

The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

September 2015

38th Year of Publication



Prez Sez...

Well, we're almost to the traditional end of summer, Labor Day, hopefully you've made it through unscathed (and un-sunburnt – new word, feel free to use it)! Lots of things going on in September at the club, so here's a quick rundown.

We'll be getting our tower inspected and tuned up. I'll put together a presentation for an upcoming meeting summarizing the results and work done as well as posting it here next month. Giff Hammar, K1GAH, has started looking into what the manufacturer recommends as far as maintenance and inspections, and there may be some things we can do to keep better tabs on the condition of the tower and spot potential problems early. We still need to digest it, it's quite a lengthy document, but I think it will leave us better informed and able to monitor the condition of the club's largest asset.

We've switched back over to the Micor temporarily while John Williams, K8JW, troubleshoots some desensing that seems to be affecting the Quantar on 105. Hopefully he will get this all sorted soon, since the lower power of the Micor lessens the coverage of the 105 site a bit. We'll keep you posted as to how that progresses.

We have Ike Lawton, W3IKE, presenting on remote ham operations on September third, and I'll be asking you to vote on the costs incurred from the tower maintenance. Also, the picnic and micro-hamfest / tailgating will be on the 26th. Start cleaning out the shack and getting some of those treasures together to sell so you can buy other folks' treasures. There will be so much treasure you'll need an eye patch and a parrot. No swords, please.

If you'd rather be on HF, especially if you're new to it, please check out Doug Ellmore's (NA1DX) "Any One DX" contest. You can find the details on the forum here: <http://www.w3vpr.org/node/41>. Basically, Doug's created a

contest geared toward our newer hams (Techs, Novices, Tech Plus, and Generals), to encourage them to get on the air and try some HF. I think it's great that Doug's put this together to share his passion for contesting and getting new folks active in the hobby. I encourage you to check it out and participate! It's really laid back and starts on September first. Don't worry if you're a little busy, you've got until December 31st to make your contacts! This is no weekend sprint, you have plenty of time to operate casually, get a new antenna up if you need to, and make some contacts on the club station during Mark Bova's (W2PAW) HF NooBs sessions. Keep in mind that you have to be a club member to participate. The rules and classes are pretty straightforward, so have a look at the link above and get contesting!

If you're a recent Tech or General and could use some help getting your station together, putting up an antenna, or just getting some help figuring out what to do, please let us know. All of our club members have a vested interest in getting you on the air and finding aspects of the hobby that pique your interest. We now have a forum called Help Wanted at <http://www.w3vpr.org/forum/6>, where you can post requests for help of any sort. If you have an account on the website, you'll be able to post.

Keep in mind that since we lost the entire site recently, you'll need to set your account up again. Approvals are done quickly, so you will be ready to go with little delay. Also, make sure your account is set up to notify you of new postings! Go to My Account, Notification Settings, and set the Master Switch to Enabled. Click through the detailed settings to tailor your notifications. I'd recommend enabling both new content and new posts, we don't have so much activity that this should be a burden, and you can always change it later.

This will make sure you're notified of both new forum posts (like the replies to your help requests) and calendar updates so you'll know what's going on at the club.

So get your station warmed up, and get on the air!

73
Brian
K3HMX

Pope Francis Comes to the U.S.A.

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22 – 27 and amateur radio will be part of the celebration. Throughout the 6 day event (September 23 0000Z – September 28 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be K3P and N4P. From New York and New Jersey the call will be K2P. W3FRC/WMF will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P will be on the air in Philadelphia. WM3PEN, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT). Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. A website is being established for QSL and certificate information. Early information and links can be found on the WM3PEN qrz.com website.



The Washington, DC operations are being coordinated by the Jim Nitzberg, WX3B of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (pvrc.org).

The southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey operations are under the direction of Ron Sigismonti, N3RS of the Frankford Radio Club (gofrc.org).

The New York activity is being coordinated by John Melfi, W2HCB of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (gsbarc.org).

W3P efforts on the air are being coordinated by Joe Leone, KA3LKM (qrz.com/db/w3p).

WM3PEN operations are being coordinated by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, and the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (harcnet.org).

