important news, Les Silva, KH6CUJ, suffered a stroke last week and has been moved from the Calvert hospital to Washington Hospital Center. The stroke affected his left

side and speech, but the good news is he's been stepped down from the ICU to Intermediate Care. Visiting hours are 9-9, and he'd be glad to visit as his care allows. If you can stop by and wish him well, the room number is 2E (the unit he's in) IMC (Intermediate Care) 1B (his actual room). Les has done a lot for the club, serving as our Public Service Coordinator for several years and is always around to help out the club and its members. If you're able to visit, please do. Please keep him in your thoughts as he recovers. Updates will be on a sticky on the website so give it a glance before you visit to get the latest.

The Maryland QSO party is just around the corner, August 13-14. As always, we need folks to come to the clubhouse and operate the club stations. We'll have at least two up and running, one for phone, one for CW. Chuck Tanner, K3ACT, and I will be operating digital from our home stations as W3VPR as well. AARC is the sponsor of the contest and we really need to make sure we have the stations manned for the duration of the contest. It's only fair to those trying to get the multipliers for contacting the club that we make sure our stations are manned the entire time. Please see the QSO Party link on the webpage for more details of the contest and how to help out. Also, if you want to activate some of our less populous counties by taking your rig on the road, that would be especially appreciated. While it may be hard to get to Garrett or Allegheny counties, most of the counties east of the bay could use some extra representation. Get a buddy, grab your station, and hit the road. You could set up near the intersection of Worcester, Somerset, and Wicomico and easily activate all three during the contest without much extra travel! In addition, we have **Facebook** page for the event

https://www.facebook.com/events/531577787014597/ so please share it with all your friends! If you can't make it to the club, please try and get on the air and give those contesters someone to contact.

I brought up an idea that was shared with me during Field Day about dedicating some bulletin board space to QSL cards of AARC members. We have a bunch displayed from stations we've worked, but it would be kind of neat to see cards from our own members. If you have one, being it to a meeting and we'll start putting them up.

Along those lines, how about pictures of your shack and a couple of sentences for the newsletter? Similar to the Shack Showcase on the E-Ham site, just a picture or two of your shack and a couple of sentences on what equipment you have, favorite modes/bands/activities, or similar tidbits. It would be interesting to see as we have the span from Doug Elmore's NA1DX contest station to very modest single-rig stations on a small desk like mine. If you like the idea, run with it and send a picture and info to newsletter@w3vpr.org and Milford can take it from there. Not that I've run this by Milford, but he's always glad to get more stuff for the newletter!

I'll keep it short for this month so as not to delay the newsletter any more than I already have. Enjoy your summer, please help out with the QSO party, and if you can, visit Les and keep him in your thoughts as he recovers.

MARYLAND QSO PARTY 13-14 August 2016

The following are suggested frequencies for use during the contest.

- a. CW 3.557, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.045, 144.045
- b. SSB 1.895, 3.821, 7.230, 14.271, 21.371, 28.371, 50.131, 144.141, 432.141
- c. FM 52.525, 146.55, 146.58, 223.40, 446.000
- d. Digital According to the ARRL Band Plan.

Make as many contacts as you can.
HAVE FUN

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ab3ws@arrl.net

MD Slow Net:

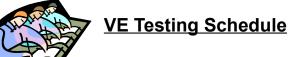
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kb3mxm@arrl.net



Noon - Second Saturday of each month
AARC - Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246

k3bay@comcast.net

Third Saturday of each month – 9AM – Laurel ARC – John Creel, 301-572-5124

Fourth Tuesday of each month – 6PM – MMARC – Mike Montrose / KA2JAI 443-310-4907 web site is <u>tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers</u>

To all exams bring:

- Picture ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- ORIGINAL and a COPY of current FCC amateur radio license
 ORIGINAL and a COPY of all element

credits (eg., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE)

Anne Arundel Radio Club Member's News

AARC Shack Clean Up Party

Wednesday, July 27 some of the members of the AARC got together at the club house to make it more presentable and appealing to visitors and operators alike. We first got the North-South OFC Dipole antenna fed into the repeater room and jumpered back into the shack. We will be getting a lightning arrester on it as soon as possible.



Everything on the radio desk was removed and the desk thoroughly cleaned (including the snake

droppings). We took all the equipment out to the tables in the meeting room.

