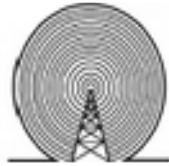


# THE HAM ARUNDEL NEWS



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

March 2016

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

## The Prez Sez...

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I've been taking the Extra class at the National Electronics Museum.



So far, it's been a great course with an excellent instructor, Rol Anders, K3RA. He has so much experience in the technical side combined with a knack for teaching and relating the material that one has to know to pass the Extra exam. He's an example of what an amateur should be, both knowledgeable and willing to take the time to share that knowledge.

Most people, especially as they get older, have acquired a fair amount of knowledge in one or more areas. Face it, most of us have (or had) to work for most of our lives and have learned or done things that others have not. The thing that makes amateur operators a community is the willingness to share that knowledge. Not everything we share has to do with radio or electronics. Sure, a lot of it does, but keep in mind that radio is all about communications. By and large, we're people who enjoy talking to others.

Notice how 'community' and 'communications' seem to spring from the same root word? I'd argue that you can't have one without the other. The fact that we enjoy communicating leads to a vibrant community of amateurs. Likewise, we couldn't really communicate if we were all insular and didn't participate in the larger community of amateur radio operators. I guess you could sit in your basement shack and listen to automated beacons all day...

"Where is he going with all this?" you're wondering. You're all communicators, whether it's on the air or some facetime before and after club meetings. You all have knowledge, much of it in common with other club members, some of it not. I want to encourage you all to consider making this the year you share that knowledge with others. I want to challenge you to use those communications skills to broaden the knowledge of the community – we will all be better for it.

An obvious way to do this is give a presentation. You're not standing up in front of 200 skeptical strangers, you're talking to a couple of dozen friends who are interested in what you have to say. I got into the hobby to

learn new things, and with every presentation and the discussion it generates, I do. I know there are plenty of folks who haven't given a presentation, and I have to wonder what might I learn from you? I hope I get a chance to find out this year.

You can also share by helping teach a Tech or General class. Keith Miller, AE3D, has done an excellent job with these classes, we've had great turnout, especially with the Tech classes. Consider giving a portion of a lesson one week in an area you enjoy talking about. Once again, you'll have a friendly audience of folks who really want to learn this stuff – they're making a commitment of a bunch of Saturday mornings because they're interested and want to become amateur radio operators. Consider talking with Keith and offering up an hour or two one Saturday to share some of this knowledge you've gained during your time in the hobby.

Don't want to present or teach? How about showing up at kit building and troubleshooting on the fourth Sunday of each month? Bring along something you're working on even if you don't need help with it and hang out for the afternoon. You'll likely get a bit of work done on your project and also be there for people who need help troubleshooting and repairing something. You might be just the person with the answer they're looking for. Even if nobody needs any help, it's still an opportunity to work on your project and chat with other folks interested in building and testing radio gear.

## US House Subcommittee to Consider Amateur Radio Parity Act

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, [H.R. 1301](#), was among three bills that the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology considered in a Thursday, February 11 "markup" session. Subcommittee members voted to send the measure to the House Energy and Commerce Committee for further consideration.

The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology is chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who, during a January 12 Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 1301, called the measure "a commonsense bill" and urged his colleagues' support. Subcommittee members submitted in





## 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

## Profile of the First African-American Radio Amateur, Rufus Turner, W3LF

The computer hardware/software/do-it-yourself blog *Hackaday* has [profiled](#) Rufus Turner, W3LF (ex-K6AI) — the first African-American radio amateur and one of the more fascinating personalities in US history. Born on December 25, 1907, in Houston, Texas,



Turner “became fascinated by crystal diodes and published his first article about radio when he was 17,” according to *Hackaday*. He went on to build what *Hackaday* described as “then the world’s smallest radio set” in

1925, while still a teenager.

In the day when radio amateurs still were allowed to broadcast, W3LF became the first radio station licensed to an African-American. He broadcast with a 15 W in Washington, DC, and operated another radio station for his church.

