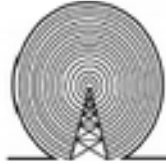


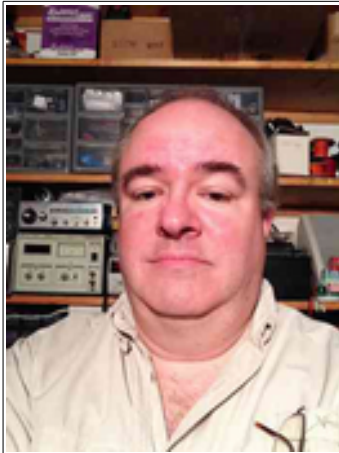
# The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

October 2015

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



## Prez Sez...

Fall is definitely in the air! We had the annual AARC Picnic today, and the steady breeze really made it feel like a crisp fall day. I didn't make an exact count, but we had a couple of dozen people between club members, their families, and dogs. Wayne, AB3RY, put together another great event with plenty of food and drink, as well as a good turnout for

the tailgating. Rich, KB3ZYO, was making his famous potato chips and they disappeared as fast as he could cook them. I think a good time was had by all, if you missed it, please try and join us next year!

With the end of the year approaching, that means elections are just around the corner. Chuck, K3ACT, has volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on the board as either a director or club officer, please let him know. The Nominating Committee will be presenting the slate to the membership at the first meeting in November, which falls on the fifth. Additional nominations may be made at that time. Elections are the first meeting in December, which will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. As you can see, this is rapidly approaching, so if you're interested in serving, please let Chuck know as soon as possible.

As the weather cools off, we're going to try and arrange a work party in October or early November to take care of some outdoor tasks. At the moment, we have two primary things we'd like to get done before the cold settles in. First, we need to clear some dirt around the anchors for the tower to reduce chances of corrosion at the anchor plates. We will also want to try and grade for drainage as best we can, and backfill with gravel to keep the vegetation down. Additionally, we hope to finish the concrete work on the small tower at the rear of the clubhouse. When this tower was installed, the concrete was not brought above grade, which has allowed water around the base of the tower. So far it only seems like some light surface rust, but we need to clean that all up, put some protectant on the tower at that interface, and pour some more concrete to bring it above grade. Between these two tasks there will be plenty to do, so please keep an eye on the website and e-mail updates as

we finalize the date.

As a final note, I'd like to recognize Wayne's efforts at cleaning up the shack. We've been trying to get the clubhouse in better order this year, starting with the storage building clean-outs. The latest effort, being headed by Wayne, is to clean out the shack, which has turned into half shack, half storage room. The goal is to get things that are just being stored into the storage buildings and create a second operating position in the shack. This will be great for contests and when Mark, W2PAW, runs his HF Noobs sessions. We're kind of in the middle of this, but hopefully in the next month or two we'll see a usable second operating position and greatly reduced clutter in the shack.

Don't forget the Anyone DX contest being run by Doug, NA1DX, which is running through the end of the year. All you Techs and Generals are encouraged to participate and make some HF contacts!

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## ARRL Annual Dues Increase BY \$10 On Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

The ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. The ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001.

CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option."

"One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just 19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period."

So, as your Section Manager, I would encourage everyone to either join the ARRL or renew your membership for as long as you can afford.

The current rate of \$39 for one year, \$76 for two years or \$111 for three years. The current life time membership fee is \$975.00.

Effective January 1, 2016, the membership rate will go up to \$49 for one year, \$95 for two years and \$140 for three years. A lifetime membership will cost \$1,225.00.

Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM  
ARRL MDC Section Manager



**AARC Annual Picnic**  
**Good Food, Good Friends,**  
**Great Conversation**





## Why Public Service-Oriented Hams Should Participate in Contests

You may have heard of the Fireman Olympics or lumberjack competitions. Most of you have seen a rodeo - at least on television - where cowboys (and cowgirls) do their thing in a stadium rather than on the range. What do all these have in common? They test skills used on the job in an enjoyable yet challenging environment. Guess what? Amateur Radio operators compete, too, in a variety of contests held throughout the country and the world. Internationally, this is called "Radiosport." Domestically, we just call it "Contesting." Many highly competitive radio amateurs consider their regular operating time to be part of their training for competitions. In a larger sense, though, radio contests are training that improves our ability to do whatever else we do in Amateur Radio more effectively.

