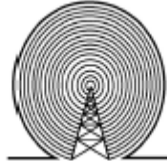


The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

September 2012

36rd Year of Publication

Prez Sez

This month I want to highlight two club events, one just past, and one coming soon. The one just past, of course, was the MDC QSO party, and as the saying goes, "a good time was had by all".



Twenty-one hams showed up at the clubhouse during the operating hours, and put W3VPR on the air to provide those 50 bonus points for contestants who contacted us. We had 7 radios in operation at least part of the time, and 4 special antennas were installed. Several new hams got to experience contesting conditions, and several veteran hams enjoyed pounding the keys and calling CQ. Our thanks to all of you

who helped make the weekend possible, with particular thanks to Nick N3CK for making it all happen. And Nick's job is not yet over—he has to evaluate the logs (over 50 have already been received) and award the plaques and certificates. Well done, Nick!

The second event is our annual family picnic at noon on Saturday, 29 September, which is always an event that the membership looks forward to. This year we are holding it in conjunction with a "foxhunt", which will begin at 9:00 that morning and last until about 11:00. Look for further details elsewhere in the newsletter and on the website. For those who didn't experience the highly popular hunt last spring for the hidden transmitter, maybe a few words of explanation are in order. Bruce Strackbein WR3Q has agreed to hide the "fox" for us and lead us in it's discovery, using either the tape-measure yagis we built at the club last winter attached to our hand-helds, or any other method of direction-finding that you can come up with. One participant even used a shoebox covered with aluminum foil for an attenuator which seemed to work surprisingly well. Bruce is also organizing the picnic, and could use some help. Please contact him at bruce.strackbein@gmail.com if you can help with flipping burgers and other such support tasks.

So put the 29th on your calendar and plan to come and enjoy the day. Further information on the picnic and foxhunt will be on the website, but all you need to remember is to bring a side dish or dessert to the picnic, and the club will furnish the rest. And I want to make another request for volunteers to organize our Holiday party in December! We

all enjoy these events a great deal, but we NEED you to step forward and volunteer to organize this party. Four or five people can easily handle this job with a minimum of time and effort, but we need you to indicate your willingness to do so very soon so that we can get on with the planning. Thanks, and thanks for all you all do for AARC!

--Chuck K3ACT

Fox Hunt and Picnic Saturday, September 29, 2012

A Public Service Message: (Subtitled) "Yes, YOU Can Help Save A Life With YOUR Radio!"

Due to changing technologies, the SARSAT, or (S)earch (A)nd (R)escue (SAT)ellite program no longer monitors the civilian aviation distress frequency of 121.5MHz. This means that older aircraft that have not installed the newer 406MHz ELT's, or Emergency Locator Transmitters, and suffer an accident may not have their automatic distress beacon intercepted.

This frequency is also used by older versions of PLB's, (Personal Locator Beacons). Some older EPIRB's, (Emergency Position and Identification Reporting Beacons) also use this frequency. An activation of one of the older style devices may go unanswered.

PLEASE! If you own a VHF rig or scanner capable of monitoring this frequency, add it in! IF YOU HEAR the distinctive whoop-whoop-whoop of an ELT, please do the following:

(1) Call the nearest Federal Aviation Administration Flight Service Station, FAA Control Tower or United States Coast Guard facility and alert them to your find (Usually in your phone book in the blue pages under "United States Government"). Be prepared to give them your name, a return telephone number and your physical address. (Remember, your QRZ.COM listing has your latitude and longitude in it.)

Be calm, be polite and don't embellish your report. "Just the facts, Ma'am."

(2) If you don't have an FAA or Coast Guard facility near by or can't find your phone book (who can, these days?), call 9-1-1 and be prepared to tell them the same information. Remember, however, that 9-1-1 operators are not used to getting such calls, so be ready to tell them who

you are and what you are hearing, politely and directly. They may want to send a police officer or deputy sheriff to your location to see for themselves. Unfortunately there are those who abuse 9-1-1 with prank calls (off with their heads!). Don't be insulted. This is an excellent opportunity for "good PR" for Amateur Radio.

(3) If you are mobile and can safely stop where you are, do so, then call 9-1-1 as suggested above, but DO NOT COMPROMISE YOUR SAFETY! Again, be ready to tell them who you are, what you're hearing and provide a location as exact as you can. No more, no less.

(4) If all else fails, get on the local repeater and call for help. Again, provide the information above. Until determined otherwise by an appropriate SAR or Law Enforcement agency to the contrary, this is a bonafide emergency.

REMEMBER!: That "whoop-whoop-whoop" is the electronic version of "Mayday" or "SOS"! Please DO assume that someone's life is in danger until the professional SAR agencies or Law Enforcement have determined otherwise!

