

February 2016 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

'NPOTA Fever' is contagious: National Parks on the Air opens with big pileups

Great pileups were reported from many National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) activators over the January 16-17 weekend, according to coordinators of the year-long ARRL program.



Those overseeing the activity report they are getting more and more comments from participants who are catching "NPOTA Fever" and beginning the chase.

At only three weeks into the year-long event, nearly 200 of the 483 NPOTA units had been activated -- an amazing level of participation!



A special mahalo

BIARC Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS, at right, presents certificates of commendation for performance "above and beyond the call of duty" to 2015 Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs Nancy Lakin, WH6DYY, at left, and Sharon McCartin, WH6ELV. Rousing applause for the duo's many good deeds, and good dishes, followed the Jan. 9 presentation at our monthly membership meeting in Keaau.

Photo by Linda Quarberg, WH6LQ

Several Chasers are taking the event seriously as well; 11 Chasers have more than 100 NPOTA units confirmed, and 84 have 50 or more units in the bag.

And it's still mighty cold in a large part of the country ...

...just think what activity will be like when it warms up a bit.

-- Thanks to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager **Sean Kutzko, KX9X**



ARRL candidates Fendt, Speroni focus on elements of our favorite hobby

The two candidates for the office of ARRL Pacific Section Manager spoke at our Jan. 9 meeting, giving their positions and thoughts on topics and programs relating to amateur radio. Following their presentations, they answered questions from the membership. They are (at left) Kim Fendt, WH6KIM, of Mountain View and (at right) Joe Speroni, AH0A, of Honolulu. The winner will succeed Bob Schneider, AH6J, our current BIARC president, as section manager for a two-year term. Ballots have been mailed to all ARRL members in the Pacific Section.

Photos by Linda Quarberg, WH6LQ

10-meter fun open to all

A special aloha and Happy New Year from the Aloha Chapter of 10-10 International.

Events on the 10-meter band got underway Jan. 1 at 0001UTC and will run until Dec. 31 2359UTC.

The Winter Phone QSO Party will be Feb. 6-7, starting at 0001UTC, or 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, in Hawaii.

QSO party entrants may submit a log of contacts with members that have the anniversary year contained in their membership number. This year marks the club's 54th anniversary, so acceptable numbers, for example, would be 69545 , 65354 and 54126.

Each year, the anniversary number changes, making a new group of members the focus of the event and promoting the use of the 10-meter band.

In the Meet the Volunteers event, entrants may submit a log of contacts with members listed in the 10-10 News as being 10-10 volunteers. One contact per volunteer is permitted regardless of mode of contact.

In both events, contacts must be made on the 10-meter band with any legal mode (AM, SSB, FM, PSK, CW, etc...). Contacts must



be listed in 10-10 number order and each entry must list the 10-10 number, date, call sign, name, QTH and mode, in that specific order. Certificates will be awarded for the top 10, however all entrants will be listed in the 10-10 News.

Logs from this year will be due in January 2017; only members in good standing (with dues paid) are allowed to submit logs.

Let's get those logs in and put Hawaii on the map.

And, don't forget, all licensed amateur radio operators, including those at Technician level, are welcome to join in the HF ARES Net for Hawaii. The statewide net is held each Tuesday at 7 p.m., HST, at 3.993.5.

73 and aloha,
Irene, NH7PE

BIARC 2016 leadership

President Bob Schneider, AH6J,
ah6j@arrl.net;

Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS,
radiopeg@gmail.com

Secretary Beau Mills, NH7WV,
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Repeater Committee Chair Bill Hanson,
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and Lopaka Lee, WH6DYN,
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Field Day Committee Chair Peggy Gentle,
KE6TIS, radiopeg@gmail.com;
Co-Chair Robert Oliver, NH6AH,
oliver@reotron.com.

Just what is Multi-Multi?

- Most of us operate alone at our home station. Typically, we have one rig and one tower (if we're lucky). That is Single-Op.



Multi-Multi is lots of operators, in one shack, using lots of rigs and lots of towers with lots of multiple antennas, all at the same time.



Worth checking out:

Enjoy a fun look back at contesting in the days when logs were scribbled in haste in pencil, and penmanship might make or break a contact's validity.

"When GIANTS first walked the bands -- The Early Days of Multi-Multi" was presented at the Hamvention® Contest Forum 2008 by Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q.

www.kkn.net/dayton2008/when_giants_walked_the_bands.pdf

-----Free Classified Ads-----

FOR SALE:

1) Heights tower. 60' freestanding aluminum crankup; older model but functional. Was County permitted here. On ground; \$300, you haul it away ASAP.

