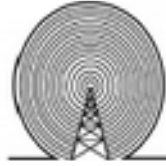


# The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

June 2015

36<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication



## Prez Sez...

Last month I declared that spring had sprung, but I think we've jumped right on into summer! As I panic to meet the newsletter deadline (yes, it's May 31<sup>st</sup>), it's hit the upper 80's this weekend. Spring was good while it lasted...

Before we continue, I hope you took the time to remember our veterans over the recent holiday weekend. It's nice to get together with family, have a cookout, and

kickoff summer, but let's not lose sight of the reason for the holiday. To all our club members who have served and those currently serving, we thank you for your service! With all of the unrest in the world today, keep in mind that those out on the front lines are all volunteers and regardless of your political views, I hope you join me in supporting those men and women and keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

Of course the big radio news for this month is that Field Day is almost upon us! In just under four weeks we'll be setting up shelters and antennas in preparation for our biggest operating event of the year. If you were at the last meeting you heard the update from Dick Maio, WW3R, our Field Day coordinator. Things are going pretty well as we enter the final stretch, but we can always use more volunteers to help with setup and teardown. If you can make it to the clubhouse on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, we will start setting up around 9:00 AM. There will be plenty of things to do, so I guarantee if you show up, you won't be bored.

Dick could also use some radios for the various operating stations. In the past, Bob Rose, AA3RR, provided a number of radios help fill the slots. With Bob and his radio herd having moved to the radio ranch out west, we could use some folks to lend their rigs for the weekend. Please get in touch with Dick at [ww3r.maio@gmail.com](mailto:ww3r.maio@gmail.com) if you can help out.

In addition to radios, we also need people to operate them! They don't really do very well all by themselves, so please plan to come out and get on the air. We are still running a 10A setup this year because members have been vocal about wanting us to continue in this class. Running ten stations for the entire weekend is not a trivial undertaking. Those that spent the night last year

might recall how quiet things got when the sun went down. We just didn't have the operators to continuously man that many positions, which meant a lot of potential contacts went unmade. If you can get a kitchen pass to stay through the entire period, or if you want to sleep during the day and come by after dark, we'd love to have you. If we can't reliably man ten stations this year, we may have to seriously look at running a smaller operation next year. That's not necessarily a bad thing, fewer stations might let us do more interesting things with antennas and there will be fewer issues with interference. With that said, please plan to come on out for at least a little while, operate a station, and join in the fun! In fact, bring a friend and show them around. It's probably the best opportunity to see ham radio in action and with all of the activity they're bound to make a contact!

In other news, we have a new **Public Service coordinator! Erick Graves, WA3G**, volunteered and the board voted to accept him as our new Public Service guru. Please join me in welcoming Erick to this position. Let's also make sure that when he puts a call out for volunteers for the events we support that we help out where we can. Remember that New Year's resolution I made for you? The one about helping out at an event? There are several more races and other events through the rest of the year that you can help out with. Keep an eye on the calendar and website as these get posted and please try and make it to at least one. It's great practice for emergency operations and working with a directed net. As I've mentioned before, it is also our face to the public and a cornerstone of Amateur Radio and our claim to the bands. We need to make it a positive face and an organized and responsive support element for the event sponsors that we serve.

We had a great turnout for the equipment sale at the last meeting! Ike Lawton, W3IKE, did his usual stellar job getting all those goodies sorted, priced, and checked out. Hopefully you were able to get at least some of what you wanted and you'll be able to put it to use. If not, have no fear, there was plenty of stuff that didn't make it out of the storage building due to space and time constraints, so we're well on our way to having another crop of treasures available for a fall sale. I'm not sure what the final tally was, but I know we sold almost everything so I think the club made out pretty well.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at Field Day! It's only 26 DAYS AWAY!



*Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

*Miss Holly, N3MB*



We'll be continuing the celebration as Holly starts her 100th year someone who's done so much for the club! Many local hams joined her for brunch this Saturday, March 28th. at the Old Country Buffet in Annapolis.

Miss Holly can be heard almost each week day morning from about 7:00 am to 9:00 am (unless she is getting her hair done). She has made many commuters day begin with a smile and a "have a good day". Even folk passing through are looking for 'the Holly Net' and are happy when they get a chance to work her on their travels.

