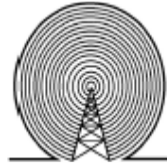


THE HAMARUNDEL NEWS



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

January 2015

37th Year of Publication

The Prez Sez... Season's greetings and Happy New Year!

It's that time of year when we take a look back as well as looking ahead, coming up with resolutions to make the New Year even better than the one just past. At least, that's everyone's plan...



Looking back, I think the club had a reasonably good year. Our public service events were very successful and well supported. Les Silva, KH6CUJ, our intrepid public service coordinator did his usual outstanding job coordinating with our supported organizations and making sure we had enough volunteers to help keep everyone in touch and safe. Field Day was, as always, a lot of fun. Dick Maio, WW3R, took over the reins as our field day coordinator and put together a fine event. I think I speak for everyone when I say thanks also to Mark Bova, W2PAW, for providing an awesome spread for field day as well. We had a great antenna build meeting this fall with over a dozen 15/20m antennas being readied to be taken on future outdoor adventures or put up at home. Thanks to Gif Hammar, K1GAH, for organizing the build. Rick Creager, KK4GV, headed up another successful pair of Technician and General classes, generating a few dozen new hams and upgrades. The club remains one of the largest and most active in the area, we have a repeater network that covers the county quite well, and we're financially solvent with a balanced budget for 2015 and a good reserve in the tower maintenance fund.

Things could have gone better, though. Field day, while an overall success, had several hours overnight where we had scant coverage. The annual picnic was lightly attended, with nobody showing up for the pre-picnic fox hunt. We've not been as successful as we'd like at turning those who graduate our Technician class into members. Having a balanced budget is good, but we're not building up any reserve for unforeseen issues – what comes in is going out. Perhaps some resolutions are in order?

So, what are your amateur radio New Year's resolutions? Personally, I'd like to get on the air more! I definitely need to set a reminder for the Wednesday night nets, try to check in to the Holly net, and set aside some HF time now that I have a decent antenna. Oh, and drag my studies of the arcane macro language of the club's repeater controllers back to the front burner so we can modify them when needed. Club-wise, as your new president I guess I'll have a bunch of other resolutions, some will be my own, others will find their way to me. So, what are YOUR resolutions?

Let me help with a few suggestions.

Resolve to re-engage with the club. We've got over 200 members on the rolls, many of whom I've never met in my five years with the club. I know there are some that have Thursday commitments, live far away, or just join to contribute to the repeater system they use. There are others who I used to see regularly, but now only rarely. So to help you with this resolution, I'll try and meet you half way. Try to make it to one of the meetings each month, and I'll make it worth your while. Actually, I need your help there as well – tell me what WOULD make it worth your while! We've got over 200 members, so that's over 200 opinions on how we could be more relevant to each of you. My e-mail address is in the back of this and every newsletter. Want to talk by phone? My cell number is in the roster, or feel free to e-mail me for it. Ask and you shall receive. I want you to be involved, I think the club can only get better as more people get actively involved. As you read above, I think we have areas where we can improve, and I think you can help.

Resolve to volunteer at least once. We have lots of public service events throughout the year, all local to Anne Arundel County. Rarely will you need anything more than a 2m HT and a few hours out of your weekend. Public service not your thing? Volunteer to help plan and execute field day! We've got a good team of folks to coordinate the various aspects (though you're welcome to be a team leader), but they always need minions! You're welcome to come and operate of course, but consider helping to set up or take down even if you can only stay a couple of hours. If you've got something you'd like to share with the club, volunteer to give a program at one of the meetings (that will help with the resolution above too). I did one this year and had a lot of fun with it.

Resolve to contribute to the newsletter. Okay, so you can't make it to the meetings and your weekends are packed, but you can still get involved by contributing a short article to the monthly newsletter. Milford Craig,

Emergency Communicator's Notebook—Part 1

(Ed. Note: This article was spotted on "St Louis Metro ARES/RACES Training: Emergency Communicator's Notebook". They are good for review and also the next step for the newly licensed amateur whether interested in Emergency Communications or not.)

Slow-charge your batteries

We've heard the term "fast and easy" so often that we've come to believe that's the best way to do things. It's not necessarily true, and it's certainly not true when it comes to charging your batteries. Fast chargers heat up your batteries and considerably shorten their lifespans. Ultimately, it is cheaper and more efficient to have several batteries on hand and rotate them through a slow charger.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Things to avoid saying on the air, Number 1

"Okay, I'll do it. But it's not actually my job. The guy who's supposed to do that is always away from the table doing something else." The other operator doesn't want to hear any of that and it ties up the frequency. Make a note of your complaints in your log and bring them up at the debriefing, but keep them off the air.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

The value of tactical call signs

Tactical call signs such as "Shelter 5", "Net Control", and "EOC" are descriptive and give immediate information. They can be very useful during planned events and during emergencies. Do not, however, forget to include your FCC call sign at ten minute intervals and at the end of each contact.