(5) DO NOT try to locate the signal yourself! Leave that to the professional SAR and community rescue teams. Unfortunately, these beacons are occasionally used by narcotics and weapons smugglers to locate their loads. Your altruistic desire to help another person might result in harm to you! If the local sheriff or rescue team asks for your assistance, that's one thing, but the quickest way to give Amateur Radio a black eye (or get hurt!) is to show up unannounced and un-invited.

(6) Offer to help ONLY IF YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ABLE and have the skills to back it up! But do not be offended if you are rebuffed. Many agencies are wary of liability issues. It's not personal!

(Submitted by Steve Robeson, LPN Amateur Radio Station K4YZ)

AA

Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio

art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on EmComm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. EmComm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

(Written by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU)

AA

What's happening to HRD?

A lot of members know that I am a fan of the Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) software, and frequently ask me about it. I gave a presentation to the club about a year and a half ago describing lots of its features. But since that time, there have been changes that have affected HRD, so I thought I might try to summarize what has happened, with the hope that if you are thinking about using HRD, you will be well informed.

First, HRD was developed by Simon Brown, a Brit living in Switzerland for a time. When I first started using it, it had greatly expanded from its beginnings, and consisted of three separate programs which all came in one install package. The first program was HRD, which is essentially a program to control the radio from the computer, which of course requires an appropriate control interface between the radio and the computer. The second program is the logbook, which has many, many features, and can be used as a stand-alone program for any type of logging you want to do. But the third program, Digital Master 780, makes use of both of the others, and displays the digital waterfall and does the decoding of the digital signals and provides a computer display which allows you to communicate in several digital signal modes, the principal one being PSK31. This program also requires an interface between radio and computer, preferably one which contains a sound card which is dedicated to use by this program. DM780 shares a lot of code with another program called FLDIGI, which works on Microsoft, Apple, and Linux operating systems. HRD only works on a Microsoft OS. It is a phenomenal program with many capabilities. I don't think any other software, free or commercial, can hold a candle to it. The

Extra Class Study Hall

AARC will hold Extra Class Study Hall for five Saturdays 9AM to Noon starting on September 8 and ending on October 13. (No class Sept 29 - skipped for fox hunt and picnic) Testing occurs on October 13 at 1 PM. Classes and exams are held at the Davidsonville AARC Clubhouse. Since the website is undergoing some upgrades, sign up by just sending me an email to: kk4gv@w3vpr.org. Click read more for the rest of the details!

This class will be in the study hall format. At this point students have earned a General Class license and acquired some experience in the amateur radio world. Rather than teaching the entire curriculum students are asked to self study the material and come to the study hall to get the help they need to pass the exam. The Study Hall will focus on Chapters 4 through 9 but the entire book is up for discussion as needed by the students.

The book we use is the ARRL Extra Class Manual - Make sure you get the Tenth Edition because it covers the current question pool. Get it soon! Start studying now! You can get it from the ARRL \$29.95 or from Amazon for \$23.55. (Both plus shipping) I can order them for sale at the clubhouse for \$25 and no shipping.

<http://www.amazon.com/Extra-License-Manual-CD-ROM-Amateur/dp/087259517X/...>

Chapter	Topic	Recommendation	
2	Operating	Self-study	
3	Rules	Self-study	
4	Elec Principles/Math	1.5 Days	Week 1 & 2
5	Components	.5 Day	Week 2
6	Circuits	1.5 Days	Week 3 & 4
7	Signals/Measurements	.5 Day	Week 4
8	Modes/Equipment	.5 Day	Week 5
9	Antennas/FeedLines	.5 Day	Week 5
10	Propagation	Self-study	
11	Safety	Self-study	

**SEPTEMBER IS
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by [Paul M. Segal, W9EEA](#), in 1928.

The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc. believes that this code is a most appropriate way to operate and encourages its membership and all Amateurs to consider and remember these words as you practice and enjoy your privileges.

- The SLSRC Board

Since Paul, W9EEA penned these words so many years ago his thoughts have been internalized by generation after generation of Amateur Radio Operators world-wide. To see some of these permutations, click on the links below:

- From [NØNB](#)
- From [K6VPH](#)
- From [BV2WM](#)
- From [N3EPA](#)
- From [ON4SKY](#)
- From [N4QKY](#)

Check out these thoughts and give us your feelings. Address your thoughts to newsletter@w3vpr and put AMATEUR CODE in the Subject line..

MDC QSO Party photos from KK4GV vacationing in Somerset County



REPEATER FREQUENCIES

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560-		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.

Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD. For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

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Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8 PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+ PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AA County ARES Net	146.805-Mhz PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-Mhz	Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz	Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805 PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz	Daily	1930
REACT Net	147.105+Mhz PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

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First Class Mail