Give her a call on the 147.107 repeater (PL Tone 107.2) in Davidsonville, MD. She is waiting to hear from you!

Happy Birthday, Holly

Brian Mary, K3HMX  
Club President

## AARC Club Service Hours for 2015- Mid Year Report

Terry (KB3CWQ) and Barb (KB3LDM) Nixon

For many of our new members and perhaps current members the AARC has been accounting for all of the hours that club members "give back" to the club. This program, started in 2009, was developed to recognize club members that provide some type of "service" to the club. These "service hours" cover a wide range of activities from net control operators, VEC teams, Public Service Events and Field Day. For this reporting year we are almost half way through. Right now our "grand total" is 914.5 hours. Some folks have been very good about reporting their hours and others not so much. Here are some areas that need additional data information:

- Net Activity (Wednesday night net control operators for Feb. March and April)
- Hours for folks that were working on clean up Ham Shack 1 or any other work party sessions.
- Classes for Tech and General ticket
- Miscellaneous ( Repeater repairs on the 440 machine, hours spent on preparing presentations for the club, Saturday sessions working with Tech folks on HF and any administrative hours for officers and Board members.
- Field Day 2015 (planning meetings for FD 2015)

I'm sure there are many hours that have gone unreported. Some club members feel embarrassed to report hours or think that it is unimportant. One of the requirements for our 501(c)3 status is to report the numbers of hours that the club gives back or volunteers to the community at large. Our VEC testing sessions and public events participation hours serve the ham community and the local community.

You can easily submit your hours in several ways. This can be done by either sending us an email (thnixon@qis.net) or using the club website. On the left side of the website you will see a "button" service recognition form. Once you hit that button a form will be generated which you fill out. Once you hit send it will automatically come to our email box. If you are working on an individual project once it is finished you should report your hours either way.

Don't count on an event coordinator or project person to report your hours. You can do it and we will sort it out. I usually reply to direct email submissions to let you know that we have received your hours. If you submit your hours via the club's website I will not be able to email you back.

At the end of the reporting "year" we will total the amount of hours for each club member that has been involved in club activities. If you accumulated over 25 hours you will receive the very stylish blue and white service hour badges.

The year of service will be printed in white. If you gave over 50 hours your year letters are in bronze, over 75 hours they are in silver and over 100 hours you will have gold letters.

At the club meeting you will see various members wearing their service badges.

This past year (2014) 6 additional club members earned their badges which they should wear proudly. Since 2009 we have had over 70 club members earn their badges.

If you need more information or have question don't hesitate to speak to us at any of the club meetings or email us at [thnixon@qis.net](mailto:thnixon@qis.net). The only job that we do is to record the hours that club members contribute to AARC. We can only award service credit to our club members and for projects that involve the AARC. If there is a question about the hours we will get back to you and in very few cases we will discuss this with the officers and Board members of the club. So in 2015 don't forget to send in those service hours to us. We are just the "bean counters" and unless you report the hours we can't put them into the spreadsheet.

Thanks again for all of those club members giving back to the club. 73's.

AA

### Field Day Dry Run June 6

Field Day is rapidly approaching (less than 4 weeks away) and we want everyone to know that ALL are invited to participate. It starts on Saturday June 27 at 2 PM and ends on Sunday at 2 PM. We will be running 10 stations with generator power. Phone, CW, digital and phone on 160 m, 40 m, 20 m, 15 m, 10 m, 6 m (as available), 2 m (as available). We need volunteers to help set-up on Friday June 26 and to breakdown on Sunday June 28 after 2 PM when Field Day ends. We need to locate fans, plug strips, coolers, rigs (yes, I know that Chuck Tanner K3ACT will have his digital rig, but the rest??).

Let's make the dry run June 6. I hope there are no conflicts for that day. How about meeting June 6 in the afternoon at the club house at 1 PM?

73, Dick Maio WW3R

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The *Ham Arundel News* is the monthly official publication of

The Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.  
(ARRL Club No. 0484).