2) Two Yaesu FT-1000D transceivers. Firmware V 6.0; both work 100%, displays

bright; both loaded with Inrad CW filters, Inrad Roofing Filter, W8JI mod.
A. This one is real nice, manual, original box. \$1200.
B. This one has a few scratches along the top front edge. Manual, original styrofoam box inserts but no original box. \$1100.

3) Kenwood TS-450SAT, original owner, Inrad CW filters, matching SP-23 speaker; manual, service manual, original boxes. Super clean, very nice radio. \$700.
4) Don Johnson Screwdriver HF mobile antenna setup. Covers 80-10 with whip. Works great. Was hitch

mounted on Jeep Cherokee. Mount will likely need to be modified for your vehicle. \$100.

5) **FREE:** solid wooden desk perfect for ham radio. 36" deep X 76" wide. Center and side drawers. You haul it away. Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC, 808-966-7782



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The ARRL Letter

Changing of the Guard: Rick Roderick, K5UR, Elected as ARRL's 16th President

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of Little Rock, Arkansas, as ARRL President. The Board took the action as it convened for its 2016 Annual Meeting January 15-16 in Windsor, Connecticut.

Roderick, 63, officially assumed office for a 2-year term at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. He is the ARRL's 16th president, succeeding Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, who had served for three terms since being elected in 2010.

A ham for 48 years, Roderick is an attorney. He has served on the ARRL Board of Directors for 24 years and is an enthusiastic Amateur Radio operator and DXer on HF and VHF/UHF.

At the annual meeting, as both were on the threshold of departing their official positions



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. *[Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]*

with the League, Craigie presented ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, with the ARRL President's Award, which recognizes Sumner "for lifetime dedication to advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio." Sumner announced last year that he would be stepping down at the end of May after 44 years on the ARRL Headquarters staff.

Licensed in 1962, Sumner has been engaged in Amateur Radio in the domestic and international arenas for most of the years since.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, named ARRL Contest Branch Manager

Former ARRL staffer Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, is the League's new ARRL Contest Branch manager. Jahnke returned to ARRL Headquarters on January 4 after a decade away, working in the customer service, manufacturing sales and support, and information technology fields in the Midwest and on the East Coast. He succeeds Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, who resigned last year.

"It is great to be back at ARRL and to see the faces of many friends still here -- and still dedicated to serving Amateur Radio -- as well as new faces, new friends, to join in the journey," said Jahnke, who previously spent nearly 20 years at Headquarters. "With continued strong activity comes our obligation to produce and release results as rapidly as possible."

Jahnke said he hopes -- with the help of Headquarters staff and volunteer data processors and log checkers outside Headquarters -- to make things happen more rapidly and efficiently, processing logs and publishing contest results without compromising the integrity of the current system.

"We need to continue to work smarter, not harder, to serve the contest community," he said.

Jahnke served as ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager from 1989 until 2005. He initially joined the ARRL Headquarters staff in 1985, starting out as editor of the ARRL Repeater Directory.

Jahnke said that while his primary

interest during his 36 years in ham radio has been volunteer activities and "weak-signal" VHF, UHF, and microwave contesting, meteor scatter, and EME work, he has also enjoyed casually operating in HF contests. He concedes, however, that it may be time to "add some forte to my low bands!"

Winter Field Day Set for January 30-31

There really is a Winter Field Day, and this year, it takes place over the January 30-31 weekend, sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA). The annual event's stated purpose is to encourage emergency operating preparedness in the winter, but it's also a great opportunity to operate in the great outdoors.

The WFDA describes itself as a dedicated group of Amateur Radio operators who believe that getting ready for emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that take place at ARRL Field Day each June, all while taking some additional unique operational concerns into account.

The WFDA points out that disasters are unpredictable, and its goal is to help enhance operators' skills and prepare for all environmental conditions typically found in the US and Canada throughout the entire year.

"We believe...that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios," the group says. "The addition of a

Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations."

The event is not restricted to North America. All Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate. Operation will be on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. The event runs 24 hours. US and Canadian stations exchange call sign, operating category, and ARRL or RAC section. The rules are similar to those for the ARRL Field Day, held in June.

