

Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society
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FEBRUARY 1999

FEBRUARY MEETING

Friday, February 19, at 8:00 p.m., Derbyshire Baptist Church, 8800 Derbyshire Road. We will be recapping Frostfest. See everyone there!

VE EXAMS

Saturday, February 20, 1999 9:00 a.m.

at J. S. Reynolds Community College, 1651 East Parham Road, Building B, Room 201. Pre-register with PAT WILSON, K4OW at 932-9424 or email at pw@i2020.net

Monday, March 1, 1999 7:30 p.m.

at the Curtis Elementary School, 3600W. Hundred Road (Route 10), Chester, VA. Pre-register with TONY AMATO, KR4UQ, at 717-5237

INFORMATION NET

The Information Net now meets on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m., just prior to the Trader's Net. Bill, K4WMA, has been acting Net Control and doing a great job. He would, however, appreciate some help and would welcome any volunteers to take the Net Control duty on a rotating basis.

Why not give a bit back to the service we all enjoy and volunteer for a time or two?

Thanks, Bill, for your time on both nets.

SILENT KEYS

With much sadness, we report the loss of four of our own.

CHARLIE ARNOLD, KE4OFO

died on December 24, 1998. He was only 49. Charlie was born on April 10, 1950 at John Randolph Hospital in Hopewell. He graduated from Prince George High School and for 28 1/2 years worked in the Chemical and Maintenance Departments of Hercules, Inc. in Hopewell. He also did welding on the side. Charlie and his wife

Darlene lived in Disputanta for 20 years. He was a member of RATS and belonged to the Wildwood Hunt Club. He loved to hunt and talk on the radio. Charlie will be missed at the RATS Club meetings and on the air. 73.

Everett Worrell, W4WJJ

DAVID CHAMPION, N4NZM

died Friday, February 5, 1999. David was born February 16, 1941. He lived on Warwick Road in Richmond and had worked for AMF for about 28 years. He served in the USAF as a radio operator, and was a great CW operator. Dave had been a member of RATS for many years and attended most meetings. His funeral was Monday, February 8 at Salem Methodist Church, Chase City, and buried in the Memorial Park. He will be missed very much by all . 73.

Everett Worrell, W4WJJ

GRADY KNOTT, WA4GSZ

died Saturday January 16 after an extended illness. Grady was a long time amateur who was actively involved in his community and church.

In January 1998, Grady retired after nearly 33 years of service with the County of Henrico. He first served as a electronics teacher, principal, administer, and most recently as a communications engineer. He was instrumental in designing and implementing commucications throughout the county.

Grady was devoted to the Rotary and the local YMCA. This silent key will be missed by colleagues, hams, family and friends.

Arlo Amstutz, WA4RLO

JOE SHANKLE, WB4AGZ

of Richmond, died Jan. 18. Joe ran the cafeteria in the Federal Building, doing an outstanding job. Joe was highly regarded by those who knew him, and did not let his loss of sight become a disability.

Also, on Feb. 7, King Hussein, JY1, of Jordan lost his battle with cancer at the age of 63. King Hussein had recently been undergoing chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic and was heard on the air while here.

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

Although the first crew deployment of the International Space Station program has been postponed until next January, Phase 1 ham gear was due to arrive at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida by this January 20. The first crew will consist of US astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. Shepherd is studying for his ham ticket. . All three have previous space flight experience and have been training for their launch on a Soyuz vehicle.

Interim ham gear consists of Ericsson 2-meter and 70-cm hand-held transceivers set up for FM voice and packet operation, plus power supplies, cables, and accessories. Ericsson donated the commercial transceivers for the project, while the Italian ARISS team is providing the external antennas.

Amateur Radio's permanent placement aboard the ISS is the result of efforts by several countries, chiefly US, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. . "The ARISS team is truly an international, democratic, organization and is cooperating to provide human space flight Amateur Radio operations to the entire ham community well into the next decade," said Will Marchant, KC6ROL, AMSAT's human space flight hardware manager.

