

March 2017 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club



Richard and Barbara Darling.

ARRL Board honors BIARC duo with its annual international humanitarian award

The ARRL Board named the winners of several awards when it met in Connecticut January 20-21.

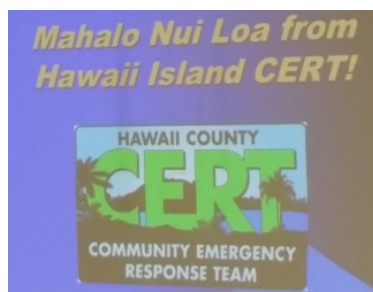
Among them, our very own Richard Darling, AH7G, and Barbara Darling, NH7FY, are the recipients of the 2016 International Humanitarian Award.

The board cited the couple's support of past International Humanitarian Award winner John Bush, KH6DLK/V63JB, and their "significant material support" to his efforts in the Federated States of Micronesia. "[T]hey have supported these ongoing efforts over many years with on-the-air

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Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, communications chair for the Volcano Community Emergency Response Team, describes the role of CERT in responding to community needs in times of crisis. Below, equipment used by team members in the field.



Photos by Linda Quarberg

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meeting minutes
on Page 4.***



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Darlings to be honored at April meeting

activities including communication during weather events, including several typhoons, as well as other emergency activities, including assistance to boaters in trouble," the Board's resolution said.

"We are extremely proud of the Darlings and their combined decades of service to amateur radio," said BIARC President Gary Schwiter. "Their admirable dedication has made, and continues to make, the lives of individuals and communities, near and far, better in many ways, including basic safety.

"Many people have benefited from Richard and Barbara's devotion to humanitarianism via ham radio, their very favorite form of volunteerism," said Schwiter.

The regular Saturday, April 8, meeting of BIARC will be a special meeting. It will be at the normal time of 2PM HST (0000Z April 9) however it will be at the Aupuni Center in Hilo instead of the Keaau Community Center. This is part of the larger Hawaii County complex located in the former Kaiko'o Mall. It is next to the Automobile Registration. It is listed as being on Pauahi Street.

The main event will be the awarding of the ARRL International Humanitarian of the year plaques to Richard Darling (AH7G) and Barbara Darling (NH7FY). There will be a short business meeting and Heavy Pupus are scheduled for after the meeting. Bring your favorite finger food.

Nancy Lakin, WH6DYY, will coordinate the potluck. For planning purposes, she asks that folks give her a heads up on what they are bringing. Please contact Nancy no later than Monday, April 3, at 769-7777 or via email at flutterby2tu@gmail.com. We hope to have dignitaries representing the state and county government and several other organizations.

BIARC, along with others, nominated John Bush, KH6DLK / V63JB for the ARRL 2012 International Humanitarian of the year award. This award is very prestigious and is given to someone that "seeks to promote human welfare" on an international scale. Richard and Barbara are the support side of the effort. Without their help the John Bush award would not have been possible so it is appropriate that they should also receive the award.

Specifically, they provide material support in the form of money and material which includes books, food, clothing, sanitary supplies and equipment such as hardware, and equipment like antennas. The Darling also provided weather warnings prior to several Typhoons which, most recently, included Maysak and No'ul. They also kept communications going in the aftermaths. Another disaster Richard was active in was the sinking of a 58-foot boat in Western Chuuk Lagoon (It is in Chuuk State in FSM). William (V63YWR) is one of the newer FSM resident hams that Richard regularly talks to. William can get on the air now partially because of the solar panels, batteries and antennas that Richard and Barbara helped supply.



Bob Schneider, AH6J, immediate past president, announces ARRL honors for the Darlings at February BIARC meeting.

The health and welfare phone patches and messages go all over the United States and the emotion involved can be heard especially since some of the people have not talked to their relatives in several years. They speak in several Micronesian languages. Even when John Bush is in his Hawaii residence, it is difficult for him to talk to his friends and adopted relatives in FSM because his condo has strict no antenna CC&R's. When he does talk to them, he either uses Richard's phone patch or his own mobile. During times of poor

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propagation, the only alternative is through Richard. This is but another reason why the Amateur Radio Parity act (HR-555) is so important.

Barbara is the ARRL QSL manager for Hawaii State and very active in the Big Island ARC while Richard is one of two DXCC card checkers for the State of Hawaii with over 300 countries confirmed himself. In addition, both have traveled extensively throughout the Pacific so are familiar with many islands along with the problems of both travel and communications.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent sovereign island nation and a United States associated country consisting of four states – from west to east, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae – that are spread across the Western Pacific Ocean. Together, FSM has around 607 islands that cover a longitudinal distance of about 1,677 miles or 2,700 km.