Working with Sylvania in the 1940s, Turner helped to develop the 1N34 germanium diode. And in 1949, he wrote “Build a Transistor” for Hugo Gernsback’s *Radio-Electronics* magazine ([May 1949 issue](#), p 38) — at a time when transistors (aka “crystal triodes”) not only were cutting edge but not commercially available. His meticulously described project involved the sacrifice of two 1N34 diodes and reusing one of the cases.

In January 1950, his article, “A Crystal Receiver with Transistor Amplifier” appeared in *Radio and Television News*, along with plans for a three-transistor radio. This was in the days before such things had begun to appear on the market.

While he had attended Armstrong Tech in Washington, DC, and he became a licensed professional engineer, he veered into the non-technical sphere of academe later in his life, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English, and in 1960 — at age 52 — he became an English professor at California State College, where he’d obtained his BA. He pursued a PhD in English at USC, with his thesis analyzing the life and literary output of 18th century romantic Charlotte Turner Smith.

He taught until 1973, but continued to write electronics articles. He died in 1982, the same year his *The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics* appeared in print. — *Thanks to Hackaday, Southgate Amateur Radio News, Radio-Electronics.*

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## Satellite DXCC Nearly 20 Years in the Making

It took nearly 20 years, but [AMSAT](#) Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, finally qualified for Satellite DXCC. Glasbrenner submitted the requisite number of QSLs for checking at the Orlando [HamCation](#) February 12-14, and ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, verified KO4MA’s achievement.

“It’s been a long process getting to satellite DXCC,” said Glasbrenner, who got into satellite operating around 1993, and was only on RS-12 (Mode K) for a long time. “This was the Russian satellite payload that used 15 meters up, and 10 meters down,” he explained.

His activity stagnated for a long time during and after his college years, but in 1999 he got involved in working the LEO satellites, such as UO-14 and AO-27, “then FO-20 and FO-29 for a little more distance, and then on the perigee passes of AO-10, when it was still semi-usable,” he added.



“When AO-40 was launched into a high-Earth orbit, I dove into Mode U/S with gusto,” Glasbrenner recounted. During the 3 years that AO-40 was active, he spent many late nights and early mornings looking for the next new one.

“Eventually I was using a 3 foot solid dish with preamp and downconverter for the Mode S downlink, and this is when some of my most exciting contacts came.”

Highlights included working VU2MKP at a few degrees of elevation to the east, right after the satellite came up, and working KH2GR in the other direction, “while the satellite was off-pointing and the spin fades were horrendous, and timing each call during peaks.”

When AO-40 went silent, Glasbrenner said he was about a dozen short of DXCC, and he realized that he’d have to be proactive to finish up with just LEO satellites. Many of his new ones came from operators who went the extra mile to operate from places like the Caribbean and Greenland.

“The absence of operational HEO satellites makes satellite DXCC nearly impossible for newer operators,” he said, “but I’m confident that continued membership and support of AMSAT by any operator interested in satellites will result in the successful return to high orbit by one of the several opportunities currently being pursued by the organization. Strike while the iron is hot!”

Bernhard Dobler, DJ5MN, has been at the top of the DXCC-Satellite standings since 2000, and has 274 entities confirmed.

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## ARRL Signs New Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have signed a new *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*. The document, signed in January, succeeds one agreed to in 2010; it will remain in place for the next 5 years. The MoU spells out how League Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers will interface with the Red Cross in the event that ARES teams are asked by the Red Cross to assist in a disaster or emergency response.



"Whenever there is a disaster requiring the use of Amateur Radio communications resources and/or facilities, the local Red Cross region or chapter may request the assistance of the local ARES organization responsible for the jurisdiction of the scene of the disaster," the *MoU* provides. Such assistance would include mobilization of ARES personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan, and the establishment of communication as necessary during a disaster or emergency. "Both ARRL volunteers and American Red Cross workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties" within the scope of the *MoU*, the agreement says.