Manifested as "necessary crew equipment", the cost of the interim Phase I gear is expected to top \$60,000, while the total cost to put amateur radio equipment on the ISS is expected to be close to \$700,000. Funding will come from the ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Actual frequencies and call signs the crew will use have not yet been determined. Ultimately the Phase 3 of the ISS ham radio package will include equipment to operate from HF through microwave bands with SSB, CW, FM, packet, ATV, compressed ATV, and SSTV capabilities. Germany will provide a digitalker and full duplex repeater. The ISS Amateur Radio will be an educational tool, with worldwide school contacts and outreach to the general public.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 8, 1999

RULES & REGS **News from the ARRL and FCC**

ARRL: NEW NAME FOR NEW MILLENNIUM?

The name-change proposal is not a new one, and a logical time for change is the year 2000. The "Relay" part of the present name is somewhat difficult to explain nowadays. It refers to the earlier practice of relaying long-distance message traffic from station to station when direct contact was not always possible.

The ARRL Board or Directors has asked the League's Executive Committee to propose a name which "more clearly reflects the focus and purpose of the organization to hams and noncoms alike" for consideration at the Board's July meeting. The current name "no longer adequately reflects 'the breadth of amateur radio'".

The name "American Amateur Radio League" was proposed and declined earlier this decade; ironically it is the same name first suggested by Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL founder, in 1914. It was mentioned in the November 1992 issue of QST and members were asked to express their opinions. Directors abandoned the idea at the January 1993 Board meeting.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 22, 1999

EMAIL FOR ARRL MEMBERS

ARRL members can now sign up for a new membership service -- a free email address. The address will be in the form of the member's call sign @arrl.net. Members do not have to switch email services. Electronic mail sent to the address automatically will be forwarded to any e-mail account you choose.

The original e-mail address will continue to be the one reflected in outgoing messages. You will never have to notify people of an address change, even if you change Internet service providers, as long as you remain an ARRL member.

Sign up through the ARRL Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members> .

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 15, 1999

ARRL GETS 5-MHz LICENSE

An Experimental Radio Service license has been issued to the ARRL to permitting two-way tests in the vicinity of 5 MHz. This area is the most likely site of the next amateur HF band. The license was issued January 8 with the call sign WA2XSY. 15 amateurs in various parts of the US and Caribbean will conduct experimental, two-way RTTY and SSB transmissions within the band 5.100 to 5.450 MHz. Operations will be confined to the least-populated 50-kHz segment to avoid interference with existing services. The license is good for two years.

"The idea is to show that an amateur allocation there will improve our emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between the

3.5 and 7.0 MHz bands," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Several participants are phone net members in the Caribbean and Gulf area; they frequently handle hurricane-related traffic, alternating between 75 and 40 meters. Other participants are members of a nationwide digital data-forwarding network. Participants may run up to 200 W ERP. Operation will consist of short transmissions to determine propagation characteristics.

Participating stations are located in New Hampshire, Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Indiana, California, Utah, New York, Texas, the US Virgin Islands, and Maryland.

"Two studies by the National Telecommunications and Information Admin. (NTIA) include an allocation at 5 MHz among the future spectrum needs for the Amateur Service. The subject is not likely to show up on the agenda of a World Radio communication Conference for several years, however."

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 29, 1999

RESTRUCTURING REPLY COMMENTS FILED

"The FCC received around 2000 comments--mostly from individual amateurs--in response to its Notice of Proposed Rule Making last August. "The number of comments filed by radio amateur licensees and amateur groups is impressive and heartening," the League said. "The comments reveal that the Amateur Service is active, vital" and show that hams are willing to participate in their own regulatory affairs. "To a greater extent than in other services, the Commission should heed the suggestions and advice of its licensees," the ARRL advised.

Most of the comments focused on the number of license classes, Morse code requirements, and HF subband allocations. But, the League said, there was no real consensus in terms of an overall approach the FCC should take."

