

The Ham Arundel News

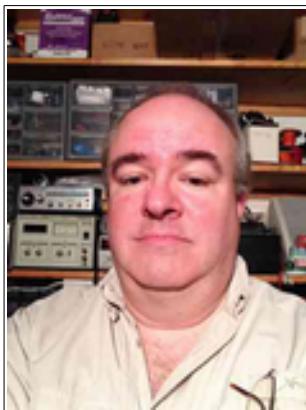


Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

July 2016

38th Year of Publication

The Prez Sez...



Well, it's suddenly turned into summer as it tends to do around here. One week it's pleasant in the 70's, then it's humid and in the low 90's. Typically Mid-Atlantic transition – if you can even call it a transition...

So the arrival of the hot and humid must mean that Field Day approaches! Yes, in about a month we will be enjoying the great outdoors for a weekend as we try and make contacts

from our Field Day stations. I'm looking forward to it, as I'm sure you are as well. It is comforting to know that we as hams can setup up a station in austere conditions and still make contact throughout the country. No infrastructure, just some radios, a power source, and wire antennas and we're connected.

Of course, it takes a lot of folks to make this happen, as those of you who've volunteered before can attest. We will need a group to help with setup on Friday and takedown on Sunday. If you can get a kitchen pass for one or both activities, it would be greatly appreciated.

Speaking of opportunities to volunteer, we still need someone to coordinate antennas and someone for rigs. I've asked before, and I'm asking again. This stuff doesn't just happen by itself, and about half of the board members have already signed up to coordinate various aspects of Field Day, including our Field Day overall coordinator, Giff Hammar. I'll be the Safety Czar this year, something we actually get points for if we implement AARL's safety objectives. Meanwhile, there's still a need for some of you to step up and help us out. Giff can mentor the antenna coordinator, as he built most of the new antennas last year. Getting the rigs set up and insuring we have enough isn't rocket surgery, but someone needs to coordinate this and work with Giff on a plan for keeping stations on the proper bands. Neither of these positions require you to stay for the entire weekend, mostly pre-planning, setup, and takedown. Naturally we'd like to see you there and operating as much as you can.

So come on folks, Field Day is a club activity and we need club members to make it happen. If people aren't

interested, we don't have to participate – we can all just work from home. But I know we all look forward to this weekend and have tons of fun making contacts. Please consider helping out by volunteering for these last two critical positions so we can pull everything together without overloading the folks who have already volunteered. You can volunteer with a friend and tag-team the position if you'd like. Really, it's not that hard, there's plenty of mentoring available, and we need your help. Field Day participation is a chance to reach out to the community and show them what we're about and how much fun this is as well. It also is one of the many things that keeps our ARRL Special Service Club status which few clubs earn, and which identifies AARC as one of the premier clubs in the state.

If you are willing to join the Field Day team and coordinate antennas or rigs, please let myself or Giff Hammar know. We've only got a month left, and these are critical positions if we're going to have a successful weekend.

After months of being mobile-less, I finally had time this weekend to get my rig installed in my new car. Waiting on a mount for the control head, but I can just leave it lying about for now. Running the antenna wire from the rear lip mount up front was an adventure, but the fish tape is your friend. If anyone needs to know how to remove trim panels and the back seat cushions from a Subaru Crosstrek, I'm your man... Next up – moving the HF station from the electronics workroom to the den now that space has become available there. I don't mind working out of a storage/workroom, but this will be much nicer and I should be able to get on HF more. That might take more than a weekend, especially if I decide to build a custom table/desk to hold the station. Meanwhile, I'll browse the interwebs and look at what others have put together for a modest HF station and see if that generates any ideas. If you'd like to share a photo of your station, start a topic and drop a picture in the forums. I think most hams really enjoy looking at what others have put together for their stations. There's almost always something you'll learn from it that might solve an issue with your setup.

In closing, I hope you remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice this Memorial Day. Those that have served and those that have lost ones who served deserve our reflection, our thoughts, and our thanks not just today but throughout the year.

