Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
1722 20th. St. Parkersburg, WV 26101

ARES® Continues Move Toward Enhanced Training, Paperless Reporting

06/21/2018

As part of upgrades to the ARES® program, ARRL will phase out traditional hard-copy report forms later this year in favor of an online system, ***ARES® Connect*** — a new volunteer management, communication, and reporting system. The system, in beta testing since March in four ARRL sections with large ARES organizations, will allow ARES members to log information for ARRL Field Organization handling but does not change how ARES serves partner organizations. ARES training also is due for enhancement.

At the Hamvention®ARRL Membership Forum in May, Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, who chairs the ARRL Public Service Enhancement Working Group, discussed dramatic changes occurring among agencies in the emergency/disaster response sector and the transition to *ARES Connect*. In his presentation, "ARES Advances into the 21st Century — a New Program, a New Mission," Williams outlined the vision for an ARES comprised of organized, trained, qualified, and credentialed Amateur Radio operators who can provide public service partners with radio communication expertise, capability, and capacity.

Goals include aligning the ARES organizational structure with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). Emergency Coordinators (ECs) will continue to lead local ARES teams during an incident, with support from District and Section Emergency Coordinators.

Changes would encompass additional mandatory training to include ARRL Emergency Communications courses and the now-standard FEMA NIMS/ICS courses IS-100, 200, 700, 800, with IS-300 and 400 for higher levels. Other specialty training could include SKYWARN and agency-specific programs.

Training levels attained would dovetail with three new levels of ARES participation: Level One would be comprised of all entering the program with no training, while progressing through the ARRL emergency communications training and the FEMA Independent Study courses 100, 200, 700, and 800. Level Two would be attained upon successful completion of these courses, and would be considered the "Standard" level for ARES participants. Level Three would be attained upon completion of the advanced FEMA courses IS 300 and 400, which would qualify candidates for ARES leadership positions.

Level One participants would be able to fulfill most ARES duties, with a target of attaining Level Two in 1 year. Level Two, the standard participant level, would permit participant access to most incident sites and emergency operations centers (EOCs). Level Three would convey full access as granted by the authority having jurisdiction, plus qualification for ARES leadership.

It's been proposed that ARRL provide a basic ARES ID, which would convey recognition of registration with ARES nationally and indicate level of training but convey no guarantee of site access. The authority having jurisdiction in an incident could grant an additional ID/pass for site access.

The ARRL Headquarters staff is undergoing training in *ARES Connect* administration, with group registration under way and IDs assigned. ARES-related publications also are being updated, along with an ARES strategic plan and introductory announcement. An article on ARES enhancements — once they have been approved by the ARRL Board of Directors — is set to appear in the September 2018 issue of *QST*.

Reverse Beacon Network Beta Testing Separate Spot Stream for FT8

The popular Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) has announced that it's now offering -- as a beta test -- a separate telnet feed for FT8 spots (telnet.reversebeacon.net port 7001), in addition to the current spot feed (telnet.reversebeacon.net port 7000), which will be repurposed to handle only CW and RTTY spots. In addition, a beta version of *Aggregator* Version 5 that can handle FT8 spots received from *WSJT-X* will be available on the RBN website, with instructions on how RBN node operators can configure their nodes to spot FT8 call signs on one or more bands; this will not interfere with the ability to spot CW and RTTY call signs, the RBN team assured in its announcement, explaining its reasoning for the move. The beta test follows a limited alpha test aimed at getting a feel for the spot load and other implications of carrying FT8 spots on the RBN.

"The most striking characteristic of FT8 spots is their sheer quantity," the RBN

announcement said, citing weekday statistics from May 23 and 24 when FT8 spots represented 86% and 87% of all spots, respectively, while CW spots were 13% and 14%, respectively, and RTTY spots were below 1%. Throughput on both days totaled some 30,000 spots.

"Whether due to the startling popularity of the new mode, or to the ability to spot stations at 22 dB below the noise level, it seems obvious that adding FT8 spots to our spot flow could have a huge impact on the infrastructure of the RBN," the RBN announcement said. "These numbers suggest that if only 20 - 30 RBN nodes added FT8 spots, those spots could outnumber the total CW and RTTY spots being delivered by the 140 - 150 nodes currently active on the network, doubling the total required throughput."

The RBN team said it wanted to find out whether RBN servers would be up to the task before the fall contest season.

Sailor Grateful for Maritime Mobile Service Network Assistance

Phoenix sailor and radio amateur Timothy Henning, KE7WMZ, has expressed his gratitude to the Maritime Mobile Service Network (MMSN) for intercepting and handling his distress call on 14.300 MHz. Net control operator Harry Williams, W0LS, caught Henning's call requesting assistance with an urgent medical condition on May 23.

Henning, some 200 nautical miles south of Ensenada, Mexico, in his sailing vessel *Victory Cat*, reported that a severe vision problem had developed in his right eye, and he was seeking immediate medical attention and advice.