Generally, the *MoU* sets the parameters of the partnership between the ARRL and the Red Cross to provide assistance to communities affected by disasters. It calls upon both organizations to encourage and maintain open lines of communication at the state and local levels, sharing current data regarding disasters, situational and operational reports, changes in policy or personnel, and any information pertaining to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

For its part, the League will encourage ARES units to engage in discussions with local Red Cross entities to develop plans for local response or disaster relief operations. The Red Cross will encourage its field units to engage in discussions with the ARRL Field Organization to develop plans for local response or disaster relief.



American Red Cross

Facilitating this is a *Statement of Cooperation* to provide methods of cooperation between the two organizations on the local level in providing services to communities during or after a disaster event, "as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial." The ARRL signatory is either the appropriate ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator.

The new *MoU* also clarifies that ARES volunteers assisting the Red Cross but not registered as Red Cross volunteers do not have to undergo a prior background check. Radio amateurs who register as Red Cross volunteers, though, must abide by the Red Cross's background check requirement.

Then-ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the *MoU* on behalf of the League on January 7, while ARC Senior Vice President-Disaster Cycle Services Richard Reed, signed for the American Red Cross on January 22.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter, Feb. 11, 2016

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## ARRL Announces Partnership with RFinder --

### The Worldwide Repeater Directory

ARRL has established an agreement with [RFinder](#), the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, for RFinder to be the League's preferred online resource of repeater frequencies.

RFinder is a steadily growing worldwide repeater directory with over 50,000 repeater listings in over 170 countries. An annual \$9.99 subscription to RFinder provides access to repeater data through its collection of apps for Android and Apple devices, and from nearly any web browser. With one subscription, users have access to repeater data worldwide from computing devices on Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, Apple iOS, and popular GPS systems. A growing list of third-party memory programming applications support radio programming. RFinder provides integrated support for *EchoLink* on Android and iPhone, allowing users a one-click connection to repeaters worldwide from the directory.



**RFinder, the official online repeater directory of ARRL.**

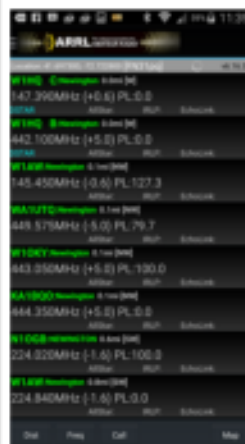
"The RFinder team is honored to be ARRL's partner, providing the very latest online repeater information and directory technology for radio amateurs in the United States," said Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder -- The Worldwide Repeater Directory. "We look forward to

working with ARRL to make RFinder even better for US hams."

ARRL will receive a portion of each annual subscription to RFinder. US radio amateurs who subscribe to RFinder will have online access to its entire worldwide directory while supporting ARRL.

ARRL will discontinue its own products that had supported digital listings of repeater data, including the *TravelPlus for Repeaters™* software and its own apps. ARRL is working with RFinder on a plan to migrate existing ARRL app users to RFinder, in order to support remaining subscription terms.

"Rest assured that the



An RFinder screen shot.

printed *ARRL Repeater Directory*, updated and published each year, will continue to be produced," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. Inderbitzen explained that the *Repeater Directory*, available in [pocket-sized](#) and [spiral-bound desktop](#) editions, is especially popular with new radio amateurs, mobile and portable operators, and public service volunteers who rely on the printed copies when they are offline and on the go.

ARRL's source of repeater data for *The ARRL Repeater Directory* is voluntarily contributed information from repeater owners and frequency coordinators in the US and Canada. RFinder, on the other hand, assembles its data from worldwide sources, including repeater owners, national and regional coordinating bodies, and carefully reviewed crowd-sourced contributions. RFinder uses dynamic data, allowing users to access listings that regularly reflect new, updated, revised, and deleted information.