We are privileged to be able to represent our region of the USA via Amateur Radio. Every three years there is a World Meeting of Families. In 2012 amateur radio operators in Italy had the call I12POPE on the air.

This year amateur radio operators in 5 states will be on the air to commemorate the event. This year with the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the second time a Pope has visited Philadelphia, Ron Sigismonti, says having several special event stations on the air by members of a club that originated in Philadelphia, then expanded to encompass the entire region out to 175 miles of Philadelphia; another club whose members will be on the air in the same section of Philadelphia that the Pope is visiting; and another group of Philadelphia operators who are excited about the World Meeting of Families being held in the City will really make this a special event.

Additionally, operations from the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, metropolitan New York City, and parts of New Jersey will encompass the entire region visited by Pope Francis in the United States.

It will allow those who can't be in the various cities that he is visiting to participate in this event by talking to those who are. In essence this will be a world family meeting of amateur radio operators.

The Pope arrives at Joint Base Andrews on September 22 and begins his visit in Washington, D.C. with a meeting with President Obama on Wednesday, September 23. He delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress on Thursday, September 24. On Friday he attends a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and participates in a multi-religious service at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center. On Saturday he gives a speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and concludes his visit to the U.S. with an outdoor mass in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday, September 27.

Run for the Lighthouse Marathon

Now that we completed another successful Annapolis 10 Miler, we have another volunteer opportunity. The Run for the Lighthouse Marathon is on Sunday, September 27, 2015. It consists of a Half Marathon, 10K, and 1.25 mile walk. We need operators in and around the Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, MD.



If you are interested in volunteering for the race contact me, Les Silva at: kh6cuj@aol.com. Our Net Control Operator will be Cindy Penry (KD5CCB) from the Mobileers. We can still use another operator to assist Cindy.

Race information can be found at Run for the Lighthouse Home Page:

<http://www.annapolisrunforthelighthouse.org/>

The race course map is at :

<http://www.annapolisrunforthelighthouse.org/>

Race Details

Date

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Location

Blue Heron Pavilion, Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, Maryland

Race/Walk Start

8:00 am - Half Marathon

8:45 am - 5k Jogging Joe Shafran Memorial Run

9:00 am - 1.25 Mile Anniversary Walk *New for 2015

p.s. If you can't do this Race, Ron Boller (N3WOF) needs volunteers for the **Metric Marathon** on October 4, 2015.

Ron can be contacted at: n3wof@verizon.net. If you are a serious operator you can do both. I know Ron & I won't mind.

Aloha,

Les Silva, AARC Race Communication Coordinator
Lighthouse Half Marathon

FCC Universal Licensing System, Other Applications to be Down for Maintenance

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) and other public



applications unavailable for more than 5 days. The Commission said the outage will begin at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, and continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. During the

ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

"[M]ost Commission resources normally accessible through the Commission's website, including access to all electronic filing systems and electronic dockets, will be inaccessible for the same period, with the exception of the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS), the Consumer Help Center (CHC), and the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which will remain available," an FCC Public Notice said on August 20. "The Commission's website will remain available, but with reduced content and limited search capabilities." According to the Public Notice, the FCC will follow its normal schedule of operation during the maintenance period, but voicemail will be offline, and most Commission staffers will not have access to e-mail. Static content webpages on the fcc.gov domain, such as the FCC consumer guides, should remain available during the outage.

The FCC will extend filing deadlines for all regulatory and enforcement filings that fall during the maintenance period. Filings due on September 2, 3, 4, or 8 now will be due on Wednesday, September 9. "Except for the due dates specified herein, we are not automatically extending the deadlines for any other comment or filing periods that will be running during this time period, but requests for extension of time will be considered consistent with the Commission's normal practice," the FCC Public Notice said. "To the extent the due dates for filings to which reply or responsive pleadings are allowed are affected by this Public Notice, the due dates for reply or responsive pleadings shall be extended by the same number of days."

In a blog, "Modernizing the FCC's IT," FCC CIO David Bray said that with the world and the technology we use are changing rapidly, "the information technology used by the Federal Communications Commission must change as well." Bray said the FCC has "made significant progress to upgrade and modernize our infrastructure, and we continue to work on modernizing the FCC's legacy IT

systems with the resources we have available."

