



INDIAN  
RIVER ARC

P.O. BOX 237285, COCOA  
FLORIDA 32923-7285

VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 4

# SPURIOUS EMISSIONS

APRIL 2018

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KU0R

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N4UTQ

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ARMANDO DELGADO  
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## CLUB MINUTES

Viron N4VEP led the meeting because President Dave KUOR was out of town. The meeting began at 1931 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge, no visitors were recognized. Ernie K1CPO is at home; still unable to swallow but is getting physical therapy and is being fed through a tube.

The meeting minutes for March were published in the newsletter. A motion was heard to approve the meeting minutes; a second was heard and the March minutes were approved by acclamation.

Larry KK4WDD, our Treasurer, reported we have \$2077.11 in checking and \$1277.42 in the equipment fund. A motion was heard to accept the Treasurer's re-

port for audit; a second was heard and the Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation.

Viron reported for his position as Vice President that planning for Field Day is under way.

Chris AA4CD reported for the Technical Committee that he is programming the new controller and the 220 radio used to control the repeaters.

Upcoming events: hot dog party at the club house this Saturday, April 7. QRP is up in the air, perhaps Robert Nicol Park on US 1 off Fay Blvd. will be used in the future. JDRF is at Wickham Park on May 5 and we will be working with PCARS to provide support.

Central Net is progressing

and we need to raise \$5000 for all the planned equipment to include in the go boxes.

The 50-50 drawing winning ticket was found to be in the hands of Shannon KG4LHG; he won \$9 that he donated to the Equipment Fund.

Following the business meeting, Chris AA4CD showed slides about the new repeater controller. This controller controls and coordinates all the club repeaters with an incredible amount of programmable options.

A motion to adjourn occurred at 2030 and was moved and approved.

Respectfully Submitted  
Steve Luchuk, Secretary

## HAPPENINGS

"Adding an Amplifier to your Station" is the topic of the March 1 episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" and "Receive Filters" is the topic of the latest (March 29) episode

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and

15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals.

The *Titanic*/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod operation will use **W1MGY**, in recognition of the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign. Operation will begin on Saturday, April 12, at 9 AM ET and continue until April 15 at

1:27 AM ET (0527 UTC) – the time when the *Virginian* heard *Titanic*'s last radio message 106 years ago.

Also, Saturday, April 21, International Marconi Day (**IMD**) operation by the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club will use the call sign **KM1CC**, which recognizes the former WCC shore station on Cape Cod. Operation will be on CW, SSB, and digital modes.

The [list of stations](#) already signed up for the 2018 IMD, along with their operating sites, is posted on the Cornish Radio Amateur Club website.

For more information on these events go to <http://www.arrrl.org/news/history-related-events-will-operate-from-rare-grid-in-cape-cod-national-seashore>

## HAPPENINGS

Today's Amateur gear containing microprocessors usually has provisions for upgrading the software via a computer link or memory card. DX Engineering has [published a blog article on Firmware Upgrades](#) including the steps to take to make sure updates are trouble free.

Starting in April, Philip Gairson, N7NVK, will begin working on Wake Island, which is in grid RK39 for those participating in the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase (IGC). His schedule calls for 3 months on the island, and then 1 month off — a pat-

tern that will repeat over the course of about a year. Wake is 12 hours ahead of UTC.

The Amateur Radio Slow-Scan Television (SSTV) system on the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to be active in April on 145.800 MHz (FM). The Russian segment's Inter-MAI 75 SSTV has announced transmissions on Monday, April 2, 1505 – 1830 UTC, and on Tuesday, April 3, 1415 – 1840 UTC. The SSTV system, which uses the call sign RSOISS, is also expected to be active from April 11 – 14 worldwide to mark Cosmonautics Day in Russia on April 12. Specific transmission times are not yet available. Images

will be related to the Soviet Union's *Interkosmos* cooperative space ventures project.

SSTV images will be transmitted in PD-120 format on 145.800 MHz (FM).

**Florida QSO Party 2018** – Saturday, April 28 1600Z (Noon EDT) – 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT) | Sunday, April 29 1200Z (8 AM EDT) – 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT) Florida stations send signal report and county. W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) send signal report and state or province. DX stations (including KH2/KP4, etc.) send signal report and DXCC prefix. More information at

<https://floridaqsoparty.org/>

The **Georgia QSO Party 2018** will be April 14, 1800z to 0359z and April 15, 1400z to 2359z. With 159 counties, Georgia has the 2nd most number of counties in the United States.

