

# The HIARC Bulletin

April 2018 Edition

## The Official Bulletin of the Harris-Intersil Amateur Radio Club

**Club Meetings:** Second Thursday of Every Month at Meemaw's Barbecue on Babcock Street between Palm Bay Road and Port Malabar Road. Supper is at 6:00 PM, and a short business meeting is at 7:00 PM. Our programs start around 8:00 PM.

**Club Station:** The club station is K4HRS in Building 15, Room 321. E-mail Butch to sign up.

**Nets:** The South Brevard Emergency Net meets every Thursday at 7:00 PM local on the 146.85 Mc repeater.

**HIARC Website:** <http://qsl.net/hiarc>

**Repeaters:** 145.47 Mc, tone 107.2 cycles, elevation 170 feet, Melbourne

**HIARC Web Site:** [www.qsl.net/hiarc](http://www.qsl.net/hiarc). Website administrator; Jim, KC7SSW

**Officers:** President: Francis ("Butch"), WA4AQV

Treasurer: Bill WA4EMU

Secretary: Jim, KC7SSW

Repeater Chairmen: Bud W4HXP

Program Chairman: Eric N4SCS

Field Day Chairman: TBD

Sunshine Officer: Open

Club Jester: Ken N8KH

### **Membership:**

Dues are \$12.00 per year to:

Bill WA4EMU

**Annual Events:** Annual swap-fest at the September meeting. Field Day (always the fourth full weekend in June) at Grant Community Center Fairgrounds, Field Day web site link

<https://sites.google.com/site/hiarcfieldday2013/>

### **Selected Hamfests:**

Were're entering the summer dry spell but here is one:

Saturday 6-9-18, Orlando, University Of Central Florida tailgate

<http://newton.i2lab.ucf.edu/wiki/Tailgate>

### **Ham Radio Lunches:**

- Every Friday, 10:30 AM till 12:30 PM or so, Golden Corral on Palm Bay Road in Palm Bay
- Every Friday, 9:00 AM till 11:00AM or so, Umpa's Diner, 1115 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 3295, (321) 454-3422

### **President's Message**

Happy Easter.

HF conditions: the sun has been spotless recently with a solar flux of 68, too early for summers sporadic E, so only the lower frequency HF bands have been opening mostly. Evenings on 40 meters and down are good though as the summer storms haven't picked up.

Our April meeting is on Thursday April 12 at Meemaws Barbecue. 6 PM for dinner. 7 PM for business. We will have two programs after the short business meeting:

Tim KI4TG will show and tell a home brew two band VHF-UHF yagi antenna.

- Ed Messer KI4NNA will give a presentation on the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Subjects covered will include RF Transmission(s) and Frequency Stability topics as well as his visit to the Boulder laboratories of last summer.

73's

Butch WA4AQV

## Local Technician Amateur Radio License Class

All are invited to the next Melbourne area class for the Amateur Radio Technician Class License:

When: Saturday April 14 through June 8, 2018. 9 AM to Noon.

- Where: WFIT Broadcast Center On the FIT Campus, directions Attached
- Why: Prepares you to take the Technician Class amateur radio license exam
- Test: At the end of the course date and time TBD
- Cost: Course is free. You should however get a copy of the textbook
- Textbook: ARRL Technician License Class Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> edition available locally at Tedco Electronics 437 S. Babcock St in Melbourne. Cost is about \$25.00.
- Instructor: K3DC Bill.
- More information: [K3DC@CFL.rr.com](mailto:K3DC@CFL.rr.com)

This is a good time to take the class as the test question pool will change in July.

## RACES TRAINING, US National Grid Program

Good evening fellow amateurs,

Our next scheduled training for all interested hams and future hams is scheduled at the Brevard County EOC on April 19th at 18:00 HRS. (6 PM) **Please forward this on to your friends and club members.**

This 2 hour program is about the US National Grid (USGN) program and is targeted specifically for amateur radio operators. The USGN will be tremendously helpful in the event of a catastrophic hurricane event or if you need help while hunting or fishing in the wild. One example of its usefulness was demonstrated during Hurricane Harvey in Texas last year. Folks stranded on their roofs were calling for help and giving their street address. But first responders in boats and helicopters couldn't read the street signs or house numbers. (because they were under water) If the residents had used the USGN system, the responders would have found them immediately.

