

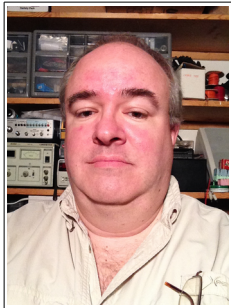
The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

March 2015

36th Year of Publication



Prez Sez,,,

The dust has settled and club members recently voted to purchase a few Yaesu DR-1X repeaters. We've had quite the spirited discussions on this proposal, both on and off line, over the last couple of months. It was good to see folks passionately on both sides of the debate, and I think it helped

focus things and move toward a solid path forward. For those tuning in late, the club will be procuring 4.5 repeaters. We will be sharing the cost of one with the Maryland Mobileers

to replace the aging Regency repeater serving 442.3 in Annapolis. This site has been a joint effort between our two clubs for some time. Another DR-1X will replace the

444.4 repeater in Davidsonville. Currently we're using a county-owned Quantar that is actually supposed to be at the 442.3 site. This will allow us to move that machine back to Annapolis to back up the jointly-owned DR-1X, we'll move the Regency up to Davidsonville as a backup for the 444.4.



Another repeater will find its way to the 075 site, which will allow us to bring the Quantar serving that frequency back to Davidsonville as a backup to the current 105 Quantar. The Micor will be taken off standby, given some tuning up, and then return as a second backup to the 105. The club realizes that the 105 is our primary repeater and covers much of the county. We're opting to keep it strictly

analog with two ready backups to insure it's always available. The final two repeaters will be replacing the mobile radios being used for the 105 to 075 link. We've had heat-related issues with these radios in the past, and feel that the repeaters will be more robust. As they're dual-band, we hope to eventually move to a UHF link which will improve the usability and avoid having to wait for the 075 to drop. They'll also provide backups for any of our other

repeaters should problems arise. Being dual-band they can stand in for any other repeater that goes down, and we can fall back to our in-band link with the mobile radios in the interim.

All in all, I think this will provide us with a more robust repeater system, giving us on-site backups for most of our machines and the ability to shift repeaters around if a site experience problems. We'll put in our order soon and hope to begin checkout operations in the spring. I expect we'll keep it basically analog to begin with and phase in the digital capabilities gradually. I'd welcome your input on things you'd like to see and try out once we start introducing the digital modes. We might, for example, unlink the 444.4 on occasion to allow a digital net or experiments with data transfers and such. Start dropping

hints for Father's Day (or Mother's Day!) for a new Yaesu HT or mobile...

We

certainly don't expect this to go without a hitch, though the repeater

folks have a pretty good handle on the technology. Tom Provenza, N3LHD, our resident Motorola expert, has helped one of the southern Maryland clubs get their DR-1X system up and running, so that will provide some good experience to implement our system. But as we go along, I'm sure there will be some growing pains and we'll do our best to minimize the impact to our repeater users. Remember, the 105 will remain analog running on the Quantar and the use of any digital modes linking in from 075 or 444.4 will be a gradual thing. The website will keep you informed as we start testing various things so you'll be aware of anything that might cause an issue.

Hopefully we've seen the last of the snow! I like the winter, but I think I'm ready for spring. The club will be planning some spring cleaning events as the weather warms up, I hope you can join in for at least one. We'd like to clean out and organize the storage buildings, do a little maintenance on the small towers, spruce up the clubhouse (including the repeater room and kitchen), and

Spring Clean
Your
WORLD!



revisit the protective plots around the guy wire anchors – replacing the mulch with pebbles to allow better drainage. We'll also be taking a look at the 105 antenna to try and determine if it's due for replacement or repair. The tower needs inspecting and we hope to get some pros over to check it out when it gets a little warmer. There's lots to be done and I hope you can come out and help at one of the work events.

We've got some good programs coming up in March. Doug Ellmore, NA1DX, will be showing us some cool software he uses with his KX3 for DXing and contesting, and Jon Graefe, KB3ZVO, will give us an update on VHF packet operations now that our packet station is back up and running.

We still need a Public Service Coordinator! Please give this some serious consideration. The first of our dozen or so events is coming up March 29th - the B&A Trail Marathon. We have someone to coordinate it, Bruce Becker, N3KNP, and he'll be putting out a call for volunteers soon. Aside from that, though, we have nobody to handle the overarching task of working with the groups we support and getting folks lined up to help at these events. Please consider volunteering or getting together with another member and volunteering as a team to be our Public Service Coordinator. Les Silva, KH6CUJ, has done a great job the last few years and will be a wonderful mentor to get you started. For a club that has done so much public service, and done it so well for many years, it would be very disappointing to be unable to offer our help to the various organizations we've served so well. Once we have to cancel, they'll find ways to work without us and we'll have a hard time convincing them to call on us again. This is our face to the community, a basic tenet of amateur radio, and an excellent way to practice some of our emergency communications skills. You'll have plenty of help from Les and the rest of the folks who regularly offer up their time to participate in these events.