RFinder will have an exhibit at the upcoming [Orlando HamCation®](#), this year's [ARRL National Convention](#), February 12-14, at the Central Florida Fair and Expo Park in Orlando, Florida. "We are excited and proud to announce our partnership during the ARRL National Convention!" Greenberg said.

ARRL is the most recent national Amateur Radio society to establish a partnership with RFinder. RFinder is the official repeater directory of Radio Amateurs Canada, the Radio Society of Great Britain, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (Germany), and others.

Subscribe to RFinder by visiting <http://subscribe.rfinder.net> from your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or from your Android smartphone or tablet. Those without an Apple or Android device can subscribe using the link at the bottom of <http://subscribe.rfinder.net/>.

Used with permission The ARRL Letter February 4, 2016.

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## 2016 Spring Technician and General Class

The Anne Arundel Radio Club provides FREE courses on various facets of Amateur Radio on a yearly basis, plus others as need dictates. Our current schedule of courses, open to the general public, include:

**\*The Technician License Course:\*** This class is designed to introduce the average person to the world of Amateur Radio, and provide them with all the information needed to pass the FCC Element 2 Exam which results in a Technician Class Amateur Radio License. This

Saturday morning, 6 class series class, begins February 27, 2016 and ends April 9th, with no class scheduled on March 26th, the Saturday of Easter weekend. Classes begin at 8:30 AM and end at noon. The text for this class will be The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 3rd Edition. Students may opt to purchase this text through the AARC with advance notice, or directly from the ARRL or Amazon.com. It is available in print and Kindle format. Approximately one hour after the final class ends, 1 PM on April 11th, the Laurel VEC will be providing FREE testing in the AARC Clubhouse. So you can finish the course, and pass your test the same day.

**\*The General License Course:\*** This class is

designed for the Technician Class License holder, to increase their knowledge of Amateur Radio, and provide them with all the information needed to pass the FCC Element 3 Exam which in combination with Element 2 results in a General Class Amateur Radio License. This Saturday morning, 6 class series class, begins April 23, 2016 and ends June 4th, with no class scheduled on May 28th, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Classes begin at 8:30 AM and end at noon. The text for this class will be The ARRL General Class License Manual, 8rd Edition. Students may opt to purchase this text through the AARC with advance notice, or directly from the ARRL or Amazon.com. It is available in print and Kindle format. This class has been scheduled to provide a week's time to study between the end of the course, and the next Laurel VEC testing date at the AARC Clubhouse. We may hold a 'cram' session the morning of the test, June 11th, if there is enough interest.

All classes will be held at the Anne Arundel Radio Club's clubhouse on the grounds of the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, 3789 Queen Anne's Bridge Road, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035. The club is about 1 1/4 miles from the intersection of Maryland Routes 214 and 424. From that intersection proceed 1/4 mile west on MD 214, Central Avenue, then make a 45 degree left turn onto Queen Anne's Bridge Road. Proceed approximately one mile, where you will cross the intersection with Wayson Road. At this point you will see a chain link fence on your left, behind which are some military style structures. This is the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center which was once a Nike Missile Control Center. Proceed to the gate and turn left into the center, going straight ahead between two buildings and up the hill. When you get to the top you will find ample free parking. The Anne Arundel Radio Club is the last building on your right. It has two 40 foot towers attached to it, is adjacent to an almost 200 foot repeater tower, and is clearly marked. You really can't miss it.

Like all classes, a notebook and writing utensil will come in handy. If you purchase your text through the club, we will provide those to you along with your book at the first session. Again advance notice is the key to having such materials on hand. On the first day of class the club will likely provide free coffee and donuts for all. Typically the club will also have sodas for sale throughout the course. If you want to bring a snack or breakfast, please feel free to do so. Our clubhouse is relatively well equipped, with heat, water, adequate restroom facilities, and a working refrigerator.