We encourage you to bring your tablet, laptop or smartphone for a hands on learning experience, although one is not required. Click on the link below for the complete program outline. You can review the material on the link without registering.

Click here for more info and/or to register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RACESUSNG>

73, Brad KW1P

Brevard County RACES Officer

## **Rotatable Shortwave Broadcast Antennas:**

Some really big antennas! <http://ampegon.com/products/sw-antenna/>

## **2018 Hurricane Season Predictions**

From USA TODAY: It's going to be another busy, above average hurricane season.

Meteorologists predict 14 named tropical storms this year, of which 7 will become hurricanes. Both numbers are above the average of 12 and 6, respectively.

<https://usat.ly/2EmQn6x>

## **First 2200 Meter Transatlantic Contact**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/apparent-first-2200-meter-transatlantic-contact-by-us-radio-amateur-reported>

Déjà vu?

[http://ethw.org/Milestones:Reception\\_of\\_Transatlantic\\_Radio\\_Signals,\\_1901](http://ethw.org/Milestones:Reception_of_Transatlantic_Radio_Signals,_1901)

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Ken via Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Subject: Crozet and Glorioso

**Object: project for an expedition to Crozet and Glorioso islands.**

The sovereignty of France is recognized in many territories scattered around the globe: in the Pacific Ocean with Wallis and Futuna, Polynesia, New Caledonia and Clipperton; in the Atlantic Ocean with Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana. Finally, in the Indian Ocean with Mayotte, Réunion, the Scattered Islands, and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories.

For us hams, these names often evoke exoticism, an invitation to travel, but also and especially rare and sought-after contacts. The most populated areas, such as Réunion, the islands of the West Indies or New Caledonia for example, are characterized by a permanent radio amateur presence, ensuring daily contacts. For others like Saint Barthélemy or Wallis and Futuna, they are tourist destinations, not requiring a special authorization. These places are therefore regularly active during activities or expeditions conducted by passing radio amateurs. Finally, some territories require specific authorizations because their access is restricted, usually to protect their extremely sensitive ecosystems. This last category includes Clipperton, Europa, Juan de Nova, Tromelin, Glorioso, Crozet, Amsterdam, Kerguelen, and Terre Adélie. A contact with these entities is thus rather rare and extremely coveted.

With the exception of Clipperton, these other sensitive territories are administered by the Prefecture of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF in French). For the TAAF it is a question of managing the logistics around these isolated territories, to support scientific missions and research, to protect ecosystems and safeguard biodiversity, and finally to manage in a sustainable way natural resources such as fishing. Any access to the islands named above is therefore subject to prior authorization.

It would be interesting to go back to the "amateur radio" history of each of these Scattered and southern islands but we will limit ourselves to the last 20 to 30 years. In the past, radio amateurs had the chance to regularly contact the Météo-France personnel deployed on the Scattered Islands. These were then stationed for several months each year and were in charge of the maintenance of the weather stations. All the islands except Tromelin hosted (and still do) French military troops including radio amateurs who provided some contacts during their free time. When it comes to the French Southern Territories, it was mostly radio operators located on the bases. Military personnel or scientists stationed for several months made radio contacts when off duty.

Since the 2000s, the almost permanent presence of radio amateurs for decades on all islands has gone down for various reasons: automation of weather stations, establishment of satellite links, gradual disappearance of HF links, decrease of radio amateurs among the deployed military...

In order to give the greatest number of people an opportunity to contact these territories, several amateur radio expeditions have been successfully organized and conducted: Amsterdam (1998) and Tromelin (2000) by the Lyon DX Gang and the Gendarmerie de Bron, Europa (2003) and Glorioso (2008) by a French military team thanks to Didier F5OGL, Amsterdam (2014) by Ralph K0IR and his team, and finally Tromelin (2014) and Juan de Nova (2016) by my team.

Over the course of the expeditions and the years, the rarity of these entities evolves. The most rare and sought-after contacts are to date those with Crozet which shares the top places of the ranking of the most wanted entities with North Korea and Bouvet. Never has any dedicated expedition been conducted there. The last scientists who made contacts are Florentin F4DYM-FT5WO, Nicolas F4EGX-FT1WM-FT1WK and Jean-Paul F5BU-FT5WJ, but the demand is such that despite their efforts, the need for an expedition remains intact. The island of Crozet is the most protected of all the French islands in the perimeter of the TAAF. It has always been the subject of special attention and has a relatively low rate of invasive alien animal or plant species.

