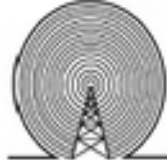


The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

August 2016

38th Year of Publication



The Prez Sez...

Like many of you, I was on vacation this past week and delayed Milford from his appointed rounds of getting this edition delivered to you.

In more important news, Les Silva, KH6CUJ, suffered a stroke last week and has been moved from the Calvert hospital to Washington Hospital Center. The stroke affected his left

side and speech, but the good news is he's been stepped down from the ICU to Intermediate Care. Visiting hours are 9-9, and he'd be glad to visit as his care allows. If you can stop by and wish him well, the room number is 2E (the unit he's in) IMC (Intermediate Care) 1B (his actual room). Les has done a lot for the club, serving as our Public Service Coordinator for several years and is always around to help out the club and its members. If you're able to visit, please do. Please keep him in your thoughts as he recovers. Updates will be on a sticky on the website so give it a glance before you visit to get the latest.

The Maryland QSO party is just around the corner, August 13-14. As always, we need folks to come to the clubhouse and operate the club stations. We'll have at least two up and running, one for phone, one for CW. Chuck Tanner, K3ACT, and I will be operating digital from our home stations as W3VPR as well. AARC is the sponsor of the contest and we really need to make sure we have the stations manned for the duration of the contest. It's only fair to those trying to get the multipliers for contacting the club that we make sure our stations are manned the entire time. Please see the QSO Party link on the webpage for more details of the contest and how to help out. Also, if you want to activate some of our less populous counties by taking your rig on the road, that would be especially appreciated. While it may be hard to get to Garrett or Allegheny counties, most of the counties east of the bay could use some extra representation. Get a buddy, grab your station, and hit the road. You could set up near the intersection of Worcester, Somerset, and Wicomico and easily activate all three during the contest without much extra travel! In addition, we have a Facebook page for the event at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/531577787014597/> so please share it with all your friends! If you can't make it to the club, please try and get on the air and give those contesters someone to contact.

I brought up an idea that was shared with me during Field Day about dedicating some bulletin board space to QSL cards of AARC members. We have a bunch displayed from stations we've worked, but it would be kind of neat to see cards from our own members. If you have one, bring it to a meeting and we'll start putting them up.

Along those lines, how about pictures of your shack and a couple of sentences for the newsletter? Similar to the Shack Showcase on the E-Ham site, just a picture or two of your shack and a couple of sentences on what equipment you have, favorite modes/bands/activities, or similar tidbits. It would be interesting to see as we have the span from Doug Elmore's NA1DX contest station to very modest single-rig stations on a small desk like mine. If you like the idea, run with it and send a picture and info to newsletter@w3vpr.org and Milford can take it from there. Not that I've run this by Milford, but he's always glad to get more stuff for the newsletter!

I'll keep it short for this month so as not to delay the newsletter any more than I already have. Enjoy your summer, please help out with the QSO party, and if you can, visit Les and keep him in your thoughts as he recovers.

MARYLAND QSO PARTY 13-14 August 2016

The following are suggested frequencies for use during the contest.

- CW 3.557, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.045, 144.045
- SSB 1.895, 3.821, 7.230, 14.271, 21.371, 28.371, 50.131, 144.141, 432.141
- FM 52.525, 146.55, 146.58, 223.40, 446.000
- Digital According to the ARRL Band Plan.

**Make as many contacts as you can.
HAVE FUN**

AARC STAFF – 2016

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ARRL MDC Section Manager :
Martin J. Pittinger / KB3MXM 410-356-7899
kb3mxm@arrl.net



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)

Notes from AA3RR

Greetings from Prescott Valley (aka Paradise) where there isn't a cloud in the sky, the temperature is 96, there is a breeze at 8MPH and the humidity has soared to 12%

Hope you're all well and enjoying summer.

Recently Brenda and I traveled to Jackson, WY to shoot some images in and around Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

After three days in Jackson we headed up to Glacier National Park in Montana. This park is very quiet



and unless you kids like hiking, there isn't much to do except to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and being on the lookout for bears. Lots of bears. They opened the road from the southern entrance to the eastern entrance while we were there. Apparently this is a big social event in Montana. The road (Going to the Sun Road) is about 34 miles long and on opening day it took us about 6 hours to travel the

34 miles. It's like opening day of baseball season – everybody and their brother wants to drive the Going to the Sun Road on the day it opens.

Don't get me wrong – it's a beautiful drive (at 15 mph or less – more often it was less). Lots of waterfalls – most of which will disappear following the snow melt.

After spending 4 days up there we headed to Bryce Canyon NP in Utah on the way home. We spent two nights in the park – no air conditioning in any publically accessible buildings (Gift shops, general store, restaurant, or lodge) except the Visitors Center near the park entrance. It was around 98 degrees when we arrived. We did hike the Navajo Loop going down into the “amphitheater” and that was pretty cool.