"We understand that this temporary downtime before and during the Labor Day Weekend may be inconvenient for some FCC stakeholders," Bray added

Antenna Analyzers You Can Hack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a nut for antenna analyzers. I think that they are one of the most useful things a ham can own.

I've often wondered why there aren't more DIY antenna analyzer projects, though. Perhaps it's because designing measurement circuits isn't easy. An antenna analyzer has to have a signal source as well. Even so, an antenna analyzer doesn't need a whole lot of accuracy to be useful, so you would think that more builders/hackers would tackle a project like this.

I do know of one antenna analyzer kit on the market. The VK5JST Antenna Analyser Kit (<http://www.ahars.com.au/about/kits/>) costs about \$110 USD. I actually purchased this kit a year or so ago, and it looks like a great unit. The unit seems well-designed, and it comes with a plastic case, unlike many projects these days, but I haven't yet gotten around to building it.

I've also recently found out about an Arduino-based antenna analyzer project (<http://hackaday.com/2015/08/06/40-antenna-analyzer-with-arduino-and-ad9850/>). It uses an AD9850 module as the signal source. The approximate cost for all the parts is about \$40, and you can experiment with the code, if you like. If you have the time and inclination, this project might be worth taking a hack at. [[NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of this project can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/analyzer.jpg>]]

Another antenna analyzer project from Australia is the VK3YY antenna analyzer (or "analyser" as they spell it there). It uses an Arduino Nano. The interesting thing about the blog post in which VK3YY describes the project (<https://vk3yy.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/antenna-analyser-project/>) is that you can follow his design and experimentation process.

Yet another analyzer

While I'm talking about antenna analyzers, let me mention another one that I've just found out about: the IW2NDH Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.iw2ndh.com/>). This antenna analyzer isn't a kit, but at \$175 seems to be a good deal. This unit has a frequency coverage of 2 – 160 MHz, and can be used as an antenna analyzer, signal generator, and a scalar network analyzer.

Apparently, this started out as an Arduino project. As Maximo, EA1DDO, pointed out on the radioartisan Yahoo Group, there is source code for this project on GitHub (<https://gist.github.com/jackdev23/7876502>), and a schematic is available on the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) website (<http://www.ure.es/media/kunena/attachments/2420/Schematic.jpg>).

(When not writing about antenna analyzers, Dan, KB6NU, actually builds an antenna now and then. You can often find him on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m), working CW. His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Delaware State Convention (Delmarva AR & Electronics EXPO)

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Location: Sussex Technical High School
17099 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947

Website: <www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>

Sponsor: Sussex Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 147.090 (PL 156.7)

Public Contact: Herb Quick, KF3BT

PO Box 1431

Seaford, DE 19973

Phone: 302-629-4949

E-mail: <herb@hamiltongraphics.com>

CARAFest 2015

Sunday, October 4, 2015

Location: Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

Website: <www.carafest.org>

Sponsor: Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.390 (PL 156.7)

Public Contact: David Parkison, KB3VDY
1257 Stevens Avenue

Arbutus, MD 21227

Phone: 410-977-1249

E-mail: <vendorsales@carafest.org>

Additional ARRL Books Now Available as E-Books

ARRL has announced plans to significantly increase the availability of its publications as e-books. At the same time, the League introduced six more ARRL titles in the popular Amazon Kindle format.

"I'm very pleased that members and readers will find more and more ARRL books available in the reading format they prefer," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob



Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "This effort underscores our strategy of delivering quality content on the media platforms preferred by members -- including print and digital publishing."

Inderbitzen said Kindle devices frequently rank highest in preference among e-book readers, and Kindle apps make it possible to use the format on most mobile devices and tablets, including Android and Apple iOS devices.

"ARRL isn't new to digital publishing," ARRL Publication Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, pointed out.

Ford oversees staff and contributors responsible for content creation, editing, and publishing. "In 2012, [QST](#) was introduced to all members in a digital format. Other books, such as [technical proceedings](#) assembled by ARRL for annual conferences, are published digitally and made available to readers on a print-on-demand basis.