We then put the Kenwood TS-570 & a power supply back and connected the OFC Dipole & Tri-band Beam. We were receiving signals on both antennas. The rotor for the beam was turning the beam but the rotor controller seems to be flaky in that it doesn't want to display the direction at all. Just points due South. Note for next work day.

I took antenna analyzer readings on both the N-S OCF Dipole and the Tri-Band Beam. I think the internal tuners on the rigs will tune both antennas OK without an external tuner for now.

We tried to get the LDG-100 tuner working but, no go. Keith (AE3D) took it home to check out as he has the same unit and rig at his QTH...

We tried hooking up the Brown-Bros. paddle/key combo but it would not work. I brought it home and did a total clean and re-wire of the combo and tested it out on my rig. It is now "AOK".

Keith moved the server computer into the shack and installed to the far right on the radio desk with the big UPS. Keith is bringing in a server router which will feed all the radio stations computers.

We still have a lot of work to do, including re-routing the beam coax and rotor cable through the repeater room and jumpered back into the shack. We will have two stations up for the MD QSO Party. One working the OCF Dipole for 80m-40m-20m and the other working the Tri-Band beam for 20m-15m-10m.

Another work session for will be held on Sat., July 31 at 8:00AM. We have a lot to do before the MD QSO Party in two weeks.

Deep thanks is given to Keith AE3D, Mark W2PAW, Jim W3JLM,

73 & Yours, Aye! Jim, N3ADF

JIM, N3ADF

AARC is a 501(c)(3) Organization and relies on your support. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.

Anyone want to join a group build of the Pixie kit? (under \$4)

I was thinking of hosting a group build of a simple radio called the *Michigan Mighty Mite* when I stumbled upon an inexpensive kit called the **"Pixie" transceiver.**

These retail, delivered, from China or Hong Kong for less than \$4:

https://duckduckgo.com/?q=QRP+HAM+Pixie+!ebay

Some of these do not come with a BNC antenna connector, and some random guy on YouTube advised me to make sure the kit I get has one. I'm planning to take his advice. Here is his build video:

40m QRP Pixie kit build for Ham Radio [9:41] Dan/M0TGN

He did it in under 10 minute, and I understand this is typically a 1 evening kit.

There are also fully assembled ones, but what is the fun with that? The idea is to get people soldering and building on something inexpensive and fun.

Later, we can almost certainly get a PC to key these. Maybe experiment with QRSs, or move the frequency of operation down to the MD slow net. They're rock-bound, which means you're pretty limited to perhaps +/- 3 kHz from the crystal installed, though I plan to put in a socket to be able to swap out crystals.

If you order the kit soon, you may get it in time for the Kitbulding Sunday in August

By the way, this is the deluxe, made in the USA version of the kit:

Lil Squall Transceiver][\$40

You could probably scratch-build one of these, but probably not for less than \$4. Related keywords for this circuit: *Pixie II, Tixie, KnightSMiTe, NVIS, Altoids, Snipers and Motley.*

link dump:

http://www.al7fs.us/AL7FS2.html

http://www.gsl.net/aa3sj/Pages/Tornado.html

http://web.archive.org/web/20111227182031/http://www.indianapolis.net/QR...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roAc4c1a-a0 Anyone else up for the challenge?

Mark, W2PAW

Les Silva, KH6CUJ is Hospitalized

Les Silva, KH6CUJ, has suffered a stroke and has been admitted to Calvert Memorial Hospital, room 205, window side. His control of his left arm and leg is comprised. His speech is labored and so he can't take phone calls, but he is in good spirits and can receive visitors.

Update: Les was moved to Washington Hospital Center around noon today. I don't know if he will be able to take visitors yet, as soon as I know I will send it to you.

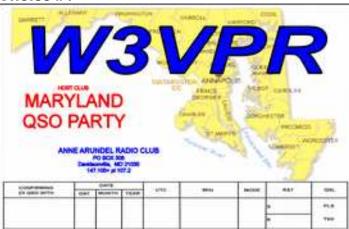
Hi is in Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving St NW, Washington, DC 20010 ,202-877-7000 -Erick, WA3G

Maryland QSO Party QSL cards

Which Maryland QSO party, QSL card design do you like best?

