



**INDIAN RIVER ARC**

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**ARMANDO DELGADO  
KN4JN**

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 1

# SPURIOUS EMISSIONS

JANUARY, 2016

## CLUB MINUTES

The club convened its monthly meeting on January 7, 2016 at the Red Cross building in Rockledge at 7:30 PM. President David Lerret, KU0R started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Dave called for visitors. Greg, AD4GO introduced his friend Mike James. Ira Bicham, K8HRR announced that he was a member for over 30 years and had been absent for the last few, but now is back.

Dave stated that there was no club meeting minutes published for the November meeting. He proposed tabling the approval of the minutes for now. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

New Treasurer Larry Hendersin, KK4WDD reported we have \$2699.14 in the club account, \$1274.83 in the equipment fund and \$48.24 in cash.

Next Dave reported for the Technical Committee. We have a completed filter rack for the 37 repeater. We also received a donation

of a work bench there at the site. Chris Durso has the repeater for alignment and parts for the controller are on their way. Its hard to tell which feed line is ours and we want to do a sweep on the feed line with a dummy load on the other end.

Emergency Coordinator, Stan, KJ4NUV reported that on Jan 11 at 9am to 11am the BEARS vehicle will be on display at Button Park. He also said that the North Net is using 147.48, simplex. The Central Net was activated twice since last meeting, once for the rocket launch and also for the tornado drill January 6<sup>th</sup>, with 12 check ins.. Greg, AB4GO, Red Cross representative, reported on the tri-band antenna and tower. We have had trouble getting the tower erected because of insurance issues, and two trees that recently died, so a tree removal company is coming to remove them. We need volunteers to lower our dipole antenna this Saturday at 10 AM so that the tree company can cut the trees.

On new business, Armando, KN4JN announced that he will be taking over the newsletter editing and

would welcome any news or articles.

Curtis, KK4PYP said that we have a new net that does not talk about politics or religion on the 147.36 repeater at 8pm on Monday night. Only ham radio stuff will be discussed. Curtis also announced that he will start a county wide newsletter having to do with ham radio activities. Also, the club recognized Jerry, KJ4IMP for his efforts with the PCARS newsletter that we receive and disseminate to IRARC.

. Ryan KM4EJW announced that he will do a presentation to the youth forum at hamcation in Orlando next month.

Dave then presented his view of the direction the club should follow: continue community and public service; support other clubs as well as our EC; grow the hobby with new hams; support the Education committee which Dave, K4UZM is now running.. We also need to raise funds for equipment maintenance.

Next, Armando, KN4JN gave a presentation on radio propagation. Afterwards, there was a motion to adjourn and the meeting closed at 20:52.

**Respectfully Submitted  
Steve N4UTQ Secretary**

## HAPPENINGS

February 12, 2016 |

ARRL National Convention  
(Orlando HamCation®) Location:  
Orlando, FL

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamcation.com>

January 15-16

Southern Florida Section Convention, Fort Myers, Florida

February 27: WCF Section Technical Conference, Tampa, Florida.

March 12 : MS Walk at Church of Viera.

Editor's Note:

Send comments about the Newsletter or to contribute information or articles to the Editor's email address:

[olardelga@aol.com](mailto:olardelga@aol.com).

## "ARRL National Parks on the Air" Event to Mark National Park Service Centennial (From the ARRL Letter)

Amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016. "As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio own 100th birthday," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. NPOTA will

will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units. The program will have two participation tracks – Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as

possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles.

Complete details on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website.



## ON THE AIR

### CONTESTS

- January 2016
- 1 Straight Key Night
  - 2-3 RTTY Roundup
  - 3 Kids Day
  - 30-1 January VHF Contest
- February 2016
- 8-12 School Club Roundup
  - 20-21 International DX – CW

### Events:

In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016. (See above story)

### DXpeditions:

South Sandwich Island—  
January 17-27 call VP8STI

South Georgia Island—  
February 1-11 call VP8SGI

Falkland Islands—  
February 20-28 call VP8IDX

Also look for VP8IDX/MM during February.

Web site: [www.intrepid-dx.com/VP8/index.php](http://www.intrepid-dx.com/VP8/index.php)

Palmyra Dxpediton January 11-26. Callsign K5P. More info at website [palmyra2016.org](http://palmyra2016.org).

There is increasing activity on the LF frequencies. This blog has information on recent activities by Canadian amateurs.