## CB Radio by Steve Luchuck N4UTQ

My first introduction to CB radio was shortly after my close buddy Raymond bought a CB for his Dodge Challenger in 1972. Raymond had spent the summer out west working for his uncle at his car wash. Raymond returned with a PhD in washing cars. He informed me about so many types of sponges, types of car dirt and all the types of soap to use for which types of dirt. Ray's Challenger was really nice; black with black interior, high back bucket seats and the CB was mounted on the center console and the antenna was a trunk mount base-loaded short whip. We didn't know anyone else that had a CB, so we started talking to anyone we heard. Shortly after Ray got a CB, another friend of mine acquired a Realistic, Radio Shack, model and found a way to use the AM radio antenna on his Volkswagen bus. It was rumored that this radio may not have been actually purchased, but it worked well and had nice audio and had a trendy squelch crash like you heard on TV police dramas such as *1 Adam 12*. My buddy fell on hard times and needed money and offered to sell me this radio and I took him up on it. CB's were only 23 channels at the time. As we got to know the other

CB'ers we found that certain groups preferred other channels than channel 10, which was used by everyone since this was, at the time, the trucker's channel. When the CB craze first bit me, I put my dad's vintage 1960's tube type CB in my AMC Hornet. My dad had built and flown radio controlled model airplanes and flew them with a 500 milliwatt transmitter that used the C class channels nestled within the 23 class D voice channels. When dad lost control of one of his planes due to weak signal, he bought this CB, which is crystal controlled, for use with class C crystals. As a youth I had messed with this radio before as I messed with all of dad's interesting electronics. That tube type CB radio was powered by a DC to AC converter that used a vibrator to convert the DC to AC, so I had no problem using that CB in my car. That radio had a stark feature of not having a push to talk microphone. The transmit switch was on the front of the radio, which took on the

appearance of a small ham radio, which I had seen at my friend's house who's dad was an amateur.

I retired the tube radio when I acquired the sleek solid state Realistic. I mounted the radio to the dash and could remove it easily by unscrewing the large knurled knobs. Mounted to the bumper of the Hornet was a 102 inch redneck whip. This antenna worked remarkably well and one night I worked a station in Nashville from the college in Murfreesboro.

Back in those days it was popular to cruise the strip on Friday and Saturday nights and now the activity was made more interesting as we could now talk to all the other cruisers. Most of us had steady girlfriends that needed to be dropped off at a specified time, and afterward we found ourselves hanging out in the K-Mart parking lot. One night this older fellow shows up in a government looking car with some kind of fancy antenna. My first thought was that we

were about to be busted by the FCC for things said over the radio. I soon found out this guy was Running Bear, the CB radio king of the area. Running Bear was king by virtue of his three element vertical beam antenna on a rotator, and his illegal kicker which gave him about 100 watts. One night he invited us over to see his setup. He had a wall full of QSL cards from other rogue CB operators from all over the country. Running Bear also had his own QSL cards. There was another oddball in our group, that was a little older than the rest of us that called himself the Milwaukee Rebel and he had a gravelly voice and said cool stuff over the radio that we all sought to imitate. One Saturday night the Milwaukee Rebel had come up with a 50 watt mobile amplifier that had a single tube. So we all piled into his cool Plymouth Barracuda to take a trip up to Suwannee Mountain. We found a scenic overlook near the top of the mountain and fired up the little amplifier and found ourselves making several contacts in Nashville, about 100 miles distant! At some point I took notice that many of the voices heard on the

CB were coming from a base station in someone's kitchen, living room or garage. When I visited friend's homes, I would see the Realistic Navajo radio with the desk power mic. Radio Shack sold a simple quarter wave ground plane antenna for \$25 so I installed one on the roof of my dad's two story house attached to the brick chimney. I found the radio easy to remove from the car and I powered it with a battery charger and used the biggest capacitor I could find to eliminate the hum. I had the radio on my desk in my bedroom and this allowed me to keep up with what's going on while studying. The realistic radio had a large speaker and I started finding it interesting to work stations with weak signals to find out that they were 30 or 40 miles distant. I also found that if you stacked a thin soft cover book on top of the speaker, you could turn the volume way up and the book would greatly reduce the static and make the weak signal easier to hear. I am not sure when channel 9 became the emergency frequency, but when CB became popular, a group sprung up, REACT, that would schedule members to monitor the channel around the clock. Originally the truckers used channel 10 and due to complaints by REACT, they got the truckers to move to channel 19. And that switch happened literally overnight! One morning I got up and there was no one on channel 10 and the calling frequency was channel 19.