We may post an online survey or something, but how about emailing your preference to Jim/N3ADF right now instead? I guess you could leave a comment below, or maybe we'll bring this up as an item of discussion on the next Wednesday night net.

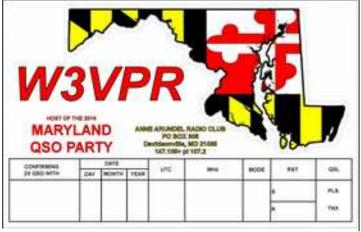
Choice #1



Choice #2



Choice #3



Choice #4



Send your choice of QSO Card for the Maryland QSO Party to Jim at n3adf@verizon.net.

6/4/2 meter Skip Is In, Repeaters Affected.

For those of you interested in VHF Century Club. Most of the VHF spectrum has been decently skipping off the atmosphere over the last few weeks. While this is great for those grid square chasers it is not good for our repeaters.

The last couple of weeks especially has seen a rise to the 2m skip season which is a little earlier than expected. What this means is that signals on our repeater frequencies from further than normal VHF range can be heard by our repeater. This may be seen as a large amount of static or hash on the repeater, even though the repeater is operating as expected. The repeater works by listening for a specific access or PL tone before beginning to transmit the received signal. Signals present on our input frequencies but lacking the access tone are ignored, but they are still present. When a user of our repeater system keys up, the repeater starts transmitting, and depending on the signal levels the noise floor (skipped signals) may drowned out the user.

This effect is not limited to our 2M repeaters or the Amateur service. All repeaters regardless of service type including non-Amateur assets operating in the VHF range will likely have degradation in service. We are not the only club experiencing this problem. I have been using the 70cm machine 444.400 which is less likely to be affected by VHF skip (because it is UHF) to access our linked repeater system. The 444.400 antenna is co-located with the 147.105 antenna on the Davidsonville tower. If you are experiencing issues accessing the 147.105 repeater try the 444.400 Machine it may operate better at that moment depending on conditions and your location.

Information on all of our repeaters and nets can be found on the Repeaters and Nets [1] page of the AARC Web Site (w3vpr.org).

For information regarding the band conditions and VHF skip possibilities please see HamQSL.com

Jonathan, AE3JG

Notes from AA3RR

Greetings from Prescott Valley (aka Paradise) where there isn't a cloud in the sky, the temperature is 96, there is a breeze at 8MPH and the humidity has soared to 12%

Hope you're all well and enjoying summer.

Recently Brenda and I traveled to Jackson, WY to shoot some images in and around Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

After three days in Jackson we headed up to Glacier National Park in Montana. This park is very quiet



and unless you kids like hiking, there isn't much to do except to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and being on the lookout for bears. Lots of bears. They opened the road from the southern entrance to the eastern entrance while we were there. Apparently this is a big social event in Montana. The road (Going to the Sun Road) is about 34 miles long and on opening day it took us about 6 hours to travel the

34 miles. It's like opening day of baseball season – everybody and their brother wants to drive the Going to the Sun Road on the day it opens.

Don't get me wrong – it's a beautiful drive (at 15 mph or less – more often it was less). Lots of waterfalls – most of which will disappear following the snow melt.

After spending 4 days up there we headed to Bryce Canyon NP in Utah on the way home. We spent two nights in the park – no air conditioning in any publically accessible buildings (Gift shops, general store, restaurant, or lodge) except the Visitors Center near the park entrance. It was around 98 degrees when we arrived. We did hike the Navajo Loop going down into the "amphitheater" and that was pretty cool.

Over the July 4th weekend we hiked the Watson Lake Loop (4.8 miles) in Prescott – about 15 miles from our house. It's a very unusual hike – you are in rugged mountainous terrain, then jungle terrain and then desert terrain and you're exposed to direct sunlight for about 95% of the loop.

Attached are some images from my cell phone – I haven't processed many photos from the road trip.

First 3 from Glacier, next two from Bryce, next 9 from Watson Lake, next three from Glacier, and last three from Grand Teton NP

Later this month my Daughter-in-Law and granddaughter are going to visit and we will go back up to Bryce Canyon, Arches NP.

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/utah/around-moab/ and Monument Valley.

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/arizona/monument-valley/ After that Bren and I will spend 8 days in the Grand Canyon (4 days on the North Rim and 4 days on the South Rim) hopefully capturing lightning strikes.

