



# *the Radio Flyer,* *a BRARA Newsletter*

*February 2016*

## *BRARA Calendar:*

**19:30 Mon 01-Feb-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net

**Tue 02-Feb-16 Groundhog Day**  
**19:00-21:00 Tue 02-Feb-16**  
**Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**

**09:00-12:00 Wed 03-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**09:00-12:00 Sat 06-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Sun 07-Feb-16 Super Bowl Sunday**

**Mon 08-Feb-16 Chinese New Year**  
**19:30 Mon 08-Feb-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net

**Tue 09-Feb-16 Mardi Gras**

**Wed 10-Feb-16 Ash Wednesday**  
**09:00-12:00 Wed 10-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**12/13/14-Feb-16 Orlando HamCation**

**09:00-12:00 Sat 13-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Sun 14-Feb-16 Valentine's Day**

**Mon 15-Feb-16 President's Day**  
**19:30 Mon 15-Feb-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net

**09:00-12:00 Wed 17-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**09:00-12:00 Sat 20-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**12:00 Noon Sun 21-Feb-16**  
**Soft Deadline for Newsletter**

**19:30 Mon 22-Feb-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net

**09:00-12:00 Wed 24-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**09:00-13:00 Sat 27-Feb-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**19:30 Mon 01-Mar-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net

**19:00-21:00 Tue 01-Mar-16 Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**

**09:00-12:00 Wed 02-Mar-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



## *This Month's Speaker N4EGE*

This month, Rich Ladisky (WB1J) will give a photographic presentation on Underwater nature; specifically the Tubbataha Reef, 90 miles off Palaidau Island in the Philippines. It is a UNESCO site. See next page for details.

Next month we will have a mystery speaker.

## *QSL Report <sup>n4ii</sup>*

As we close out the month, N4BRF has logged in 2,246 QSLs/7,445 QSOs (30.2%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** Nothing new this month. Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 15m and 10m.

**WAS Account Status:** Nothing new this month. Awards issued: Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play, RTTY. We still need:

- AK, ID for 40m
- AK, WV for 15m
- WY for 20m Phone
- NV for 20m CW.
- AK, DE, ID, ME, NV for 40m CW.

We have received the following QSOs from Field Day activities:

- 169 (+0) QSLs from 2012,
- 175 (+0) QSOs from 2013
- 237 (+0) QSOs from 2014
- 257 (+0) QSOs from 2015

**VUCC Account Status:** Nothing new this month.

Update at the next Club Meeting.



## *Repeater, HSMM, & Ham Shack News*

The weekly worker group meets almost every Wednesday and Saturday morning roughly between 0900 and 1300.

Both Analog repeaters are working. The 2m repeater power amp has been operating with 85 w output.

Repeater 2m/70cm linking as well as the time stamp are still works in progress Testing and tweaking of the new Controller continues.

We have the registration number for the additional 70 cm repeater controller. Manual is forthcoming.

The Digipeater is up and running. The packet repeater is a work in progress.

We have secured a limited internet connection at the Shack for spotting -no streaming downloads.

Plans and preparations for the new shack trailer are proceeding.

## *SFL Section HAM elected ARRL CEO & Secretary*

Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, of West Palm Beach, Florida, will succeed David Sumner, K1ZZ, as the chief executive officer of ARRL, effective April 18. In that role, he will oversee all activities at ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Meeting in a special webinar session on January 25, all 15 ARRL Directors voted to elect Gallagher as CEO and Secretary, positions that Sumner will relinquish on April 18. Gallagher will join the ARRL staff as CEO-Elect on February 29, and transition period will follow.

Gallagher said he is looking forward to attending the ARRL 2016 National Convention, hosted by the Orlando HAMCation, February 12-14.

## Tubbataha Reef Overview

The board has asked me to do another different show!

I think the first one caught many by surprise, so know in advance that this is NOT about radio, and some want to bring guests, significant other, and perhaps kids. It is quite educational and interesting for all.