Contesting helps prepare us for demanding communication tasks such as might be encountered during a major disaster. Why do I call contests training events? Simply put, all the skills built through contesting experience are valuable in emergency communications situations:

- **Hearing, understanding and recording information quickly and accurately.**
- **Extracting information from weak signals or through interference and noise.**
- **Establishing and completing contacts with rapid efficiency.**
- **Finding work-arounds when the unexpected happens, rather than giving up.**
- **Knowing how to get the most out of your equipment and antennas.**
- **Understanding propagation and making those tough long-haul contacts.**

Each contest has its own unique rules that define the challenge. There are specific starting and ending times, encompassing operating periods as short as four hours or as long as two days. Eligible stations (i.e., those with whom contacts count for contest credit) may be confined to a specific state or country or may include all hams worldwide.

There is a defined exchange, a set of information that must be sent, received and logged accurately. Exchanges can be as simple as three or four characters to a lengthy data set that simulates the message header in a formal radiogram.

Each contact adds points, and often there is a "multiplier" for each geographic area contacted. The sum of contact points times the sum of multipliers yields the final score. Participating operators usually submit their contest logs to the sponsoring organization in electronic form, which enables rigorous cross-checking for accuracy and facilitates timely publishing of the results.

Contests are not limited to the HF bands that are primarily the domain of many General-class and higher licensees. There are VHF, UHF and even microwave contests, all available to holders of every class of license. If you think that the two-meter or 70-centimeter band is limited to supporting nearby and repeater contacts, you're in for a surprise!

Communication over hundreds of miles and more is possible with suitable antennas and equipment. By participating in these competitions, you will learn what works best and how your station's effectiveness can be improved.

You don't have to be in it to win it; just take part, and have fun while you're learning to enhance your and your station's performance. When former FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Riley Hollingsworth addressed an audience of hams at a major radio convention a few years ago, he advised them to watch and learn from contesters. "They're the best operators in the world," he said. Having participated with many top-notch contesters myself over the last four decades, I would have to agree. If my life depended on a message getting through quickly and accurately under difficult conditions, having world-class contesters at each end of the circuit would greatly enhance the likelihood that I would survive.

Of course, most of us aren't world-class contesters. Yet we, too, can sharpen our operating skills by exercising them in organized competitions. With standardized rules and widely disseminated results, we can compare our performance with that of our peers and measure our improvement from one year to the next.

We can identify and correct weaknesses in our stations, evaluate the impact of equipment and antenna changes, and push ourselves to solve real-time communication problems as efficiently as possible. All this builds and hones transferable skills. It makes us better at what we do, which is getting the message through. Remember, when all else fails, Amateur Radio works, and properly trained, dedicated hams make it happen.

- Marty Woll, N6VI, ARRL Vice Director, Southwestern Division, from the [Southern California Contest Club](#) website, reprinted here by permission.  
"Maryland-DC Section News"

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## Hurricane Season

Hurricane season officially began on August 1st and will continue through November 30th. So far, we have been fortunate that no hurricanes or tropical storms has affected our area so far this season.

But, we must remain ready to serve. Make sure you have your "go-kits" ready!

Hurricanes and tropical storms are dangerous. Whether you live along the coast, near the bay or in the western part of the MDC Section, we must all remain prepared.

Hurricanes and tropical storms may result in high winds, heavy rains and power outages even if you live quite a ways inland.

So, stay alert and be prepared.

73 and remember that I am always ready to serve you.

Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM  
ARRL MDC Section Manager

**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**



# 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

- 04oct15 (Sun) - (support)Metric Marathon, please contact Ron Boller/N3WOF
- 08oct15 (Thu) - Board meeting at 7:30 PM (We have an open meeting policy)
- 10oct15 (Sat) - (free) Exams for your FCC amateur radio license, every second Saturday of the month.
- 11oct15 (Sun) - The Mesh networking group meets today.
- 11oct15 (Sun) - (support) Cystic Fibrosis Cycle (CFC) for Life Bike Ride at Herrington Harbor South. please contact Les Silva (KH6CUJ)
- 15oct15 (Thu) - Club meeting at 7:30 PM, newcomers always welcome.
- 25oct15 (Sun) - Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair, at 1 to 4 PM at the clubhouse.

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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.

