

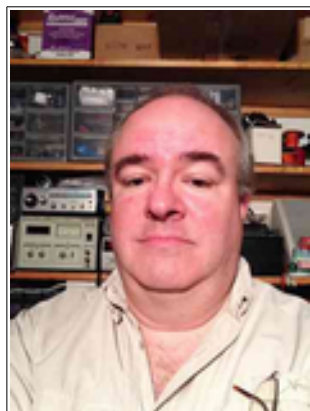
The Ham Arundel News



Providing Fellowship and Community Service through Amateur Radio Since 1951

November 2016

38th Year of Publication



The Prez Sez...
Greetings fellow
amateurs!

As I write this, it's early November and we've just had one of our more important business meetings of the year. Last night we approved the budget for the coming year, which

for the first time that I can recall sets aside some funding for eventual large expenses such as tower maintenance and feedline replacement. Hopefully future boards will continue this setting aside of funds to allow us to undertake needed maintenance and upgrades by saving up a bit each year.

Most importantly, the Nominating Committee reported out the slate of candidates they had assembled for the upcoming election. Along with a nomination from the floor and a hesitant self-nomination for VP, we were able to put together a full slate!

As required by the bylaws, I present to you the slate of candidates for the upcoming election:

President – Bruce Strackbein, WR3Q
Vice President – Rich Grace, KB3ZYO
Secretary – Keith Miller, AE3D
Treasurer – Justin Leishman, KC3BJT
Director – Tim Nagel, KB3YQK
Director – Mark Bova, W2PAW
Director - Jim Wallace, N3ADF

Also as required by the bylaws, I am informing you that the membership has approved the above slate for the election. The

election will take place at the December 1st meeting, at 7:30 at the AARC clubhouse.

As you may have heard, Terry Nixon, KB3CWQ, has been through more foot surgeries lately resulting in he and Barb, KB3LDM, needing to pass on the job of Service Hour Coordinators. While Jim Wallace has offered to step in and head up the program, the deadline for submitting your service hours has been moved up to November 11th. PLEASE get these in by that date so Terry and Barb can get things tabulated and badges/stickers ordered.

The club also just received the ARRL Special Service Club designation for this year, a testament to all of our members who work hard and give of their time to keep our club active and make it a great place to grow the hobby. Thanks to all of you for all you do for AARC! This award ties back into the note above about service hours. Part of being an ARRL SSC is showing that you have an active volunteer effort supporting the club and giving back to the community. One of the primary ways we show this is through our service hours, which also maintains our 501-3C tax exempt status, so it really is important to get these hours in.

I hope you will join me in thanking the Nominating Committee for their hard work and each of the candidates for volunteering to share their time and knowledge to keep the club moving forward.



AARC

Slate of Officers for 2017

In accordance with the bylaws, this serves to notify AARC members of the upcoming Election of Directors. The slate for the upcoming election is as follows:

President: Bruce Strackbein, WR3Q

Vice Pres: Rich Grace, KB3ZYO

Secretary: Keith Miller, AE3D

Treasurer: Justin Leishman, KC3BJT

Directors: **(Vote for 3)**

Tim Nagel, KB3YQK

Mark Bova, W2PAW

Jim Wallace, N3ADF

**The election will be held at the next regular meeting,
December 1, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the AARC Clubhouse.**

interested is learning about simple circuits and how they come together to work, please let our Training Committee know. If you contact Keith Miller, AE3D with your request, he may be able to put together some elmers to do just that. Who knows you may even be able to save a couple of dollars.

You could also speak with Bill Rynone, at the sign in desk at any of the club meetings. He will be happy to speak with you and help where he is able.

This is another way that the AARC wants to help make your HAM experience as fulfilling as possible.