**Editor: Milford Craig / N3WYG**

Send newsletter articles, questions and information to **Milford at n3wyg@w3vpr.org**  
Deadline for submissions – The Saturday after the 3rd Thursday of the month

**Mailing Address:**

Anne Arundel Radio Club  
Post Office Box 308  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

**Meetings:**

General Business 1st Thursday at 7:30 PM  
Board Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM  
Program/Activity 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM

**Dues:**

\$20 per year, payable December 1st  
Discounts available for family members and students

**World Wide Web:**            [www.w3vpr.org](http://www.w3vpr.org)

AARC Supports The Maryland Slow Net:  
**3.563 MHz CW 7:30 P.M. Daily**

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**Free Money for AARC!**  
**ARRL Membership Reminder**

ARRL affiliated clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters:  
Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more).  
Clubs retain \$2 for each renewal,  
A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at any time, even before their current membership expires.

Send your application and payment (made out to AARC) to the club treasurer.



# Mark Your Calendars

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Club Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7:30 to 9PM at the clubhouse located at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center in Davidsonville, MD

Free License Exams every 2nd Saturday of the Month - Check in at Noon, Exams at 1PM - At the clubhouse - Contact K3BAY

Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair 1 to 4 PM  
Every 4th Sunday at the clubhouse  
Contact Raven KB3MUV

2 meter Morning Commuter Net on 147.105  
(Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400) every morning 6:30 to 9:00 am. This is the famous Holly-net. Pre-Holly-net starts at 5 AM or so.

2 meter Wednesday Night Net on 147.105 (linked to 147.075 and 444.400) at 8 PM - All Welcome

## EVENT SCHEDULE

- 6jun15 (Sat) - Field Day Dry Run—Club House
- 13jun15 (Sat) - (free) Exams for your FCC amateur radio license. Details [here](#).
- 13jun15 (Sat) - HF-nØØbs is almost always right after the exams, about 2 or 2:30 PM until at least 5 PM. Come operate the club station, no license required.
- 27-28jun15 (Sat-Sun) - Field Day! Field Day! Field Day! (Yes, it's that close.)

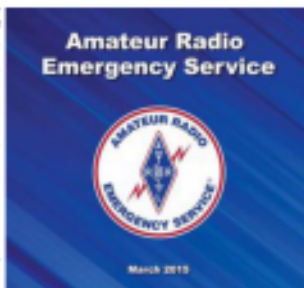
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**From the Editor's Desk...**

**Please, can you help? Needed are articles, pictures, happenings around the club, other activities that could make for a clear understanding of the life of the AARC.**

**Please send your info to [newsletter@w3VPR.org](mailto:newsletter@w3VPR.org)**

## Updated Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual

Updated *Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual* Now Online The [latest edition](#) (March 2015) of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Service*® ([ARES](#)) Manual now is online. This edition includes various Incident Command System (ICS) forms for ARES use, clarifies the role of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), contains an improved chapter on ARES training, and includes all current ARRL memoranda of understanding/agreement.



ARES consists of Amateur Radio licensees who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service, when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of ARRL membership, is eligible to apply for ARES membership.

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 28 2015

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## Hurricane Watch Net Anniversary

### Hurricane Watch Net Sets On-Air Anniversary



**Celebration:** The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) will hold a 2-day, on-air special event on June 13-14 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. HWN members will be using the call sign [WX5HWN](#), operating on 14.325 MHz but with stations active on or near 7.268 MHz as well. "Our net control stations located around the

continental US, eastern Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Honduras will all use [WX5HWN](#) as we pass the virtual baton from member to member," explained HWN Manager Bobby Graves, [KB5HAV](#).

This will mark HWN's first on-air activity using [WX5HWN](#). Electronic certificates are available by [request](#) (by June 30) for valid contacts. Visit the [HWN](#) website for more information. -- *Thanks to HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV*

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 28 2015

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## Test APRS on Duchifat-1 CubeSat

Hams Invited to Test APRS on Duchifat-1 CubeSat: The [Herzliya Science Center](#) is inviting stations with the ability to send compressed APRS packets to take part in testing the [Duchifat-1](#) CubeSat, launched almost 1 year ago by high school students in Israel. The satellite will collect packets worldwide and downlink them from time to time over the Herzliya Science Center's ground station. Participants must [register](#) in advance to have their



packets identified on the map. Received packets will be displayed on a map on the Science Center's website, and QSL cards will be sent via the bureau. The uplink is 435.220 MHz, the downlink is 145.980 MHz. The satellite's call sign is [4X4HSL](#).