2016 Field Day

W3VPR 7A MDC

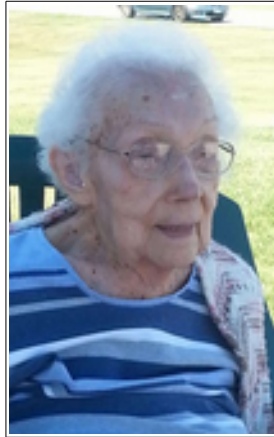
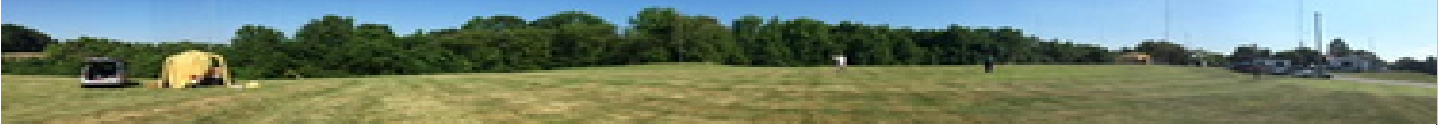




Photo Credit on this page to good old Bob Bonehead

Doug Elmore, NA1DX Certified As HF/VHF Card Checker

Congratulation, Doug, who is now authorized to count cards for:

Worked All States (WAS),
Worked All Continents (WAC)
VHF/UHF Century Club VUCC

Doug is only the second person in Maryland to be certified to count for VUCC, WAS and WAC. His credentials will be sent to the club Treasurer and be presented to Doug at a later date.



The ARRL appoints local award managers as a convenience to League members applying for Worked All States (WAS) and VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards and endorsements. HF Award Managers may check applications for Worked All States, 5-Band Worked All States, and WAS endorsements. VHF Award Managers may check applications and endorsements for VUCC. An individual may hold both HF and VHF Award Manager appointments.

ARRL Special Service Clubs may nominate HF and VHF Award Managers. In addition, ARRL Affiliated Clubs specializing in VHF/UHF/microwave activity may nominate VHF Award Managers. Appointments are made and terminated by the ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Department.

Award Managers are encouraged to offer their services to hamfests, conventions, and other ham radio public events.

Doug's ability to check cards is contingent on the club maintaining its Special Service Club status. Please help us by volunteering for public service events, encouraging members to upgrade their licenses, participating in classes and operating events etc. These activities help us to maintain our special service club status and are a leverage point to get additional privileges from the league.

Jonathan Graefe AE3JG said "We had an excellent talk on Thursday 6/16/2016 from Bill Dobson N3WD. One of the topics Bill touched on is the difference between QSO (2 way) and SWL (1 way) Cards.

All QSO cards for awards credit must show 2-way communications. This can be done with a phrase such as "Confirming 2-way QSO with" or a field called 2-way which is then filled out as SSB/CW/RTTY/PSK31 etc. Many cards that are rejected, lack any indication of 2-way communication.

If a card does not indicate 2-way or "Confirming 2-way QSO with" or similar language on it, the card will interpreted to be a SWL Card and not eligible for award credit."

So, please consider this before purchasing QSL Cards. Your recipients will thank you. If you need assistance, please feel free to approach any seasoned amateur radio operator in the club. Our HF Awards Manager will also be very happy to give examples of items he would accept for credit.

Congratulations to Mike Watterson, K3MAW

The *Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)* is the fastest growing group of mechanical-key CW operators in the world. First organized in January 2006, our club has grown rapidly to include thousands of licensed amateur-radio operators from all corners of the globe.



For more information go to <http://www.skccgroup.com>

If you are new to CW, then check out our CW Beginner's Corner page. It has plenty of basic information about CW operations that will help turn those first CW QSOs from jitters to joy.



ECARS SUSPENDS OPS ON SAT & SUN FOR THE SUMMER



www.ecars7255.com

East Coast Amateur Radio Service net is a daily mobile net operating on 7.255 MHz. ECARS will discontinue Saturday and Sunday net operations during the summer months of June, July, and August.

The ECARS Net for Memorial Day weekend will continue as scheduled.

The first weekend of no ECARS Net operations will begin June 4th & 5th. The normal weekend ECARS Net operations will resume on September 3rd & 4th.

Visit their website at <http://www.ecars7255.com/>

Used with permission MDC Section News, June 14, 2016

CQ Announces its 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees

[CQ magazine](#) has announced its 2016 [Hall of Fame](#) inductees. The list includes the election of non-amateurs to the [CQ DX Hall of Fame](#) for only the second time.



There are two new inductees to the [CQ Contest Hall of Fame](#), and 21 newcomers to the [CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame](#).

CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors individuals, licensed or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, and radio amateurs who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, to their professions, or to some other aspect of life.

Bob Arnold, N2JEU (SK): Co-developer (with Keith Lamonica, W7DXX, see below) of the first Amateur Radio remote base controlled over the Internet.