I have been very lucky in my underwater photojournalism career. As I climbed the notoriety ladder, I eventually acquired a sponsor company to finance my trips to remote areas of the world. I have done one man art shows and presented my findings at various venues, including national diving conventions, organizations, and many periodicals.

For an underwater photographer, the lure of going to a pristine protected area is overwhelming, harder to find, and get to these days. This expedition was to a very remote location, Tubbataha Reef, 90 miles off Palawan Island in the Philippines. It is a United Nations World Heritage Site (UNESCO).

The reefs are accessible only 2 months of each year, due to rough seas and weather and we were on the cusp. Fortunately, the pirates and rebels must have been on vacation that week, as we were really out there in the Sulu Sea.

The adventure included a 110-foot fully equipped and designed dive yacht. We lived on the boat for a week, with 4 dives each day and 1 each night.

Being as protected and regulated as it was, there is no fishing or dumping, or river run-offs. The corals carpeted every square inch of space and the ocean was teeming with schools (clouds) of fish. There were hundreds of rare species on display, in the most ideal environment of the planet as we explored the north and south reef. Think: before humans impacted the oceans.

After a week, we returned to Palawan, where the small group went home, and I went on to another island to explore a rumor that a rare species of shark was regularly coming up to feed from 2000 feet, at sunrise. That week was full of surprises, which the program will reveal.

In my 30 years of dive travel, this adventure was over the top. I hope you can make it.

Rich-WB1J



## ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet is Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced

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

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

**Rule 7.3.17 Safety Officer** offers 100 bonus points by designating someone to serve as a Safety Officer for groups setting up Class A stations.

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

Last year, 2720 stations submitted ARRL Field Day entries. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015 — an increase of just over 1 percent. There were 35,369 individuals taking part in Field Day last year.

The 2016 ARRL [Field Day](#) logo makes a connection to the League's year-long National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) operating event. NPOTA celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service ([NPS](#)). ARRL Graphic Design Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, created the logo.

The design's featured hiking boot footprint anticipates that many 2016 Field Day groups and individual operators may want to combine FD and NPOTA, setting up at national parks, historic sites, or at any of the hundreds of official National Park Service units throughout the US.

[Pick your park](#), get the okay from park officials, get out and get on the air, and leave *nothing but footprints!*

You can follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter! ARRL has created a [Field Day event](#) on Facebook. It's also possible to join the conversation on Twitter by using the hash tag [#ARRLFD](#). Share *your* plans, tips, and tricks to a successful Field Day!

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



ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

## Monday Night Nets

### KG4FUR

BRARA now runs three Monday Night Nets on the 145.290 MHz -0.600 [110.9] repeater:

- ⇒ New HAMs Net: 19:00-19:30.
- ⇒ BRARA Informational Net: 19:30-20:00. Out-of-Area Amateurs may check-in via EchoLink. Our Node is 826953.
- ⇒ South County NBEMS Net 20:00-20:30. Analog Voice and FLDigi/FLMsg mixed mode.

## NBEMS KG4FUR

For more information and the latest Guide and Troubleshooting, go to [www.qsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html](http://www.qsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html) or simply Google "Palm Beach NBEMS"

### Scheduled Nets

Mon	20:00	S County
		145.290 -0.6 110.9
Tue	19:30	PBC NBEMS
		147.285 +0.6 103.5
1 <sup>st</sup> / <sub>3rd</sub> Sat	10:00	Knights of Rnd Tbl
		146.550 Simplex

## Other Local HAM

### Analog Repeater Nets

Daily 18:00 SEFL Traffic: 146.61 MHz  
 Tue 19:00 Boynton CERT: 443.1 MHz  
 Tue 19:30 Boca CERT: 145.225 MHz  
 Wed 19:00 SC-ARES: 147.225 MHz  
 Thu 19:00 WX4SFL: 444.025/444.850