The ARRL has established the ARRL International Humanitarian Award to recognize those who have used Amateur Radio to provide significant Humanitarian aid outside the United States.

Much of John's work is in Yap State, specifically, on the islands of Yap and Ulithi Atoll. The project was conceived in 2011 by John Bush, Tom Raffipiy, KH7LJ, and others. It involves not only John and his company, Advanced Management Systems, but organizations such as BIARC and Rotary. Rotary

has given two grants in support of the work of \$980 and \$21,850. The \$980 was used for helping to supply computer equipment in 20 outer island elementary schools and one high school. It was also used to help train teachers and set up amateur radio stations. The \$21,850 was used for the medical clinic.

Of course, some of John's expenses are paid for by FSM but much is voluntary. Other organizations such as Missionary Air and Hawaiian Airlines also help with deep discounts. Much of John's work involves "deal making" since resources are always in short supply.

John is also working with the FSM national government to establish their own Amateur Radio License Program. This is an ongoing effort. The reason is to be able to provide more communications to this very isolated nation. Richard Darling (and Barbara) keeps a regular schedule with FSM stations and are able to provide both health and welfare along with emergency communications when needed.

John is expected to return home to Hilo in mid-March and plans to be at the celebration for his friends, the Darlings.

The full details of the things already accomplished are quite extensive and this short description does not do it justice. -- **Bob Schneider, AH6J**



Jim Tatar, WH6EMN.

Tatar seeks info for basic isle all-things-ham guide

Jim Tatar announced at the February meeting that he is working on developing a simple document to consolidate basic information about the many island-wide radio clubs, ARES and upcoming events.

"Then a person can check into the individual club and ARES sites for more in-depth information," said Jim. "This is to help the newcomer to radio and any visitor to Hawaii Island get started." We'll run the info in the BIARC Newsletter and on the new BIARC website.

To help Jim create this basic guide to all-things-ham on the Big Island, please contact him at james.tatar@yahoo.com.

"Any info is appreciated. I may not put everything in, as this is to be a basic guide," he said. "I expect this paper to go through changes to keep it fairly short but informative. I will be checking various club sites to update the paper and keep it current. I will be including the repeater list, which is 2016-2017 but lacks some info I need to add."

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2017



Doug Wilson and Gary Schwiter.

I. Call to order

Gary Schwiter called to order the regular meeting of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club at 1405 hrs. HST on February 11, 2017 at Keaau Community Center.

II. Roll call

Angelina Schwiter conducted a roll call. The following club officers/directors were present:

Gary Schwiter, Angelina Schwiter, Paul Duccasse, Peggy Gentle, Bob Schneider, Gus Treewater

The following officers/directors were absent:

Bill Hanson, John Bush, Kim Fendt, Cory Allen, Barbara Darling, Richard Darling.

III. Announcements

Bob Schneider provided an update on Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017- HR 555

"On monday january 23,2017 the US house of representatives suspended their rules and passed the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 by unanimous consent. This action now sends the bill to the US Senate for its Consideration.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Angelina Schwiter read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes contained 2 corrections, a motion was made and approved the corrected January 8th minutes.

V. Committee Reports

Program committee chair Leslie Hittner provided they are still working on the clubs 2017 training schedule. Leslie interviewed several members during break to help put the 2017 trainings.

A discussion was started by Glenn AH6IO, requesting a repeater committee report, an update on the current status of the repeaters was provided by Gary Schwiter, Paul Ducasse, and John Buck.

After a discussion Glenn AH6IO requested if repeater committee chair could not be present, could the repeater committee submit a formal report.

VI: New Business

a) BIARC 2017 Proposed Budget

A motion was made to approve the BIARC 2017 proposed budget, the budget is approved as follows.