The newest titles available in Kindle format include [Understanding Basic Electronics](#), [ARRL's Small Antennas for Small Spaces](#), [Get on the Air with HF Digital](#), [Your First Amateur Radio HF Station](#), [Radios to Go!](#), and the [ARES Field Resource Manual](#). Earlier this year, ARRL released two titles in Kindle format: [Propagation and Radio Science](#) by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, and [Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs](#) by Paul Danzer, N1II.

All of these publications are also available in a print format, directly from [ARRL](#) and [ARRL publication dealers](#).

All ARRL license manuals are available in Kindle format. [The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#) has been identified by Amazon as a #1 Best Seller.

"ARRL's place in digital publishing also means introducing Amateur Radio to more of the world," Inderbitzen said. "When someone searches for or buys an e-book about radio electronics, microcontrollers, or some other related interest, we want their search to lead them to Amateur Radio and ARRL."

Ford added, "As the largest publisher of Amateur Radio books, we've made great strides in developing a digital publishing competency that will ensure ARRL is an enduring source of content on the art and science of radio -- and in the format you prefer; quickly, easily, and no matter where you are."

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The Maryland Mobileers

will have a short program (20-30 minutes) on

(Very!) Basic Railroad Signals

and Train Control

on Friday 11 Sep 2015 at 1930.

AARC members and any other hams

are always welcome.

MMARC meets at 1930 on second Fridays at Baldwin Hall, across Generals Highway from Baldwin Memorial United Methodist Church, in the northwest quadrant of Millersville Road and Generals Highway.

ARRL President Expects Parity Act House Bill Cosponsorships to Top 100 Soon

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, expects to see the list of cosponsors for the US House version of the [Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015](#) — H.R. 1301 — top 100 soon after Congress reconvenes following its August recess. As of August 24, the measure had attracted 94 cosponsors. A US Senate version of the bill — S. 1685 — also has been introduced. President Craigie again encouraged ARRL members to urge their congressional delegations to cosponsor the bills. Summertime ARRL conventions also have been affording more members a chance to make their voices heard.

“Success doesn’t happen by magic,” President Craigie said this week. “Offices on Capitol Hill have told us that without constituent expressions of support, cosponsorship — and, eventually, votes — will not happen.”

The identically worded Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions. It would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as “covenants, conditions, and restrictions” (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances, and the FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

President Craigie said ARRL staff members and officials have helped members to generate well over 4000 letters to Senators and Representatives at ARRL conventions this summer. Local radio clubs have held letter-signing events at their meetings too. The ARRL this week forwarded more than 1000 such letters for hand delivery to Capitol Hill.

“But we need a lot more member action now, to push our bills ahead,” she added. “We need letters, phone calls, e-mails from every ARRL member to our Senators and Representatives. We need every ARRL member to urge our friends in our clubs, on our nets, and on our social media, to take 5 minutes today to do something critically important for the future of Amateur Radio.”

AMSAT is also encouraging its members to urge lawmakers to cosponsor the two bills. The satellite organization has pointed out that reaching orbiting spacecraft via an appropriate ground station is something that may be denied to satellite enthusiasts living in neighborhoods where outside antennas are restricted or prohibited.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 [page](#) on the ARRL website has complete information on how to become involved.

“Capitol Hill needs to hear from every friend of Amateur Radio by the end of August,” President Craigie said. “Every voice, your voice, makes a difference.”

Used with permission ARRL News 8/25/2015

Amateur Radio Parity Act Would Not Void "Private Contracts," ARRL General Counsel Says

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has rebutted assertions, expressed by some, that the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would represent an unlawful intrusion into "private contracts" and would invalidate architectural limitations and rules regarding the installation of ham radio antennas in residential neighborhoods. Imlay said the argument raised is that no federal legislation should alter private land-use restrictions, since these are contractual obligations. "The contractual characteristic of private land-use regulation has not existed in the United States for a great many years," he pointed out. Imlay recently expanded on the topic during a [lengthy interview](#) with *HamRadioNow* webcast host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

"A contract requires a meeting of the minds between the two parties," Imlay said in his interview with Pearce, which also included ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, a prime mover of the legislation. With no opportunity to negotiate, "you don't have a contractual relationship at all. Instead, what you have is a preclusion."