In September we head to Hawaii for two weeks (one week on the Big Island photographing volcanos at night and one week on Maui participating in a workshop).

In October we'll spend a week participating in a workshop in the Eastern Sierras,

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/california/mono-lake/ and add two days in Death Valley.

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/california/death-valley-np/

Finally, in November we'll spend a week split between the Petrified Forest NP

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/arizona/petrified-forest-np/and the Bisti Wilderness

http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/new-mexico/bisti-badlands/

After the holidays we'll see about Yosemite in February and making more plans for photo shoots

Reserve early for the Chateaux d'Rose B&Bchateaux d'Rose Photo Workshops ;-)
Bob, AA3RR

2016 Governor Dick Hill - Report 16 July 2016

We left on time at 07:30 but on the Baltimore beltway, Bob had a blowout tire and hobbled to the side of the interstate in a place with Jersey walls to put on the tiny donut spare. Unloaded all the ATGP gear and put it all into Gordon's SUV. Then drove both cars 5 miles to find a parking place to abandon Bob's car. Then proceeded to GD Hill about 90 minutes away. In total, we lost about an hour.

Arrived at GD hill around 1100? and found Rory N3JU already there. We immediately climbed the tower and put Bob's station on 1200 baud and Rorie's at 9600 baud. Gordon and Jon carried all the backup gear up the hill from the parking lot about a mile away. Rory used a rope to raise his gear realizing that the backpack does not need to fit through the 4" bars, only the gear he pulls from it

We came on line about 1130? and began to see adjacent nodes of MDMTN-7 and CAMLBK-9 plus linked nodes from the South. It took a while to begin hearing Sam's point, but then SLIDE Mountain filled in.

Lots of other climbers on the tower. Many showed interest in our ops. Weather remained perfect the entire time.

Rory established all the same links on 9600 as we hat on 1200 and he also made Yaesu WIRES voice contacts too 9600 baud worked as well as 1200. North Carolina to NY in 5 hops.

There were some broken links that limited the longest link to be from North Carolina to Massachusetts, with small links at the end, but the focus this year was on the switch to 9600 baud. After the switch the 9600 baud data was connected from North Carolina to PA and NY to Vermont with solid links. More detail will follow as reports are filed. Another new data point came from Slide Hill where an alternate path from PA to Connecticut was found to work as well as Sam's Point.

Bob Bruninga WB4APR with Gordon WJ3K and Jon AE3JG plus Rory N3JU Bob, WB4APR

The *Ham Arundel News* is the monthly official publication of

The Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc. (ARRL Club No. 0484).

Send newsletter articles, questions and information to Milford at newsletter@w3vpr.org
Deadline for submissions – The Saturday after the 3rd Thursday of the month

Mailing Address:

Anne Arundel Radio Club Post Office Box 308 Davidsonville, MD 21035

Meetings:

General Business 1st Thursday at 7:30 PM Board Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM Program/Activity 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM

Dues:

\$30 per year, payable December 1st Discounts available for family members and students

World Wide Web: www.w3vpr.org

AARC Supports The Maryland Slow Net: 3.563 MHz CW 7:30 P. M. Daily

<u>Free Money for AARC!</u> ARRL Membership Reminder

ARRL affiliated clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters:

Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more).
Clubs retain \$2 for each renewal,
A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at any time, even before

their current membership expires.

Send your application and payment (made out to AARC) to the club treasurer.

Mark Your Calendars

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Club Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7:30 to 9PM at the clubhouse located at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center in Davidsonville, MD

Free License Exams every 2nd Saturday of the Month - Check in at Noon, Exams at 1PM - At the clubhouse - Contact Steve/K3BAY k3bay@w3vpr.org

Weekly AARC 2-Meter Net on 147.105 (Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400) every Wednesday at 8 PM - All Welcome

2 meter Morning Commuter Net on 147.105 (Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400) every morning 6:30 to 9
This is the famous Holly-net. Pre-Holly-net starts at 5
AM or so.

EVENT SCHEDULE

O3aug16 (Wed) - (on-air) 2-Meter net every Wednesday night at 8 PM. See details below. O4aug16 (Thu) - Club meeting at 7:30 PM, newcomers always welcome.