BIARC 2017 Budget

Income: Estimated as of 02/07/2017	Budget	
Dues (Received After 1/1/2017)	\$1,000	Est.
Starting Bank Balance	\$2,005	Actual
Repeater and general donations	\$300	Est.
Donations for refreshments	\$ 50	Est.
Total Income	\$ 3,355	
Expenses:		
Club Liability Insurance	\$320	Est.
Club Equipment Insurance	\$187	Actual
Equipment	\$600	Est.
Field Day (food)	\$200	Est.
Antenna Build Project	\$100	Est.
P. O. Box Fee	\$160	Est.
Refreshments for Christmas Party	\$50	Est.
Monthly meeting refreshments	\$200	Est.
VOAD Dues	\$25	Est.
DCCA Filing Fee	\$0	Est.
Bank fees	<u>\$ 10</u>	Est.
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,852</u>	

Excess (Deficit)

\$ 1,503

b) New Club Shirts : It was announced that there will be new club shirts in the form of polo or basic tee shirts. An order form and instructions will be sent out by email. In order for the shirts to be purchased there must be a minimum of 36 shirts.

c) Field Day: It was discussed whether or not to have field day at the downtown hilo location or relocate to an area in mt. view. It was discussed the old field day location may no longer be available due to site improvements and new location of restrooms. The Puna Emergency Radio Club (PERC) offered to have both BIARC and ARES join them for a community field day in mt. view Eden Rock on road 8 at the pavilion. Requesting member feedback and decision at the march BIARC meeting

d) CERT training Overview :

Doug Wilson provided an informational presentation on the Hawaii County Community Response Team (CERT) and how they have helped our community.

"The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members

can assist others in their community following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help."

VI. Adjournment

Gary Schwiter adjourned the meeting at 1602 hrs. HST.

Minutes submitted by: Angelina Schwiter

Secretary , Angelina Schwiter

*****2017 BIARC leadership*****

President Gary Schwiter, wh6eps@gmx.com; Vice President Peggy Gentle, radiopeg@gmail.com; Secretary Angelina Schwiter; Treasurer Paul Ducasse, ducasse@hawaii.rr.com; directors Cory Allen, KN6ZU@yahoo.com; Barbara Darling, nh7fy@yahoo.com; Richard Darling, ah7g@yahoo.com; Kim Fendt, wh6kim@gmail.com; Bill Hanson, whanson@co.hawaii.hi.us, and Bob Schneider, ah6j@arrl.org; Program Co-Chairs John Bush, amsjbush@gmail.com, and Les Hittner, lhittner@hbc.com.



On Dec. 2, Maui's Mel Fukunaga is honored as he administers his 100th VEC exam session. [Shawn Boeckman, KH6RSB, courtesy photo]

Veteran Maui VE lauded for dedication

On Dec. 2 Maui's Mel Fukunaga, KH6H, an ARRL Life Member, administered his 100th exam session, and the Maui Amateur Radio Club honored his long-term dedication to amateur radio licensing on Maui by presenting him with an engraved bowl.

The Wailuku ham heads the island's VE team, which administers ham radio examinations three times a year -- in April, August, and December.

Mel has been a volunteer examiner with the ARRL VEC since its inception in 1984, becoming accredited with the ARRL VEC in September of that year.

For many years, Fukunaga served as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District Emergency Coordinator on Maui.

"For the past 32 years, Mel has faithfully conducted three exam sessions on average every year," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "The VEC appreciates his dedication and service to the Amateur Radio community in Hawaii."



Volcano Monday Night Net back in business

After a two-month hiatus, the Volcano Monday Night Net (formerly the Volcano Inverted Net) is back in business. As always, participation is open to any operator interested in some camaraderie on a Monday evening. Net Control Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, offers a bit of weird and, hopefully, interesting trivia, and coordinates the general ham radio fellowship. A storm late last year had flipped the antenna, making it difficult to reach for repair. It has finally been put upright, thanks to some accommodating tree trimmers in a bucket (see adjacent picture). The Net meets every Monday at 7 p.m., HST, on 147.260 MHz; pl 103.5 Hz on the input only.