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## ARRL Insurance Plan Administrator Changes



ARRL Insurance Plan Administrator Changes: The ARRL-sponsored equipment and club liability insurance plans have a

new administrator as of May 26. All program administration, including policy application, issuance and claims administration, is now being handled by [Risk Strategies](#), a privately held, national insurance brokerage.

The ARRL programs will be administered from the Risk Strategies office in Chicago, Illinois. This move was based on the results of numerous comments from ARRL members relative to the former administrator, Hays Affinity Group. Plan participants will retain their current insurance policies, and the details of the coverage and the cost of coverage will remain unchanged, as will the insurance company, Hanover Insurance Company.

All current participants in the programs will receive an e-mail describing the changes and what, if anything, they need to do to access their online information. The web address for the programs will be the same, [www.arrlinsurance.com](#), but the site will take on a new look with improved functionality. The toll-free numbers to contact the new administrator also remain unchanged. There will be a short delay in bringing up the new site once the programs have been transferred, and we appreciate your patience while Risk Strategies makes the programs operational.

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 28 2015

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## Upcoming Hamfest...

Breeze Shooters Hamfest and Computer Show  
Sunday, June 7, 2015

Location: Butler Farm Showgrounds  
627 Evans City Road  
Butler, PA 16001

Website: <[www.breezeshooters.net](#)>

Sponsor: Breeze Shooters ARC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.300+

Public Contact: Robert Benna, N3LWP

1010 Willow Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Phone: 412-366-0488

E-mail: <[N3LWP@verizon.net](#)>

## Emergency Communicator's Notebook - 6

- **Grab a tiger by the tail**

A Tiger Tail can extend the range of your handheld radio. Just attach a quarter wavelength to the outer collar of the BNC connector on your HT antenna.

From

[http://adjunct.diodon349.com/Radio/ht\\_tiger\\_tails\\_and\\_other\\_good\\_info.htm](http://adjunct.diodon349.com/Radio/ht_tiger_tails_and_other_good_info.htm)

- **It may be a field station but it still needs to be grounded**

Lightning is just one potential hazard. At the scene of a disaster there will likely be all manner of hastily assembled electrical and electronic equipment. The possibility of interference or shock is very real.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Remember, it's an emergency net**

It is in our nature to chat, but we must learn to restrain ourselves when on an emergency net. Consider the following exchange: Station 1 - "Do you have a CB radio handy?" Station 2 - "Yeah, I brought mine. I picked it up at a hamfest a few years ago. It was a pretty good bargain. I used to keep it in my truck, but then I got a better one.." and on and on. The first station obviously had an important reason for asking about the availability of a CB radio. He is unable to explain what he needs, however, because the second station is tying up the frequency with unimportant detail. The proper response would have been a simple "Yes".

From Various experienced operators

- **Make a checklist**

You'll never be able to remember everything you will need to take during a deployment, so it would be a good idea to make up a checklist. The checklist will also help insure that you retrieve all of your equipment once the emergency is over.

From Various experienced operators

- **Mark your trip hazards**

Your field station may have a number of trip hazards, such as your feedline, guy wires, tent pegs, and tripod legs. Be sure to mark them in bright colors, or alternatively, wrap them with brightly colored warning tape.

From Various experienced operators

- **Things to leave off the air, Number 3**

Consider the following exchange: Station 1 - "Does anyone know where the fire chief is?" Station 2 - "It's pretty close to noon. He might have gone to lunch." The operator at Station 2 is just speculating, but his statement may be taken as accurate. Leave the guesswork off the air and only transmit information you know to be factual.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Battery Safety Tip #1**

Avoid a short circuit. Always use the terminal cap (if provided) to cover the positive battery terminal, or better yet, house your battery in a protective plastic case to keep any conductive material from falling across the terminals.