## Scheduled DMR Nets

Day	EST	Talk Group
Sun	1900	TG-310 (TAC 310)
Mon	1500	TG-13 (EN) UK Tech
Wed	2100	TG-03 (NA) NA Tech
Sat	1200	TG-01 (WW)

## Local DMR Repeaters

Location	Rx Freq	Color Code
Miami	442.225	1
N Dade	443.1250	10 Pending
Dania Bch	442.4000	1
Plantation	442.4250	1
Boca Raton	442.0000	8
Delray Bch	443.3000	1
Boynton Bch	442.3000	7
Lk Worth	444.4500	10
PBG	442.1000	10
Jupiter	442.6000	10 Pending
Palm City	440.7000	1

## G.MRS Repeater Database:

Check out [www.myGMRS.com](http://www.myGMRS.com).

## New Shack Committee

A committee was formed to supervise donations, planning, and implementation of the new shack trailer: K3LEW (Lew), W3EZB (Marcos), WA2VNV (George), WA8VSJ (Art), W4BFL (Jerry),

## Club Repeaters

144.390 APRS Repeater  
 145.070 Packet Repeater  
 145.290 -0.600 [PL 110.9] EC-826953  
 442.875 +5.000 [PL 110.9]

Location: 26.39724 -80.09485  
145.290 & 442.875 linking planned

## Club Ham Shack

West Delray Regional Park  
10875 West Atlantic Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33446

## Board of Directors

### Scheduled Meetings

The new BRARA Board of Directors:

K4LEW (Lew), KG4FUR (Gerry), K04XL (Bruce), N4CGC (Max), W3EZB (Marcos), W4BFL (Jerry), and W4WCD (Walt)

We hold weekly luncheon meetings at 11:30 Mondays (quorum permitting) at Miller's Ale House, 1200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431. (561)988-9142 [www.millersalehouse.com/location/east-Boca-ale-house](http://www.millersalehouse.com/location/east-Boca-ale-house)

## Donations & Contributions

Contributions to BRARA—a 501(c)(3) organization—are tax deductible as charitable donations. As you complete your membership renewal or begin your year-end tax planning, please consider making a donation to BRARA.

Planned Giving—Please also consider BRARA when updating or initiating planned giving (including charitable gift annuities, bequests, and gifts or retirement plan assets) and other assets.

## Apparel Donations

\$10 donation-BRARA Name Plate with your Call Sign.  
 \$30 donation-BRARA Polo Shirt with your Call Sign.  
 \$40 donation-BRARA button down red denim shirt (long or short sleeve)

## Membership Application & Renewal

- \$25 Full Membership
- \$5 Associate Membership
- \$5 Family Mbr w/License

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member:  Yes  No

Birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

License Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests:  Field Day  Ham Fest

HF  Digital  DXing

VHF  Packet  CW

UHF  Voice  Contesting

EmComm  Skywarn  Public Svc

ARES  MARS  CERT

Award Chasing  Ragchewing

Building & Experimenting  DMR

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return with Dues to BRARA at either:*

BRARA  
P.O. Box 480162  
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162

Or

Walt Dreyfus, Secretary  
21512 Woodchuck Ln,  
Boca Raton, FL 33428  
(954) 481-5327



## Southeastern Division Convention (Orlando HamCation®)

Start Date: 02/12/2016  
End Date: 02/14/2016  
Location: Central Florida  
Fairgrounds  
4603 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Website: <http://hamcation.com>  
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio  
Club (OARC)  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Talk-in: 146.760 - 600 (no PL tone),  
147.015 + 600 (no PL tone)  
Public Contact: Lidy Meijers ,  
KJ4LMM  
PO Box 547811 Orlando, FL 32854  
Phone: 407-841-0874  
Email: [info@hamcation.com](mailto:info@hamcation.com)

## Stuart Hamfest

Start Date: 03/19/2016  
End Date: 03/19/2016  
Location: Martin County Fairgrounds  
2616 SE Dixie Highway  
Stuart, FL 34994  
Website: <http://www.stuarthamfest.com>  
Sponsor: Martin County Amateur  
Radio Association  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Talk-in: 147.060+ (PL 107.2)  
Public Contact: Doug Shields ,  
W4DAS  
1450 SE 11th Street Stuart, FL 34996  
Phone: 772-349-7820  
Email: [hamfest@mcaraweb.com](mailto:hamfest@mcaraweb.com)

## Free Laurel VEC Testing



Tue 09-Feb-2016, 1800-1930,  
Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews  
Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue  
of every month).