06aug16 (Thu) - (support) Ben Moore Memorial Marathon

11aug16 (Thu) - Board meeting at 7:30 PM (We have an open meeting policy)

13aug16 (Sat) - (free) Exams for your FCC amateur radio license, every second Saturday of the month.

13aug16 (Sat) - Come help operate at the clubhouse for the Maryland QSO party. Noon to Midnight

14aug16 (Sun) - 2nd day; come help operate at the clubhouse for the Maryland QSO party. Noon to 8 PM.

28aug16 (Sun) - Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair 1 to 4 PM Every 4th Sunday at the clubhouse

Around the ARRL

Good-Bye, Hara Arena! Hamvention to Relocate in 2017!

[Updated 2016-07-29 @1807 UTC] Hamvention® has announced that Hara Arena, the home of Hamvention since 1964, is closing, but Hamvention will continue. Hamvention 2016, the event's 65th running, was also the last held in the six-building Hara complex. Hamvention 2017 will be held at a new, yet-to-be-disclosed location in the Dayton area.

"The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) regrets to inform our many vendors, visitors and stakeholders that, unfortunately, Hara has announced the closing of their facility," a news release from Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said today (July 29). "We have begun execution of our contingency plan to move Hamvention® 2017 to a new home. DARA and Hamvention have enjoyed many successful years working together with Hara Arena and we wish the Wampler family the best."

The news has struck the Amateur Radio community like a lightning bolt — albeit tempered only by DARA's assurances that Hamvention will not be going away as well.

"We are painfully aware of the loss this announcement will generate, which is why we have fought so long and hard to prevent it," Hara Arena Marketing Director Karen Wampler said in a news release.

According to Cramer, DARA and Hamvention have been working on a contingency plan in the event that the deteriorating Hara Arena ever should become unavailable. "We have spent many hours over the last few years evaluating possible locations and have found one in the area we believe will be a great new home!" The announcement said that DARA and Hamvention expect to make a formal announcement soon "introducing our new partner."

"We all believe this new venue will be a spectacular place to hold our beloved event," Cramer said. "Please rest assured we will have the event on the same weekend and, since it will be in the region, the current accommodations and outside events already planned for Hamvention 2017 should not be affected."

"We look forward to your continued support as we move to a new future with The Dayton Hamvention."

A hockey team's cancellation of its upcoming season earlier this month had raised questions about the future availability of Hara Arena for Hamvention®. Hara Arena has been facing long-standing financial problems — including unpaid property taxes. Renovations promised for the 2016 Hamvention never materialized.

Hamvention attracted more than 25,000 visitors this spring and is worth millions of dollars to the Dayton area economy.

The Wampler family has owned and operated Hara Arena since its humble origins in the 1950s, when Wampler Ballarena — then a dance hall and now an exhibit hall familiar to Hamvention visitors — was built in what had been a family-owned orchard.

Reprint used with permission from the ARRL web site Jul 29 2016

FEMA Mobile App

FEMA Mobile App for Apple, Android, Blackberry Platforms

The FEMA app is available with the following features:

- ✔ Alerts from the National Weather Service: Receive severe weather alerts for up to five locations across the U.S. and see information about how to stay safe.
- <u>Disaster Reporter</u>: Upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- ✓ Maps of disaster resources: Locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers.
- ✓ Apply for assistance: Easily access DisasterAssistance.gov to apply for federal disaster assistance.
- Custom emergency safety information: Save a custom list of the items in your family's emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Safety tips: Receive safety and preparedness reminders and learn how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes.

Reprinted with permission from The ARES E-Letter for July 20, 2016

Updated Android Digital *QST* App Now Available

A completely rebuilt <u>digital QST app</u> for the Android platform is now available from publisher Nxtbook Media,

which responded to readers' frustrations about getting the app to work properly. The fix took longer than expected, but it is finally



here! Members who have enabled automatic updates on their devices will not have to do anything; the application will update automatically.

Readers who have automatic updates turned off can obtain the new version by visiting the <u>Google Play Store</u>. Functionality in the new app remains the same, although the layout is slightly different -- displaying the most recent magazine at the top and two or three issues per row, instead of in a single column. Download times should be faster as well.

For optimal performance, it is recommended that Android users have the most up-to-date Android operating system, which is *Marshmallow* 6.0.