Grant Bingeman, (SK): Developed “method of moments” antenna modeling software for AM broadcast stations and 160 meter amateur antennas.

Bob Carpenter, W3OTC (SK): Pioneer of meteor scatter and FM stereo broadcast technology and long-time AMSAT volunteer.

David Dary, W5ZAX: Journalist, author, journalism educator, former correspondent for CBS and NBC, journalism professor at University of Kansas and University of Oklahoma, author of more than 20 books on the American West.

Matt Ettus, N2MJI: Software defined radio pioneer; developed first universal software radio peripheral (USRP) with GNU radio software support.

Terry Fox, N4TLF (ex-WB4JFI): Packet radio pioneer; primary developer of AX.25 Amateur Radio packet protocol.

Elmer “Bud” Frohardt Jr, W9DY (SK): The original “Elmer,” for whom ham radio mentors are named (courtesy of a 1971 QST “How’s DX?” column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/VA3ZBB).

Fred Gissoni, K4JLX (SK): Adaptive technology pioneer; co-developer of the Porta-Braille and Pocket-Braille note-taking devices for the visually impaired and of many other devices.

Ken Kellerman, K2AOE: Radio astronomer; pioneer of radio interferometry; co-developer of very long baseline interferometry (VLBI), which permits multiple telescopes to function as a single instrument.

Keith Lamonica, W7DXX: Co-developer (with the late Bob Arnold, N2JEU) of the first Amateur Radio remote base controlled over the Internet.

George Mitchell, K6ZE (SK): Member of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II and 2007 recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal for his wartime service.

Les Mitchell, G3BHK (SK): Founder of Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), annual event to introduce Amateur Radio to scouts and guides around the world.

William Moerner, WN6I: Co-recipient of the 2014

Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in high-resolution microscopy.

Leigh Orf, KG4ULP: Co-developer of tornado simulator using computer modeling to simulate conditions under which tornadoes form.

Joe Rudi, NK7U: Former Major League Baseball player and three-time All-Star.

Wes Schum, W9DYV (SK): Co-founder of Central Electronics, which developed the first commercially manufactured Amateur Radio SSB transmitter.

Garry Shandling, ex-KQ6KA/KD6OY (SK): Well-known comedian, actor, writer, and television personality.

Mason P. Southworth, ex-W1VLH (SK): Head of ARRL International Geophysical Year (IGY) Propagation Research Project in 1958-59; conducted additional propagation research at Stanford University.

Boris Stepanov, RU3AX (ex-UW3AX): Leading Russian amateur, deputy editor of *Radio* magazine; pioneer of computerized contest logging and log checking; developed prototype for World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC); first to propose “glass cockpit” for ham transceiver, combining frequency readout and spectrum scope on front-panel display.

Rufus Turner, W3LF (SK): Believed to be the first African-American radio amateur in the US; helped to develop 1N34 germanium diode; wrote 1949 article in *Radio-Electronics* magazine, “Build a Transistor.”

Perry Williams, W1UED (SK): Long-time ARRL Washington Coordinator and League archivist; helped to convince Congress not to charge amateurs a license application fee, instead arguing convincingly in favor of creating a vanity call sign program; persuaded FCC to retain large amateur microwave allocations and to create primary amateur allocation at 2.4 GHz

CQ DX Hall of Fame

The CQ DX Hall of Fame honors amateurs who excel not only in personal performance as DXers but give back to the hobby in outstanding ways. For only the second time in its history, CQ this year has inducted some non-amateurs to the CQ DX Hall of Fame (the first was Islands on the Air founder Geoff Watts in 1977).

Nigel Jolly, KC3HAE, and the Crew of the R/V *Braveheart*: Jolly, his crew, and the *Braveheart* have provided transportation for — and assured the safety of — many major DXpeditions to southern islands over the past 15 years, DXpeditions that likely would not have taken place otherwise.

Roger Balister, G3KMA: As manager of the Islands on the Air program since 1985, Balister has seen IOTA grow from a few hundred early participants to more than 10,000 today, making it one of the most popular award programs in Amateur Radio.

CQ Contest Hall of Fame

The Contest Hall of Fame honors amateurs who excel not only in personal performance as contesters but give back to the hobby in outstanding ways.

Tod Olson, K0TO: Founding editor of *National Contest Journal*; past ARRL Section Manager, Vice Director, Division Director, and International Affairs Vice President.

