

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Training, prep continues for FD fox hunt

Programs for February and March meetings of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club are focusing on the ham radio sport of "fox hunting," aka competing to be the first to locate a hidden radio transmitter. A fox hunt will be staged during the club's annual Field Day at the end of June. In preparation, Les Hittner and Sean Fendt are talking about and demonstrating techniques and simple gear leading up to the big event.

Last month, Les showed us how to build steel tape 3-element yagi antennas that are nice for fox hunting. (See accompanying photos; handheld yagi design courtesy of Joe Leggio, WB2HOL.)

"I am building these out of aluminum window blind elements. I have hundreds of these pieces of aluminum because we are installing new blinds at home. This will be far less costly than going to Ace Hardware and buying new steel measuring tapes and cutting them up, and they should work nearly as well," said Les. "I have a couple of these antennas constructed (two meters and 70 cm) and have brought mini blind elements for those who would like to build their own to use at the March meeting and on Field Day."

Les also discussed antennas in general (including Doppler), RF attenuators and their use with non-



Photo by Linda Quarberg

Les Hittner demonstrates one of his homemade direction-finding antennas at the February meeting.

Doppler systems.

He handed out blinds and directions to those who want to build their own low-cost portable handheld directional antennas.

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Photo by Linda Quarberg

Les Hittner discusses how a few simple components, and some free recycled aluminum window blind slats can be transformed into a nifty homemade handheld direction-finding antenna at the February meeting. BIARC members and guests learn how to build the fox hunting tool out of Les's old mini blinds. As he points out, it's a lot cheaper and fun to recycle, when one has access to such cool used parts, than to buy tape measures at the hardware store to cut up into yagi components.

This month -- Saturday, March 12, at 2 p.m. at the Keaau Community Center -- Sean will give a presentation on transmitter hunting. He'll be focusing on short-range use of a directional antenna and portable/hand-held receiver.

"I'll also mention larger scale (mobile, even HF) hunts -- and fancy equipment like Doppler antennas. I'll cover a few basic techniques -- including simple triangulation. At the end, I'll show actually finding a direction to a remote transmitter, so people can get a hands-on test of a hand-held yagi," said Sean.

BIARC meets at 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. All are welcome.