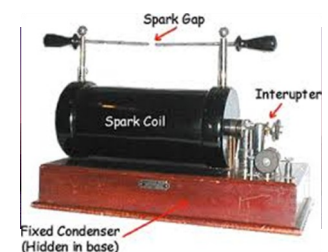
[http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/630\\_m\\_activity](http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/630_m_activity)

## A Brief History of Amateur Radio Call Signs –Part 1 by Armando Delgado, KN4JN

Following Marconi's first successful transatlantic radio transmission in 1901, Americans developed a fascination with radio, or wireless, as it was initially called. During the ensuing years many Americans, particularly young people, became involved in radio mostly by building their own stations. These amateurs

grew rapidly in number and within a decade reached into an estimated number of 10,000. During this initial decade radio made significant technical advances and attracted the attention of the US Navy, that believed the future of radio was primarily for maritime operations. The Navy wanted to dominate

radio communications and control radio transmissions in the USA. They vigorously lobbied Congress to that end and consequently developed a conflict with other radio operators, particularly the budding amateur community.



Spark gap transmitter .

## A Brief History of Amateur Radio Call Signs—Part 1 by Armando Delgado, KN4JN

With an increasing amateur radio population, the clashes between the Navy and hams became more intense, fueled by a series of incidents in which radio listeners, mostly teenagers, intercepted naval transmissions and reported them to local newspapers who published sometimes embarrassing stories.

This feud came to a head in 1912 after the sinking of the HMS *Titanic*. This terrible accident became a *cause célèbre*, particularly since the new medium of radio, which was now part of all important sailing vessels, played a crucial role in the event. The public became fascinated with the famous people involved in the tragedy, and the newspapers, eager to provide every bit of information they could get, turned to amateur operators, who were more than willing to show their skills in intercepting maritime traffic. Unfortunately, the survivors of the disaster were not thrilled with their personal information being in the public domain and a scandal resulted in which the Navy and commercial operators vying for control of the maritime radio traffic promptly pointed a finger at amateurs. The outcry was for government control of the airwaves.

At this time, radio transmissions were not regulated, so that there were no official

identifiers, such as call signs. Those involved in radio activities developed their own identification nomenclature, and since the only mode of transmission at this time was Morse code, these identifiers were generally short, mostly consisting of the initials of a person's name or town where they lived.

Congress passed the Radio Act of 1912 to be administered by the Commerce Department. This law required all radio operators to be licensed. It also limited radio transmitting power to less than 1 KW, and transmissions to wave lengths less than 200 m. The law also divided the mainland USA into nine regions, or call areas. Call signs consisted of the area number followed by two letters, like 1AA.

Things went well for amateur radio until the United States entered World War I in 1917. No sooner was war declared than the government revoked all radio licenses and gave the Navy complete control of all radio transmissions in the country. The armistice signed in November, 1918 brought peace, but the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, insisted that he would not relent control of radio communications until a peace treaty was signed, which did not happen until June, 1919. Hams did not operate again until the end of 1919, almost one year after the end of the conflict. Since amateur licenses were revoked at the onset of the war, all hams had to reapply for their li-

censes and were given new calls, but still under the same initial format.

Given that the initial format of amateur call signs consisted of only two letters, the number of available calls soon ran out, requiring the addition of a third letter.

Unfortunately, there was no international agreement on call signs at the time and hams from many countries used the same format as the Americans, so that as the number of operators increased and radios improved in performance, it was not uncommon for two operators from different countries to have identical call signs. American hams used their initiative and ingenuity to add an unofficial designator to their calls using a "u" to designate United States. This designator preceded the call sign. Other countries' hams soon adopted the same format and American hams then added the letter "n" to designate North America, so that for example, 1AA would send nu1AA.

The problem of similar call signs plagued all radio operations, specially the maritime services that utilized shore stations for ship contacts and navigation, creating a serious navigation hazard. Because of these problems, in 1927 an international convention in Washington reached an agreement giving each country a unique letter prefix. The United States received the letters K, N, and W. The W prefix designated stations in



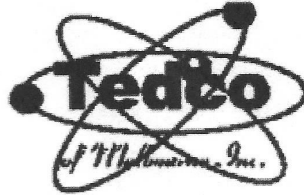
Crystal radio receiver.

the continental United States, the K stations in the American territories, and the N was reserved for the Navy. These prefixes were simply added to the existing call signs, so that 1AA became W1AA. The call signs for the territories used the area call number of the mainland area facing that particular ocean. Thus the Pacific territories used the number 6, being off California, and the ones in the Caribbean coast of Florida used the number 4. Individual islands or countries also used an individual prefix letter designating their territory. For example, Hawaii would have the prefix KH6, Wake Island KW6, Puerto Rico KP4, and so forth.

End of Part 1

Part 2 continues next month.

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