Last year, WR5J, W7KXB, KG7NJQ, and K7ZFO braved the conditions to operate as NC7G near North Bend, Washington. Curt Black, WR5J, recounts, "We had a fantastic team -- young, new hams, and some amazing octogenarian hams. All contributed to the effort and the triumph. We had fantastic operating conditions." Black said the weather was great too, with balmy temperatures. "We had a blast -- worked all night long -- bounced from band to band and mode to mode. We had no idea it was going to be as warm as it was," he said. -- Thanks to The ARRL Contest Update

Midwinter 630 Meter Activity Weekend Set for Early February

US and Canadian radio amateurs and experimenters will join forces in February for the first Midwinter 630 Meter Activity Weekend. The event

will get under way at 0000 UTC on February 6 (Friday, February 5, in US time zones) and runs through 2359 UTC on February 7.

"This event is being undertaken because of the new and quickly growing interest in present 630 meter activities, both in the US and Canada," said ARRL 600 Meter Experimental Group (WD2XSH) Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR.

"Much of the interest is in response to the strong likelihood of US amateurs receiving access to the band in the near future, while Canadian hams are eager to learn more about the present level of Amateur Radio activity on their newest ham band."

The activity weekend comes on the heels of a special event operation over the November 13-14 weekend that included participation by US and Canadian radio amateurs, and the Maritime Radio Historical Society (MRHS).

Raab said the two activity nights will offer interested amateurs in both countries an opportunity to experience the 630 meter band and, through crossband activity with Canadian amateurs, to take part in activity in the MF spectrum. "Our hope is to see this activity become an annual operating event, to be held every winter on the 630 meter band," Raab said. "For those who may be building for future 630 meter operation, this event will

provide an opportunity to test your 'receive' capabilities on MF."

Operation will be from 472 kHz to 479 kHz in various modes. Several Canadian stations will undertake two-way crossband work, all on CW. Submit reception reports via e-mail to the respective operators or via the ARRL 600 Meter Experiment website. Read more.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Invites Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR) invites applications for the 2016-2017 academic year for the 46 scholarships it administers. Applicants must hold a valid Amateur Radio license and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school.

Applicants attending schools outside the US must provide a brochure describing the school. Students do not apply for specific scholarships; each application will be considered for all of the scholarships for which the applicant is qualified. In order to be considered for the Chichester and QCWA scholarships, applicants must obtain the appropriate recommendations. Applications must be submitted by April 15, although applicants may edit their applications until May 7. Data entered onto the application goes directly into an encrypted, password-protected PDF file that is available only to the review committee. No part of the application is stored

online. Contact FAR for more information.

ARRL Asks FCC for "Minimal but Necessary Changes" to Correct Reapportioning Error

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" the regulator created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters a decade ago. The League's January 8 Petition for Rule Making asks the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The ARRL's Petition points out that the proposed change has received strong support from the ARRL membership and was adopted as policy by the League's Board of Directors in July 2015. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Technician and Novice licensees within the portion of the 15 meter band where they now may operate CW and to do the same on 80 meters, contingent upon the 80/75 meter subband revision.

Testimony on Behalf of Amateur Radio Parity Act

During a January 12 Capitol Hill hearing, US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chair Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), called the Amateur Radio Parity Act "a commonsense

bill" and urged his colleagues to support it. H.R. 1301 was one of four telecoms bills to come before his panel.

Walden told the subcommittee that, as a ham, he's "acutely aware" of the passion Amateur Radio possess for the service.

"Despite its widespread use and importance in times of emergencies, land-use restrictions in some areas have prioritized esthetics over the rights of hams. H.R. 1301 seeks to ensure that Amateur Radio operators get a fair shake and protection from unnecessary bans on their equipment by instructing the FCC to adopt rules to this end."

Walden said he's aware of suggestions that the bill would open the door to 40-foot towers in townhome backyards. "That's not the case," he assured his subcommittee colleagues. "Ham equipment can be as small as over-the-air digital television antennas becoming popular with 'cord cutters.' I'm sure that Amateur Radio operators' communications deserve no less protection than access to prime time television." In his remarks, the bill's sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), pointed out that most House members have a few hundred radio amateurs living in their districts. He explained that hams in some neighborhoods "are outright prohibited" from erecting antennas on their properties, "even as small as a 4 millimeter diameter wire

that might be placed under an awning or laid flat against the house."

Kinzinger cited Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication support and noted the comments of FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, to the effect that when conventional communications go down, Amateur Radio is often the last line of defense.