Thu 11-Feb-2016, 1900-2100,  
Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato  
Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA]  
(Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Sun 06-Mar-2016, 1100-1300, Fire  
Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal  
Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of  
odd months).

## Welcome New Members:

Keith McPhail	K3SKM
John Cole	N1QFH
Ray Smolenski	N4RU

For more on BRARA  
[www.n4brf.org](http://www.n4brf.org)

“A world without radio is a  
deaf world.

A world without television is a  
blind world.

A world without telephone is a  
dumb world.

A world without  
communication is indeed a  
crippled world.”

— Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

## BRARA Ham Shack

### Key Rules <sup>K4Lew</sup>

To obtain a key for our ham shack  
you must be a member in good  
standing for a minimum of a  
continuous year and hold a general  
class license or above and go  
through a short training session with  
K4LEW (Lew), W4BFL (Jerry),  
W4WCD (Walt) or N4CGC (Max).

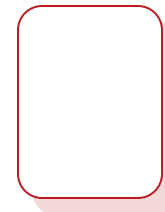
### the Radio Flyer's Purpose

The purpose of this newsletter is  
to keep Club members and other  
interested Hams updated on Club  
events and Ham activities in the  
Greater Boca Raton Area. We  
hope you enjoy this month's *the RF*  
as much as we did publishing it!



the Radio Flyer

P.O. Box 480162  
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162



BRARA Club Member Name  
Call Sign  
Street Address  
City, State Zip Code



# Amateur License Refresher

Dave, KD8NZF

It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing.

Extra Pool

E2C01

Which of the following is true about contest operating?

- A. Operators are permitted to make contacts even if they do not submit a log
- B. Interference to other amateurs is unavoidable and therefore acceptable
- C. It is mandatory to transmit the call sign of the station being worked as part of every transmission to that station
- D. Every contest requires a signal report in the exchange

E2C10

Why might a DX station state that they are listening on another frequency?

- A. Because the DX station may be transmitting on a frequency that is prohibited to some responding stations
- B. To separate the calling stations from the DX station
- C. To reduce interference, thereby improving operating efficiency
- D. All of these choices are correct

General Pool

G4B08

Which of the following instruments may be used to monitor relative RF output when making antenna and transmitter adjustments?

- A. A field-strength meter
- B. An antenna noise bridge
- C. A multimeter
- D. A Q meter

G4B13

What is a use for an antenna analyzer other than measuring the SWR of an antenna system?

- A. Measuring the front to back ratio of an antenna
- B. Measuring the turns ratio of a power transformer
- C. Determining the impedance of an unknown or unmarked coaxial cable
- D. Determining the gain of a directional antenna

(Answers below in last column)

## Articles for the Newsletter *KG4FUR*

Got an idea for an article? Or constructive critique? Want to share club news and events? How about writing a short 30-minute project idea? Your submissions to the Red Flyer are needed to help keep this one of the best club newsletters in South Florida.

Please send articles to  
KG4FUR@N4BRF.org

Page 5



Answers to Amateur License  
Refresher: Answers:

E2C01 (A)

E2C10 (D)

G4B08 (A)

G4B13 (C)



**No Smoking**  
UNLESS YOU'RE A RADIO WITH A SHORTED  
CAPACITOR.

## Ten-Tec: Sold Again

Now there's another chapter in the Ten-Tec saga. First they were purchased by the Alpha Amplifier folks, then by RKR Designs, and now by an unnamed mystery owner-all within the span of about two years. So what's in store for Ten-Tec's future?