Though preregistration for classes is not required, it is appreciated. To do so, email your name, address, phone number, and email address to our Training Coordinator, Keith Miller/AE3D [ae3d@graykitty.net](mailto:ae3d@graykitty.net) [1] or contact him by phone at 301-805-1854.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are there age requirements?

No! If you pass the test, you get a license. That being said, the youngest ham on record was 6 years old, but she had the benefit of growing up with licensed parents and siblings. My feeling is that this course is not beyond the

ability of the average teenager, and can likely be passed by those in the 10 to 12 range if they have a strong interest in the hobby. I do know a little knowledge of algebra helps.

2. Is this class going to be over my head?

No! We try to keep everything at a level that the average person can understand. It is the instructors job to teach the material using plain English with as little geek-speak as possible. Our goal is to make sure you understand. You might, however, learn a little geek-speak along the way.

3. Do I need to preregister?

No! But if you know you are going to take the class, we'd appreciate it. This helps us know how many to expect on that first class date, how many supplies and handouts to prepare, and even helps us know how many donuts to buy. But if someone wants to come along last minute, that's great. We always plan for a few extras.

4. How does one dress for a ham radio class?

Dress comfortably. You are going to be there for several hours. Jeans and a t-shirt are just fine.

5. What do I need to bring with me?

You will need note taking materials. If you are purchasing your book through the club, we will provide those to you at your first session. A calculator capable of doing logarithms and square roots might come in handy occasionally but is certainly not necessary. The dollar store sells one suitable for, you guessed it, a dollar.

6. What if I can't attend all the classes?

Missing one class is not going to doom you to instant failure. We can provide you with the class materials, and the book should help you cover the rest. That being said, missing a number of classes can lessen your chances of passing the test substantially.

7. Is your class really totally 'FREE', no strings attached?

Yes! That being said, we would love a few new members for our club, providing that idea interests you. But if it doesn't we are totally happy that we could help you move ahead with your Amateur Radio hobby.

8. How much does the book cost?

It sounds awful to say, but it varies. The Kindle version is probably the least expensive for approximately \$20, but of course you must own the equipment to read the Kindle files. With shipping included most print versions are in the \$30 range. In past years I can say that Amazon.com has been less expensive than purchasing the book either from the AARC or the ARRL, but not by much. Your decision may come down to what is most convenient for

you.

9. Can you tell me about the qualifications of the instructors?

All of our instructors hold Amateur Extra class licenses. Several are Electrical Engineers and all are experts in subjects they teach.

10. What if I have a question that's not listed here?

Email our Training Coordinator, Keith Miller/AE3D [ae3d@graykitty.net](mailto:ae3d@graykitty.net) [2] or phone 301-805-1854. He is retired, and would enjoy hearing from you.

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## New ARRL President Happy to be Part of “Exciting Times for Amateur Radio”

Making his inaugural [ARRL National Convention](#) appearance as ARRL President, Rick Roderick, K5UR, said he's looking forward to meeting many League members in person in Orlando this week. The 2016 ARRL National Convention, February 12-14, is hosted by the Orlando [HamCation®](#), which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.



“We are embarking on a new era at ARRL as the second century begins,” President Roderick said. “I’m thrilled to be part of these exciting times for Amateur Radio.”

Over his term, President Roderick said, his emphasis will be on implementing the 5 year [Strategic Plan](#) that the ARRL Board of Directors adopted at its annual meeting in mid-January. Roderick said the plan “will help grow and advance Amateur Radio, and make the League stronger and more responsive to our members.”

He also said he'll put forth a major effort to secure passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act as well as to urge improved enforcement by the FCC.

President Roderick, 63, is the ARRL's 16th president, succeeding Kay Craigie, N3KN, who served for three terms as the League's president. An ARRL Life Member, he has been a radio amateur for 48 years and lives in Little Rock, Arkansas.

President Roderick sat on the ARRL Board of Directors for 24 years, and he served as a member and chairman of the DX Advisory Committee. He is an enthusiastic DXer with many operating awards to his credit.