From Various experienced operators

Moist wipes, the duct tape of personal hygiene

Imagine that you've just finished setting up your antenna in a particularly filthy environment. Or that you've just helped get the generator going. Or that you've just eaten a power bar and your hands are all sticky. Now you have to operate your station. Do you really want to get gunk all over your equipment? Suppose you have to take a message? What will it look like once you had your dirty hands all over it? Operators who have worked long missions will tell you that having moist wipes in your bag is as important as having duct tape.

From Various experienced operators

Check that emergency gear

One problem almost every emergency communications operator encounters is finding that some part of his gear doesn't work. It usually happens at the worst possible time. It may be dead batteries, a non-functional piece of equipment, consumables that have gone bad, or just something that didn't work quite the way the operator thought it worked. Pick a date and mark it on your calendar. The weekend before Field Day or before the yearly Simulated Emergency Test would be good. Go through your emergency gear AND your regular equipment and make sure that everything is up to date and works.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Never alter a message

Do not alter a message, even to correct a typographical error. What you think is right may actually be wrong. Moreover, any change you make might subtly alter the

meaning of the message. Send or write it exactly as you receive it.

From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book

Have something handy for your throat

Everyone who talks on the air has experienced a moment when he or she suddenly could not talk. It may have been due to a dry throat, a cough, congestion, or a number of other things. For extended sessions at the radio, have something to soothe your throat on hand. It could be a drink or something as simple as cough drops. Please note that if you do keep liquids nearby they should be in spill-proof containers.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Do not use VOX

VOX stands for voice activated transmitter. VOX devices are handy gadgets, but should not be used in an emergency setting. Ambient noise might activate the transmitter and tie up the frequency. Also, you do not want your casual comments to go out over the air.

From ARECC Level I course book

What about your pets?

Have you included your pets in your emergency preparations plan? If not, please check www.ready.gov/caring-animals.

From Federal Emergency Management Agency

You are your own safety officer

When setting up or operating a station of any size, the very first thing on your mind should be, is it safe? Am I going to irradiate anyone with RF energy? Could my battery spill acid? Can it fall on anyone's foot? Have I created an electrical hazard? Could anyone trip over my feedline or get poked in the eye by my antenna? The safety of your station is your responsibility. Make sure that it cannot harm you or anyone else.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

How close are you to the antenna?

You want your signals to reach other emergency operators, not irradiate YOU. This is especially true if you have boosted your power. Make sure your antenna is a safe distance away from your operating location and that its emissions are not directed at you.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Every piece of equipment can break, including you

We all have limits. Don't overtax yourself during a deployment. Watch for signs of fatigue, stress, adverse reactions to the environment and so forth. Stop and take a break if you need one. It is better to have a silent radio than a fresh casualty.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Learn to handle formal traffic

Formal traffic is just a way to insure that messages don't get garbled during transmission. It's not as difficult as you might think, and there's a very good chance that you'll need to know how to do it during a deployment. There is information about message handling on our Web site, and a formal traffic net is held every Wednesday evening after the weekly voice net.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H

Used with permission of Steve Wooten KCØQMU
Emergency Coordinator for St. Louis Metro ARES, RACES & HARN

SKYWARN CLASS - WINTER WEATHER

Prince George's Office of Emergency Management and Prince George's County REACT are sponsoring a Skywarn Class on Winter



Storms to be conducted by the National Weather Service, Skywarn Program.

The class is Thursday, 29 January 2015 from 6:30 PM to approximately 8:30 PM. The class will be held at the Prince George's Fire Services Building, 6820 Webster Street in Lanham, Maryland.

To register, click on:

www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-winter-storm-15-02-tickets-14679293161?aff=Email

or www.PGCountyREACT.org.

Basics 1 is a prerequisite of the class.

Questions may be addressed to Paul Bowling via e-mail at: Paul@W4ATN.com.

AA

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Post Holiday Hamfest

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Location: Odenton Volunteer Fire Department

1425 Annapolis Road

Odenton, MD 21113

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/marylandmobileers/hamfests-1/hamfest-2>

Sponsor: Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.805/146.205 (PL 107.2)

Public Contact: Bruce McPherson, AB3AC

484 Peach Leaf Court

Odenton, MD 21113

Phone: 410-456-2500

Email: bmcpherson73@verizon.net

Virginia State Convention (Richmond Frostfest)

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Location: Richmond Raceway Complex

600 East Laburnum Avenue

Richmond, VA 23218

Website: www.frostfest.com

Sponsor: Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 146.88 -600 (PL 74.4)

Public Contact: DeeDee Farrell, KK4AVC

PO Box 14828

Richmond, VA 23221

Phone: 804-657-7038

Email: info@frostfest.com

5 GHZ BACKBONE COMING

Kudos to Dick Hayman, WN3R, who has established a website <http://www.public-connections.org/> as a single point of contact for those individuals and groups of hams who would like to become involved in creating a wide-ranging mesh network on 5 GHz. He is organizing an effort to build a backbone running on 5 Ghz under Part 15 rules. Local hams and clubs can connect to the backbone with any gear they like operating on any frequency under parts 15 or 97. Dick is looking forward to working with an "army of geeks" to build the structure.