Former Ten-Tec chief engineer John Henry made a recent post on [http://lists.contesting.com/\\_tentec/](http://lists.contesting.com/_tentec/) (AKA, the Ten-Tec Reflector) regarding future plans for the company. I'm going to highlight only a few points from the email, since it's rather lengthy. If you're a Ten-Tec owner or fan, take time to read the entire email to get the big picture as it exists now

[http://lists.contesting.com/\\_tentec/2015-12/msg00013.html](http://lists.contesting.com/_tentec/2015-12/msg00013.html).

No, Henry is not the new owner, but he says he's going to do whatever he can to get the business back on track. "I want to see it be a success, and maintain what can be maintained of the people, and improve its image/products/etc. back to where they were years ago. The owner is quite insistent that I remain intimately involved with TEN-TEC even if it is on a part time basis. It is my choice of how much or little I spend on TEN-TEC and the door is assuredly left open for me to come and go as I please. He wants me to be the VP of Engineering, but, well, time will tell how all of this plays out."

According to Henry, the new owner "is planning the rigs and amplifiers and other accessory products to engineer and to manufacture for the coming year to cover the purchase and expenses for the year, working on the details of the various plans for service, sales, and marketing, etc." The current incarnation of OMNI VII is scheduled to be back in production in 1st quarter 2016, hoping to ship in 2nd quarter 2016. The Eagle will go back into production some time after the 1st OMNI-VII run.

In addition, the new owner plans to either bring back the Orion II or have an Orion III, time frame to be determined-which could be as early as end of 2016 or Dayton 2017.

According to Henry, prices will return to the original pre liquidation sale prices when the new website is up so that each will be at a price point that will make enough profit to make the company viable. Other features will be added where possible.

Henry also states, "There might be improvements/changes to certain rigs, e.g. maybe there will be an OMNI VII+ maybe an OMNI-VIII in a year." Since the Omni VII dates back to 2006, I'd think it's almost imperative they'd come up with at least a plus version quickly. Ditto for the Orion II, which was a 2005 revision of the original Orion.

There is no mention of whether the new owner has deep pockets, has any backers at this point, or will rely on income from Ten Tec's other operations. If you weren't aware, a substantial portion of Ten-Tec's income previously came from manufacturing enclosures and specialty radios for commercial and government customers-the RX331/RX340 receivers for example. In the past, this income stream helped support the amateur radio line.

Henry hints at a possible need to raise capital, such as a possible Gofundme funding campaign, where amateur customers can help donate to purchase the parts, and then part of, or all of, or x times the amount of the donation is taken off of their next order of a "major" Ten-Tec product, such as a transceiver, amp, etc. "To do this first class, we need a 200K capital infusion for a new factory building and some new equipment to replace what was liquidated if anyone cares to step up and accelerate our success. 400K would give us the facility building and some new equipment to replace what was liquidated if anyone cares to step up and accelerate our success. 400K would give us the facility, equipment and capital to put everything back in production to a stocking basis and allow us to complete the Orion III. If 400 people will give us 1K each, we will commit to the Orion III of your dreams in 18-24 months and give you 2K off the target price of 5K as well as engrave your name and call on a plaque on the new building that says you helped build it and save Ten-Tec."

I'm sure there are some die-hard Ten-Tec supporters out there who would help provide capital to get things rolling. However, this proposed arrangement makes me a bit uneasy. I'm not sure I'm ready to pay up front for the R&D or production of a future radio or guarantee support for my legacy rigs with the only return on investment being a discount on a radio I may or may not decide to purchase. Full disclosure-I own three Ten-Tec transceivers and have been a customer for a number of years. I recently paid several hundred dollars to their repair facility to get my Orion II back in shape.