Rather than contracts, Imlay explained, private land-use restrictions are limitations placed on the use of land long before the buyer ever shows up, and they have become increasingly difficult to avoid. With more and more neighborhoods imposing CC&Rs, the only choice a radio amateur has, Imlay told Pearce, is to buy or not to buy a dwelling in a community that may prohibit antennas completely.

The legislation -- [H.R. 1301](#) and [S. 1685](#) -- calls on the FCC to apply the three-point test of the federal PRB-1 pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions. Imlay said its passage would *not* mean that hams living in neighborhoods governed by CC&Rs could erect any antenna they wished. The obligation a homeowners association would have under the bill is not to prohibit but to make reasonable accommodation for some sort of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, imposing the least practicable restriction to accomplish the association's aesthetic purposes, he explained.

The legal underpinning of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is well established, Imlay pointed out, and private land-use regulations must give way when they conflict with federal telecommunications policy. "It was held a long time ago by the US Supreme Court that federal communications policy trumps even private land-use regulations," Imlay told Pearce. "That's not a taking of land under the *Constitution*. It's simply a supervening authority." Imlay said that private land-use regulations that conflict with expressed federal telecommunications policy are subject to pre-emption, which would restore private property rights to the landowner. The FCC, he explained, is not hostile to the bill, but it has indicated that it would



prefer to have some guidance from Congress -- which does have the power to act -- before amending the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules.

Several years ago, the FCC established the [OTARD](#) rule that lets residents living in deed-restricted communities install over-the-air television or radio reception devices, such as a satellite dish, but it does not apply to Amateur Radio antennas. Imlay said this precedent applies to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, and that the FCC was comfortable with the guidance it got from Congress at the time with respect to OTARD.

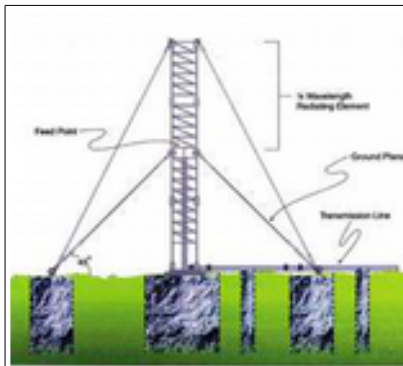
"There is no difference in the effect on the strong interest in Amateur Radio communications, whether or not an amateur station is precluded by a zoning regulation...or by a deed restriction," Imlay said in the interview. "The effect is the same: The ham can't build a station."

"We have until the end of 2016 to get this bill passed, and we have every intention of doing that," he assured Pearce.

[Full information](#) on The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is on the ARRL website.

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**WWV's 25 MHz Signal is Back on Original Vertical Dipole**

Time and frequency standard station [WWV's](#) resurrected 25 MHz signal -- now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 -- is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.



**A depiction of a WWV vertical dipole antenna. [Courtesy of Matt Deutch, NØRGT]**

"The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977," Matt Deutch, NØRGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL. "When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed and tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna."

Deutch said the 25 MHz WWV vertical dipole now is coupled to its own, dedicated transmitter, radiating 2.5 kW "with near zero watts reflected," he added, and modeling has showed that the dipole exhibits a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did. "There is no automatic backup transmitter for 25 MHz at this time," Deutch added. The 25 MHz WWV signal had been operating at about 1 kW for the past 16 months.

Deutch has said that WWV has received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz transmission not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to



**The WWV campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. [Courtesy of NIST]**

indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)). WWV has [invited](#) listeners' comments and signal reports.