Photo by Les Hittner
Here is one of the antennas Les built at home.

~~~ Old Rusty Submarine, SK ~~~

Corky Kirk, W6ORS, focus of more than one island ham radio legend, passed away Saturday, Feb. 13, at age 91.

"Corky was a very good person with quite a sense of humor. He will be missed by all of us in BIARC," reported past President Barbara Darling from Down Under, where she is on a cruise with husband Richard Darling. Corky's son in Chicago had passed the sad news along to Hawaii hams via Dean Manley, said Barbara.

The Old Rusty Submarine was last spotted at a BIARC meeting in December,

when he helped to install the new club officers at the Christmas party.

ORS's QTH was in Hilo, although he also had a place in Volcano. He had been a ham since 1951. He said he picked the Old Rusty Submarine monicker because he served on submarines in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in World War II. His father served on submarines in WWI.



Photo by WH6LQ

This photo appeared in the July 2014

BIARC Newsletter.

*We'll miss you, Corky!
73 and aloha nui!*

ARRL SM Report for February 2016

The strongest Cyclone to have ever hit south of the equator just devastated the island country of Fiji. This category 5 storm named Winston left almost complete destruction behind and has caused at least 42 deaths. That estimate is expected to rise.

Communications are very bad so we just don't know the full extent of the damage. Some unverified reports say entire villages were destroyed. As a result, be very careful not to interfere with ongoing emergency communications. This is a developing story. If you want to help, contact a reliable aid organization and donated money. The Australian and New Zealand governments are leading the efforts.

There are widespread reports across the Pacific that the weather seems out of control. Formosa, Hong Kong and parts of China are experiencing record cold while Western Australia is having a record heat wave with many wildfires. Please keep informed on the local weather. We are experiencing huge waves on, especially, our north shores with many beaches closed due to the dangerous conditions.

The ballots have been counted and Joe Speroni, AH0A, will be the new Section Manager starting April 1, 2016. (The rundown of recent ARRL election follows.)

Please give Joe your support.

Reminder: ARRL Dues have increased to \$49 per year with a three- year membership going for \$140. By far the best deal is still a Life Membership which is now \$1225.

The Dengue Fever outbreak is ongoing on the Island of Hawaii. Several areas are now closed to non-residents. In addition there is now a worldwide alert for the Zika virus which causes a crippling birth defect.

There is also another virus called Chikungunya, which is similar in outward symptoms, that is causing problems in some areas including Honolulu. All three are passed on by infected mosquitoes. Mosquito eradication is now a top priority. American Samoa (and many non-US Pacific Islands) are now considered hot spots for mosquito

infections.

The outward symptoms (not counting the birth defects) are sudden onset of a high fever, severe headache, skin rash and pain in the muscles and joints. Nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite are also common. The illness usually lasts about ten days with lingering symptoms for weeks. Symptoms for Zika and Chikungunya are less severe than Dengue. Infection with a second or third type of Dengue can be very severe. Fortunately the other strains have not shown up in Hawaii (yet).

Please continue to contact Congressional offices in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

The "local" addresses of our congress people are below: Please write letters NOW and send them to ARRL who will present them to the congress people. You may also write to their "local" office(s).

Be sure to especially contact Senator Brian Schatz's office to urge support of S-1685. A phone call or telegram also works. He voted against the bill in committee.

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm 7-212
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 523-2061 & Washington office (202) 224-3934

Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm. 3-106
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 522-8970 & Washington office (202) 224-6361

Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Rm. 5-105
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 541-1986 & Washington office (202) 225-4906

Representative Mark Takai (D-HI)
300 Ala Moana Blvd Rm. 4-104
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808)-541-2570 & Washington office (202) 225-2726

The ARRL HF and VHF "Go Kits" are now back in Hawaii ready for redeployment should another problem come up. A second HF and

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VHF "Go Kit" have been deployed to Guam.

As was mentioned earlier, we are still looking for someone to be the Section Youth Coordinator (SYC)

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Bob Schneider
Pacific Section manager

From the ARRL HQ:

Three new Section Managers and five incumbent Section Managers will begin new terms in their respective sections starting on April 1.

The results of three contested elections in the winter election cycle were announced February 23, after ballots were tallied at ARRL Headquarters.

In the Pacific Section, Joe Speroni, AH0A, of Honolulu received 228 votes, to 103 for Kimberly Fendt, WH6KIM, of Mountain View. Speroni has been the Pacific Section's Affiliated Club Coordinator and maintains a variety of Amateur Radio-related interests.