I'd like to again thank all of you that participated in the repeater discussions over the last several weeks. Regardless of which side of the debate you might have been on, the fact that you took the time to offer up your thoughts and comments both on the forum and via e-mail, is greatly appreciated. Let's try to warm things up outside by radiating a little RF!

73 Brian K3HMX

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ARRL Field Day 2015 Packet Now Online



The complete 2015 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is now online. There are no rule changes for 2015. Field Day 2015 takes place June 27-28.

"Following a successful Centennial QSO Party with on-the-air activity at an all-time high, we are very excited for this year's event and hope that individuals and clubs will carry their enthusiasm over to Field Day," said ARRL Contest

Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups, or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Participants are encouraged to register their Field Day operations using the [FD Site Locator](#). Field Day gear will be available by March 1. If you have questions about Field Day, [e-mail](#) them, or call 860-594-0232.

Used with Permission, ARRL Letter Feb 12, 2015

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Free Android Propagation Tool Available:



[WSPR World Watch](#) is a free

Android app that plots real-time radio transmission paths on a world map and incorporates a background display of the gray line or terminator. It was developed by Derek Turner, G4SWY. Users may view paths of individual stations, and there is an aurora plot option and display of space weather indices. *WSPR* is designed for probing radio propagation paths using low-power, beacon-like transmissions. *WSPR* signals convey only a call sign, Maidenhead grid locator, and power level. Receiving stations with Internet access automatically upload reception reports to a central database.

Used with Permission, ARRL Letter Feb 12, 2015

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Hamvention Week AuxComm Course Registration Now Open

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications will offer its Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) course May 12-14 prior to [Hamvention®](#) 2015 in Dayton, Ohio. More than 1000 Amateur Radio operators have completed the course, which trains qualified hams to assist local, county, and state government with emergency back-up communication. The AuxComm course covers emergency communication in a public safety context within the National Incident Management framework. It also introduces the auxiliary communicator to the Communications Unit Leader function. [Details and registration requirements](#) are available on the Hamvention website.

Applicants must meet all prerequisites and provide documentation to attend this class. The class is limited to 50 qualified students. The intensive 3-day course provides facilitated lectures, student exercises, and interactive discussions.

The AuxComm workshop is designed for auxiliary emergency communicators who volunteer to provide back-up emergency radio communication support to public safety and emergency response professionals and their agencies.

The public safety community often relies on the Amateur Radio service for communications support for situations such as sporting events and festivals or when telecommunication systems have collapsed or been severely disrupted during a natural or manmade disaster.

Used with permission ARRL ARES E-Letter, Feb 18, 2015

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

ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals

(Ed. Note—The enclosed graphics will make the proposed changes a little easier to understand.)

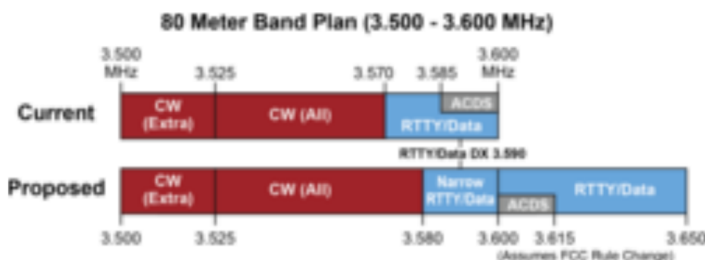
The ARRL is asking members to [comment](#) by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF [Band Plans](#) suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters -- excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a [March 2014 solicitation](#) that sought suggestions on how to use the spectrum more efficiently, so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

"The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. His [article](#) detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April issue of *QST*.

The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

Band-by-Band Draft Recommendations:

80 Meters



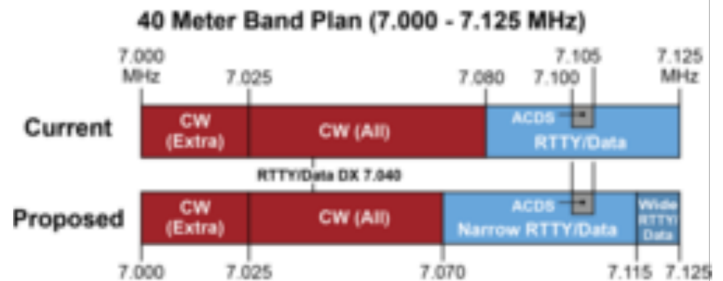
On **80 meters**, the committee suggests several modifications to the band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. "Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation," Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are being asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.

- Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

40 Meters



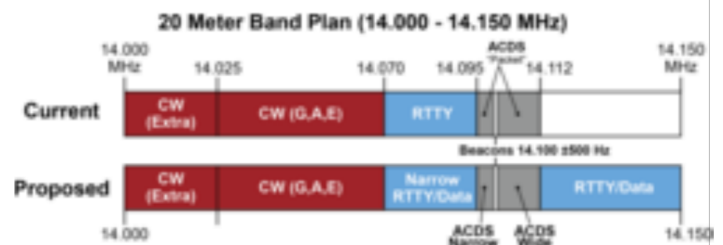
On **40 meters**, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide -- and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide," with wide data modes -- outside of ACDS -- at 7115-7125 kHz. The "Guide" shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

30 Meters

On **30 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

20 Meters



On **20 meters**, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

17 Meters

On **17 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

15 Meters

On **15 meters**, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity.

The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they're now limited to CW.

12 Meters

On **12 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

10 Meters

On **10 meters**, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

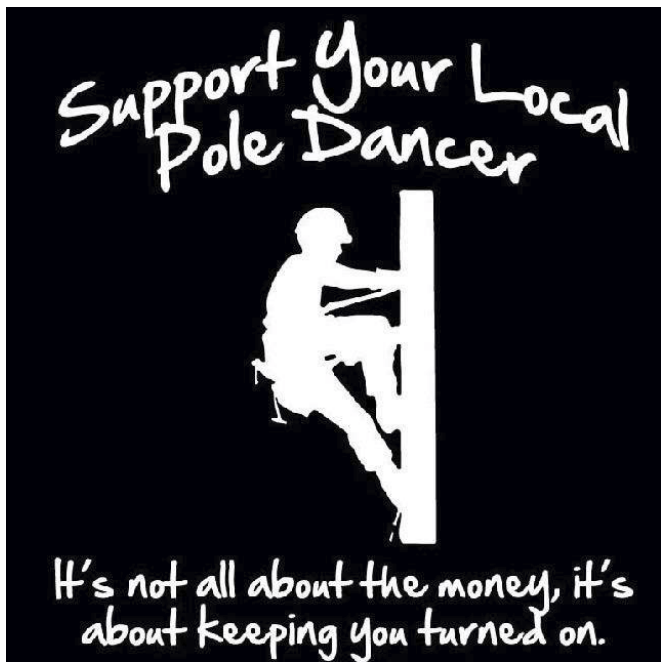
How to Comment

The League has set up a [web page](#) to record members' preferences and comments, which includes links to the HF Band Planning Committee [report](#) to the ARRL Board and to Sumner's April QST [article](#) (and **high-resolution band charts**). This web page allows you to say YES or NO to the proposed plan changes per band.

For those wishing to offer more detailed comments may [e-mail](#) ARRL. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.

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ARRL Partners with Liberty Mutual to Offer Home, Auto Insurance Discounts

[ARRL](#) and [Liberty Mutual Insurance](#) have reached an [agreement](#) to provide League members with home and automobile insurance discounts. In the past, this membership benefit was provided by MetLife. Under the affinity arrangement, a portion of each premium comes back to ARRL.

"Liberty Mutual is an undisputed group-insurance affinity leader with excellent rates," said ARRL



Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF. "Convenient support is available by phone, online, or one on one with a local sales representative, and with thousands of dedicated retail agents and hundreds of offices across the country." Given the ready access to Liberty Mutual's customer support, Petrilli said, it will be even easier for ARRL members to obtain quotes, begin coverage, and get answers to any questions.

Petrilli assured members who already have home or auto insurance through the League's arrangement with MetLife that their coverage will continue, but, she added, when the current policy comes up for renewal, the ARRL group discount may no longer apply.

ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said that League members with existing Liberty Mutual policies should contact Liberty Mutual or their local agent directly to see if they qualify for additional ARRL group savings and discounts. He noted that savings under the new agreement could be substantial, and that

members may save even more by bundling their home and auto coverage.

Savings and discounts are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten, and not all applicants may qualify. Policies are underwritten by the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley St, Boston, MA 02116.

In addition to auto and home insurance, Liberty Mutual offers life, motorcycle, condo, renter's, and personal liability insurance. Liberty Mutual representatives can discuss options and recommend coverage. To learn more, call 800-524-9400 or [visit](#) the Liberty Mutual website.

When contacting Liberty Mutual, ARRL members should request group savings and discounts offered to members of the "American Radio Relay League."

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First Class Mail