73, Bill Rynone

AA

Celebrating Your Club's Elmers Might Encourage Others

Sam, W5KF, recently sent me a link to the Elmers' page on the Norman, OK South Canadian Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) website. Not only is it a listing of the club members who have stepped forward to Elmer new members, but also provides ways to honor current and past Elmers. This is from the SCARS newsletter:

"Elmer List on the W5NOR.org website

"This week we talk about a brand new feature on the W5NOR web site. In the amateur radio community, an experienced amateur radio operator who mentors a new or prospective ham is commonly called an "Elmer". In our hobby, that seems to be a great way for knowledge to be transferred.

"Yes, we all have taken an FCC test to receive our license, however that's only the starting point. Remember that person that helped you set up your first radio, or gave you the courage to press the PTT button, or answered endless questions about a radio, or an antenna? That's the kind of thing we're talking about.

"Thanks to a great suggestion from Gary Skaggs WB5ULK [not sure it was my idea. – Editor], we've created the SCARS Elmer Page, located at <http://w5nor.org/elmers>, for us to celebrate Elmers; past, present, and future. We provide a place for Elmers to list their specialty, and contact information, which allows new hams to find someone they can ask questions of.

"Since this is a new section of the web site, this list is rather short. If you're willing to help others on a given topic, send a message to n5hzr@arrl.net and you will be added to the list. Right now we need lots of different categories, like antennas, radio setup, HT programming, contesting, satellite operation, high power operation, test gear, building your own gear, repairing radios, APRS, D-Star, DMR, CW, logging, etc. oh well, you get the idea.

"You don't need a PhD to be listed here. You just need a willingness to help others in a given area. It's OK to be a new ham, and be listed here. You may have just struggled through your first space contact, but you'll have infinitely more knowledge than the person who's been a ham for 40 years, and has never tried that portion of the hobby.

"Also, there is a link to the "ARRL Elmer Award" page of the American Radio Relay League's web site. Here, you can enter your favorite Elmer's name and callsign. The ARRL will print a nice certificate, and mail it to the address

you enter. Yes, for FREE! This certificate can either be mailed to your favorite Elmer, or you can mail it to yourself so you can present it to them personally. Feel free to order an Elmer certificate, and present it to your Elmer at an upcoming SCARS meeting. Talk with one of the officers before the meeting to get your place on the agenda. What a great way to recognize these people for their extra efforts.

"Finally, we've got a place to list YOUR favorite Elmer in our SCARS Elmer Hall-of-Fame. This is the place to memorialize your Elmer, whether they are SCARS members, Silent Keys, or not. I've already listed a few Elmers on the list from my own travels through the hobby. We'd love to list the people that help us all succeed.

"So, please help make this page useful, visit the SCARS Elmer page at: <http://w5nor.org/elmers> and be listed as an Elmer, and list your favorite Elmers."

I think this is a wonderful idea, and I hope that you will consider doing something similar in your club. A little recognition could go a long way, and we need all the Elmers we can muster. And, if you're already doing this, please send me a link. I'll add that link to my website, KB6NU.Com.

Dan
KB6NU

When he's not Elmering new hams, you'll find Dan building kits and working CW on the HF bands. He 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.

AA

New England Forum to Demystify Tax-Exempt Status for Ham Radio Clubs

Most radio clubs are set up as non-profit corporations, but this does not mean that they are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code. Some changes that took place in 2014 simplified the process for smaller organizations with less than \$50,000 in annual gross revenues and reduced the amount of red tape.

At the New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest) Friday and Saturday, October 14-15, in Deerfield, New Hampshire, Certified Public Accountant Lynn Baxter, W0LTB, will explain how clubs and non-profits can attain 501(c)(3) status under the new rules and how to file a simple online annual report to maintain that status.

This means that, under some circumstances, Amateur Radio clubs would be able to accept donations and issue receipts for tax purposes, as well as enjoy other benefits. The forum will take place on Friday, October 14, at 3 PM. Clubs are invited to send one representative, as seating is limited.