Outgoing Pacific Section Manager Bob Schneider, AH6J, of Keaau, decided not to run for another term of office after serving for the past 10 years. Schneider also had served earlier as Pacific SM from 1992 to 1996 and from 2002 to 2004.

In the San Diego Section, Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC, of Chula Vista, California, outpolled Patrick Bunsold, WA6MHZ, of El Cajon, California, 350 to 219 votes.

Kaltenborn brings more than 25 years of

experience as a radio amateur to the top post in San Diego Field Organization. He has been Assistant Section Manager, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, and a District and local Emergency Coordinator.

Outgoing Section Manager Steve Early, AD6VI, of La Mesa, California, decided not to run for another term after serving for the past 8 years.

In Virginia, incumbent Section Manager Joe Palsa, K3WRY, received 870 votes, while Anthony Harbour, KG4YXP, of Ridgeway received 512.

Palsa, of North Chesterfield, was appointed as Virginia's SM 1 year ago, to complete the remaining term of then-Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, who had stepped down. With this election, Palsa will continue as Section Manager for the next 2 years.

In Louisiana, Scott Wren, KD5DFL, of Pineville, will succeed Jim Molan, KD5IGG, as Section Manager on April 1. Wren was the only nominee for the new term when Molan, of Cottonport, announced that he would not run for the position again after serving for one term.

Wren has served as Section Emergency Coordinator for the past 2 years and as an Assistant District Emergency Coordinator or Emergency Coordinator since 2005.

These incumbent ARRL Section Managers faced no opposition and have been declared elected for new terms beginning on April 1:

Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, Eastern New York; Joe Ames, W3JY, Eastern Pennsylvania; Karl Bowman, W4CHX, North Carolina; and Chris Stalkamp, W0ADZ, South Dakota.

10-meter contacts are open to all amateurs

A special aloha 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 was Feb. 6-7.

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

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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 a 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.

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.

Don't forget, all licensed amateur radio operators, including those at Technician level, are invited 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.

Upcoming events:

Sat Apr 23, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Apr 24, 2016 23:59

Spring Digital QSO Party

Sat May 07, 2016 00:00 -

Sun May 08, 2016 23:59

Spring CW QSO Party

Sat Jun 04, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Jun 05, 2016 23:59

Open Season QSO Party

Mon Jul 04, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Jul 10, 2016 23:59

Spirit of 76 QSO Party

Sat Aug 06, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Aug 07, 2016 23:59

Summer Phone QSO Party

Sun Oct 09, 2016 00:00

10-10 Sprint

Sat Oct 15, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Oct 16, 2016 23:59

Fall CW QSO Party

Sat Nov 12, 2016 00:00 -

Sun Nov 13, 2016 23:59

Fall Digital QSO Party

**73 and aloha,
Irene, NH7PE**

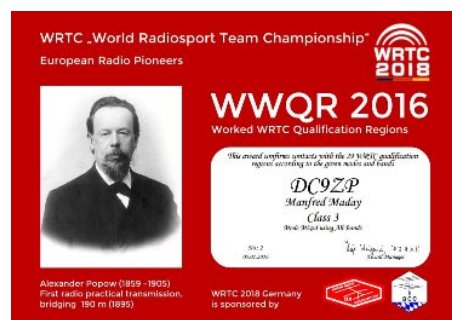
What's going on here?

What is the WRTC?

Hint: In 2018 it will be hosted by Germany.

Find out at:

<http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/presse-2/roadshow>



BI hams: Mark March 20, June 25-26 on your calendars

Aloha, fellow hamsters:

Here's a heads-up about two fun and educational experiences in Hilo coming up for anyone with an amateur radio license. Newbies as well as veteran hams are most welcome! Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 20, and Saturday-Sunday, June 25-26.

1. The March Hilo Marathon offers a wonderful opportunity for newer hams to practice communication skills. The Puna Emergency Radio Club is coordinating race comms and needs operators for 16-24 locations at this popular community event. The date is March 20 starting about 6 AM at the Hilo Bayfront. Kim Fendt has

volunteered to coordinate this event. Everyone is welcome to participate.

"For those of you who have not used your radio much, or may not have one yet, we want to partner you up with a more experienced ham at one of the event sites, if you would like a chance to see how this kind of event is worked from a radio standpoint," says Kim.

To check out the location of this run, here is the Marathon link: <http://hilomarathon.org/>

"Speaking from experience, providing race communications is always a great deal of fun while doing a useful thing. Sign up and participate and get a

nice tee shirt to commemorate the day," said Kim, WH6KIM.

Contact her at: Kim Fendt, PO Box 1030, Mountain View, HI 96771 (808-430-7297; WH6KIM@gmail.com)

Email Kim with your shirt size and contact info. PERC will have a planning meeting approximately one week before the event.

2. Field Day is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) annual event, always held nationwide on the last full weekend in June. Participation is free. We are starting to put our Big Island Amateur Radio Club (BIARC) Field Day plans together. I know some of you are new to amateur radio and have not participated in Field Day before. What is Field Day, you might ask? I think every ham radio club has a slightly different view, but basically, it is what you make it. Here is the ARRL link to the types of activities found across the nation: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