Back in the mid 1970s CBers held their own form of hamfest and they were called CB Jamborees. It was very popular when you went to these festivals to wear a black leather vest and festoon the vest with buttons from previous jamborees. Even then I thought this was a horrible look. I had the experience of being able to hear distant stations at night that I could not reach solely due to my power limitation. At one of these jamborees I found a vendor selling a neat little compact 100 watt solid state am-

plifier for \$100. At last I could be a member of the stations known as a big-strap. By the late 1970s, CBs had grown so popular that when the band opened up during the day some of the channels had this background of dozens of users skipping just a little. The users running illegal power could be easily heard over the daytime background. My dad had seen the utility of having car communications and when we took separate cars to visit the farm we would talk back and forth. On one trip I was talking with dad and when the road dipped down into a deep valley, my dad told me my signal had dropped. At this point I decided to turn on the amplifier and I said, "is this any better?". Wow! My dad commented that he had a nice copy with the amplifier on. At that moment, I got a call from a station in California and I went back to him and he told me what he was using. My dad asked if he could try to work the California station so I advised California that my dad would attempt the trip. Sadly, but not unexpected the station in California could not hear dad.

By the late 1970s the price of new mobile CB radios had dropped considerably and the number of channels was expanded to 40 channels. Mexico at that time still had little communication infrastructure and the Mexicans went crazy with CB radios. This intensified the daytime background to an S9. This greatly reduced the effective range of CB radio and made it difficult to find a squelch setting that did not occasionally open up for a strong signal and the popularity of the hobby was on the way out.

The background problem caused an interest in the class C channels, which were still nice and quiet do to their inaccessibility. People started modifying their radios to reach these

channels and there was the sudden appearance of the slider. A slider is an external VFO that not only allowed you to use the class C channels but also slide you right out the top of channel 40 into the region just beneath the 10 meter amateur band. The people that were quick to recognize the utility of an external VFO were the CBers that were operating single sideband. When you combined a single sideband CB radio with a slider and your throw in a little power and you have a capability that parallels amateur radio, for a small extent.

Manufacturers of amateur radio equipment recognized a new market and Swan, maker of the infamous Swan 500C, spun off a company called Siltronix, and to the best of my knowledge made nothing other than a radio called the 10-11. Out of the box the 10-11 was a 10 meter only amateur radio with 11 meter receive. It was intentional that a slight modification allowed it to transmit on 11 meter CB channels so this radio became very popular with people wanting to use SSB with power outside the CB channels. The 10-11C had the first 23 CB channels marked on the VFO dial and the 10-11D had all 40 after the expansion.

Today CB radio is not completely dead because you can still buy CB transceivers and they still post videos on YouTube of people building outrageously powerful amplifiers for 11 meters. Only in 1982 did they legalize CB radio in the UK and the YouTube videos that I have watched, they speak and behave like amateur radio operators. Truckers still use CB radio when they are on the interstate and they have some sort of secret code so that they know that the other station is also a big-rig. They do not like us four wheelers because too many people are inconsiderate drivers so they do not like to

talk to us. Many amateur radio operators got the radio bug in the CB days and look back on those days fondly as exciting times.



#### W1AW CW PRACTICE TRANSMISSIONS

7 PM EST Slow CW : 5-15 WPM  
Mon, Wed, Fri

7 PM EST Fast CW: 35-10 WPM  
Tue, Thu

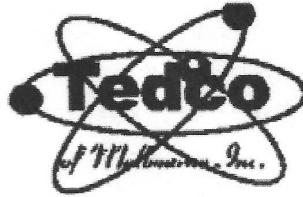
FREQUENCIES: 1.8025, 3.5815,  
7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975,  
21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350,  
147.555

#### Editor's Note:

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