Kinzinger said his bill's "reasonable accommodation standard" would not mandate placement, size, or esthetics regarding an outdoor antenna, leaving ham radio operators and homeowners associations to decide those issues.

"We just simply add the same standard that has been used successfully in municipal areas to other areas," he concluded. H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions. The bill has attracted 118 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. An identical US Senate measure, S. 1685, has attracted 3 cosponsors. It cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation last November. More information about the legislation is on the ARRL Amateur Radio Parity Act web page.

Hamvention Seeks 2016 Award Nominations

Dayton Hamvention® 2016 is soliciting nominations for Amateur of the Year, Special

Achievement, Technical Excellence, and Club of the Year awards. All Amateur Radio operators/clubs are eligible, with winners recognized at Hamvention® 2016, May 20-22 at Hara Arena.

The Amateur of the Year Award goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, typically by spearheading a significant project.

The Technical Excellence Award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding technical advancement in Amateur Radio.

The Club of the Year Award honors a club that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio. Nominations must be received by February 1.

Additional details and nomination forms are available on the Dayton Hamvention® website. Send nominations via e-mail or to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 1446, Dayton, OH 45401-1446.

Yasme Foundation Announces Supporting Grants

The Yasme Foundation Board of Directors has announced several grants to Amateur Radio organizations

and activities. Beneficiaries include the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, and the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN). The ARISS US Team said its \$5000 grant will support the development of power converters, needed as a part of an extensive upgrade to the entire Amateur Radio system on the ISS.

"The Yasme grant will jump-start the project by allowing the ARISS hardware team to build a prototype converter, purchase critical parts for the flight converters, and further develop the design," ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said. A group of ARISS US team members convened at Johnson Space Center last month to solidify plans for the design of the next-generation radio system.

Yasme Foundation President Ward Silver, N0AX, said the Yasme Board hopes the grant will serve as a catalyst for individuals and other groups to follow suit. In support of scholarships and youth programs, the Yasme Foundation funded the Yasme Foundation scholarship through the ARRL Foundation. It also designated grants to the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) in support of its 2016 scholarship program, to the Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) program to support programs aimed at promoting

Amateur Radio among those under age 26 throughout IARU Region 1, and to the ARRL Teacher's Institute to fund one teacher's attendance at a 2016 Teachers Institute session.

To support scientific and technical endeavors, the Yasme Foundation made grants to the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) Beacon Project to update the beacon station in Sri Lanka, and to the Reverse Beacon Network, to build and install a node to provide coverage in an unidentified underserved area that's of particular interest to propagation studies.

To support HF operating around the world, the grants went to a representative of the Haiti Amateur Radio Club for the purchase of Amateur Radio training materials aimed at developing future licensees in Haiti as well as donate a Kenwood TS-440S transceiver for use by the new licensees; to the International Amateur Radio Club at International Telecommunication Union Headquarters in Geneva (4U1ITU) for station maintenance and the acquisition of needed equipment, and to World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC 2018) to support the expense of mounting the contesting competition in Germany and to encourage other organizations and individuals to contribute.

The Yasme Foundation also announced grants to the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society club station ET3AA to acquire a new computer,

interfaces, and programs for logging and operating digital modes and to purchase new headsets; to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF), and to Dokufunk, in support of its activities to preserve the history of radio communication.

Ramsey Kits Calls it Quits:

After more than 40 years as a purveyor of inexpensive electronics kits for hobbyists, the Ramsey Hobby Kits group has announced that it's thrown in the towel, effective on January 1. The Ramsey RF Test Equipment Group is unaffected by this change. The Victor, New York, company sold a wide array of hobby kits over the years, starting with its LED Blinky kit in the 1970s and eventually including simple ham radio transmitters and receivers, aircraft band receivers, and other devices. Ramsey kits were frequently available at hamfests. The company said it will continue to provide technical and warranty support for hobby kits purchased through the end of 2015. Ramsey said its remaining hobby kit inventory has been relocated to Amazon.

CWops Announces Award for Advancing the Art of CW:

CWops has announced a new, annual award to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communication by

Morse code.

Eligible candidates include the authors of publications related to CW; recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches, and instructors of Morse code; designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW, and others contributing to the art or practice of CW. The award is not limited to Amateur Radio operators or organizations. Anyone can submit a nomination (with a copy to secretary@cwops.org). Nominations must be received by April 15, 2016. They should include the nominee's name and applicable call sign, the nominee's contact information, including e-mail and USPS addresses and a telephone number, and a detailed explanation to support the nominee's qualifications. The individual nominating should provide complete contact information too. A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention, or mailed to the recipient.