"This special forum is being presented by NEAR-Fest as a service to the Amateur Radio community," said Mike Crestohl, W1RC. "NEAR-Fest anticipates a high response rate to this special presentation. Clubs are advised to send their treasurer. Seating will be first come, first served." Crestohl asks those planning to attend to [e-mail him](mailto:) and let him know. -- Thanks to Mike Crestohl, W1RC

Used with permission, The ARRL Letter, October 6, 2016

Repeaters and Nets

2 Meter Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	147.105+	107.2	AARC Repeater with morning traffic net.
Glen Burnie	147.075+	107.2	AARC repeater Located in Northern AA County.
BrandyWine	147.150+	114.8	SMARC Repeater.
Prince Frederick	145.350-	156.7	SPARC/CARC Repeater.
Laurel	147.225+	156.7	Laurel ARC Repeater.
Millersville	146.805-	107.2	Repeater.

1.25 Meter Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	223.880-	107.2	AARC 1.25M repeater *check to see if tied into 7.105...
Millersville	224.560-	107.2	AARC repeater Located in Northern AA County.

70cm Repeaters

Location	Frequency	Tone	Notes
Davidsonville	444.400+	107.2	AARC 70 cm Repeater.
Annapolis	442.300+	107.2	AARC 70 cm repeater
Laurel	442.500+	156.7	Laurel ARC 70 cm Repeater.
Millersville	449.125-	107.2	Maryland Mobileers Repeater.
Upper Marlboro	443.600+	103.5	SMARC 70 cm Repeater.

Packet Stations

Location	Frequency	Call	Notes
Davidsonville	145.050	W3VPR	AARC Club packet node running JNOS
Davidsonville	145.010	W3VPR-5	Digipeter Relay to EOC Winlink
Millersville	145.010	W3AAC-5	Digipeter Relay to EOC Winlink
Glen Burnie	145.010	W3AAC-10	EOC Winlink system and digipeter

Amateur Radio nets

Name	Frequency (in Mhz)	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+ PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AARC Talk Net	147.105+ PL 107.2	Wednesday	2000
AA County ARES Net	146.805- PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-	Daily	1830
Boating Net	146.805- PL 107.2	Wednesday	1930
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.920	Daily	1800
Maryland-DC-Delaware Traffic Net	3.643	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Slow Net	3.563	Daily	1930
React Net	147.105+ PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930

We use **simplex 146.430 Mhz** frequently enough that you should probably program that into your HT or mobile. This is the go-to frequency for many 5K race/walk volunteering efforts, local communication, Field Day setup, and the like when we're not using a repeater.

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

AA

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

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 am to 9:00 am. This is the famous Holly-net. Pre-Holly-net starts at 5 AM or so.

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 02nov16** (Wed) - (on-air) 2-Meter net every Wednesday night at 8 PM. See details below.
- 03nov16** (Thu) - Club meeting at 7:30 PM.
- 10nov16** (Thu) - Board meeting at 7:30 PM (We have an open meeting policy)
- 12nov16** (Sun) - (support) Rosaryville 50K ultra-marathon.
- 12nov16** (Sat) - (free) Exams for your FCC amateur radio license, every second Saturday of the month.
- 13nov16** The Mesh Networking Group meets today.
- 17nov16** (Thu) - Club meeting at 7:30 PM.
- 27nov16** (Sun) - **Canceled until January** Kit-building, troubleshooting and repair 1 to 4 PM Every 4th Sunday at the clubhouse

NOTICE:

The club has a new Google Calendar under test. The trial is open to anybody who understands the address may change at some point in the future. Get the latest AARC events on your Gmail calendar, iPhone, or Android device.

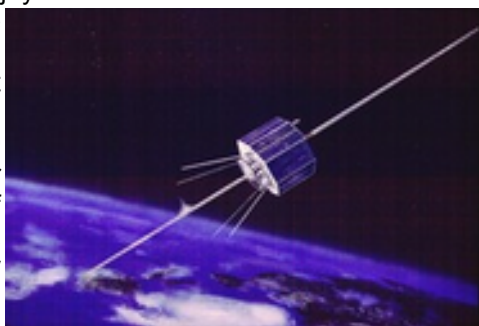
Around the ARRL

AO-7 Still Going Strong after Almost 42 Years in Space

In a little more than a month, the venerable [AO-7](#) Amateur Radio satellite will mark 42 years in space. AMSAT says AO-7, the oldest ham radio satellite still in operation, is now switching between Mode A and Mode B on a daily basis, after coming up in Mode A on September 30.