Williams contacted the US Coast Guard in Alameda, California, relaying all information concerning the medical problem and staying on the air with Henning for several hours. The Coast Guard, in turn, relayed the information to the on-duty flight surgeon who advised that Henning seek immediate medi-

cal attention at the closest port of call.

It was decided that Henning would continue on to Ensenada, and the Coast Guard arranged to have someone meet him there and transport him to the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, while his wife stood by with the vessel at the dock.

Tim Henning, KE7WMZ, aboard *Victory Cat* near Greece.

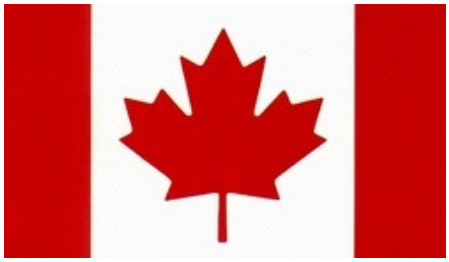
Ultimately, it was determined that Henning had a detached retina, and he was transported to Phoenix for surgery.

"I appreciate, beyond words, that the Maritime Net was able to help us get in contact with the USCG and simply be at the other end of the HF radio, helping us through a challenging time," Henning told the MMSN afterward. "I especially want to thank Harry, W0LS. He was extremely professional and invaluable in linking us effectively with the USCG. We were just completing our 10 years round-the world sail voyage."

The Maritime Mobile Service Net operates daily on 14.300 MHz from 1700 UTC to 0200 UTC. It is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Canadian Radio Amateurs Petition Parliament to End Deliberate Interference

Radio Amateurs in Canada -- primarily in the Province of Quebec -- have mounted a petition drive demanding that members of the House of Commons prompt decisive regulatory action against a Quebec resident who has been causing deliberate interference. The petition does not spell out the particulars of the allegations but says the alleged offender -- apparently unlicensed -- is already known to authorities. Petitioners claim that the individual's "malicious intentions" have been "threatening the security of emergency radio communication in the province," and they called upon Parliamentary lawmakers "to ensure the security" of HF radio communication.



"For 2 years, a Nicolet resident, near Trois-Rivières [Quebec], illegally set up a transmitting radio station and is generating interference on purpose," the petition recounts. "Amateur Radio operators in Quebec have identified the illegal radio station and brought it to the attention of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada, and its inspectors seized the individual's radio equipment." One of ISED's functions is telecommunications regulation.

According to the petition, the alleged offender "acquired new equipment right away and returned to jamming the airwaves." The petition identifies the alleged offender as a male who "has regular encounters with the law."

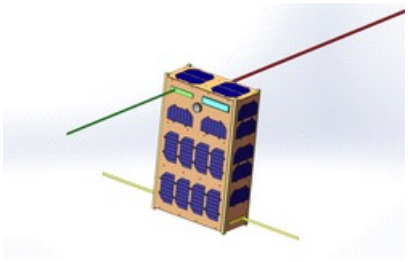
"We are calling on the government to provide more support to the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, so that it can intervene more decisively in this matter," the petition declared.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) -- the country's national Amateur Radio organization -- was noncommittal. "While we have not had a chance to investigate the specific details of the incidents [that] the petition refers to, we agree with the importance of acting to support the security of high frequency communications," RAC said this week.

By mid-week, the online petition had gathered more than 850 signatures, primarily from Quebec and Ontario. Canada has more than 50,000 Amateur Radio licensees.

CAMSAT Offers More Details on New Satellites, One Carrying HF Transponders

CAMSAT, China's Amateur Radio Satellite organization, has offered additional details about the three Amateur Radio satellites it plans to launch later this year. Two of the satellites, designated CAS-5A and CAS-6, will carry transponders, and one of them will offer HF capability.



Artist's rendering of the CAS-5A satellite. [Image courtesy of CAMSAT]

CAMSAT's Alan Kung, BA1DU, told ARRL that the 6U CAS-5A will carry two HF transponders and two V/UHF transponders. The plentiful equipment package includes an H/T (21/29 MHz) mode linear transponder, an H/U (21/435 MHz) mode linear transponder, an HF CW telemetry beacon, a V/U linear transponder, a V/U FM transponder, a UHF CW telemetry beacon, and UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry.

- The H/T mode linear transponder will have a 30 kHz wide uplink centered on 21.400 MHz, and a downlink centered on 29.490 MHz. RF output is 0.5 W.
- An HF CW telemetry beacon will transmit on 29.465 MHz with 0.1 W.
- The H/U mode linear transponder will have a 15 kHz wide uplink centered on 21.435 MHz, and a downlink centered on 435.505 MHz. The RF output is 0.5 W.
- The V/U mode linear transponder will have a 30 kHz wide uplink at 145.820 MHz, and a downlink at 435.540 MHz. The RF output is 0.5 W
- The V/U mode FM transponder will uplink at 145.925 MHz, and downlink at 435.600 MHz. The transponder passband is 15 kHz, and the RF output is 0.5 W.
- The UHF CW telemetry beacon will transmit on 435.570 MHz, with an RF output of 0.1 W.
- UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry will transmit on 435.650 MHz at 0.5 W.