## Make an Emergency Communication Plan

This article, from the Ready.gov website, [Make A Plan](#) page, explains what an emergency communication plan is and why you should make one for your family. It also provides tips and templates on how to make a plan.

### Why Make a Plan

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to think about the following situations and plan just in case. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- How will my family/household get [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
- How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?
- How will my family/household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

### Download and Print a Plan

Here is a template that you can download, print, and fill out:

- [For parents \(PDF\)](#)
- [For kids \(PDF\)](#)
- [For transit commuters \(PDF\)](#)
- [For your wallet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Steps to make a plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tips on emergency alerts and warnings \(PDF\)](#)

Here are a few easy steps to start your emergency communication plan:

- **Understand how to receive emergency alerts and warnings.** Make sure all household members are able to get alerts about an emergency from local officials. Check with your local emergency management agency to see what is available in your area, and learn more about alerts by visiting: [www.ready.gov/alerts](http://www.ready.gov/alerts). Examples of media for alerts include:
  - phone (work, cell, office)
  - email
  - social media
  - medical facilities, doctors, service providers
  - school

Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite. Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs. If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations. Examples of meeting places:

- **In your neighborhood:** A mailbox at the end of the driveway, or a neighbor's house.
- **Outside of your neighborhood:** library, community center, place of worship, or family friend's home.
- **Outside of your town or city:** home of a relative or family friend. Make sure everyone knows the address of the meeting place and discuss ways you would get there.
- **Discuss family/household plans for disasters**

**that may affect your area and plan where to go.** Plan together in advance so that everyone in the household understands where to go during a different type of disaster like a hurricane, tornado, or wildfire.

- **Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family.
- **Identify information and pick an emergency meeting place.**
- **Share information.** Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.
- **Practice your plan.** Have regular household meetings to review your emergency plans, communication plans and meeting place after a disaster, and then practice, just like you would a fire drill.

Reprinted with permission of [The ARES E-Letter for Sep. 16, 2015](#)

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## Start an Amateur Radio Virtuous Circle

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ham\_instructor Yahoo Group ([https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham\\_instructor/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham_instructor/info)) recently, we talked about the classes that we are going to be offering this fall. About his Tech class, Bob, K0NR, noted, "Currently have about 30 students signed up. We keep thinking we'll run out of interested people but they keep coming."

I've noticed the same thing here, too. I keep thinking that I am going to run out of people to teach, but I have no problem at all filling my classes. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that the more people that have taken my class, the more people there are that want to take it.

Of course, this makes perfect sense. If there are more people out there who have amateur radio licenses, there are more people out there talking about amateur radio, and actually doing amateur radio. And, the more people out there talking about and doing amateur radio, the more likely it is that other people will become interested in amateur radio and get their licenses as well.

### It's an amateur radio "virtuous circle."

What does this tell you? Well, if you're in a place where amateur radio seems to be dying out, or belong to a club that is slowly fading away, start a class! I think every club should hold classes at least once a year, even if that first class has only one or two students. Those first few students are the start of your virtuous circle.

Don't know how to start a class? I can help you there. Start by reading my blog post, "Teaching a one-day class" (<http://www.kb6nu.com/teaching-a-one-day-tech-class/>). It has a lot of practical information, including tips on how to select a venue, how to publicize the class, how to get people to sign up for the class, and finally, how to teach the class.

You might also want to join the ham\_instructor mailing list I mentioned earlier. It's a relatively low-volume list, but the subscribers have a lot of experience that you can tap into.

Also, get a copy of my free Tech study guide (<http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>). Not to brag (well, OK I am bragging), but it I really think that it's the best study guide for a one-day class. The study guide presents the topics in exactly the same order as I cover them in class. Read through it and you'll see what I mean.

**If you need more help, or even just some encouragement, e-mail me, and I'll do what I can to help you. Seriously.**

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**From Bob Rose AA3RR we received this photo of a balloon flight in Arizona. Thanks Bob for a great pic!!!**



## REPEATER FREQUENCIES

|                      |                     |                    |                  |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Davidsonville</b> | <b>Millersville</b> | <b>Glen Burnie</b> | <b>Annapolis</b> |
| <b>147.105+</b>      |                     | <b>147.075+</b>    |                  |
| <b>223.880-</b>      | <b>224.560-</b>     |                    |                  |
| <b>444.400+</b>      |                     |                    | <b>442.300+</b>  |

**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          |