"That suggests that the satellite is now in constant sunlight and receiving enough power from the solar cells for the 24-hour timer to stay on throughout its entire orbit," AMSAT-NA Secretary Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, said. "Expect daily mode switches between Mode A and Mode B to occur for the next 3 months or so. As AO-7's orbit precesses and the periods of constant sunlight become fewer and fewer, there will be less of an opportunity to use Mode A on a yearly basis, so enjoy it while it lasts!"

In Mode A, earthbound amateurs transmit on 2 meters and receive on 10 meters. Stoetzer said the type of 10-meter antenna isn't fussy. "Try whatever you can," he said.



When continuously illuminated, AO-7's mode will alternate between Modes A and B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) every 24 hours.

November 15 will mark 42 years since AO-7 was launched into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. AO-7 was the second so-called "Phase 2" Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2-meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7's resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down.

Last February Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Arkansas [achieved a distance milestone](#) on AO-7 using Mode B to work Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN (GG66lw), in Brazil -- a path of 8030.895 kilometers. -- *Thanks to AMSAT-NA, AMSAT News Service*

Used with permission, The ARRL Letter, October 6, 2016

Statewide ARES Activation Declared in Florida for Hurricane Matthew

The entire State of Florida was placed under an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Level 1 -- or full -- activation on October 6, as Hurricane Matthew headed

for landfall in the US. The category 4 storm has already caused more than 100 deaths, most of them in Haiti, as it moved northward through the Caribbean. The Northern Florida ARES Net was called up on 3950 or 7252 kHz -- depending upon propagation -- and will remain operational for the duration of the threat.

"This net is for *life safety communications*," ARRL Northern Florida Section Manager Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, stressed. "This net is *not* for collecting weather data, idle conversations, or 'chit chat.'" The Statewide Amateur Radio Network ([SARnet](#)) also has been activated for statewide use for life safety communications, continuing until terminated. SARnet is a network of linked UHF repeaters serving Florida.



"Hurricane Matthew relentlessly pounding the Bahamas...potentially disastrous impacts for Florida," is how the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](#)) in Miami characterized the storm, which, at 1800 UTC, was about 65 miles south-southeast of Nassau, the Bahamas, and 125 miles east-southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida. Matthew has maximum sustained winds of 140 MPH and is moving northwest at 14 MPH.

The NHC has predicted that Hurricane Matthew is expected to first reach hurricane warning areas in Florida by late today and will spread northward within the warning area through Friday. Tropical storm conditions are first expected in Florida within the next several hours. Hurricane conditions are possible in the hurricane watch area in northeast Georgia and South Carolina by early Saturday, with tropical storm conditions possible on Friday night.

More than 3,000 Florida residents already had evacuated to shelters by October 6, according to [FEMA](#). Florida Gov Rick Scott said residents should prepare for a direct hit on the state. "This is serious," he said. "Don't take a chance."

For more information on hurricane preparedness, [visit the Ready.gov website](#) or [read the American Red Cross "Hurricane Safety Checklist."](#)

The ARRL Headquarters Emergency Response Team met on October 5. "We will be placing W1AW into emergency standby starting Friday morning, October 7, following the 8 AM ET bulletin," said ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU. "We will have W1AW staffed and ready to go on the air through late Friday night and on Saturday morning through evening. Saturday evening we will reassess the need to keep W1AW staffed over the weekend." Corey said that W1AW would monitor the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)), the [SATERN](#) Net, and the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#). ARRL has been in touch with Field Organization volunteers in the US Virgin Islands and

along the US Eastern Seaboard and will respond as needed.

Hurricane Matthew information updates will be posted to the [ARRL website](#).