ARRL Again Complains to FCC about Illegal Marketing of Electronic Lighting Ballasts

The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out in late December to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology, claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by Lowe's and by Walmart stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF

lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting.

In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are being intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in the US.

"ARRL purports to show that the [retailer] is...marketing and selling to consumers (by retail sale) non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices which are not intended for residential deployment, to consumers who have specifically noted their intention to deploy the devices in residential applications," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in similar complaint letters to the Commission. Part 18 emissions limits for consumer devices are far lower than those allowed for non-consumer devices.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," Imlay continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communications (and, as well, AM broadcast station

reception) throughout entire communities."

Supporting both complaints were extensive and detailed reports by ARRL Laboratory EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The reports recount incidents of actual purchases of Part 18 RF lighting devices intended for commercial use to consumers who made clear to store personnel that they intended to use the devices at home. Gruber's reports include multiple photographs depicting in-store displays of the products in question and showing signage that does not adequately explain which devices may be sold to whom.

The ARRL has asked that stores remove all non-consumer devices from retail sale and marketing and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers. Read more.

Redesigned FCC Website Makes it Easy for Hams to File Interference Complaints

The FCC has made it easier for hams to file RF interference and other complaints, thanks to a new feature of the FCC's recently redesigned website. The addition was made at ARRL's request. Hams have always been able to file such complaints, but when a new complaint system geared largely to consumers came online a year ago, they lost the ability to do so via e-mail to a dedicated address. The change made it less clear

how amateurs should file such complaints and what, if anything, would result.

Once on the FCC site, click "File a Consumer Complaint" on the right side of the screen. The next page lists several categories. Under "Radio," click on "File Complaint." This will take you to a web form that you can fill out. The form includes a drop-down menu for the "Radio Issues" field. Pick one, such as "Interference." This will bring down another menu. The "Your Radio Method" field includes another drop-down menu. Select "Amateur Radio." Complete the rest of the form. It is possible to add attachments. Click on "Submit" to file your complaint.

The FCC e-mail addresses for submitting complaints have been discontinued; they had been rendered ineffective by spam.

Each complaint is assigned a ticket number, and complainants receive an e-mail acknowledgment and, if appropriate, a follow-up report on what was done to address the complaint. Many complaints are simply acknowledged, however, and the complainant is told that it will be used for statistical analysis. A complainant can update a complaint with additional information.

"Official" P5/3Z9DX North Korea Activation Now Set for this Summer

Following an unexpected "demonstration" operation

from North Korea -- officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) -- just before Christmas, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, now expects to be back in the DPRK -- the most-wanted DXCC entity -- for his "official" activation by late this summer, according to The Daily DX. He initially had anticipated returning this month or next.

P5/3Z9DX showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity on December 20 and 21 to demonstrate Amateur Radio for North Korean officials. Over the course of that activation -- the first in more than a decade -- P5/3Z9DX made nearly 785 SSB contacts, most of them on 15 meters. Nearly 600 of the contacts were with stations in Asia; P5/3Z9DX worked just 26 stations in North America. He has posted his log on ClubLog.

Grzyb recently contacted The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, to update his situation. During his visit, authorities were friendly and polite, McClenny reported, noting that he was

also surprised that they allowed him to operate in December. P5/3Z9DX was severely hampered by extremely high noise levels on all HF bands, not to mention a geomagnetic storm. Noise, he said in a video posted on his website, made it "almost impossible" to copy weaker signals in Pyongyang.

When he goes back to the DPRK this summer, he will be operating from a far quieter location in a rural area, Grzyb told The Daily DX. While operating from North Korea in December, P5/3Z9DX was running 100 W to a vertical antenna mounted on a metal fence post some 7 feet above the ground among government high-rise buildings. His equipment was left behind in Pyongyang, as was agreed to before his December visit.

The P5/3Z9DX preview was the first activation from North Korea since the 2001-2002 operation by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN. -- **Thanks to OPDX, The Daily DX**

ARRL Education and Technology Program gives school grants

The ARRL Executive Committee has voted unanimously to approve ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) grant awards for equipment and other resources to seven schools for the 2015-2016 academic year.

They are Akron STEM High School, Akron, Ohio; Liberal Arts & Science Academy High School, Austin, Texas; Life Christian School, Aloha, Oregon; Rock Canyon High School, Highland Ranch, Colorado; Southport Elementary School, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Wink High School, Wink, Texas, and Yucaipa High School, Yucaipa, California.