From Cece Rongey, W0CMR

- **Take care of your coax**

When securing from a disaster scene, don't just throw

everything in a box and leave. In particular, take time to wipe off your coaxial cable. Spray a little Armor All on it to help protect it and keep it supple.

From Chuck Wehking, N0EIS

- **Before you go, check the forecast**

Before you deploy, be sure to check the weather forecast. Knowing what the weather conditions are going to be will help you decide what to take with you.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Is your portable mast secure?**

Is your portable mast secure or will the wind blow it over? You can put additional weight on the base or spike it to the ground, or you can put guy wires on the mast itself or fasten it to something secure.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Where will your field station sit?**

When assembling your field station, do not forget that it has to sit on something. A simple fold-up TV-dinner tray will suffice. Do not assume that there will be convenient tables at the disaster site.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Problems with generators**

You may want to think twice before connecting your communications equipment to a power generator. Some generators may be poorly regulated and provide an erratic supply of electricity, or worse, power spikes. If you have reliable and adequate battery power, you might consider using that instead.

From ARECC Level I course book

- **Things to leave off the air, Number 2**

Consider the following on-air statement. "You wouldn't believe what a shambles it is here. It's really disorganized. The guy in charge doesn't know what he's doing." This should never have been transmitted. First, it needlessly tied up the frequency. Second, it may have been heard by the press, which would undoubtedly use it. And third, it undermined the authority of the person in charge. Keep personal comments and opinions off the air.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH

- **Take your ID with you**

If you are responding to a disaster scene, you'll find that the first thing you're going to need is identification. Be sure to take your ARES and other special ID with you. It would also be a good idea to have copies of your amateur radio license and emergency preparedness certificates.

From ARECC Level I course book

- **Why exercises are important**

Every exercise that we hold exposes new flaws in plans, preparations, and readiness. So why hold them at all? The first reason is to find and correct those flaws. They can never be entirely eliminated, but the more of them that we identify and correct ahead of time, the fewer we will have to worry about when disaster strikes. The second reason is to acclimate the emergency communications operators to the unexpected. Operators who have participated in lots of exercises become accustomed to failures and surprises. They tend to adapt to the unexpected more quickly and are less likely to panic than operators who have never participated in exercises.

From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH



## US Naval Academy CubeSat Launch to Include Next APRS Satellite

Sometime on or about May 20, the next US Naval Academy satellites and Brno University PSK31 transponders head into space from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas 5 launcher and into an approximately 50° orbit. The launch will include the Psat APRS satellite — a pair of identical 1.5 U cubesats (A and B) — as well as the BRICsat and USS Langley (Unix Space Server Langley) nanosatellites.

“Psat is a Naval Academy student satellite project named in honor of one of our graduates, Bradford Parkinson, of GPS fame, which contains an APRS transponder for relaying remote telemetry, sensor, and user data from remote users and Amateur Radio environmental experiments or other data sources back to Amateur Radio experimenters via a global network of Internet-linked ground stations,” explained APRS developer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. In addition to the data transponder, a secondary [Brno University](#) transponder will support multi-user PSK31 text messaging. The APRS downlink will be 145.825 MHz (1200 baud AX.25 APRS).

“We welcome radio amateurs worldwide to tune into the downlinks and either IGate packets into the global APRS-IS system or to [e-mail](#) me,” Bruninga said. “After launch, the next several orbits will be over USA and Europe.” Bruninga said PSAT, including the PSK31 transponder, would not be available for use until all on-orbit checks are complete, a process he said could take “many, many days.” He also requested reports on any PSK31 (FM) heard on 435.350 MHz (the PSK31 uplink is 28.120 MHz).

The PSK31 multi-user FDMA [transponder experiment](#) on Psat and BRICsat is similar to the one on [RAFT](#) and [PCSAT2](#). It will allow messaging among up to 30 modest ground stations simultaneously, Bruninga said.