Richard Strand, KL7RA (SK): A radio astronomer who took advantage of the quiet of the northern latitudes for

his research, Rich Strand built and maintained highly competitive contest stations in a very difficult environment and was, for many hams, the only CQ Zone 1 contact.

Formal inductions to the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame take place in conjunction with Dayton [Hamvention](#)®. CQ Contest Hall of Fame presentations are made at the Dayton Contest Dinner by CQ World Wide DX Contest Director Randy Thompson, K5ZD; CQ DX Hall of Fame inductions are made at the Dayton DX Dinner on behalf of CQ by noted DXers and CQ DX Hall of Fame members Bob Alphin, K4UEE, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR. -- *Thanks to CQ Magazine*

Used with permission The ARRL Letter for June 2, 2016

AA

The Yasme Foundation Announces Excellence Awards, Supporting Grants

[The Yasme Foundation](#) has announced three Excellence Award recipients and several supporting grants. The Excellence Award is presented to individuals who, through their own service, creativity, effort, and dedication,



have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio in terms of technical, operating, or organizational achievement. The

Yasme Excellence Award consists of a cash grant and an individually engraved crystal globe. The recipients are:

- **Tim Duffy, K3LR:** "While Tim is involved in many facets of Amateur Radio, the Yasme Excellence Award is made in recognition of his adaptation and development of the Contest University (CTU), now in its 10th year," The Yasme Foundation said in announcing his award. "CTU has not only reached hundreds of amateurs around the world, but it has also inspired others to create their own CTU-format training programs in other fields. Tim's dedication to CTU is in the finest traditions of Amateur Radio's self-teaching and training." Duffy is ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager. His award was presented at the Dayton Contest University (CTU) session.

- **Carole Perry, WB2MGP:** "The Yasme Excellence Award is made in recognition of Carole's many years of contributions to teaching and mentoring youth interested in Amateur Radio and her efforts in organizing and promoting the interests of young operators," the announcement said. "This youth-oriented work becomes more and more important to Amateur Radio with every passing year. Carole's dedication to this work, including through the Radio Club of America, is in the finest traditions of Amateur Radio's self-teaching and training." Perry's award was presented at Hamvention.

- **Tom Rauch, W8JI:** "The Yasme Excellence Award is made in recognition of Tom's many contributions to the technical advancement of the Amateur Service," the announcement said. "Tom's

willingness to provide education and direction to amateurs through [his website](#) and other communications is a prime example of hams mentoring, teaching, and training each other in the finest traditions of Amateur Radio."

Yasme Foundation grants support the Foundation's aim to encourage youth participation in Amateur Radio and operating activities. To support scholarships and youth programs, grants will go to the [ARRL Foundation](#), to fund the Yasme Foundation scholarship and to the Foundation for Amateur Radio ([FAR](#)) to support its 2017-2018 scholarship program. A third Yasme Foundation grant made it possible for two young Ethiopian amateurs to take part in the Youth Contesting Program in Estonia. To support HF operating around the world, additional Yasme Foundation supporting grants went to the [DX Code of Conduct](#) founder and website operator and to the 2016 Friendship Radio Games.

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UPCOMING HAMFESTS

CARROLL COUNTY TAILGATE FEST

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Location: Sportmans Hall Skating Rink

15500 Hanover Pike

Upperco, MD 21155

Website: <www.qis.net/~k3pzn/hamfest.html>

Sponsor: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club

Public Contact: Steve Beckman, N3SB

2145 Bethel Rd

Finksburg, MD 21048

Phone: 410-876-1482

E-mail: <n3sb@qis.net>

Notes: Overnight parking is by special arrangement.

Send an e-mail to <n3sb@qis.net> if you need to park on the grounds Saturday night.

The skating rink is open until 12 midnight on Saturday night. Therefore, Saturday setup in the parking lot is not available. This is an outdoor event! There will be no indoor tables!