Over the July 4th weekend we hiked the Watson Lake Loop (4.8 miles) in Prescott – about 15 miles from our house. It's a very unusual hike – you are in rugged mountainous terrain, then jungle terrain and then desert terrain and you're exposed to direct sunlight for about 95% of the loop.

Attached are some images from my cell phone – I haven't processed many photos from the road trip.

First 3 from Glacier, next two from Bryce, next 9 from Watson Lake, next three from Glacier, and last three from Grand Teton NP

Later this month my Daughter-in-Law and granddaughter are going to visit and we will go back up to Bryce Canyon, Arches NP.

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/utah/around-moab/> and Monument Valley.

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/arizona/monument-valley/>
After that Bren and I will spend 8 days in the Grand Canyon (4 days on the North Rim and 4 days on the South Rim) hopefully capturing lightning strikes.

In September we head to Hawaii for two weeks (one week on the Big Island photographing volcanos at night and one week on Maui participating in a workshop).

In October we'll spend a week participating in a workshop in the Eastern Sierras,

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/california/mono-lake/> and add two days in Death Valley.

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/california/death-valley-np/>

Finally, in November we'll spend a week split between the Petrified Forest NP

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/arizona/petrified-forest-np/> and the Bisti Wilderness

<http://www.synnatschke.de/fotos/new-mexico/bisti-badlands/>

After the holidays we'll see about Yosemite in February and making more plans for photo shoots

Reserve early for the Chateaux d'Rose B&Bchateaux d'Rose Photo Workshops ;-)

Bob, AA3RR

AA

2016 Governor Dick Hill - Report 16 July 2016

We left on time at 07:30 but on the Baltimore beltway, Bob had a blowout tire and hobbled to the side of the interstate in a place with Jersey walls to put on the tiny donut spare. Unloaded all the ATGP gear and put it all into Gordon's SUV. Then drove both cars 5 miles to find a parking place to abandon Bob's car. Then proceeded to GD Hill about 90 minutes away. In total, we lost about an hour.

Arrived at GD hill around 1100? and found Rory N3JU already there. We immediately climbed the tower and put Bob's station on 1200 baud and Rorie's at 9600 baud. Gordon and Jon carried all the backup gear up the hill from the parking lot about a mile away. Rory used a rope to raise his gear realizing that the backpack does not need to fit through the 4" bars, only the gear he pulls from it.

We came on line about 1130? and began to see adjacent nodes of MDMTN-7 and CAMLBK-9 plus linked nodes from the South. It took a while to begin hearing Sam's point, but then SLIDE Mountain filled in.

Lots of other climbers on the tower. Many showed interest in our ops. Weather remained perfect the entire time.

Rory established all the same links on 9600 as we had on 1200 and he also made Yaesu WIRES voice contacts too 9600 baud worked as well as 1200. North Carolina to NY in 5 hops.

There were some broken links that limited the longest link to be from North Carolina to Massachusetts, with small links at the end, but the focus this year was on the switch to 9600 baud. After the switch the 9600 baud data was connected from North Carolina to PA and NY to Vermont with solid links. More detail will follow as reports are filed. Another new data point came from Slide Hill where an alternate path from PA to Connecticut was found to work as well as Sam's Point.

Bob Bruninga WB4APR with Gordon WJ3K and Jon AE3JG plus Rory N3JU
Bob, WB4APR

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 newsletter@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:

\$30 per year, payable December 1st
Discounts available for family members and students

World Wide Web: www.w3vpr.org

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

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

ARRL affiliated clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular or senior membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters:

Clubs retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more).  
Clubs retain \$2 for each renewal,  
A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at any time, even before their current membership expires.

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



## Mark Your Calendars

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

**Free License Exams** every 2nd Saturday of the Month - Check in at Noon, Exams at 1PM - At the clubhouse - Contact Steve/K3BAY [k3bay@w3vpr.org](mailto:k3bay@w3vpr.org)

**Weekly AARC 2-Meter Net** on 147.105 (Typically linked to 147.075 and 444.400) every Wednesday at 8 PM - All Welcome

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

### EVENT SCHEDULE

- 03aug16** (Wed) - (on-air) **2-Meter net** every Wednesday night at 8 PM. See details below.
- 04aug16** (Thu) - **Club meeting** at 7:30 PM, newcomers always welcome.
- 06aug16** (Thu) - (support) Ben Moore Memorial Marathon
- 11aug16** (Thu) - Board meeting at 7:30 PM (We have an open meeting policy)
- 13aug16** (Sat) - (free) **Exams** for your FCC amateur radio license, [every second Saturday of the month.](#)
- 13aug16** (Sat) - Come help operate at the clubhouse for the Maryland QSO party. Noon to Midnight
- 14aug16** (Sun) - 2nd day; come help operate at the clubhouse for the Maryland QSO party. Noon to 8 PM.
- 28aug16** (Sun) - Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair 1 to 4 PM Every 4th Sunday at the clubhouse



## Amateur Radio Alive and Well in Turkey

Contrary to erroneous reports making the rounds on various Internet sites, no Amateur Radio licenses were suspended or revoked in Turkey in the wake of the failed July 15 coup.