National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist, WB8BZH, reported on October 5 that Haiti was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew, and Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, in Port au



The projected track of Hurricane Matthew as of 1200 UTC on October 6. Click the image for expanded and updated storm graphics. [NOAA graphic]

Prince told SATERN that southern Haiti was "in bad shape." SATERN will remain active at a DELTA II (extended monitoring) status on 14.265 MHz at least through Friday, October 7.

Cuban radio amateurs were reported active in the eastern provinces of that island nation, with operation on 2, 40, and 80 meters. IARU Region 2, Area C Emergency Coordinator Arnie Coro, CO2KK, reported that HF radio

equipment was dispersed throughout eastern Cuba in advance of the storm.

Poor propagation has hampered emergency communication on HF bands.

All radio amateurs are asked to avoid transmitting on or near any emergency net frequencies. In addition, stations should not check into any emergency or weather information net unless they have something to contribute.

The Hurricane Watch Net has been active all week on 14.325 and 7.268 MHz, gathering real-time "ground truth" weather data and storm-related information from affected areas. The net relays the information it compiles to forecasters via WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center.

The [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) is supporting the NHC on the WX-Talk Conference, Node #7203 on Echolink and IRLP Reflector 9219. IRLP Reflector 9553 is the backup. (Due to the limited number of routes to the Echolink node for mobile devices, monitor WX-Talk on a desktop computer if possible.)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced it may use several 60 meter frequencies for interoperability with other authorized stations, federal government stations, and Amateur Radio stations during the Hurricane Matthew response. It is requested that all stations stay clear of these frequencies unless they have emergency traffic relative to Hurricane Matthew. The Amateur Radio Service has secondary status on 60 meters.



The suppressed-carrier frequencies (dial frequencies) are 5330.5 kHz, 5346.5 kHz, 5357.0 kHz, 5371.5 kHz, and 5403.5 kHz (USB).

FEMA Region 4 in Atlanta (Southeastern US) will

be using the Amateur Radio call sign KF4EMA to allow FEMA-licensed amateurs to provide situational awareness on various Amateur Radio nets within Region 4 relative to the Hurricane Matthew response. -- Thanks to Mike Corey, K11U, Bill Feist, WB8BZH, National SATERN Liaison, and Dave Adsit, KG4BIR, FEMA Spectrum Manager

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New England Forum to Demystify Tax-Exempt Status for Ham Radio Clubs

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Amateur Radio Volunteers Mustered in Response to Hurricane Matthew

After the longest activation in its more than 50-year history, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) secured operations for Hurricane Matthew on October 9 at 0400 UTC. HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, reported that the net was in continuous operation for 6 days, 7 hours, gathering real-time ground-truth weather data as the storm passed through the Caribbean and up along the US Eastern Seaboard, and passing the data along to [WX4NHC](#) at the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Various Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) nets also activated along the East Coast. The first major hurricane of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season and, at one point, a Category 5 storm, Matthew was downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone as it

headed out into the Atlantic.

"Many have perished in Haiti and Cuba as a result of Matthew, and the death-toll rises still," Graves noted. "Many residents in the Bahamas and the US East Coast states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina felt the impact of Matthew as well." More than 30 died in the US. FEMA reports that power remained out for thousands



of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina residents as of October 13. Cell service also was affected.

The VoIP SKYWARN/Hurricane Net ([VoIPWX](#)) attracted a number of visitors, according to net managers. "On board Saturday afternoon, in addition to WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center, stations representing a number of FEMA regional offices and the National Response Coordination Center monitored the net for actionable intelligence to be used to plan recovery operations," said net Public Affairs Officer Lloyd Colston, KC5FM. The net also activated on October 3.

The net said its Georgia Reflector was linked to the WX-Talk conference, so net managers could help to relay reports to local National Weather Service offices on NWSchat and the NHC.

According to Chief of Operations Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the net established a link up the East Coast into North Carolina and continued to monitor for damage assessment in areas the hurricane had already passed. The net supported the NHC on the WX-Talk Conference, Node #7203 on [EchoLink](#).



The Salvation Army Team Emergency Network ([SATERN](#)) on 14.265 MHz also was active for Matthew, handling outbound emergency, priority, or health-and-welfare traffic from hurricane-affected areas.