Digital QST is available on or about the 10th of each month.

Reprint with permission from The ARRL Letter for July 28, 2016

Amateur Radio Alive and Well in Turkey

Contrary to erroneous reports making the rounds on various Internet sites, no Amateur Radio licenses were suspended or revoked in Turkey in the wake of the failed July 15 coup.



"There is no ham revoked in radio license Turkey. and ham radio operating operators are normally," said Aziz Sasa, TA1E, the president Turkey's International Amateur Radio Union member society

TRAC. "The reports on ham radio licenses being revoked by the Supreme Council of Radio and Television (RTUK) are unconfirmed and speculative. RTUK is not a regulatory body of ham radio," Sasa added. His entire statement has been posted to the TRAC website.

The erroneous reports cite a release from RTUK, which oversees broadcasting. Amateur Radio and other wireless industries are regulated by BTK, a separate agency. Three stations in Turkey were reported heard on 10 meters last week during an opening to Central Europe -- TA1BM, TA1PB, and YM7TEN/B.

IARU member society TRAC has not been closed, nor has its website been blocked or shut down.

Reprint with permission from The ARRL Letter for July 28, 2016

WAS Via Satellite

Decades of Satellite Contacts Net Satellite WAS for Ohio Radio Amateur: It took Bob Liddy, K8BL, of Mentor, Ohio, nearly 4 decades to achieve Worked All



States via satellite and earn WAS Satellite Award #341, although he wasn't really gunning for the award for all that time. The contacts spanned 38 years, and he submitted QSL cards to claim the award. His oldest satellite QSL card was from

W7LSV in Oregon, for an Oscar 8 Mode A CW contact in 1978. Liddy did not realize until he started going through his QSL cards to submit for awards at Dayton Hamvention[®] that he might have completed WAS on satellite. An AMSAT member since 1979, Liddy said he was "not in the hunt very seriously," but he determined that had, indeed, worked all 50 states and was only lacking a card from Vermont. "Happily, it was Nick, KB1RVT, who I *knew* was always good for a confirmation, which he quickly returned, confirming our contact via SO-50 FM on January 4, 2016," he said. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

Reprint with permission The ARRL Letter for July 14, 2016

Fox-1C and Fox-1D Launch Window Shifted

AMSAT reports that the launch period for Fox-1C (Cliff) and Fox-1D has been moved. The new launch window will be between September 1 and November 30. Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D will be integrated onto the Spaceflight SHERPA platform for its maiden flight aboard a

SpaceX Falcon 9 launching into a sun-synchronous orbit from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D carry university experiments from Pennsylvania State-Erie, Vanderbilt, University of Iowa, cameras provided by Virginia Tech, as well as Amateur Radio voice repeaters capable of U/V or L/V



operation. The Nayif-1 CubeSat, developed by Emirati students from the American University of Sharjah, is expected to be put into orbit on the same launch. Nayif-1 carries an inverting 435/145 MHz transponder (FUNcube-5) for SSB/CW. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service, Southgate Amateur Radio News

Reprint with permission The ARRL Letter for July 14, 2016

Amateur 47 GHz Allocation Avoids 5G Juggernaut in the US for Now

Worldwide Defense Continues

There's good news regarding the future of Amateur Radio's primary allocation at 47 GHz in the US. Still a test bed for point-to-point propagation experimentation by dedicated enthusiasts, the 47-47.2 GHz band is among those under consideration at the next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19) to accommodate so-called 5G wireless broadband devices. Early this year, some FCC commissioners indicated they would include bands on the WRC-19 agenda in the



Millimeter band experimenter Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, recently was one of the participants in setting the US-Canada distance record for 47 GHz.

Commission's "Spectrum Frontiers" 5G initiative. As the Commission put it this week as it made nearly 11 gigahertz of spectrum above 24.25 GHz available licensed. unlicensed, and shared use: "Highband millimeter wave spectrum is key to unlocking the potential for 5G." The FCC's Spectrum Frontiers included several of the bands set consideration at WRC-19, but not the 47 GHz band - although it did target 47.2-50.2 GHz.

"Maintaining the status quo in the 47-47.2 GHz band is a win

for continued Amateur Radio use of the band in the United States, and amateurs continue to do great things there," ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, allowed. He pointed to the new US-Canada distance record of 215 kilometers set recently by radio amateurs from both countries. But, he suggested, Amateur Radio could be doing more there.

Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D will be integrated onto the Spaceflight SHERPA platform for its maiden flight aboard a increasing scrutiny, because the demand for greater

throughput has driven demand for bandwidth - hence, the greater focus on spectrum above 24.25 GHz for next-generation 5G wireless broadband applications. As Price explains, it's easier to find 200 megahertz of spectrum in the millimeter range than at UHF.

Price noted that radio amateurs have set up broadband networks on several lower microwave bands - nearly all of them allocated to hams on a secondary basis. "The 47 GHz band is allocated to the Amateur Service and the Amateur-Satellite Service on a worldwide primary and exclusive basis," Price pointed out. "We don't have to work others in this space."

He suggested that Amateur Radio broadband experimenters consider and develop upon the work of Ted Rappaport, N9NB - the founding director of NYU Wireless at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering - whose investigations have demonstrated that the millimeter waves may serve next-generation broadband systems. "For a long time, millimeter waves were thought to be most suitable for the point-to-point work that radio amateurs perfected and continue to advance," Price said. "Ted's work indicates that point-to-multipoint systems are feasible at this range, and the world has taken notice."

Price stressed the need going forward for the worldwide Amateur Radio community to maintain a staunch defense of all spectrum allocated to the Service, as the 47 GHz band remains under consideration by other countries. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is organizing the protective effort on this and other issues as it continues to get ready for WRC-19.

National Night Out, NNO

Tuesday, August 2nd, from 5:00-9:00 PM.

Join with the Bowie Police Dept., Community organizations and area businesses to learn more about crime prevention and & public safety awareness.

This is like a mini-Field Day for about 4 hours. We will be setting up at Allen Pond for National Night Out, Aug. 2 at about 4:00pm. We will have two 8' tables, a tent and 120vac power.

I will have 2m/70cm FM, VHF Winlink, and HF with a 40m NVIS dipole and my truck with it's all band mobile verticals. I think Richard-WA3YTK will also bring HF Winmore and PSK31. We will be checking into the weekly Tuesday ARES Training Net at 7:30PM on the K3ERA repeater, 145.230- pl 110.9.

Please come work the rigs and help us talk to the public about EmComm, ARES, and ham radio in general.

Please invite your other ham radio friends to come out and join the fun.

73, Jim "Bowie" - N3ADF

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

TUESDAY,
AUGUST 2, 2016
6PM - 8PM
Allen Pond 3330 Northview Drive
Bowie, MD

For more information, contact the Bowie Police Dept. at 240-544-5700 or cops@cityofbowie.org

Join the Bowie Police
Department, Community
organizations and area
businesses to learn more
about crime prevention & public
safety awareness.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- Law Enforcement Displays
- Home Security Information
- Identity Theft
- Free Child Identification Kits
- Dunk the Chief
- And More!

FCC Seeks Comments on Waiver Request from Expert Linears

The FCC is inviting comments on a June 11 request from Expert Linears America LLC to waive Part 97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to permit it to import, market, and use its model 1.3K FA amplifier in the US. The Texas company is seeking the waiver pending resolution of its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), which



called on the Commission to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on Amateur Radio amplifiers altogether. Expert said the version of the model 1.3K FA amplifier it now imports has been modified to comply with current rules.

"Expert seeks a waiver in order to be able to import the unmodified version of the Model 1.3K FA, which is capable of considerably more than 15 dB amplification," the FCC explained in a July 29 Public Notice. "Expert argues that the public interest would be served by permitting use of a higher-powered amplifier, because it would improve the communications capabilities of amateurs using portable, low-power transmitters by enabling them to approach the maximum legal power output." Expert assured the FCC that its model 1.3K FA has proprietary software to prevent it from transmitting in the 26-28 MHz band, so it cannot be used in the Citizens Radio Service.

The Public Notice can be found on the web in PDF format at.

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0729/DA-16-864A1.pdf

On May 26, ARRL told the FCC that it "strongly supports" Expert's petition seeking to eliminate the Amateur Service rule, spelled out in Part 97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB.