-- WH6LQ photo

~~~~Free classified ads~~~~

(Send text for ads by 20th of month to lcritchlow@mac.com)



HAARP goes classical during its new experimental campaign

The just-concluded run of ionospheric investigations conducted from Alaska's High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) observatory -- quite likely the most powerful HF transmission facility in the world -- revived the latent shortwave listener (SWL) lurking within most radio amateurs. Operating under Part 5 Experimental license W12XFX, HAARP in late February even aired some classical music as it conducted its first scientific research campaign since being taken over 18 months ago from the military by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute.

UAF Space Physics Group Assistant Research Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX, focused on two experiments -- one called "airglow" that literally aimed to light up the ionosphere, and another to demonstrate the so-called "Luxembourg effect," first noticed on a 1930s Radio Luxembourg broadcast. Public engagement was part of his plan, and Fallen said the Twitter and e-mail feedback from his



Part of the vast HAARP antenna array, set against the majesty of the Alaskan landscape.

[Photos courtesy of UAF and Jeff Dumps, KL4IU]



UAF Assistant Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX.

transmissions has been "fantastic," and that his science campaign has become "quite an event."

"Thank you for making a difference and advancing Amateur Radio as well," Doug Howard, VE6CID, tweeted. Another Twitter follower enthused, "You're running the

coolest DX station in the world." Fallen said he also received "a lot of great waterfalls," as well as video and audio recordings from hams and SWLs.

Fallen started and stopped each experiment block with DTMF tones, transmitted in AM on or about 2.8 and 3.3 MHz, each channel fed with audio tones of different frequencies or, in the case of music, as a separate stereo channel. If the Luxembourg effect is present, skywave-signal listeners would hear both channels combined on a single frequency; Fallen said the effect is easier to detect with tones. In addition to tones, he transmitted "a 'dance track,' a Pachelbel Canon arrangement, and a

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variation of 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat.'" Jeff Dumps, KL4IU, composed some of the music, and he arranged and performed all of it.

The CW "airglow" artificial aurora experiment followed the Luxembourg effect transmissions. All week, Fallen despaired that the "ratty" ionosphere and cloud cover were diminishing his hopes for success with the artificial aurora experiments. But on the last night, he tweeted, "Seeing artificial airglow with the spectrometer. Film at 11."

Fallen is now evaluating the results of his HAARP efforts. Fans have chronicled them online, including on YouTube.

"The miracle of crowd sourcing!" Fallen said. "If only the Luxembourg effect was more pronounced, but it is in the 3,300 kHz recording."

Fallen has been working under a \$60,000 National Science Foundation grant ("RAPID: Spatiotemporal Evolution of Radio-Induced Aurora"). "During campaigns, significant expenditures for fuel and personnel are required," the grant abstract said. "Large start-up costs make HAARP experiments largely inaccessible to individual researchers unless multiple experiments and funding sources can be bundled together during a campaign of up to 2-week duration." According to the abstract, public participation would maximize "the broader impacts of the investigations."

Fallen posted additional information on his "Gakona HAARPoon 2017" blog.



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai praises House action on H.R. 555, related bills

The FCC's new chairman, Ajit Pai, recently praised US House action on H.R. 555 and other telecommunications-related legislation that had cleared the chamber the previous day.

"I want to commend the US House of Representatives for passing a number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday," Pai said. "These bills will help bring greater efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety," he continued, adding, "I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as chairman of the FCC."

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney -- who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member -- to succeed Chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20.

"I am deeply grateful to the President of the United States

for designating me the 34th Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the new administration, my colleagues at the Commission, members of Congress, and the American public to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans."

A Republican, Pai was nominated to the FCC by former President Barack Obama and was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate in 2012. Pai has said the Commission needs to eliminate "outdated and unnecessary regulations," as he proposed in a December speech. "The regulatory underbrush at the FCC is thick," he said. "We need to fire up the weed whacker and remove those rules that are holding back investment, innovation, and job creation."

Pai supports "the freedom to access lawful content, the freedom to use applications, the freedom to attach personal devices to the network, and the freedom to obtain service plan information."

In a January 24 speech, Pai addressed the "digital divide" in the US, "between those who can use cutting-edge communications services and those who do not," he said. "I believe one of our core priorities going forward should be to close that divide"

MARS refocuses mission, encrypts data nets



Today's Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program has changed markedly from what it was just a few years ago. So says US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, who contends that MARS must adapt in order to remain relevant and useful to its sponsor, the US Department of Defense (DOD).