Used with permission ARRL Letter Aug 13, 2015  
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JARL Sets 90th Anniversary QSO Party

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will commemorate its 90th anniversary with the [JARL 90th Anniversary QSO Party](#) during the entire month of September (UTC). The event is open to all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners and activity will take place on all amateur bands. Certificates are available to JA and DX stations for working a certain number (either 9 or 90, depending upon category) of participating stations. Stations exchange call signs and signal reports. Only one contact may be counted in the event of multiple contacts with the same station operating from different locations. All stations submitting a log and summary will receive a Participation Certificate from JARL via the QSL Bureau. [E-mail](#) submissions are welcome. Submit a [summary](#) sheet and [logs](#) of one or more categories. The deadline for submissions is October 30, 2015. Results will be announced in the spring 2016 issue of JARL News and [posted](#) on JARL's website U



Used with permission ARRL Letter Aug 27, 2015
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**Emergency Communicator's Notebook - 9**

- **ARES is not a club**

ARES is not an organization itself but a volunteer program of the ARRL and consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Use phonetics for clarity**

To reduce requests to repeat words, use phonetics anytime a word has an unusual or difficult spelling or may be easily misunderstood. Standard practice is to first say

the word, say "I spell," and then spell the word phonetically. This lets the receiving station know we are about to spell the word he or she just heard.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Things to avoid saying on the air, Number 2**

Avoid words or phrases that carry strong emotions. Most emergency situations are emotionally charged already, and we do not need to add to the problem. For instance, instead of saying, "horrific damage and people torn to bits," we might say "significant physical damage and serious personal injuries."

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Prepare before the emergency, Part 1**

The best time to offer your services to an emergency communications group is well before any emergency occurs. This will allow you to obtain the proper training and credentials and to become known to the group's managers. When the time comes to serve, you will be ready for your job.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Prepare before the emergency, Part 2**

Emergency communication planners should give advance thought to the kinds of information that might need to be passed by the agencies they serve.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **We have no authority at emergency sites**

In most cases, we cannot make decisions for others, or make demands on the agency we serve or any other agency. The only decisions we can make are whether to participate or not, and those affecting our own health and safety.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Half of communicating is listening**

Don't be so focused on what you want to say that you don't listen to what the other fellow is saying. Listening for and hearing a message, then understanding it and properly responding to it are vital to effective emergency communications.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Volunteer to work at public events**

Working at events such as the MS 150 Bike Tour and Scottish Games gives you valuable field experience. You learn how to work within a team structure and what it's like to serve another organization. You'll probably also get a taste of the unexpected.

*From ARECC Level I course book*

- **Debrief after every activity**

Schedule a timely debriefing after the emergency is over. You will want to know what the group did well and what areas could use improvement. You will also want to confirm that there are no issues still awaiting resolution. It is also a good idea to perform debriefings after training exercises. *From ARECC Level I course book*

- **Keep a copy of the operating manual with your**

**field transceiver**

Your field radio may do something unexpected. You may need to use one of its special features. Your relief operator may not be familiar with how it works. There are dozens of reasons for keeping a copy of your field transceiver's operating manual nearby, preferably in a waterproof wrapper. *From ARECC Level I course book*

- **Don't forget the duct tape!**

Duct tape is a wonderful product that comes in handy during a disaster.

*From Every "go-bag" list ever written*

- **Leaving the net**

Once you have checked in to an emergency net, do not leave it, even for a few minutes, without first informing the net control station. If they try to reach you and cannot, they may become concerned and send someone to find out what happened to you.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **A personal hygiene necessity**

Have a personal hygiene bag that you can take with you on deployments to areas where the sanitation facilities are uncertain. Be sure that your bag includes your own roll of toilet paper.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **ARES is not a club**

ARES is a volunteer program of the ARRL and consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

- **Practice using simplex**

During a wide area disaster it is likely that our own repeaters will also fail. Learn the differences between operating using repeaters and operating via simplex. Participate in simplex net exercises when they are offered.

*From Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH*

**How we may be viewed**

Volunteers are often viewed as "part timers" whose skill level and dedication to the job vary widely. Many agencies and organizations have learned that some volunteers cannot be depended on when they are needed most. Do not be offended if this attitude is obvious and remember that we cannot change it overnight. It takes time to prove ourselves and for a positive working relationship to develop and mature.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication course book*

**When volunteering, check before leaving home**

In some cases, an emergency occurs in a neighboring area where we are not a member of the responding communication group. For whatever reason, we might feel obligated to offer our services. If at all feasible, it is best to make our offer through formal leadership channels before making any significant preparations or leaving home.