Kung told ARRL that the HF, VHF, and UHF antennas are quarter-wave monopoles.

A satellite within a satellite, the tiny CAS-5B, weighing 0.5 kilogram, will be deployed from CAS-5A in orbit. It will carry a UHF CW beacon on an Amateur Radio frequency. CAS-5A will launch from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in late September.

Set to be launched at sea, the 50-kilogram CAS-6 microsat will include a VHF CW telemetry beacon, a U/V mode 20 kHz linear Amateur Radio transponder, and AX.25 4.8k baud GMSK telemetry. It will also carry an atmospheric wind detector and other systems that will operate on non-amateur frequencies.

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Politico Article Raises Visibility of Amateur Radio Parity Act Progress, Challenges

On May 23, the US House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that included the language of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 555) cleared the House. The following day, a fiscal year 2019 Financial Services appropriations bill also containing Parity Act language cleared the Financial Services and General Government subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations and is now working its way through the full Appropriations Committee. As a result, the Parity Bill has attracted some attention from outside the Amateur Radio and homeowners association (HOA) communities.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's Ad Hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee, called attention to a recent *Politico* article that addresses the challenges the bill faces.

On May 25, *Politico* reported, "Lawmakers are making a multi-pronged push to drive the bipartisan Amateur Radio Parity Act through Congress and finally bypass objections from top Senate Commerce [Committee] Democrat Bill Nelson of Florida, whose allegiance to his state's homeowners associations drove his panel to yank the bill from consideration last fall. The legislation, H.R. 555, would direct the FCC to let Amateur Radio operators get around private rules, like those imposed by some HOAs, that keep them from putting up radio antennas."

Politico cited a spokeswoman for the US House sponsor of the Parity Act, Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who told the journal that Kinzinger is "hopeful that Senator Nelson will see its value."

"When disaster strikes and the power goes out, like when Hurricane Irma hit Senator Nelson's home state of Florida back in September, Amateur Radio operators become critical to emergency response efforts," Kinzinger's spokeswoman said.

At this point, it's unclear how the Parity Act language or legislation will fare in the US Senate. The measure's Senate sponsor, Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), told *Politico* that it would suit him to see the Senate follow the lead of the House in the matter. "I think we've done enough that Senator Nelson's concerns should have been answered," Wicker was quoted as saying.

Wicker and Nelson are both senior members of the Armed Services Committee, which will oversee the NDAA.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has stressed that the Parity Act "does entitle each and every Amateur Radio operator living in a deed-restricted community to erect an effective outdoor antenna. Full stop. That is the principal benefit of this legislation."

Minutes

April 9, 2018

The Parkersburg Amateur radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the April meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by Vice president Dave Wright N8NWV.

Introductions were made by 18 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of $12.50 was won by Denny Snedden AC8MW.

The minutes of the March meeting were not available and no treasurers report was given due to absence of Jane Hulce N8MOW.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
None
NEW BUSINESS:
General discussion of upcoming events including Dayton Hamfest (May 18), Athens Hamfest (Apr 29), Field Day, generators, Greenbank radio observatory, etc.

John W8IDW acting as Treasurer, collected $40 dollars in dues.

Ray N8TWV and Emily KB8YPB Bodie were congratulated on their 60th Anniversary.

Kurt K8UC made a motion with Debbie KA8ZLB second to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

Minutes recorded by John W8IDW, secretary

List of attendees on the reverse.

Field Day 2018

Thanks everyone for helping with Field Day 2018. We did not make many contacts, (The Bands were Horrible on Saturday) But is appeared that all had fun. You can see the results below. (Sorry Bob they're pictures of the score sheet)

ARRL 2018 Field Day Entry Form

[2018 Rules]

Update to previous entry submitted on 2018-06-26 15:10:06 PDT

Your entry was e-mailed to: fieldday@arrl.org with a copy to j_wharton@suddenlink.net

Datestamp: 2018-06-26 17:07:40 PDT
Confirmation: 84ba82g7d8de5b83

Use the following link if you want to update your Field Day entry:
http://www.b4h.net/cgiforms/fieldayupdate.php?
callused=W8PAR&confirmation=84ba82g7d8de5b83

Thanks for using the web to submit your 2018 ARRL Field Day entry. Print this page to use as proof that you submitted your entry.

Call Used: **W8PAR** GOTA Station Call: **(none)** ARRL/RAC Section: **WV** Class: **2A**

Participants: **22** Club/Group Name: **Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub**

Power Source(s): **Generator**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	200
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100

Parkersburg, wv 26101
E-mail: j_wharton@suddenlink.net

Comments:
(blank)

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m					2	100
40m	11	100			127	100
20m					89	100
15m					6	100
10m						
6m						
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA						
Total	**11**		**0**		**224**	

Supporting Documentation Required

Based on your selections, the ARRL expects to receive supporting documentation:

- via e-mail to: fieldday@arrl.org