This is a great idea, particularly living beside the nation's bullseye, Washington, D.C.

For more info on the technical details, you can go to Keith Elkin's, KB3TCB, site,

www.remoteamateur.com.

AA

NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR AND RACES OFFICERS

Don Gerkin, W3DVG, is the newly appointed ARRL Emergency Coordinator (EC) and RACES Officer for Baltimore City. If you live in the city and would like to become active in emergency communications, you may contact Don at w3dvg@arrl.net.

Mike Barrett, K3MMB, k3mmb@arrl.net has been appointed the new RACES Officer in Frederick County.

AA

Thoughts from Jim Cross, NI3N

I am pleased to announce that Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, won the election for ARRL Atlantic Division Director position. Tom lives in Accokeek, MD, and is a former SEC and SM for the MDC Section.

We extend our congratulations to Tom.

I would also like to congratulate Bob Famiglio, K3RF, SM for EPA, who won the election for the position as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice-Director.

Thank you all for voting.

I am sure Tom and Bob will work well together on the ARRL's Board of Directors on our behalf.

Although we've had cold weather and some snow, winter, the winter solstice, does not officially begin until December 21 at 6:03 PM EST. Then, the sun will start to rise earlier and set later each day; days will become longer.

The reason there is so much cold weather (in the northern hemisphere) during January and February is because of the earth's thermal inertia. Thermal inertia is also the reason why we have our warmest weather in July and August, after the summer solstice, which occurs around June 21st each year.

On behalf of my ARRL Field Services staff, whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or Christmas, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a fun, radio active and prosperous 2015.

And remember, I am always at your service.73,

Jim Cross, WI3N WI3N@ARRL.ORG

ARRL MDC Section Manager (SM)

Used with permission from the MDC Section News Letter Dec 18, 2014.

AARC 2-Meter New Controller Schedule - 2015

01/07/15	K3MAW	Mike	07/01/15	N3WYG	Milford
01/14/15	KA3EPZ	Ed	07/08/15	K3ACT	Chuck
01/21/15	K1GAF	Giff	07/15/15	KB3YQK	Tim
01/28/15	KN2MUV	Raven	07/22/15	K3MAW	Mike
			07/29/15	KA3EPZ	Ed
02/04/15	N3WYG	Milford			
02/11/15	K3ACT	Chuck	08/05/15	K1GAF	Giff
02/18/15	KB3YQK	Tim	08/12/15	KB3MUV	Raven
02/25/15	K3MAW	Mike	08/19/15	N3WYG	Milford
			08/26/15	K3ACT	Chuck
03/04/15	KA3EPZ	Ed			
03/11/15	K1GAF	Giff	09/02/15	KB3YQK	Tim
03/18/15	KN2MUV	Raven	09/09/15	K3MAW	Mike
03/25/15	N3WYG	Milford	09/16/15	KA3EPZ	Ed
			09/23/15	K1GAF	Giff
04/01/15	K3ACT	Chuck	09/30/15	KB3MUV	Raven
04/08/15	KB3YQK	Tim			
04/15/15	K3MAW	Mike	10/07/15	N3WYG	Milford
04/22/15	KA3EPZ	Ed	10/14/15	K3ACT	Chuck
04/29/15	K1GAF	Giff	10/21/15	KB3YQK	Tim
			10/28/15	K3MAW	Mike
05/06/15	KN2MUV	Raven			
05/13/15	N3WYG	Milford	11/04/15	KA3EPZ	Ed
05/20/15	K3ACT	Chuck	11/11/15	K1GAF	Giff
05/27/15	KB3YQK	Tim	11/18/15	KB3MUV	Raven
			11/25/15	N3WYG	Milford
06/03/15	K3MAW	Mike			
06/10/15	KA3EPZ	Ed	12/02/15	K3ACT	Chuck
06/17/15	K1GAF	Giff	12/09/15	KB3YQK	Tim
06/24/15	KB3MUV	Raven	12/16/15	K3MAW	Mike
			12/23/15	KA3EPZ	Ed
			12/30/15	K1GAF	Giff

If you cannot take your turn as Net Control Operator, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

If you would like to be used as a replacement Net Control Operator (one that is not scheduled on a regular basis but can fill in where needed) please contact Mike K3MAW.

This is a valuable opportunity to learn and hone your operating practices. It is also a good place to try our net equipment to learn how it would work in an 'emergency' environment.

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

8PM, 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	442.300+Mhz PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.

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Davidsonville, MD 21035

First Class Mail