Comments on Expert's waiver request are due by August 29, reply comments by September 13.
Reprint with permission from ARRL Bulletin 28 ARLB028 July 29 2016

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FCC Proposes Rule Changes in Response to ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition, Seeks Comment

The FCC has proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL's so-called "Symbol Rate" Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708), filed in late 2013, and it has invited comments on its recommended changes. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239, released on July 28, had been making the rounds at the FCC since May. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in Part 97.307(f) and replace it with a maximum

bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

The NPRM can be found on the web in PDF format at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0728/FCC-16-96A1.pdf

."[W]e believe that the public interest may be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, to allow Amateur Service licensees to use modern digital emissions, thereby furthering the purposes of the Amateur Service and enhancing the usefulness of the service," the FCC said in its NPRM.

"We do not, however, propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations," the NPRM concluded, "because the rules' current approach for limiting bandwidth use by amateur stations using one of the specified digital codes to encode the signal being transmitted appears sufficient to ensure that general access to the band by licensees in the Amateur Service does not become unduly impaired."

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

Comments in the proceeding will be due 60 days after the date that the NPRM appears in the Federal Register.

Reprint with permission from ARRL Bulletin 27 July 29 2016

Ben Moore Memorial Marathon

Every year in August, Bluepoint Timing is proud to sponsor the Ben Moore Memorial 10k and half-marathon races.

Ben trained hundreds of runners to successfully complete their first marathon. Those of us who benefited from Ben's inspiration and guidance want you to join us in a memorial run in his honor, on some of the same routes Ben led us on for 20 years. We want to see Moore's Marines "Graduates" wear their shirts to be eligible for special awards.

This year's Ben Moore Memorial Marathon, Half Marathon and 10k is on Saturday the 6th of August. The course is the same as last year with the Start/Finish at the Park & Ride, 160 Truman Pkwy, Annapolis.

Additional race information is available a <u>Bluepointtiming.com</u>

If you are available to help, please contact me via return email.

-Erick, WA3G

W1AW 2016 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM I	ET) CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM I	ET) CWf	Tue,
Thu	,	

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET) 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET) Mon,Wed, Fri	CWf	
2000 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon,Wed, Fri
2300 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon,Wed, Fri
0200 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555

DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as

follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and

CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 103 in the April 2016 issue of QST or on the web at, http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule.

(Used with Permission ARRL Bulletin 11, March 14, 2016)

5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie - M0PZT @M0PZT

updated: RST and Bloa Speed Matters http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/ #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that.What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated - Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable. occasional distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

Upcoming Hamfests for the MDC Section

66th Annual Berryville Hamfest Date: Sunday, August 7, 2016

Location: Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds

890 West Main Street Berryville, VA 22611

Website: <www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest>

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Public Contact: Thomas Brownlee, AF2D

744 Gafia Lodge Road Middletown, VA 22645 Phone: 540-869-7065 E-mail:<af2d@arrl.net>

CARROLL COUNTY TAILGATE FEST

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Location: Sportmans Hall Skating Rink

15500 Hanover Pike Upperco, MD 21155

Website: < www.qis.net/~k3pzn/hamfest.html> Sponsor: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club Public Contact: Steve Beckman, N3SB

> 2145 Bethel Rd Finksburg, MD 21048 Phone: 410-876-1482 E-mail: <n3sb@gis.net>

Notes: Overnight parking is by special arrangement. Send an e-mail to <n3sb@qis.net> if you need to park on grounds Saturday night. The skating rink is open until 12 midnight on Saturday night. Therefore, Saturday setup in the parking lot is not available. This is an outdoor event! There will be no indoor tables!

Santa Fest

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2016 Location: American Legion Youth Camp

> 9201 Surratts Road Cheltenham, MD 20623

Sponsor: American Legion & Prince George's County

Emergency Repeater Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest Talk-In: 145.230 (PL 110.9)

Public Contact: Charles Hallock, AA3WS

16203 Manning Road West Accokeek, MD 20607 Phone: 301-535-1666

E-mail: <<u>selbynet@hotmail.com</u>>

REPEATER FREQUENCIES

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560-		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.

Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the

Davidsonville Family Recreation Center,

Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off

MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD.

For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

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Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+Mhz PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AA County ARES Net	146.805- Mhz PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670- Mhz	Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz	Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805 PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz	Daily	1930
REACT Net	442.300+Mhz PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930