It is a social occasion, emergency practice, a "contest" for the number of other stations contacted, a public awareness event, and a training/learning place. We have to create that environment. We will be having a fox hunt (hidden transmitter hunt) demo at our March 12 BIARC meeting, and then have one or two fox hunts on field day. Great fun for kids.

Some folks have said it would be cool to make our field day solar. What do you think about that? (The generator noise can be quite obtrusive). I think we can get the folks who suggested this to put the power part together. Wouldn't that be a great upgrade for our sunny island?

At Field Day, there often are seminars and swap meets. We could do like the Glacier Park group used to do, bring your good stuff you no longer need and pitch it

to the visitors to buy.

BIARC usually has a lunch on that Saturday, so we could use someone to help with that, and a potluck for the Saturday night dinner, etc. Think about it, my friends: I'm not really good about twisting arms, but this isn't too hard a position to volunteer to help with. We can ask members for extra ice chests, etc. if needed. What suggestions do you have?

Computer logging has to be a function of this year's event. Paper works, but the computer spits out your duplicate contacts so fast, it is well worth it. Maybe we could get a demo of logging programs that are user friendly. I've never done it for a contest, but it would be a good thing to learn.

Public service announcements, posters, a banner. Who has a thought about a cheap banner that could be seen from way across the lawns there at Wailoa? Plywood and spray paint would work, but unless you are way neater than I am, it might not draw in a crowd. Any artist types up for a special project?

For those of us with no special skills, the pick-up/clean-up on Sunday afternoon can always use a few extra hands.

My email is radiopeg@gmail.com. Let me know what piece of Field Day you would like to help with, and I will do what I can to help make this event a success.

Thanks for your attention. I just want everyone to enjoy this hobby. Ham radio is not just about "work," it is also about "community" and "enjoying the various aspects of our hobby". Stay tuned for Field Day Plans.

Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS

BIARC Vice President and 2016 BIARC Field Day Chair



Amateur Radio Parity Act Gets Favorable Subcommittee Report

On a February 11 voice vote, the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology sent the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee with a favorable report

for further consideration. The measure was among three bills the Subcommittee considered during a February 11 "markup" session. The Subcommittee is chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR).

"I'm optimistic that we can put the finishing touches on these bills in the weeks ahead and

once again produce important, bipartisan legislation that protects consumers, small businesses, and access to the latest communications services," Walden said after the hearing.

During the markup session, Walden and the bill's sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) made impassioned statements in favor of the legislation. Kinzinger said that while he can appreciate some of the concerns expressed by those who do not agree with his bill, he believes that the time has come to adopt a "reasonable accommodation standard" with respect to the erection of outdoor antennas in neighborhoods governed by private land-use restrictions.

Walden agreed. "You don't necessarily need to have a giant tower blocking everybody's view," he pointed out to the Subcommittee. He suggested that more modest antenna systems often are sufficient. He and Kinzinger noted that there is common ground between proponents and opponents of the measure and that "it's important to get this done." Rep Anna Eshoo (D-CA) also spoke to recognize the work all parties have been doing to ensure the bill's passage in the House.

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 120 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. An identical US Senate measure, S. 1685, has attracted three 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.

Enthusiasm, Friendly Faces Abound at Orlando HamCation, Host of 2016 ARRL National Convention

New ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, led members of the ARRL team in greeting visitors to the ARRL Expo during Orlando HamCation February 12-14. HamCation hosted the 2016 ARRL National Convention. The event marked President Roderick's inaugural ARRL National Convention appearance since his election in January.

National Parks on the Air Update

President Barack Obama has designated three new national monuments -- all in California. The National Park Service will administer one of them, Castle Mountains National Monument (MN82), making it eligible to become the newest NPOTA unit. This means that there are now 484 NPOTA units to activate!

Before registering a NPOTA activation, be sure to check the sensitivity of the unit you want to activate. Some units are listed as "extremely sensitive" on the list of NPOTA units and require advance coordination with National Park Service administrators well before your activation. This is especially the case for units that are very small or in an urban area. Nobody wants an activation to be denied. Proper coordination with NPS staff at units listed as "extremely sensitive" will increase your chance of success.