Resources awarded ranged from license manuals, foxhunting equipment, and a marine buoy, to transceivers and a complete station.

A primary goal of the ETP is to enhance wireless technology literacy among teachers and students in the US, using Amateur Radio to explore radio science and electronics and provide hands-on activities that stress math, science, engineering, and technology (STEM) topics as well as other core curriculum areas, such as geography and

language arts.

To date, 579 schools have received support from the ETP in the form of equipment and resource grants. The ETP accepts applications for equipment and resource grants each year. The next application deadline is November 1. More information on applying for a grant is on the ARRL website.

Contester, DXpeditioner William Vanderheide, N7OU, SK

Well-known contester and DXpeditioner William "Bill" Vanderheide, N7OU (ex-AA7KF), of Portland, Oregon, died December 31 after a lengthy illness. He was 70. A member of ARRL and the Willamette Valley DX Club, he had operated from a dozen islands in the South Pacific as well as from several in the Caribbean, often combining Amateur Radio with service in the Global Volunteers organization, helping out in local classrooms.

Licensed in Michigan at 13, Vanderheide was an avid CW operator, a regular and high-scoring participant in

ARRL November Sweepstakes, Field Day, and other operating events -- always running QRP or low power with wire antennas, said his friend Bob Norin, W7YAQ, who called him "an outstanding contesteer, DXpeditioner, and ambassador" for Amateur Radio.

"Bill was a keen practitioner of the lightweight DXpedition," Norin said. Vanderheide documented his DXpeditions in articles for QST -- including "Return to Rotuma" in the October 2013 edition, and "High Tide on Tarawa" in January 2012.

Vanderheide taught in the Portland area for more than 30 years and later volunteered in the city's schools. He also was a sorter with the 7th Area ARRL QSL Bureau.

N7OU was involved in the T27OU, T32OU, 3D2OU, 3D2RO, 5W0OU, ZK1NOU, ZK3OU, ZL7/N7OU, AA7KF, N7OU/HI9, E51NOU, E51PEN, TI5/N7OU, and YJ0OU DXpeditions.

International DX Association forms Humanitarian Fund

The International DX Association (INDEXA) has announced the

formation of a fund -- "Hams with Hearts" -- to support humanitarian projects carried out by DXpedition teams. Thanks to an initial contribution by Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, INDEXA was able to begin the new program in mid-January.

"To qualify for humanitarian grants, DXpeditions must present a clear plan for a humanitarian project to coincide with their DXpedition," the announcement said. "The project must provide direct, physical benefit to the local population and go beyond leaving behind ham equipment, making a video, or giving a class in Amateur Radio."

INDEXA said acceptable projects might include such things as providing school supplies, clothing, medical supplies, first aid equipment, or water purification supplies. The INDEXA board will review the plans and decide whether or not to fund the project.

"In the early years of this fund, it is likely that grants will be modest," INDEXA allowed. "We

therefore will be seeking low-cost but high-impact projects.

As this fund grows it may be possible to encourage DXpeditions to conduct humanitarian projects by supporting both the DXpedition itself and the humanitarian project it carries out.

We are grateful to Zorro for his generosity and acknowledge the many humanitarian projects he has carried out on a personal level. With this new fund we hope to benefit humanity and enhance the image of Amateur Radio around the world."

Radio Broadcasting Remote Pickup Pioneer George Marti, W5GLJ, SK

George Marti, W5GLJ, who pioneered and manufactured remote pick-up (RPU) technology to allow radio stations to originate broadcasts away from the studio wirelessly -- and lobbied the FCC to authorize its use -- died on December 13 at age 95. Marti lived in Cleburne, Texas, where he had served as mayor for

12 years.

A radio station owner himself, he developed his first RPU unit to broadcast local high school football games back to the studio, bypassing the use of expensive and sometimes unreliable telephone lines. His company, Marti Electronics, also developed and sold studio-transmitter link (STL) equipment. An early Marti RPU is on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Digital Communications Conference Presentations Available Online

Some of the presentations from the 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital

Communications Conference now are available on YouTube, courtesy of Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of "HamRadioNow."

He also has produced audio podcasts. To subscribe to the "HamRadioNow" podcast, enter this URL manually into a podcast app: <http://HamRadioNow.tv/hrn/hrnrss.xml>