Psat is one of five APRS-networked Amateur Radio satellites that will be in orbit during 2015, and all will appear on the live [APRS downlink page](#). The others include [PCsat-1](#), in orbit since 2001, [QIKcom-1](#), set to launch in September, [QIKcom-2](#), set to launch in December, and the [ARISS](#) packet radio sys



Bob Bruninga, WA3APR |

Space Station since 2007. BRICsat will carry a PSK31 transponder with a 28.120 MHz uplink (2.5 kHz bandwidth) and a UHF FM downlink on 435.350 MHz. [Gunter's Space Page](#) describes USS Langley as “a proof-of-concept mission for

providing global Internet access via a nanosatellite constellation.” The satellite will act as a web server and router in space, using Internet Protocol and Linux. Downlinks 437.475 MHz (9600 baud AX.25 packet telemetry) with uplink at 145.825 MHz. The IARU coordination page said that while 28.120 MHz is not in the band plan as a satellite frequency, “the panel considered the motivation for this frequency as to give lower class license holders in the US the opportunity to participate in the project.”

Bruninga said satellite experiments such as Psat “serve our educational and outreach goals for student projects encouraging young people to be interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.” He said he hopes other schools will build either additional 145.825 MHz relay satellites or experimental sensors. “We hope that Psat will be the ‘egg’ in this chicken-egg conundrum,” he added.

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 14, 2015

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## Whistler Recalls Jump&Go Portable Jumpstart and Power Supply Units Due to Fire Hazard

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) [has announced](#) that Whistler is recalling its “Jump&Go” Portable Jumpstart and Power Supply units, due to a potential fire hazard. Some ARES/RACES participants use these units as a handy, portable 12 V source. The recall involves more than 10,000 of the pocket-sized devices, manufactured in China.



According to the CPSC, the unit’s lithium battery can overheat, causing it to melt and catch fire. The recall involves 12 V Jump&Go Portable Jumpstart and Power Supply units with model numbers starting with WJS-3000. Recalled units have date codes in YYYY/WW format from 201404 through 201439. The model number and date code are on the back of the unit under the colored silicone boot. The date code is stamped directly on the case adjacent to the operational label. The model number is on the operational label. Units having a serial number on the operation label are *not* included in this recall. Models were sold in red, pink, yellow, and black cases.

**The CPSC said consumers “should immediately stop using the recalled unit and contact Whistler for a free replacement, including shipping to return the recalled unit.” — Thanks to Mike Morris, WA6ILQ**

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 7, 2015

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**DO NOT FORGET THE BUG SPRAY  
AT FIELD DAY  
JUNE 27-28, 2015  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME  
AND BECOME RADIO ACTIVE**

## Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015: 55 Cosponsors -- and Climbing

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- also known as [H.R.1301](#) -- has attracted 55 cosponsors as of May 14. The bill, introduced earlier this year in the US House by Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions. This weekend's Dayton Hamvention will offer an opportunity for ARRL to meet with individual radio amateurs and encourage them to seek their House member's support. ARRL Regulatory Information and Legislative Action Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said those stopping by his booth at ARRL EXPO, can -- in about a minute -- have a letter, addressed to their representative and personalized with their contact information, printed and ready to sign.

"The ARRL will collect these signed letters and have them hand-delivered to the various Congressional offices by our DC legislative action team," Henderson explained. "This easy-to-use process has succeeded at several major hamfests already this year and helped generate several hundred letters." Henderson said that the typically high number of attendees at Dayton Hamvention



presents an excellent opportunity for Amateur Radio operators to get involved in the H.R. 1301 grassroots legislative effort.

The latest lawmakers to sign aboard H.R. 1301 include Representatives Pete Olson of Texas, Ed Perlmutter of Colorado, John Shimkus of Illinois, Dr Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, and Roger Williams of Texas.

Henderson said the League is also working on securing an original sponsor and co-sponsor for a companion Amateur Radio Parity Act bill in the US Senate. He encouraged all who may not be attending Hamvention to visit the ARRL's [H.R. 1301 page](#), where they can download a letter that can be personalized for your member of Congress.

"Once you have printed and signed the letter, send it to ARRL Grassroots Letter program, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111," Henderson said. "Once received, these will be sorted and sent to the ARRL DC team for hand delivery on Capitol Hill."

"We have gotten off to a good start on H.R. 1301, but we have a long way to go," Henderson said. "We need every ARRL member to get involved with this important fight."

Used with Permission ARRL Letter dated May 14, 2015

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## FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

Used with Permission ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019 May 26, 2015

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