One encouraging piece of information is that the new owner plans (for now, anyway) to stay in this for the long run. "The owner has emphatically stated to me that this the last time Ten-Tec will change hands for the next 15-20 years or so as he is my age and plans for us both to operate it until we are in our 70s or physically unable to continue, so Ten-Tec could not be in the hands of anyone more SERIOUSLY long term goal oriented. He has wanted Ten-Tec for a long time for the excellent DSP AGC technology built in to our transceivers so I think it is safe to say that there will be future generations of the Omni, and Orion style units as finances permit." It would be nice to see Ten-Tec make a big comeback with new and updated radios. Time will tell.

I wish them the best, and I will be one of the many who monitors the reflector for more news. Perhaps by the time you read this, the identity of the mystery owner will be revealed.

Mark,  
K8MSH

## 2015 Tax Donation

### Letters W3EZB

Tax Donation letters have been emailed for all the donations made as of November 17. Duplicates will be sent out if requested.

# Why is ARRL Raising Dues?

The last time the basic dues rate was raised was in 2001. As of 2015, the economic realities have caught up with us. While ARRL has done a good job of keeping our costs down internally and giving you the best services we can for your money, other factors are simply out of our control. Everyone's costs have gone up in the last fourteen years. For ARRL, these include utilities, insurance, postage, and many others. We have done as much as we can to hold off a dues increase for over a decade, but now it is a necessity.

This step allows us to continue giving you the level of personal service you have come to expect from ARRL and will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes ALL of Amateur Radio.

## When does the new rate take effect?

January 1, 2016.

## How much are dues going up?

A standard one-year ARRL membership will be increased by \$10 per year. This is about 83 cents per month, or less than 3 cents per day.

## What do dues pay for?

As a member of ARRL, your annual dues pay for the education, advocacy and outreach ARRL provides to all members and to Amateur Radio as a whole:

- Advocacy to maintain meaningful access to the radio spectrum. Representation on regulatory issues at the international, federal, and state levels
- Improved awareness for Amateur Radio by increasing our liaison with Capitol Hill
- Relentless defense of our spectrum from commercial interests and against spectrum pollution
- Response to Antenna Restrictions – **Amateur Radio Parity Act, zoning regulations**

- Recognition and partnership with **several disaster relief organizations**, including FEMA, the Red Cross, Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network (SATERN) and others
- **Public Relations**, awareness of Amateur Radio in the media, and resources to promote the hobby and service
- **Logbook of The World (LOTW) ®**, the premier electronic QSO verification system
- Representation on national and international **standards bodies**
- Improved ARRL **Lab test procedures** and test equipment that contribute to **unbiased product reviews** and advances in Amateur Radio equipment performance
- Outreach to students and educational institutions through the **Education and Technology Program**, including the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) program

Members also have access to numerous ARRL programs and benefits not available elsewhere:

- QST Magazine, the source for trusted Amateur Radio news, columns and product reviews since 1915. Now in print and digital formats
- Searchable index and archive of all ARRL periodicals; access to a century of design, innovation and technical expertise
- ARRL on-air **operating awards**
- Free license renewal assistance
- Free e-newsletters, such as *The ARRL Letter*, and a **free e-mail forwarding service** (YourCall@arrl.net)
- Emergency Communications **training courses** to help you better serve your community
- Ham Aid program
- Volunteer opportunities to serve Amateur Radio through the **ARRL Field Organization**

## Why doesn't ARRL reduce operating costs instead?

We have. ARRL's 2001 operating expenses were just over \$13 million. In 2014, expenses were \$15.5 million, an increase of just 19% over the past fourteen years, considerably less than the US rate of inflation from 2001 to 2014 (32%). A detailed explanation of ARRL's budget and expenditures over these years is available in each year's Annual Report. All reports since 2002 are available **online**.

## What else has ARRL done to save money?

Since 2001, we have implemented many operating efficiencies that have contributed to reducing our staff at ARRL Headquarters by fifteen percent, while either maintaining or expanding our level of service to you. In addition, we have developed additional giving opportunities, such as the **Diamond Club**, the **Spectrum Defense Fund**, and the **Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund**, for those members with the means and desire to support ARRL beyond dues.