There were 36 activations on tap between February 17-24, including the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (HP39) in Texas and San Juan National Historic Site (NS63) in Puerto Rico.

Details about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on Facebook. Follow NPOTA on Twitter (@ARRL_NPOTA).

New Amateur Extra Question Pool Puts Greater Emphasis on Digital, SDRs, Propagation

The new Amateur Extra class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020, now is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website. The latest revision contains a few minor corrections that had been released in a February 5 errata of the initial January 8 release. NCVEC Question Pool Committee Chair Rol Anders, K3RA, said the new pool represents a fairly significant change relative to the current question pool, which expires on June 30.

"The primary change is modernization of the pool to place more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment,

software defined radios, and propagation/space weather," he said. "Also, a number of other topics were added, including questions on some additional antenna types commonly used by radio amateurs." Anders said that room to cover the new topics was made in the question pool by dropping some questions that had been in the expiring pool.

"Ham TV" System Used for First Time During ARISS Contact with UK School

The "Ham TV" digital Amateur Radio television system onboard the International Space Station was used for the first time ever last month for an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact. UK and ESA Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, inaugurated the system as he spoke on February 11 with students at a school in Rickmansworth, England. The DATV system in the Columbus module of the ISS allowed students at Royal Masonic School, home of GB1RSM, to see as well as listen, as Peake, operating as GB1SS, answered their questions about life in space. The one-way DATV downlink took place near 2.4 GHz, while the two-way FM audio component was maintained on 2 meters. The IK1SLD ground station received the Ham TV signal.

"It was a historic event!" enthused past ARISS-EU Chair Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, who helped shepherd the DATV system into existence after it was first proposed more than 15 years ago.

As students at the all-girls school looked on, Peake's image appeared on a large viewing screen before a fully packed auditorium. Peake's Principia Mission has been aimed at engaging students on Earth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects. [Read more.](#)

ARISS Opens Window to Invite School and Group Proposals for ISS Ham Radio Contacts

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is seeking proposals from schools and formal or informal educational institutions and organizations -- individually or working together -- to host an Amateur Radio contact next year with an ISS

crew member. The window to accept proposals opened on February 15, and the deadline to submit one is April 15. ARISS anticipates that contacts would take place between January 1 and June 30, 2017. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS seeks proposals from schools and organizations that can draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Each FM-voice contact lasts about 10 minutes.

ARISS contacts offer the opportunity for students and educators to interact with an ISS crew member in a question-and-answer format, so participants can learn firsthand from the astronaut or cosmonaut what it's like to live and work in space and to learn about space research on the ISS. Students also will get a chance to observe and learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science.

Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in contact dates and times. [Contact ARISS](#) for more information.

Humanitarian award goes to Antonio Gonzalez

The winner of the 2015 ARRL International Humanitarian Award -- Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM -- has been active as a volunteer with the non-governmental organization Radioaficionados Sin Fronteras (RSF), Radio Amateurs Without Borders, that stresses the importance of radio in projects involving groups of geographically separated collaborators.

Gonzalez has made six visits to the Bolivian Amazon in support of Solidaridad Médica España, an NGO that works to bring sanitation and medical assistance to places in need around the world. He's also been instrumental in the building, testing, and maintenance of solar-powered HF Amateur Radio stations in remote locations in Bolivia on behalf of RSF since 2007, to facilitate communication into the remote locations he visits.

The ARRL Programs & Services Committee recommended Gonzalez for the award at the

ARRL Board of Directors annual meeting in mid-January.

"What a surprise!" was Gonzalez's reaction when learning he would be the recipient. "I don't have words to express myself." Gonzalez said the only aim of his group's volunteer efforts is to improve the lives of others.

IARU President Touts Amateur Radio's Relevance in Emergency Communication

International Amateur Radio Union President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, says Amateur Radio is "probably more relevant today than it was 25 years ago." Ellam made the comment during an interview with Maximilian Jacobson-Gonzalez at the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016), held in late January in Kuwait and sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The event's slogan was "Saving lives."