"Probably the most significant changes were the Navy's decision to 'sunset' the Navy Marine Corps MARS program and our move to refocus Army and Air Force MARS on providing contingency HF Radio communications support to the DOD and the services," English said. "In order to focus our support on the Department of Defense, MARS leadership had to rethink, essentially from the ground up, what it means to be a MARS member." MARS relies on volunteers from within the Amateur Radio ranks. Among other things, recruits receive specialized training in military messaging formats and digital messaging protocols.

While the priority MARS mission is contingency HF communication to support DOD and the military, MARS also supports communication for combat commands providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, provides contingency communication for Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), and

provides "morale and welfare communications" in support of DOD.

MARS still provides support for civil authorities, but it must follow DOD procedures for how that support is provided, English explained. "MARS leadership used to actively encourage our members to support civil authorities," he said, "and that put us in direct competition with the Amateur Radio community as well as with other federal agencies."

English said that in today's MARS program, the primary digital protocol is software that emulates Military Standard (MilStd) 188-110A (M110A) serial phase-shift keying, which is compatible with what is used by the military. MARS members may still use Amateur Radio digital modes on working channels, but M110A is the principal mode. There are no plans to transition to digital voice modes.

This year, MARS introduced an online encryption program that allows all digital radio traffic to be encrypted as it is being transmitted. MARS has also expanded its use of automatic link establishment (ALE), although members are not required to use it.

"Our bread and butter remains single-channel HF communication," English said. "The majority of our members who do use ALE are using the MARS ALE software program. Some of our members who support our national nets are moving to hardware ALE radios."

ARISS opens window for proposals to host contacts with ISS crew

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 in concert -- to host Amateur Radio contacts next year with ISS crew members. The window to submit a proposal is open through April 15. ARISS anticipates that contacts will take place between January 1 and June 30, 2018. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. Proposal information and documents are on the ARRL website.

Winter 2017 edition of Radio Waves available

The winter 2017 issue of Radio Waves -- news you can use for license instruction and radio science education -- is now available. In this issue: How to Start a High School Amateur Radio Club in Six Easy Steps; Rhode Island School ARISS Contact Takes Off with the Public; Citizen Scientist Opportunities for Radio Amateurs, and Science Lessons for Solar Week. Plus the Instructor Corner, Update on the Instructor Reporting and Recognition Program, Licensing Updates, Education & Technology Program News, and more. All issues are on the ARRL website.



Colin Evans, M1BUU, attained Summits on the Air (SOTA) Mountain Goat status in January in Yorkshire.

Brit activates Summits on the Air the hard way for Mountain Goat status

A radio amateur in the UK, Colin Evans, M1BUU, attained Summits on the Air (SOTA) Mountain Goat status on January 28 on the summit of Whernside, the highest peak in Yorkshire, but he took an unusual approach by waiting until after he reached the summit to construct his station equipment.

He had taken along a 20-meter QRPme RockMite kit, a homebrewed key kit, a vertical antenna kit, and a gas-powered soldering iron.

Conditions were not exactly ideal. Sheltering from wind, rain, and snow in a small tent, Evans was able to construct the RockMite, key, and antenna in less than 4 hours. Better yet, his first contact with the 250 mW RockMite was with N1EU near Albany, New York, more than 3,000 miles away.

"There's a good chance that if you work me, I'll be using a rig that I've built myself," Evans said on his QRZ.com profile. He typically operates QRP and has been involved in the SOTA program since 2004.

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The ARRL Pacific Section  
webpage is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/pacific-section>

### **Another outstanding year for Amateur Radio licensing**

Last year was another outstanding one for Amateur Radio licensing, says ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

"New Amateur Radio licenses issued were up by 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000," Somma reported. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014.

### **Transcontinental Relay recreated for 100th anniversary commemoration**

A cross-country, station-hopping relay recreated the January 27, 1917, route of the first formal Amateur Radio transcontinental message traffic bound for ARRL

Headquarters. This method of traffic handling is in the DNA of the then-nascent national organization for Amateur Radio's name -- American Radio Relay League.

Kent Trimble, K9ZTV, organized the January 27 commemoration.



**Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP, SK.**

### **Oldest, longest-licensed US ham, educator Charles Hellman, W2RP, SK**

Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings on Hudson, New York, died on January 25. He was 106 and may have not only been the oldest surviving radio amateur in the US but, at 92 years, also may have been the longest licensed. Hellman outlived by 8 days Harry Wolf, W6NKT, of Morro Bay, California, who had been considered the oldest US ham when he died on January 17, just a couple of weeks shy of his 108th birthday.