President Roderick holds bachelor's, master's, and JD degrees from the University of Arkansas and is a managing partner in a law firm.

A complete ARRL National Convention [program guide](#) is available.

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## ARRL Board Adopts New Strategic Plan

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted an updated [Strategic Plan](#) that defines the League's vision and guides its direction over the next 5 years. ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, a member of the Strategic Planning Working Group, said the revised plan represents more than 8 months of work on the part of the group's seven members. Now-Honorary ARRL Vice President Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, chaired the panel, which met some 2 dozen times, mostly via webinar. Kramer said input to the Strategic Plan was considerable and comprehensive.

"It will let the members know what to expect from their association," he said. Kramer stressed that the updated plan "was not developed in a vacuum" but includes survey input from ARRL members, the Board of Directors, the Field Organization, advertisers, Headquarters staff, and similar strategic plans. "We really tried to take into account what all of these different constituencies thought were the main issues, concerns, and direction of the League for the future," he added.

When it adopted the Strategic Plan at its Annual Meeting in mid-January, the Board said in its resolution, "Further, the ARRL Board recognizes the Strategic Plan presented is the beginning of a more formal process for the ARRL and requires establishing priorities, resources, monitoring, review and modification and/or addition of goals, initiatives, and tactics supporting the Strategic Plan as future conditions and the environment change."

Kramer said the Strategic Plan's mission statement -- To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio -- describes "what we are supposed to do as an association," while its vision statement spells out "what we want to be."

The meat of the plan is its six strategic goals, each of which includes a list of initiatives to further differentiate those goals. The goals are:

- Grow Amateur Radio worldwide.
- Increase the vitality of Amateur Radio.
- Keep Amateur Radio accessible to all.
- Advance Amateur Radio science and technology.
- Organize and train volunteers to serve their communities by providing public service and emergency communications.
- Practice good governance and organizational management.

"Tactics will be developed to define what must be done to support the goals and initiatives, as well as to prioritize activities and programs for development," Fenstermaker explained. "ARRL management is responsible for implementing and managing the process

with the Board of Directors' oversight."

As the Strategic Plan states in its Preamble, "This plan is a starting point to assure that ARRL continues its leading role in the Amateur Radio community."

**ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced** Word Count 420

It's not too early to be thinking about [Field Day](#) 2016 and planning your club's strategy for a bigger score and greater participation than last year. Field Day is June 25-26 -- always the 4th full weekend in June -- and the 2016 ARRL Field Day Packet now is available to [download](#) as a PDF file. This year's Field Day introduces two new ways to score bonus points -- Social Media and Safety Officer.

**Rule 7.3.16 Social Media** offers 100 bonus points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized, and utilized social media platform, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operations. These bonus points are not available to *individual* participants, and club websites do not qualify as social media for this bonus. The bonus points are available to all Field Day entry classes meeting the criteria.

**Rule 7.3.17 Safety Officer** offers 100 bonus points by designating someone to serve as a Safety Officer for groups setting up Class A stations. This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List -- found in the [ARRL Field Day Packet](#) -- have been adequately met. This is an *active* bonus. Simply designating someone as Safety Officer does not automatically earn the bonus points. In order to claim this bonus, participants must include a statement verifying the completion of the Safety Check List in the supporting documentation sent to ARRL Headquarters.

Last year, 2720 stations submitted ARRL Field Day entries. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015 -- an increase of just over 1 percent. Nearly 35,400 individuals took part in Field Day last year.

The 2016 ARRL [Field Day](#) logo makes a connection to the League's year-long National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) operating event. NPOTA celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service ([NPS](#)).

The design's featured hiking boot footprint anticipates that many 2016 Field Day groups and individual operators may want to combine FD and NPOTA, setting up at national parks, historic sites, or at any of the hundreds of official National Park Service units throughout the US. [Pick your park](#), get the okay from park officials, get out and get on the air, and leave *nothing but footprints!*

Follow Field Day on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (hashtag [#ARRLFD](#)). Share *your* plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day!