SANTA FEST

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2016

Location: American Legion Youth Camp

9201 Surratts Road

Cheltenham, MD 20623

Sponsor: American Legion & Prince George's County

Emergency Repeater Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.230 (PL 110.9)

Public Contact: Charles Hallock, AA3WS

16203 Manning Road

West Accokeek, MD 20607

Phone: 301-535-1666

E-mail: <selbynet@hotmail.com>

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W1AW 2016 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time -----	Mode -----	Days -----
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)
1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf		
		Mon,Wed, Fri	
2000 " "	CWs		Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)			CWb Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)			DIGITAL Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)			CWs
		Mon,Wed, Fri	
2300 " "	CWf		Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)			CWb Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)			DIGITAL Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE		Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf		
		Mon,Wed, Fri	
0200 " "	CWs		Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)			CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 103 in the April 2016 issue of QST or on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

(Used with Permission ARRL Bulletin 11, March 14, 2016)

ARRL Now Offering New “Radio and Wireless Technology” Patch Program for Girl Scouts

The ARRL has begun offering a new Girl Scouts “[Radio and Wireless Technology](#)” patch program that offers opportunities for participants to learn about wireless technology, including Amateur Radio. Scout leaders and Amateur Radio volunteers associated with the Greater Atlanta Girl Scout Council, and Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains developed the program to incorporate information and exploratory activities that provide a backdrop for understanding radio communication. The program will encourage Girl Scouts to take on activities in which they will gain knowledge and skills, as well as kindle an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and careers.



“The initiative for the program came about through my conversations with hams who wanted to work with Girl Scouts as well as Boy Scouts and wanted a patch program that would introduce ham radio, as the ‘Radio’ merit badge does in the Boy Scouts,” said ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. “I was introduced to a group of leaders with Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta who wanted to work in developing a new fun patch program for radio that would fit with the [Girl Scout Leadership Experience](#) structure. This group was joined by Jill Galus, KB1SWV, of the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains in New Hampshire. We collaborated on this over the course of several years.” Galus’s father, “Skip” Youngberg, K1NKR, and a team from the [Nashoba Valley Radio Club](#) helped test drive the new patch program during “Thinking Day on the Air” this past February with Girl Scouts in Raymond, New Hampshire.

The program defines the requirements for Girl Scouts to earn the patch at the Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador levels. Girl Scouts can learn the fundamentals of radio communication and wireless technology from broadcasting to smartphones and apply what they learn to connect people, provide safety, and explore related careers. In addition to acquiring the fundamentals, participants can explore radio science through hands-on learning with Amateur Radio, and use radio to talk around the world and for public service. They also can learn about the role of wireless technology in everyday life and in careers.

The program supports the Girl Scout Leadership Experience by enabling participants to discover, by exploring the natural world to learn about radio communications and wireless technologies; to connect by using knowledge of wireless technology to understand its capabilities and its limitations, and by becoming an informed citizen who understands how wireless

technologies are regulated and used, and to take action to make a difference in their communities by making friends through radio contacts, providing public service and emergency communication, and raising awareness of career opportunities.

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“The Magic Band” Lives Up to its Name in ARRL June VHF Contest

Six meters sounded more like an HF band during the [ARRL June VHF Contest](#) over the June 11-12 weekend, as sustained sporadic E (E-skip or Es) openings greeted participants. Some found 6 meter contacts so bountiful that they tended to neglect the other VHF/UHF bands, where conditions were more typical.

“As for why the contest weekend was so good, all I

can say is that June can be good for E-skip,” said Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, the former “Propagation” editor for *National Contest Journal* ([NCJ](#)). “I think the term ‘sporadic’ in its name is well suited. We just don’t understand the detailed processes of 6 meter Es.”



The well-appointed VHF-UHF tower at K2DRH.

For many, it was a 6-meters-only event, with the best conditions in several years and much of the action on CW. “This was the consummate 50 MHz festival, with wide open bands throughout most of the contest,” Bill Schwantes, W7QQ, in New Mexico, posted in his soapbox comments on the [3830](#) website. “For the first time in my memory I felt like a rate junkie, often reaching 200 per hour. What fun on 6, while ignoring long-haul, weak signal contacts on 144, 222, and 432.”

Bob Striegl, K2DRH, who boasts some serious VHF-UHF antennas in Illinois said the band “was going crazy” in the evening from the East Coast to Europe, and to Japan from the Midwest and South. “In a lull I tuned up JA7QVI, who was the strongest, and worked him on CW with low power! I even saw some action to the Caribbean when ZF1EJ and several COs and KP4s called me in my pileup. I also made a QSO with EA8DBM on SSB, when he was a true S-9.” The DX aside, Striegl’s philosophy is that trying to score new DXCC entities in an event such as this just slows things down, since DX contacts count the same as any other.

Mike Smith, VE9AA, in New Brunswick called it “A VHF (6 meter) contest I can write home about.” He was one station’s first 6 meter contact, “and I was tickled to do that.”