In 2015, the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) honored Hellman with a "90 Year Continuous Licensed Certificate Award" (No 1). No formal records are kept

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## **REVERSE LUDDITES? Radio Australia HF station signs off in CW**

In an apparent nod to radio amateurs who may have tuned in, Radio Australia's VL8A transmitter in Alice Springs signed off on January 31 in CW. The station sent "73 de VL8A QRT," before pulling the big switch. Radio Australia announced last fall that it planned to cease shortwave transmissions. Although the broadcaster shut down its Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Roe Creek (Alice Springs) transmitters at the end of January, it will continue to broadcast on the FM and AM bands, via satellite, and via online streaming and mobile applications.

The move was not popular with those who live and work in the vast area the shortwave broadcasts reached, with some saying it was the only reliable broadcast outlet, and that its demise could deprive Northern Australian listeners of emergency and critical weather information. Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association President Tom Stockwell, who lives on Sunday Creek Station with no access to AM or FM radio or mobile phone service, isn't buying the Australian Broadcasting Commission's explanation. He said the decision to focus on digital transmission ignored people in the bush. "It affects a big area of Australia, and it affects those people that are remote from other forms of communication

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Radio Australia has said the move was in line with its commitment to dispense with outdated technology and to expand its digital content offerings and FM services.
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that rely on radio network," he said.

Mark Crocombe of the indigenous Thamarrurr Rangers in the remote community of Wadeye said his group members spend days and sometimes weeks at a time away in the bush and out on sea patrols and had relied on the ABC's shortwave radio for weather reports and emergency information, including cyclone warnings. "It could be life threatening, if you are out and you don't know a cyclone is coming," he said.

Radio Australia said the move was in line with its commitment to dispense with outdated technology and to expand its digital content offerings and FM services.

## **Hams invited to help with communications for annual Hilo marathon on Sunday, March 19**

For several years, local amateur radio operators have provided communications during the Hilo International Marathon.

Find out more at a meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 11, right before the regular BIARC

meeting, on the lanai at the rear of the Keaau Community Center.

The volunteer effort is coordinated by members and friends of ARES and the Puna Emergency Radio Club. All are invited.

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regarding the oldest or youngest US hams. Hellman had been regularly active on the air until a few years before his death, when his backyard tower fell victim to Hurricane Sandy.

Licensed as W2AMK in 1925 when he was 15, Hellman, who had been an ARRL member, went on to become an educator. After working his way through the City College of New York by repairing radios, he taught high school physics.

During World War II, Hellman was tapped by the Department of War to write a textbook for training radio operators, Elements of Radio. Two of Hellman's siblings also held ham tickets. His brother Robert, now deceased, was W2IIU. His brother Benjamin, 96, is W2VB.

**-- Thanks to Pete Varounis, NL7XM**



## AM Rally April 1-3 ~No Fooling!~

Ever wonder what that "AM" button is for on your transceiver? If you don't know about full-carrier amplitude modulation or have never used it on the air, you'll get the chance during the AM Rally, April 1-3, on the HF bands between 160 and 10 meters (except 30, 17, and 12 meters) plus 6 meters.

Amateur Radio voice-mode transmissions on the HF bands into the 1960s were AM, the same mode that used to predominate in radio broadcasting. Single-sideband (SSB), a form of AM, gradually took over the bands, although not without some pushback! Today, a group of dedicated radio amateurs keep the magic flame alive, getting on AM frequently, and for many of them, AM is their primary operating mode. The AM Rally gives the uninitiated a chance to dip a toe into the pool, so to speak.

A cooperative event organized by AM, SSB, and CW operators, the AM Rally aims to encourage fellow operators to take this "sister mode" for a spin, make a few contacts, and have a shot at earning some nice certificates.

"We plan to make the AM Rally fun for everyone, but we also want to help ops who might be new to the mode get their rigs set up and sounding the best they can in time for the event," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who is spearheading the event with Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Brian Kress, KB3WV. "Whether your rig is software defined, solid

state, vacuum tube, hybrid, homebrew, or broadcast surplus, you'll be a welcome part of the AM Rally."

The event website has complete AM Rally details, contact information, award categories, logging, and tips on how to get the most out of your station equipment in AM mode.

The AM Rally begins on Saturday, April 1 at 0000 UTC (Friday, March 31, in US time zones) and concludes at 0000 UTC on Monday, April 3.

It's open to all radio amateurs capable of transmitting full-carrier AM, using any type of equipment, from vintage to bleeding edge. The event is sponsored by Radio Engineering Associates (REA), in cooperation with ARRL, which supports all modes of Amateur Radio operation.