Three, four or five license classes were suggested by a number of persons, while Wayne Green, W2NSD, publisher of 73 magazine, suggested a single class. Suggestions for Morse code testing ran from eliminating it to keeping it the same as it is now. Many comments agreed that there is an overemphasis on code, but at the same time agreed that code is still relevant and should continue to be required. Comments supported letting Technicians operate Morse code in the General CW bands without prior testing. Some questioned if the proposal was consistent with international regulations.

The ARRL urged prompt action on restructuring since the pending changes have a dampening effect on newcomers to proceed with licensing and on existing licensees to upgrade. They predict that the simplified structure will boost the growth of the hobby.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, January 22, 1999

FIELD AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FORMED

The Field Services and Educational Activities departments merged into the Field and Educational Services (F&ES) effective January 4. The new department combines staff members with similar missions and functions--mainly support of ARRL volunteers who, in turn, support ARRL objectives and promote ham radio. The merger allows staffers to share expertise, ideas and resources and reduce expenses.

Rosalie White, WA1STO, former Educational Activities Department Manager, has assumed the title of Educational Services Manager. She will oversee day-to-day operation of the combined department and will continue as the primary staff contact for Amateur Radio in space issues.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 8, 1999

FCC VISITS CAROLINAS

An Extra Class licensee in Hickory, North Carolina, and , a General Class licensee in Easley, South Carolina," were paid unannounced visits by the FCC engineering and legal staff, accompanied by local law enforcement personnel. Both hams cooperated with the approximately two hour inspections of their personal stations. Both operators "were the subjects of many complaints about their operations on the 75 and 20 meter Amateur bands."

An Indian River County, Florida ham received a stern warning from the FCC for "using the amateur airwaves to transmit information on, among other things, the credit reports, criminal records, and mortgage foreclosures of other hams and their families. 'You have apparently made these disclosures and broadcasts for the purpose of deliberately and maliciously interfering with licensed Amateurs operating on those bands, and for harassment or perceived retaliation,' said the letter, signed by Hollingsworth."

"We view this matter as extremely serious," he told the ARRL. Hollingsworth called the alleged operation "contrary to the purpose of Amateur Radio" and said that it "endangers the entire Amateur Radio frequency allocation internationally."

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 29, 1999

ARRL SEEKS MINOR CHANGES IN ULS

The ARRL has asked the FCC for minor changes in its impending Universal Licensing System rules, being phased in throughout this year. One provision is that the Form 610 will be replaced by an electronic version, Form 605. The League is asking the FCC to continue issuing paper license documents; to find a way for applicants who do not have a Taxpayer Identification Number (usually a Social Security Number) to meet the requirements of providing one; and to include on Form 605 a section for VEs to certify that an applicant has met the requirements for the new or upgraded license. They also plan to ask to restore wording in Section 97.15(e) referring to limited federal preemption, PRB-1, which was inadvertently deleted.

The ARRL has already voiced concerns regarding FCC suggestions that paper license documents be replaced with virtual document "license

grant" within the FCC's amateur database. "The League said that in some states that regulate possession of scanning receivers but exempt amateurs, inability to produce a license document could result in 'arrest and criminal prosecution as well as seizure of equipment by local law enforcement.' The League said hams operating overseas also often must produce a paper document. The ARRL noted that the CEPT agreement requires US hams traveling in CEPT countries to possess a US government-issued license document and that ITU regulations 'appear to require' a government-issued license document."

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 29, 1999

VHF/UHF SPRINTS DROPPED

The ARRL has dropped the VHF/UHF Spring Sprints, usually held during April and May, from their contest schedule. Lack of participation was the reason given by Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Contest Branch Manager. "Participation in the VHF/UHF Spring Sprints has never reached the level of a healthy national event," he said. "In 1998 only 200 individuals submitted logs spread across the seven frequency bands covered by the Sprints."

Another factor is the budget. "With the soaring costs and limited space available in QST and NCJ the 1998 Sprint results were moved and made ARRLWeb Henderson said. "We hate to drop the contest and would be willing to work with another group who would like to pick up sponsorship and running the sprints." The League could not justify continuing to devote staff time to a small event when it already sponsors several other more significant VHF/UHF events.