Top-tier HF contester Dan Street, K1TO, in Florida, made his first 6 meter contact with Japan during the ARRL VHF, only his third ever. “Conditions were amazingly

different for all of us,” Street said in his soapbox post. “I watched in awe as the W1s seemed to have a contest-long opening to somewhere. EA8DBM’s skimmer made an incredible number of USA spots, and he worked stations out to the West Coast. Yet here in Florida, I never heard him once, nor even one European.”

Eric Gruff, NC6K, in California also didn’t get in on the excitement. “Another frustrating VHF contest from DM13,” he posted. “[T]he majority of the time, I spent listening to the same local stations calling CQ incessantly while the rest of the country was enjoying a huge opening.”

Charlie Panek, KX7L, in Washington, summed things up this way: “Every few years the planets line up right, and we get a good Es opening during the contest,” he said. “This was one of those years!”

The terrific conditions persisted at least into the next day, when former ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported working 121 Europeans from Connecticut, including two new ones — Greece and Romania — bringing his DXCC total to 101 on the Magic Band.

Lightning could strike twice on the same band, when the [SMIRK Contest](#) and the [IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest](#) take place on June 18-19.

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Well-Known DXer, DXpeditioner Milt Jensen, N5IA, Dies in Tower Fall

Well-known DXer and DXpeditioner Milt Jensen, N5IA, of Virden, New Mexico, died on June 9 after falling from an Amateur Radio tower. An ARRL Life Member, he was 73. According to the Pima County Sheriff’s Department, Jensen was working on a tower on Arizona’s Mount Lemmon when he fell. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A *Tucson News* account cited a sheriff’s deputy who indicated the fall was accidental, but the mishap is still under investigation.



Milt Jensen, N5IA, during the 2008 Ducie Island VP6DX DXpedition

“Milt was on one of his many tower climbing adventures, and by no choice of his, it became his last,” his oldest son, Jason, said in a post to QRZ.com.

Licensed in 1960, Jensen had lived in Virden for his entire life. Especially well known for his 160 meter activity, he spent several years constructing an “8-circle array” of full-sized 160 meter verticals — each 125-foot towers — at his station site south of Safford, Arizona, near the New Mexico border, Lee Finkel, KY7M, wrote in an article set to appear in the July/August issue of [NCJ](#). Jensen operated his “dream station” remotely from his home, often using the call sign N7GP in contests. In addition to his Top Band operation, Jensen was heavily involved in designing, installing, and maintaining VHF and

UHF mountaintop repeaters, remotely controlled base stations, and linking systems. As a contester he often landed in the Top 10 standings.

Jensen took part in three DXpeditions. He and his wife Rulene, KB5VTM, took part in the 1998 XZ1N team in Myanmar. In 2000, he returned to Myanmar as part of the XZ0A multinational team. In 2008, he was part of the Ducie Island VP6DX DXpedition team.

Jensen was a graduate from the El Paso School of Electronics and was retired from the electric power distribution industry following a 40-year career.

Jensen and his wife were the parents of 7 children. “His legend will live on for generations to come,” said his son, Jason. He loved to help others, especially in his chosen hobby, Amateur Radio. He truly cared about his hobby and took every aspect of it to heart.”

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ARRL Programs and Services Committee Expresses Appreciation, Support of NTS

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) will submit a motion to the ARRL Board of Directors expressing appreciation for the work and volunteer membership of the National Traffic System (NTS). The PSC motion, submitted by ARRL Southeastern Director Doug Rehman, K4AC, during a recent PSC meeting, thanked NTS members, congratulated them for outstanding service, and assured them of an ongoing ARRL public service communication role.

“As Field Day approaches, the ARRL Board’s Programs and Services Committee wanted to recognize the continued work of the National Traffic System, especially the dedicated rank-and-file participants who are the lifeblood of this important ARRL program,” said Roanoke Division Director and PSC Chair Dr Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, who seconded Rehman’s motion. “The ARRL is committed to the NTS as a key component in the League’s public service communications plans.”

The PSC will submit its motion of NTS support to the full ARRL Board of Directors for consideration at the Board’s July meeting.

The resolution points out that the handling of message traffic by early radio amateurs led to the founding and naming of the ARRL in 1914. The National Traffic Plan published in 1949 gave rise to the NTS.

The Committee cited the “countless hours” NTS participants devote “to operate CW, phone, and digital nets spanning both the clock and the continent,” and the more than 200 NTS members recognized with Public Service Honor Roll status in the most recent monthly listing.