"We're so dependent now on all kinds of systems of communications -- everyone has a cell phone, everyone is used to using the Internet -- but they're not used to what happens when those systems go down," Ellam said. "Amateur Radio is there. It relies on somewhat old fashioned technology, but there are also advancements in technology that we rely on."

Ellam pointed out that hams can use computer-based digital techniques to pass message traffic at very low power levels and under poor propagation conditions. "Amateur Radio has kept pace by developing new ways to communicate," he said.

Among the major challenges Amateur Radio is facing, Ellam cited the difficulty in some countries to obtain an Amateur Radio license. In addition, he said, some countries impose high duties on imported ham gear, and some make it difficult to erect appropriate antennas and support structures.

Ellam reiterated his focus on the value of the Amateur Service today when he spoke to two sessions at the GET-2016 gathering. "Amateur operators are on the ground. If they're not close to the site of a disaster, they might even be in it," he told a Leaders' Dialogue forum. "They're there. They're ready to go. For the first 24 to 48 hours you have people on the ground, ready to assist. They own their own equipment.

They don't rely on commercial networks. If cellular service goes down, we can assist by using HF or VHF or UHF communications on a peer-to-peer basis."

Ellam pointed out that, although he's not an engineer and does not work in a technical field, he knows enough to get on the air using alternate power sources and a very simple wire antenna. "Don't forget the Amateur Radio services," he implored those attending the forum. "They're a great asset to you in times of crisis."

North American "RST" Stations on the Air Activity Set for February and March

The "RST" stations are taking to the airwaves in February and March from several locations in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, with members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) at the helm. All call signs will have "RST" suffixes: KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, and VY0RST. The idea is to further promote Amateur Radio in that part of the world.

The event got under way on February 15 at 0001 UTC, and it continues through March 27 at 2359 UTC. Exchange signal report and state/province. (The NCDXA RST stations will send town or city.)

All modes on 160 through 6 meters will be used, and SWLs are welcome to participate. The object is to work or log (SWL) as many NCDXA "RST" stations as you can from their different locations. Work/log each "RST" station only once per QTH/band and mode. Cross-band, cross-mode, or remote operating is permitted.

As wildcards, portable "RST" stations will also participate and are worth 3 points each/mode and band, but they must be one of the four "RST" stations. The portable stations must be outside their own prefix area to count -- for example, KL7RST/VY1, but not KL7RST/KL7.

Plans call for having stations on the air from Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Rankin Inlet, a Canadian research station near the North Pole on Ellesmere Island, a diamond mine in Northwest Territories, an Alaskan bush school and many

other communities, possibly including an Alaskan glacier or two.

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition That Seeks 80/75 Meter Adjustments

The FCC has put the ARRL's January Petition for Rule Making (RM 11759) on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called "minimal but necessary changes" to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago.

The League's petition asked 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 proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

The petition asks the FCC to make the following changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules, with respect to 80/75 meters:

- Modify the RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Modify the phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy -- consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to operate CW in the 80, 40, and 15 meter General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands.
- Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

According to the ARRL, the FCC Report and

Order in Docket 04-140 released in 2006 departed substantially and without justification from the rules proposed in the FCC's so-called "Omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), with respect to 75 and 80 meters.

Among other actions, the resulting changes expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and substantially changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

Although the Omnibus R&O had indicated that incumbent licensees would not lose any operating privileges, some clearly did, the ARRL has pointed out. The most substantial adverse effect of the "unexpected and vast expansion" of the 75 meter phone/image subband, the League said, was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS.

FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November.

He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime," Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014, the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2. Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).