*From Introduction to Emergency Communication*

## 2M FM Simplex Contest

Milford Craig, N3WYG.

The Editor came across this article and thought it may another to get licensed amateurs on the radio. Studying for and passing the Technician, General, or even the Amateur Extra Class License is only part of the challenge facing new operators. Receiving your call sign is a significant and highly prized day in every amateur radio amateurs life. Making that first several contacts is the next significant activity. There are many ways of helping new hams to make that first couple of contacts.

(As you read through this article, please remember that the information is provided as an example only. The purpose is to lead to discussion. This exercise is based on Tulsa OK.)

The Tulsa County Amateur Radio Emergency Service has a unique idea. Some discussion was made at the Maryland QSO Party and also on the Wednesday Night AARC 2 Meter Net.

Follows is a brief example of the Tulsa county ARES 2M FM Simplex Contest. Please join in the conversation on the Wednesday Night 2 Meter Net at 7:00 pm local time.

“Welcome to the 2015 ARES OK 2M FM simplex contest. This contest helps us all be prepared in a number of ways, gets to know one another, allow for some friendly competition and try out our emergency preparedness skills. Since this contest is limited to the 2M FM band, it does not require any fancy equipment and all can participate. The contest is just a short 3 hour time frame. This is a great time for all local area hams to participate and join in the activity!

**When:** Saturday, This August 15, 2015 @ 7 to 10 PM (local time)

**Objectives:** To make as many contacts as possible, encouraging the use of 2M simplex mode, and to have fun!

**The Hunter vs. the Hunted:** Consider operating from a remote location, high point, or perhaps a roving mobile; Mobile stations are able to re-work stations from a different location

**Frequencies:** The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band using simplex mode; (e.g. no repeater contacts). According to the ARRL band plan, these frequencies (between 146.40-146.58 & 147.42-147.57) are for simplex use.

For this contest, we will use only these 8 frequencies with a convenient 20 kHz separation.

### Valid Contest Frequencies

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 147.4xà | 147.5xà |
| 147.420 | 147.500 |
| 147.440 | 147.520 |
| 147.460 | 147.540 |
| 147.480 | 147.560 |

**Exchange:** Callsign, contact number, 5-digit zip code. Rover stations should use the zip code of their current location at the time.

### Example Stationary Exchange:

“N7ZCG from N0VLR, please copy my number 3 from 74103”

“N0VLR from N7ZCG, please copy my number 6 from 74063”

Or a Multiplier can call “KE5AHE VE” or “AA5V CO” to inform contacts that they are more points and the rest of the call remains the same.

### Example Mobile/Rover Exchange:

“W7DMR from N0VLR/M, please copy #3 from 74121”  
Then....

“W7DMR from N0VLR/M, please copy #4 now from 74008”

**Contacts:** Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving exchange as noted above. Work each station once per ZIP Code — i.e. Mobiles can be re-worked whenever they change locations.

**Scoring:** Use the handy log and scoring sheet  
Each Contact is worth 1 point

**Multipliers:** # of unique 5-digit zip codes

**Power:**

Stations running <= 10 watts output: 3X score

> 10, <= 50 watts output: 2X score

> 50 watts output: 1X score

> VE = 2 Points

> CO = 3 Points

> EM = 4 Points

(They must be in Tulsa County Zip Code)

**Final Score:** Total Points = # QSO's x zip code multiplier. x Power multiplier....”

Many thanks to the Tulsa Oklahoma Ares club for sharing this information. There are many variations on this theme. The interesting facts are that it is a short contact (2-3 hours), no sophisticated equipment is required (a hand-held will work fine) and there is no leaving home (it can be done on the front porch or sitting in the car.)

The main purpose of this to to get new hams on the air.

### AARC'S MEET AND GREET FAMILY PICNIC



Saturday September 26 2015 Starts at 12:00 Noon

- Come bring a side-dish or desert and join us at noon at the picnic pavilion.

Newcomers are always welcome!