“NTS plays a vital role in providing a messaging component for Amateur Radio’s public service mission, including preparation and training for emergency communications,” the resolution asserted. It also noted that the PSC has been working to create the League’s

Second Century public service communications delivery plan, and, while reviewing the League’s current operations over the past several years, “the PSC has seen and has greatly appreciated the valuable contributions of NTS members.”

AARC STAFF – 2016

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VE Testing Schedule

Second Saturday of each month –
Noon – 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

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)

Thoughts from Our ARRL Section Manager

Meteorological summer as well as the beginning of hurricane season in the north Atlantic, began on June 1st.

So far, there have been three early tropical storms but no hurricanes made landfall in the US.

Hurricane ALEX
Tropical Storm BONNIE
Tropical Storm COLIN

A rare January Atlantic hurricane, "Alex," made landfall in the Azores early Friday, January 15th as a tropical storm, according to the National Hurricane Center, and made the transition to a non-tropical low-pressure system in the northeast Atlantic Ocean.

Tropical Storm "Bonnie" may not have been a strong tropical cyclone, but her heavy rains triggered significant flash flooding during the Memorial Day weekend 2016 in South Carolina.

Tropical Storm Colin formed quickly in the Gulf before passing rapidly across the Panhandle of Florida and along the southeast coast before departing NE into the Atlantic. Hurricanes and tropical storms are no strangers to the MDC Section.

The remnants of tropical storm "Bill" brought heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and gusty winds to the state in June, 2015.

On June 7, 2013 - Rain bands from Tropical Storm "Andrea" caused minor flooding in the Baltimore-Washington area and parts of the

Eastern Shore, with rainfall totals of just over two inches in Annapolis and Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

By the time the center moved over St. Mary's County and the lower Eastern Shore, there was a history of the storm producing tornadoes.

Western Maryland is no exception. Perhaps some of you remember the devastation caused by hurricanes Hazel and Agnes years ago.

We should all be prepared during the summer with "go-kits" and keep our eye on the weather. Take a look at your July QST - page 77 ARRL, Atlantic Division and MDC Section and local hams are recognized for their significant contribution at the 2016 U.S.A. Science and Engineering Festival.

Let's have fun!

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

Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM
ARRL Maryland-DC Section Manager
<KB3MXM@ARRL.ORG>

Used with permission MDC Section News June 14, 2016

AA

FCC Technological Advisory Council Initiates Noise Floor Inquiry

Radio amateurs frequently complain about increasing noise from a variety of sources, so it should be welcome news that the FCC Technological Advisory Council (**TAC**) — an advisory group to the FCC — is investigating changes and trends to the radio spectrum noise floor to determine if there is an increasing noise problem, and, if so,

its extent. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) **announced** the TAC study this week in a *Public Notice* and **invited comments** and answers to questions that the TAC has posed in the notice. The comment deadline is August 11. The TAC said it is trying to determine the scope of any noise issues and has invited "quantitative evidence" of noise problems, as well as recommendations on how to perform a noise study.



"The TAC is requesting input to help answer questions about the study of changes to the spectrum noise floor over the past 20 years," the announcement said. "Noise in this context denotes unwanted radio frequency (RF) energy from manmade sources. Like many spectrum users, TAC members expect that the noise

floor in the radio spectrum is rising as the number of devices in use that emit radio energy grows."

The ARRL representative on the TAC, Greg Lapin, N9GL, co-chairs the TAC Spectrum and Receiver Performance Working Group with Lynn Claudy of the National Association of Broadcasters. Lapin also serves as chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee.

The TAC said that its search for "concrete evidence of increased noise floors" has turned up only "limited available quantitative data" to support its presumption of a rising noise floor. The TAC said it wants to find ways to add to the available data so it can "answer important questions" on the topic for the FCC.

The TAC noted that many types of devices generate radio spectrum noise. In the case of *incidental radiators* — devices not designed to emit RF but do so anyway — there is little regulation governing such noise. "Most electric motors, light dimmers, switching power supplies, utility transformers, and power lines are included in this category," the TAC announcement explained.

Devices designed to generate RF for internal use, or send RF signals to associated equipment via connected wiring, but which are not intended to emit RF energy, are called *unintentional radiators*. This category includes computers and many portable electronic devices, as well as many new high-efficiency lamps. FCC regulations limit the levels of emitted RF energy from these devices.