Among activities in Georgia, ARES District Emergency Coordinator and MARS member Tom Holcomb, K5AES, reported that

WX4GMA, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency ARES team station, was activated on October 7, running 12-hour shifts. Operation was on HF as well as on D-STAR and [EchoLink](#).

HF message traffic included shelter updates from coastal counties and periodic NHC weather updates via WX4NHC, which were passed along to the GEMA director. Coastal county-related traffic and weather updates also were handled via D-STAR. [WinLink](#) was used to pass periodic status updates from the Georgia State Defense Force, a volunteer component of the Georgia Department of Defense. The [EchoLink](#) Georgia Conference node provided updates on storm-related conditions. On October 6, ARES and Army MARS



personnel were called on to provide technical assistance to, and an operator for, a FEMA [SHARES](#) station in Atlanta.

Among activities in South Carolina, ARES volunteers staffed evacuation shelters, with radio amateurs coming from outside the affected areas to help. "Overall, I believe the radio operators that were available for the event did an outstanding job and I am proud to know them," said South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Joe Markey, AJ4QM.

[According to FEMA](#) on October 13, mainstream river flooding threatened the Carolinas, and some dams were breached. Several hospitals remained closed.

The Hurricane Watch Net activated again for several hours on October 13 for Hurricane Nicole, after a hurricane warning went into effect for Bermuda. The NHC at one point called Hurricane Nicole an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm, with maximum sustained winds of 125 MPH. The VoIP Hurricane Net ([VoIPWX](#)) also activated to monitor online weather stations and storm bloggers from the Caribbean Hurricane Network ([stormCARIB](#)), as well as social media.

"While we do hope this is the last hurricane for this season, let us not forget we are still in Hurricane Season," the HWN's Graves said. The Atlantic Hurricane Season ends on November 1.

Used with permission, The ARRL Letter, Oct 13, 2016

AA

Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rule Changes

The FCC is inviting comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11775) from a Nevada radio amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program.

Christopher LaRue, W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1 x 2 or 2 x 1 formats. LaRue said that since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.

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

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1004220986407/Petition%20.pdf>.

"Some are changing call signs almost monthly, just to keep the newer code-free Extra class operators from obtaining a shorter call sign," he said in his petition. "I even saw an older operator that said he does it all the time and has not even owned a radio in over 6 years. When I looked him up, he has had 16 different [call signs] in 18 months."

LaRue said his proposed minor rule change would require any licensee applying for and obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign "be required to keep it for the duration of the license, which is currently 10 years."

He said this would "alleviate a lot of the stress on the ULS system and manpower requirements" at the FCC. "It will also keep inactive amateurs from changing call signs

regularly, thereby tying up call signs for 2 years after dismissal of said call."

Interested parties may comment using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/> . Comments are due within 30 days of the October 26 posting date.

Used with permission, ARRL Bulletin 39 ARLB039

AA

Pacific Seafarer's Net Assists in Maritime Rescue of Sailors on Sinking Sailboat

(Editor Note: Here is the Ham Radio part of the story mentioned in the October 2016 issue of the Ham Arundel News.)

The **Pacific Seafarer's Net** relayed a call for help and contacted the US Coast Guard on September 28, after the SV *Rafiki* began taking on water some 230 miles south of Cold Bay, Alaska. At approximately 0300 UTC, Charles Houlihan, KD6SPJ, a net relay station, received the distress call from the sailboat's captain. Houlihan, who was also at sea in SV *Jacaranda*, contacted Randy VanLeeuwen, KH6RC, a net relay station in Hawaii. He, in turn, got in touch with Hawaii USCG District 14 to report the incident and provide *Rafiki's* location. The Hawaii USCG district then contacted the 17th USCG District in Alaska, which effected the rescue. VanLeeuwen kept in constant radio contact with the *Rafiki* until contact with lost. Fred Moore, W3ZU, in Florida, and Peter Mott, ZL1PWM, in New Zealand, also were on frequency and in contact with the vessel's captain until a US Coast Guard rescue helicopter arrived.