Participating stations earn 1 point for each station worked per band, and you may work the same station on more than one band. Earn 1 point for each state, Canadian province, territory, or DXCC entity worked. Both stations must be using AM for a contact to count.

Certificates will be awarded to stations scoring the highest number of points in each of the five power classes, regardless of rig category, both for most contacts and most states/provinces.

"All it takes is a turn, push, or click to participate!" There's also plenty of time to dig out and dust off that old AM-capable tube gear sitting in your attic or basement.

## New Rookie Roundup rules mean more rookies on the air

Changes to the rules for Rookie Roundup will let more radio amateurs qualify for the "Rookie" category. Rookie Roundup is a 6-hour operating event aimed at radio amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. Operators first licensed in 2015, 2016, or 2017 already qualify as Rookies for the next Rookie Roundup, the SSB event on April 17, 1800-2359 UTC. Operators licensed before 2015 may enter as Rookies if they made their first Amateur Radio contact during 2015, 2016 or 2017 -- or if they have never before made a contact using the mode of the upcoming Rookie Roundup (i.e., SSB for April, RTTY for August, and CW for December). These operators should send 2017 in their exchange, and those qualifying for either of these reasons will be Rookies only for 1 year.

Rookie Roundup is the third Sunday in April (SSB), August (RTTY), and December (CW). Stations send the year they were first licensed as part of the exchange. Rookies attempt to make as many contacts as possible and may work everyone. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event, multi-operator teams can compete, and veteran operators are encouraged to participate!

## **ARES posts annual report**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has posted its 2016 annual report. The 2016 ARES Annual Report focuses on documenting the value that ARES provides to the nation, states, and localities in collaboration with partners at all levels. The report features basic data drawn from Section Emergency Coordinators' reports, a breakdown of ARES figures by state and FEMA region, and a challenge for 2017. According to the report, ARES membership in 2016 was 27,754 -- up from 17,756 in 2015 -- and the Service was active in 42 states and US territories. ARES volunteers responded to 33,136 events last year.

"Sharing information about what ARES provides at all levels is critical to our work overall, as hard numbers provide better detail about our work," ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, said. "We all need to pitch in to ensure that our contributions are counted, and here at HQ, we will be sure to do our part."

ARES volunteers will see changes in some reporting forms in 2017; all forms, starting in January 2017, have been updated and renumbered. According to the report, 76% of ARRL sections filed reports for 2016, a significant improvement over past years. The report challenges ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators to raise that number to 85% in 2017.

In addition to the annual ARES report, ARRL Field Services staffers will produce their own monthly report, a link will appear in the ARES E-Letter, showing monthly data for ARES, as well as information about ARRL Headquarters emergency preparedness and Field Service activities.

## **Campus clubs need to utilize innovation**

ARRL Public Relations Committee Chairman Scott Westerman, W9WSW, believes collegiate Amateur Radio clubs need to blow away the dust and cobwebs and modernize, in order to attract new members. And he urges college and university ham radio clubs to seek common technological ground with younger generations, in order to attract new Amateur Radio licensees.

"We really need to be thinking in terms of...state-of-the-art technology, because that's what 'the kids' are looking for nowadays," Westerman told ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, at the Orlando HamCation Feb. 10-12, which hosted this year's ARRL Southeastern Convention. "The big challenge is how to get them away from their cell phones."



## **Sweden's SAQ Alexanderson Alternator Station reports good Christmas transmission**

The old Alexanderson alternator SAQ at World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station in Sweden was heard by more than 400 listeners on December 24, 2016, setting a new record. SAQ traditionally broadcasts at Christmas with the 1920s-era electro-mechanical transmitter that operates on 17.2 kHz.

SAQ has released a report that summarizes the success and a map that shows the locations of those who heard SAQ. The vast majority of reports came from listeners -- many of them radio amateurs -- in Europe, but several hams in the US and Canada were among those able to hear the 17.2 kHz transmission. "Excellent reception," reported LF enthusiast Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Newfoundland. "I look forward to visiting SAQ someday."

Dave Riley, AA1A, at historic Brant Rock in Massachusetts reported "very good" copy, with the SAQ signal at 10 dB above the noise. SAQ was even heard in Alaska, by Laurence Howell, KL7L, in Wasilla, who gave SAQ a 449 signal report.



## New Mexico radio amateur marks 80 years as a licensee



***Paul Elliott, W5DM, holds a QSL card from his first DX contact in September 1937 on 40-meter CW.***

"Made it! 80 years a ham." That's how ARRL member Paul Elliott, W5DM, of Hobbs, New Mexico, recently posted his milestone on the Top Band reflector. Growing up during the Great Depression in Kingsville, Texas, Elliott got his ham ticket at age 14 as W5GGV. Now 94, Elliott eventually worked his way to the top rung -- Amateur Extra -- back in the day when that license offered no additional privileges, just prestige. It did later allow him to apply for a two-letter suffix call sign, though, and he became W5DM.