"There is no ham radio license revoked in Turkey, and ham radio operators are operating normally," said Aziz Sasa, TA1E, the president of Turkey's International Amateur Radio Union member society

TRAC. "The reports on ham radio licenses being revoked by the Supreme Council of Radio and Television (RTUK) are unconfirmed and speculative. RTUK is not a regulatory body of ham radio," Sasa added. His entire statement has been posted to the TRAC website.

The erroneous reports cite a release from RTUK, which oversees broadcasting. Amateur Radio and other wireless industries are regulated by BTK, a separate agency. Three stations in Turkey were reported heard on 10 meters last week during an opening to Central Europe -- TA1BM, TA1PB, and YM7TEN/B.

IARU member society TRAC has not been closed, nor has its website been blocked or shut down.

Reprint with permission from The ARRL Letter for July 28, 2016

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## WAS Via Satellite

**Decades of Satellite Contacts Net Satellite WAS for Ohio Radio Amateur:** It took Bob Liddy, K8BL, of Mentor, Ohio, nearly 4 decades to achieve [Worked All States](#) via satellite and earn WAS



Satellite Award #341, although he wasn't really gunning for the award for all that time. The contacts spanned 38 years, and he submitted QSL cards to claim the award. His oldest satellite QSL card was from

W7LSV in Oregon, for an Oscar 8 Mode A CW contact in 1978. Liddy did not realize until he started going through his QSL cards to submit for awards at Dayton Hamvention® that he might have completed WAS on satellite. An AMSAT member since 1979, Liddy said he was "not in the hunt very seriously," but he determined that had, indeed, worked all 50 states and was only lacking a card from Vermont. "Happily, it was Nick, KB1RVT, who I knew was always good for a confirmation, which he quickly returned, confirming our contact via SO-50 FM on January 4, 2016," he said. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

Reprint with permission The ARRL Letter for July 14, 2016

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## Fox-1C and Fox-1D Launch Window Shifted

AMSAT reports that the launch period for Fox-1C (Cliff) and Fox-1D has been moved. The new launch window will be between September 1 and November 30. Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D will be integrated onto the Spaceflight SHERPA platform for its maiden flight aboard a

SpaceX Falcon 9 launching into a sun-synchronous orbit from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D carry university experiments from Pennsylvania State-Erie, Vanderbilt, University of Iowa, cameras provided by Virginia Tech, as well as Amateur Radio voice repeaters capable of U/V or L/V operation. The Nayif-1 CubeSat, developed by Emirati students from the American University of Sharjah, is expected to be put into orbit on the same launch. Nayif-1 carries an inverting 435/145 MHz transponder (FUNcube-5) for SSB/CW. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service, Southgate Amateur Radio News*



Reprint with permission The ARRL Letter for July 14, 2016

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## Amateur 47 GHz Allocation Avoids 5G Juggernaut in the US for Now

Worldwide Defense Continues

There's good news regarding the future of Amateur Radio's primary allocation at 47 GHz in the US. Still a test bed for point-to-point propagation experimentation by dedicated enthusiasts, the 47-47.2 GHz band is among those under consideration at the next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19) to accommodate so-called 5G wireless broadband devices. Early this year, some FCC commissioners indicated they would include bands on the WRC-19 agenda in the



Millimeter band experimenter Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, recently was one of the participants in setting the US-Canada distance record for 47 GHz.

Commission's "Spectrum Frontiers" 5G initiative. As the Commission put it this week as it made nearly 11 gigahertz of spectrum above 24.25 GHz available for licensed, unlicensed, and shared use: "High-band millimeter wave spectrum is key to unlocking the potential for 5G." The FCC's Spectrum Frontiers included several of the bands set for consideration at WRC-19, but not the 47 GHz band - although it did target 47.2-50.2 GHz.

"Maintaining the status quo in the 47-47.2 GHz band is a win for continued Amateur Radio use of the band in the United States, and amateurs continue to do great things there," ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, allowed. He pointed to the new US-Canada distance record of 215 kilometers set recently by radio amateurs from both countries. But, he suggested, Amateur Radio could be doing more there.