For more information about Field Day 2016, [contact](#) ARRL Headquarters.

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The ARRL Board of Directors adopted a new Strategic Plan

when it met for its Annual Meeting in mid-January. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]



## AARC STAFF – 2016

### OFFICERS

**President:**

Brian Mary / K3HMX 301-262-4075  
k3hmx@w3vpr.org

**Vice Pres:**

Wayne Precht / AB3RY 240-268-9070  
wayne@wayneprecht.org

**Secretary:**

Jonathan Grafe / AE3JG 240-426-2664  
ae3jg@w3vpr.org

**Treasurer:**

Justin Leishman / KC3BJT \_\_\_\_\_  
leishman.public@icloud.com

**Directors:**

Mark Bova / W2PAW 240-274-6294  
w2paw@w3vpr.org

Giff Hammar / K1GAH 443-221-7273  
k1gah@w3vpr.org

Timothy Nagel / KB3YQK \_\_\_\_\_  
kb3yqk@w3vpr.org

### REPRESENTATIVES

**Trustee:**

Giff Hammar / K1GAH 443-221-7273  
k1gah@w3vpr.org

**Resident Agent:**

Bob Jeter / K3RSJ 410-315-9403  
jeter904@verizon.net

**DFRC Rep:**

Milford Craig / N3WYG 301-218-8867  
n3wyg@w3vpr.org

**Public Relations:**

Paul Bowling / W4ATN 410-934-1355  
paul@w4atn.com

Assistant: Holly Bevan / N3MB 410-923-0229  
n3mb@arrl.net

**Program Chairman:**

Wayne Precht / AB3RY 240-268-9070  
wayne@wayneprecht.org

**ARES/RACES:**

Ron Boller / N3WOF 410-956-6127  
n3wof@arrl.net

**Joint 440 Comm:**

Walt King / N3USB 449-791-4174  
mdfirenet55@aol.com

**FAR Representative**

Ed Brown / AA3EB 301-856-3317  
brownmejr@comcast.net

## COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

**Public Service:**

Erick Graves / WA3G 410-987-7670  
erick.g@comcast.net

**Repeater Ops:**

John Williams / K8JW 410-847-7406  
k8jw@verizon.net

**VE Team:**

Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246  
k3bay@comcast.net

**Training:**

Keith Miller / AE3D 301-805-1854  
ae3d@graykitty.net

**Packet Radio:**

Jonathan Grafe / KB3ZVO 240-426-2664  
KB3ZVO@arrl.net

**Newsletter:**

Milford Craig / N3WYG 301-218-8867  
newsletter@w3vpr.org

**Web Page:**

Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246  
k3bay@comcast.net

**Field Day:**

Dick Maio / WW3R 410-956-5099  
ww3r.maio@gmail.com

**MDC QSO Party**

Mike Watterson / K3MAW 301-830-2500  
mwatterson@gmail.com

**MD Slow Net:**

Bruce Stewart / W8CPG 304-940-3076  
chickenfarm9@gmail.com

**ARRL MDC Section Manager :**

Martin J. Pittinger / KB3MXM 410-356-7899  
kb3mxm@arrl.net

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### VE Testing Schedule

**Noon –** Second Saturday of each month –  
AARC – Steve Kelly / K3BAY 410-975-6246  
k3bay@comcast.net

**Third Saturday of each month – 9AM –** Laurel ARC –  
John Creel, 301-572-5124

**Fourth Tuesday of each month – 6PM –** MMARC –  
Mike Montrose / KA2JAI 443-310-4907 web site is  
[tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers](http://tinyurl.com/marylandmobileers)

**To all exams bring:**

- Picture ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- **ORIGINAL** and a **COPY** of current FCC amateur radio license

**ORIGINAL and a COPY of all element credits (eg., FCC letters, old licenses or unexpired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination-CSCE)**