This makes it particularly sensitive to any new introduction. The scientific base is relatively small compared to the other Southern Islands and has a very high concentration of seabirds sensitive to disturbance nearby.

You now know what kind of context we are dealing with. No doubt that the DXpedition enthusiasts were already aware of these elements, but it was important to remind all of you so that everyone understands the content of this communiqué.

The last three expeditions (FT5ZM, FT4TA and FT4JA) are those known to the current authorities. Beyond the amateur radio community, their success has been recognized by the TAAF. This point is extremely important in many aspects and has systematically conditioned the validation of the next expedition. The impression left by these projects is unanimously very positive. Our professionalism, our ability to respect the rules, and finally our ability to bring elements beyond the "radio" aspect were evaluated. For this last point, we collaborated with schools and generated exciting exchanges with the students and their teachers, communicated massively through different media on the islands, their history / geography, put together beautiful philatelic activities, put forward the work and the missions of the TAAF in the four corners of the world through articles and conferences organized on several continents. We have also shown our full potential to conduct expeditions in total respect of the host territories, and this is undoubtedly the most important.

Based on these experiences and the very good relationship with the TAAF, we worked in parallel on two new destinations as soon as we returned from Juan de Nova: Grande Glorieuse Island (FT/G) and Crozet (FT/W). Quickly, we were faced with the risk of collision with antennas for bird populations, as well as the difficulty of verifying the respect of bio-protection measures around our projects. These risks were part of our specifications during our previous operations, and each time we showed our common ability to find appropriate solutions, our team often going beyond the conditions imposed.

A new evaluation was conducted for over a year to propose new technical, logistical and organizational solutions to bring these subjects under control. Numerous research projects, supported by several notes from expert scientists, have ruled out the risk presented by our modest antennas on the bird populations of these territories. Passionate about our islands for decades, we are the first to pay special attention to the protection of fauna and flora and it seems clear to us that our projects are completely respectful of these territories and their biodiversity.

Despite the research work done, the innovative solutions proposed, and a complete and documented dossier, our requests were rejected. The arguments put forward focus on the danger posed by our antennas for the bird population and the risk of introduction of new species during our landing. Despite our work to demonstrate that these elements are controlled and in no way invalidate our activities, it is the precautionary principle that is privileged for the moment. The logic remains to say that if there is no project then there is no risk. Unfortunately, amateur radio expeditions are not part of the core activities and priorities.

Of course, we acknowledge the position of the authorities in charge who undoubtedly rely on the expertise of their various departments. Let's hope that the months or years ahead will allow us,

through dialogue, to find compromises and propose new projects on a win-win basis as it has been the case so far.

To this day, the frustration is of course great as we worked hard countless hours. However, we will continue in a professional manner to deal with our interlocutors. We will continue our research to improve our solutions and make them even more compatible with the constraints imposed so far. Radio amateurs have had the chance to accompany and participate in the life of the bases for more than 60 years. We are therefore convinced of our legitimacy in the Scattered and Southern Territories, as well as in the ability of the TAAF to maintain a framework for our activity.

Many of you send me emails asking "when will Crozet take place? " or " when will Glorioso take place? ". Let's hope that this communiqué is going to give you a better idea of our current projects. My goal is not to exchange ideas. No need to contact me to ask me more questions or give me your opinion, I may not have time to answer you.

It is also not a communiqué to tell you not to try to propose an alternative project to the competent authorities. As of today the chances of moving forward are slim. The administration has already received a number of cases in recent years, more or less serious, and I personally think that has made things more confusing and has not made our case.

I imagine that many will be disappointed with this information. We definitely are too. But we want to remain very positive and above all satisfied with the projects carried out towards Tromelin and Juan de Nova. We are aware of the privilege we have had. The work done with the various TAAF services to date has been fascinating. We have met people who live their missions with a passion and it is with great pleasure that we will perhaps work with them again in the future; it is our dearest wish.

For the time being, patience is the keyword...