Spectrum in the millimeter range has come under increasing scrutiny, because the demand for greater



## FCC Seeks Comments on Waiver Request from Expert Linears

The FCC is inviting comments on a June 11 request from Expert Linears America LLC to waive Part 97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to permit it to import, market, and use its model 1.3K FA amplifier in the US. The Texas company is seeking the waiver pending resolution of its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), which called on the Commission to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on Amateur Radio amplifiers altogether. Expert said the version of the model 1.3K FA amplifier it now imports has been modified to comply with current rules.



"Expert seeks a waiver in order to be able to import the unmodified version of the Model 1.3K FA, which is capable of considerably more than 15 dB amplification," the FCC explained in a July 29 Public Notice. "Expert argues that the public interest would be served by permitting use of a higher-powered amplifier, because it would improve the communications capabilities of amateurs using portable, low-power transmitters by enabling them to approach the maximum legal power output." Expert assured the FCC that its model 1.3K FA has proprietary software to prevent it from transmitting in the 26-28 MHz band, so it cannot be used in the Citizens Radio Service.

The Public Notice can be found on the web in PDF format at,

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2016/db0729/DA-16-864A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0729/DA-16-864A1.pdf)

On May 26, ARRL told the FCC that it "strongly supports" Expert's petition seeking to eliminate the Amateur Service rule, spelled out in Part 97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB.

Comments on Expert's waiver request are due by August 29, reply comments by September 13.

Reprint with permission from ARRL Bulletin 28 ARLB028 July 29 2016

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## FCC Proposes Rule Changes in Response to ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition, Seeks Comment

The FCC has proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL's so-called "Symbol Rate" Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708), filed in late 2013, and it has invited comments on its recommended changes. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239, released on July 28, had been making the rounds at the FCC since May. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in Part 97.307(f) and replace it with a maximum

bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

The NPRM can be found on the web in PDF format at,

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2016/db0728/FCC-16-96A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0728/FCC-16-96A1.pdf)

."[W]e believe that the public interest may be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, to allow Amateur Service licensees to use modern digital emissions, thereby furthering the purposes of the Amateur Service and enhancing the usefulness of the service," the FCC said in its NPRM.

"We do not, however, propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations," the NPRM concluded, "because the rules' current approach for limiting bandwidth use by amateur stations using one of the specified digital codes to encode the signal being transmitted appears sufficient to ensure that general access to the band by licensees in the Amateur Service does not become unduly impaired."

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

Comments in the proceeding will be due 60 days after the date that the NPRM appears in the Federal Register.

Reprint with permission from ARRL Bulletin 27 July 29 2016

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## Ben Moore Memorial Marathon

Every year in August, Bluepoint Timing is proud to sponsor the Ben Moore Memorial 10k and half-marathon races.

Ben trained hundreds of runners to successfully complete their first marathon. Those of us who benefited from Ben's inspiration and guidance want you to join us in a memorial run in his honor, on some of the same routes Ben led us on for 20 years. We want to see Moore's Marines "Graduates" wear their shirts to be eligible for special awards.

This year's Ben Moore Memorial Marathon, Half Marathon and 10k is on Saturday the 6th of August. The course is the same as last year with the Start/Finish at the Park & Ride, 160 Truman Pkwy, Annapolis.

Additional race information is available at [Bluepointtiming.com](http://Bluepointtiming.com)

If you are available to help, please contact me via return email.

-Erick, WA3G

## W1AW 2016 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

| Time<br>-----      | Mode<br>----- | Days<br>----- |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1300 UTC (9 AM ET) | CWs           | Wed, Fri      |
| 1300 UTC (9 AM ET) | CWf           | Tue,<br>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](mailto: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)

## 5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters  
<http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/>  
#hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

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## Upcoming Hamfests for the MDC Section

66th Annual Berryville Hamfest

Date: Sunday, August 7, 2016

Location: Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds  
890 West Main Street  
Berryville, VA 22611

Website: <[www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest](http://www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest)>

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Public Contact: Thomas Brownlee, AF2D

744 Gafia Lodge Road

Middletown, VA 22645

Phone: 540-869-7065

E-mail: <[af2d@arrl.net](mailto:af2d@arrl.net)>

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CARROLL COUNTY TAILGATE FEST

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Location: Sportmans Hall Skating Rink  
15500 Hanover Pike  
Upperco, MD 21155

Website: <[www.qjs.net/~k3pzn/hamfest.html](http://www.qjs.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@qjs.net](mailto:n3sb@qjs.net)>

**Notes: Overnight parking is by special arrangement.**

Send an e-mail to <[n3sb@qjs.net](mailto:n3sb@qjs.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!

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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](mailto:selbynet@hotmail.com)>

## 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+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          |