His first rig was homebrewed from Atwater Kent radio parts, with a wire to a tree for an antenna, but he remembers making his own galena crystal for a crystal set and experimenting with a Model T spark coil. He continued building his own transmitters and receivers for a couple of decades, operating CW until SSB came along. Elliott succeeded in working all states on 160 meters from a 120 x 120 foot electrically noisy city lot with "a long but low semi-inverted L," as he described it. He now has 189

DXCC entities confirmed on Top Band.

A Texas native and World War II veteran, Elliott is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and served in the Pacific. After the war, he farmed cotton and maize on 200 South Texas acres, before going back to school to earn a doctorate in physics from Texas A&M.

"I'm basically a peasant with a lot of education," he quipped during a telephone chat with ARRL. Elliott spent more than 20 years in academia as a professor of physics at his alma mater.

"Basically, all I'm doing today is chasing the occasional DX," Elliott told ARRL. He has a transceiver and a couple of wire antennas he makes work on all bands. Elliott has 325 DXCC entities confirmed on all bands -- plus a lot of memories.

"Age, not surprisingly, has taken its toll," Elliott said on the Top Band reflector, noting that his CW speed was now down to 20-25 WPM because of waning dexterity. "Thanks to all who have had the knowledge and the kindness to help me over the years."

## Connecticut ham endows ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative

A generous donation from Dr. Ed Snyder, W1YSM, of Wallingford, Connecticut, will endow a fund to support the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative (CARI). Snyder also has provided an additional contribution of "seed money" to help get the initiative off the ground. Snyder said that he hopes the "W1YSM Snyder Family Collegiate Amateur Radio Endowment Fund" will lead to the development of a national network of college Amateur Radio clubs under the aegis of ARRL and set up ways for these clubs to stay in close contact and communicate on the air, in meetings, and through other activities.

"College Amateur Radio activities can provide the ideal bridge between youthful interest in the subject and life-long participation in our community," ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said. "Dr. Snyder, through his generosity, has provided foundational funding for this important mission."

Gallagher wrote about collegiate Amateur Radio in the December 2016 issue of QST.

Although he became a ham only recently, Snyder developed an interest as a teen; his father and uncle were on the retail side of radio -- his dad, Jack, worked at Allied and Lafayette, and his uncle, Ben Snyder, W2SOH (SK), was an exec at New York City's Harrison Radio.

"My first radio was a Hallicrafters S-38E," Snyder told ARRL. "I could not put up an antenna to transmit, so I occupied myself as a SWL." Later, he got into collecting vintage and antique radios.



Irene Kubica, NH7PE, is an avid participant in 10-meter activity and encourages hams at all levels to join in the fun.

### ***Still time to apply for scholarships***

TenTen International Net encourages qualified college-bound amateur radio operators to take advantage of the opportunity to apply for one of five \$2,000 scholarships. There's no restriction on the course of study, but applicants must promise to seek at least an Associate Degree from a college or university.

Non U.S. amateurs and those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible, as are students who study outside the United States.

Write to the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) Scholarships; P.O. Box 911; Columbia MD 21044-0911 for the application, which must be submitted by April 15. Or, go online to <http://www.farweb.org>.

Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome. It is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and contributions, therefore, are tax-deductible. If you have an employer matching program, please let coordinators know. Why not consider a donation as a group or as an individual in memory of a fellow ham or other loved one?

# ***The 10-10 Connection***

with NH7PE,

## **10-10 Aloha Chapter**

### ***Spring Digital QSO Party set***

There is still time to get set up so you can enter the Ten-Ten International Net Spring Digital QSO Party, April 29-30, a full 48 hours, Universal Coordinated Time!

Keep practicing Morse Code. Ten-Ten has a Spring CW QSO Party, May 6-7.

If you wish exotic DX *AND* want to collect 10-10 numbers, mark your calendars for June 14-28. John, PJ7/W9KXQ, will operate with friends from St. Maarten, all modes and bands.

Looking farther ahead, a 12-day DXpedition will have two 10-10 members in October on Kanton Island, Central Kiribati, using call sign T31W. See their website, [www.T31W.com](http://www.T31W.com).

**73, Irene, NH7PE**

***DX calendar: [www.dxwatch.com](http://www.dxwatch.com)***

***Heads-up on propagation: [www.solen.info/solar](http://www.solen.info/solar)***

***<http://ARRL.org/propagation>***

***<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation>***

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The world of HF radio is open to all licensed amateur radio operators, including Technicians, on the 10-meter amateur radio band.

From the website of Ten-Ten International, here are the basic answers to the overriding question:

Just what is the Ten-Ten International Net?

The Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. was formed back in 1962 as the Ten-Ten Net of Southern California. Its purpose was to promote activity and good operating practice on the 10-meter amateur band. During the first few years the organization grew slowly, but by 1975 there were 10,000 members, and the word "International" had crept into the name. To date, there have now been more than 75,000 10-10 numbers issued world wide.