The Jayhawk helicopter crew was able to hoist the captain and a crew member to safety at around 1000 UTC, after dropping survival suits. Both men were reported to be uninjured, but the vessel was abandoned. The two men were taken to Kodiak, Alaska, for medical attention.

The incident occurred just before the net's daily roll-call, when a call is put out for medical, emergency, or priority traffic. The Pacific Seafarer's Net convenes daily on 14.300 MHz at 0300 UTC to monitor the progress of maritime Amateur Radio operators sailing in the Pacific. Net control stations are located around the world. Traffic consists of daily position reporting and automatic posting of positions on several websites, message handling via e-mail relay, health-and-welfare traffic, phone patch services, search-and-rescue coordination, and vessel equipment inventories for search-and-rescue operations. Net control stations keep computer databases of participating vessels and their movements.

"This case emphasizes the importance of proper survival gear for the harsh and challenging Alaskan environment," said Adam De Rocher, a senior search-and-rescue controller at USCG District 17. "The more prepared the better. Boaters making long transits are encouraged to have survival suits and life jackets for each person aboard, a life raft, a communication device such as a satellite phone, flares and an EPIRB. These items increase boaters' chances of survival in an emergency situation." — *Thanks to the Pacific Seafarer's Net and the US Coast Guard*

Used with permission, The ARRL Letter, Oct 13, 2016

Current Rules Holding Hams Back from Adopting State-of-the-Art Technology, ARRL Says

In comments filed on October 12 with the FCC, ARRL reiterated its case that the FCC should impose a 2.8 kHz limit on symbol rate for digital modes, arguing that its approach is both balanced and necessary. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in Part 97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a July Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

ARRL's comments can be found on in PDF format on the web at,

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1011120327463/Comments%20of%20ARRL%20on%20NPRM%2010112016%20FINAL.pdf>

ARRL told the FCC in its comments that the current HF symbol rate "speed limit" reflects 1980s technology and has no place in an experimental radio service in which modern protocols could be efficiently deployed in crowded RTTY/data subbands.

"The symbol rate limit was created in order to maximize the efficient use and reuse of that crowded, shared spectrum, but the assumptions made at the time are no longer valid," ARRL said, "and the rules now prohibit radio amateurs from utilizing state-of-the-art technology, thus precluding or substantially inhibiting any meaningful contribution to the advancement of the radio art in this area." ARRL said earlier assumptions are no longer valid mainly because there is no correlation between the data rate and the occupied bandwidth in the rules now.

The League said present rules in the HF data subbands promote inefficiency, allowing data transmissions of unlimited bandwidth as long as the symbol rate is sufficiently low, and it stressed that there must be some limit on occupied bandwidth for HF data emissions.

"Eliminating the symbol rate limitations for data emissions and substituting a maximum authorized bandwidth would permit the utilization of all HF data transmission protocols presently legal in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as state-of-the-art protocols that fall within the authorized bandwidth," the League said.

ARRL said that it could be "fairly debated" whether or not 2.8 kHz is the proper maximum bandwidth for data emissions. "Greater bandwidth for data emissions would permit a wider array of data emissions now and in the future," the League said in its comments.

"However, even 2.8 kHz could arguably permit usurpation of the subbands to the detriment of CW and other narrow-bandwidth emissions. ARRL views the 2.8 kHz maximum bandwidth proposal for data emissions at HF to be a necessary component of the FCC's proposal, and it fairly balances the objectives of facilitating use of new and future data emissions and protecting against usurpation of the band by a few data stations.

ARRL said it would be impossible to reduce the permitted maximum bandwidth for data emissions at HF much below 2.8 kHz without prohibiting data modes that are now legal. "At the same time, it would not be desirable to have a few data stations using large swaths of spectrum to the detriment of other modes," the League said.

The deadline to file reply comments in the proceeding - ie, comments on comments already filed - is November 10.

Used with permission, ARRL Bulletin 37 Oct 12, 2016

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