A third group of devices categorized as *intentional radiators* (unlicensed and licensed) and *industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) radiators* — are designed to generate and emit RF energy by radiation or induction. Intentional radiators include cellular phones and base stations, unlicensed wireless routers, Bluetooth devices, broadcast TV and radio stations, and radar systems. Amateur Radio transmitters also fall into this category. Microwave ovens, arc welders, and fluorescent lighting are examples of ISM equipment.

"Such emitters contribute to the noise floor with emissions outside of their assigned frequencies," the TAC said. "These are sometimes generated as spurious emissions, including, but not limited to, harmonics of desired frequencies and intermodulation products." FCC

regulations permitting the operation of these devices specify emission limits outside of the device's licensed or permitted operating frequencies.

The TAC said that responses to the questions it has posed in the *Public Notice* will help it to "identify aspects of a study to determine trends in the radio spectrum noise floor." The [Public Notice](#) includes information on all methods of responding to the inquiry. The ARRL is planning to comment.

For more information, [contact](#) Greg Lapin, N9GL.

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AA

Confirmed Tornado in Maryland Downs Tower at W3LPL Contest Station

[UPDATED: 2016-06-23 @ 1006 UTC] A confirmed Fujita scale EF-0 tornado touched down for up to 20 minutes in Howard County, Maryland, on the first full day of summer, taking down a tall AB-105 tower at the contest superstation of Frank Donovan, W3LPL. The tornado was just part of a spate of strong storms to hit the region, dumping heavy rain that caused flooding, and high winds that toppled trees and utility poles. Donovan's station is one of the premier multi-multi contest sites in the US. He told ARRL that his location was "Ground Zero" for the twister.

"The storm was extreme," Donovan said in a post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) reflector. "I've never experienced anything like it before. Essentially all of the trees in the front of the house and along the driveway are gone. Several power poles on Hobbs Road snapped. The 200 foot tower adjacent to the house collapsed, everything on it was destroyed."

Donovan said he will have to do "a tremendous amount of testing and inspection" to determine what other damage may have occurred. Big Gun contester John Crovelli, W2GD, reported that he had spoken with Donovan, who told him that his other antennas were intact but "beat up."

Crovelli said the huge Potomac Valley Radio Club/Columbia Amateur Radio Association W3AO Field Day operation was still on.

News media accounts said the tornado, which hit at approximately 1:30 PM in western Howard County, had top winds of 80 MPH — at the high end of the EF-0 range. The tornado was some 1500 feet across and traveled nearly 13 miles, according to the National Weather Service. No injuries were reported.

The NWS said that properties in the vicinity of the tornado's touchdown "sustained tree damage with multiple trees snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions." Along its path, the twister "caused nearly continuous tree damage, with large trees and tree branches snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions. The trees downed many power lines and blocked multiple roads. Some trees and large branches fell on homes and garages," the NWS said.

Mike Lonneke, W4AAW, in Middleburg, Virginia, reported "tremendous tree damage" and roofs ripped from barns about a mile from his location. "Two 70 MPH storms in close succession hit Middleburg at 4 PM yesterday," Lonneke said this morning. Thousands were left without power as a result of the tornado, severe storms, and heavy rainfall that hit the region west of Baltimore.

John Pescatore, K3TN, who is some 15 miles south of Donovan's location, reported being "just clipped by the big storm." He said 3 inches of rain fell in a 90-minute period. Some areas received hail.

QST "How's DX?" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who lives next door to Donovan, reported that power was out at his location and "it could be several days" before it was restored. McClenny said the downed W3LPL tower collapsed away from Donovan's house, and that a lot of trees and utility poles were down in his area. "Got the generator out and running," he said.

The felled tower at W3LPL supported a 6 element 10 meter Yagi on a 48 foot boom at 200 feet, three stacked 9 element G0KSC 6 meter LFA Yagis on 52 foot booms at 48, 76, and 104 feet and a pair of 2 element 80 meter quads at 170 feet. Donovan told ARRL that plans "are well under way" to install a 200-foot heavy-duty AB-105 replacement tower in August.

Thousands of residents in the affected region remain without power.



**The downed 200-foot tower at W3LPL.
[Courtesy of Frank Donovan, W3LPL]**

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REPEATER FREQUENCIES

Davidsonville	Millersville	Glen Burnie	Annapolis
147.105+		147.075+	
223.880-	224.560-		
444.400+			442.300+

PL: 107.2 for all repeaters

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.

*Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the
Davidsonville Family Recreation Center,
 Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off
 MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD.*

For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.

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Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105

Other Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+Mhz 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