## How will a dues increase help?

As you discover new ways of learning, growing and having fun in Amateur Radio, you expect ARRL to be your source of information, programs and services covering the ever-expanding scope of Amateur Radio interests and activities. ARRL manages its resources judiciously and keeps costs as low as possible while maintaining a consistently high level of service for all members. Raising dues will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes ALL of Amateur Radio.

You can learn more in the October 2015 QST article, "**The Value of ARRL Membership**."



# HAM Humor

## FCC's "One Kilohertz At A Time" Gets Closer To 14.312 MHz, But Not Quite There

By K5KVN, on the scene

BOLIVAR, Mo. – In the latest move of its "One Kilohertz At A Time" enforcement program, the FCC announced a \$10,000 fine issued to a Missouri man for illegal operation on 14.312 MHz.

Agents say it didn't take long to discover the offender, once they finally got to the frequency he was on. "The 'One KiloHertz At A Time' program ensures that we will cover the entire radio spectrum, but that obviously will take an extremely long time," said Enforcement Agent Ronald Speakman.

FCC agents began the program in 1974. "We started listening for offenders at 3 Hertz and have been working our way up the dial since then. We arrived at 14.312 MHz on February 25th and were very pleased to find some interference," said Speakman.

This week's announcement is welcome news to many ham radio operators who complain of interference currently happening one kilohertz away, on 14.313 MHz.

Agents are asking for patience as they continue to slowly sweep through spectrum. "We are aware of complaints about 14.313 MHz and we are working as fast as we can to get there. We are on 14.312 MHz now, and we'll move up to the next kilohertz soon," says Speakman.

Citing a need to preserve the element of surprise, Speakman wouldn't provide specifics as to when that might happen.

### www.hamhijinks.com

## New Youth License Class Coming Soon

By K5KVN, on the scene

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a bold move to attract youth to the aging ham radio hobby, the FCC has announced a new license class tailored specifically to young people. Unfortunately, it means some old-timers must turn in their current callsign.

The new Textnician license class. By the end of 2015, callsigns with suffixes that match any of the most popular internet slang and texting acronyms will be reallocated to new licenses obtained by people younger than 18 years of age. These

will be categorized into a new class of license called "Textnician." (Not to be confused with the already existing "Technician" license class.)

A statement from the FCC indicates the effort will attract more young people to the often antiquated hobby. "The Textnician class is simply a way for the amateur radio service to remain relevant in the age of texting and instant messaging," the agency said.

Nathaniel Beakerman, a boy scout who recently attended a radio merit badge class responded to questions via text, typing "LOL, I think it's GR8!"

The National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL), an association of ham radio operators, voiced support for the new initiative. "There is no reason that a man over 60 years of age should have a callsign that ends in OMG," said NRRL spokesperson Johnson Longfellow.

Examples of prefixes to be reassigned include:

- LOL
- WTF
- FTW
- WTH
- FA
- BRB
- OMG

Officials say that current license holders with the affected suffixes will be issued a new callsign ASAP.

### hamhijinks.com

## Major Changes Coming To DX Clusters

By K5KVN, on the scene

HORSETAIL, MONTANA — Some of the largest online DX Clusters are banding together for an extreme makeover of their popular station-spotting websites. The revamp involves a major change in how spots are posted, adding a more visual indication of what stations are on the air.

"A couple of weeks ago, someone showed us a photograph on the internet of a famous actor with a sarcastic remark written on it in all caps," said Mikel Van Straussen from the "Station Nation" DX Cluster.

Known as memes, the images are often shared from person-to-person as mimicry on the internet

"Many other DX websites are doing the same. It's the future of DX and propagation communications in amateur radio," said Van Strauss.

Going forward, DX spots will be noted only by a meme.

A trial run of the concept includes the following memes being used for rare stations on the air:

### Willis Island



### Badges County, NV



### Aeronautical Mobile HF Stations



The rollout of the new feature is expected to be completed on all DX Clusters before the CQWW contest.

### HamHijinks.com