TNX ARRL Newsletter Online, Jan. 8, 1999

DITS 'N DAHS

A column about miscellaneous topics

NEW CANADIAN PREFIX

On April 1, 1999, the territory of Nunavut comes into existence along with the prefix VY0 "to ensure a unique identification for the new territory." The new territory will not be added to the list of ARRL November Sweepstakes multipliers.

Nunavut, in the Inuktitut language, means "our land" and will be comprised of the eastern portion of the present Northwest Territories. It will be about five times the size of Alberta, with a population of only 24,000, about 85% of whom are Inuit.

The western Northwest Territories will continue using the VE8 prefix, but they may get a new name because of the partitioning.

For more information on Nunavut, see <http://www.ccu-cuc.ca/en/library/nunavut.html>.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 22, 1999

ROAD-RAGE SUSPECT ARRESTED THANKS TO HAM

The Orange County Register (California) reported that an angry driver followed another driver for miles "before confronting him on a busy city street, shoving him under an accelerating big rig, and kicking him even after he had been run over." The angry driver and his two co-workers reportedly drove off. Later that morning Ed Greany, KB6DOL, of Corona, heard a broadcast description of the vehicle and then saw the men pass by. He notified police via ham radio, and they arrested Richard Snyder, 28 and two others on suspicion of attempted murder. The injured motorist was in serious condition. Snyder, according to the newspaper, had a string of previous convictions, and his license had been suspended.

The Greany household includes three hams according to the FCC database: Roberta , KC6AEP, and Michael , KE6RDT. All are ARRL members.

Thanks to Charlie Clifford Jr, W6QMY

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 8, 1999

ZL9CI DXPEDITION RECORD

The Kermadec DX Association's ZL9CI Campbell Island DXpedition is on the way to topping the QSO record set a couple of years ago by the Heard Island VK0IR DXpedition. In its first seven days, the crew at ZL9CI racked up some 45,000 contacts, with activity on all HF bands--CW, SSB, and RTTY. During two weeks in January 1997, the VK0IR DXpedition set a new world's record by logging more than 80,000 contacts. .

"Even though the solar flux is around 120, the team is astonished by the massive pileups," a January 9 team news release declared. "The CW members of the team are working over 200 per hour on a regular basis." The ZL9CI DXpedition to Campbell ended January 24.

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BEEZLEY OUT OF BUSINESS

Citing piracy of his RITTY radio teletype program, ham radio software developer Brian Beezley, K6STI, has quit the software business.

According to Beezley, an overseas ham broke the copy protection on a demo version of his program and posted the pirated version on the

Internet. "I've just had enough of it. I'm really quite disgusted and bitter," Beezley remarked. "I hate being stolen from." He said his software business was his main source of income, and he's not sure what he'll do next. He will sell the

program to anyone who wants it, but he does not plan to offer support or further program enhancements. He also has developed five antenna programs, including the Yagi-optimizing program YO. He no longer has email service but can be contacted at 3532 Linda Vista Dr., San Marcos, CA 92069.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, Jan. 29, 1999

Joe Walsh, rock star/Collins collector

A West Virginia ham recently cut a deal to sell his refurbished vintage Collins KWS-1 transmitter and 75A4 receiver to singer-songwriter Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Mark Danehart, W8MSD, of Mt Olivet, West Virginia, decided to sell the pair recently, and he was surprised when Walsh was the lone caller responding to his ad. Danehart made arrangements to ship the heavy metal units to Walsh, who was wrapping up a concert tour. An ARRL Life Member, Walsh, 51, has enjoyed a career with the Eagles and as a solo artist. He's belonged to the League for 27 years now. In addition to a check for the Collins gear, he sent Danehart an autographed picture as well as two autographed CDs. Walsh's road manager also promised Danehart front row seats to Walsh's next concert in the Ohio Valley. Danehart's story of the Collins sale appeared December 9, 1998 in The Wheeling Intelligencer.

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