



INDIAN RIVER ARC

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

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 3

SPURIOUS EMISSIONS

MARCH, 2016

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ARMANDO DELGADO
KN4JN

President Dave KU0R, called the meeting at 1930 hours. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, visitor Carmen Sheldon, initially licensed in 1956, is getting his old call sign back. Another visitor was John Wallace, friend of Rich KI4UZI.

Dave called for people in need. Curtis KK4PYP reported needing an amplifier.

February meeting minutes were approved. Treasurer report: general fund, \$3590.96 and equipment fund, \$1276.75 plus \$118 in cash. Vice President Viron N4VEP, was not present to give his report and was reported to be on vacation scuba diving. Dave reported that all repeaters are operating and 37 is operating in FM only mode; the 88 is in dual fusion mode. Still need to figure out what's wrong with the 37 repeater.

The MS walk will be on March 12th at Church of Viera and we still need volunteers at 730am. Should be done by 11am. QRP Group on the 19th, no location yet. April 30 JDRF beach walk which is a lot of fun. March 26th, TARC tailgate at Fox Lake Park in Titusville. Brad KW1P told the group that PCARS is having an estate sale this Saturday, March 5.

Stan KJ4NUV, our Emergency Coordinator, announced that since he is moving to Myrtle Beach. Larry Jasman WD5CKN is taking over the Emergency Coordinator post and Armando KN4JN is taking over the NTS Net. Dave confirmed Larry to be the new EC.

Greg AB4GO reported for the Red Cross that this Saturday we will have a work party to remove the radio out of the old ERV and then install it on the van. Also we want to relocate the 80/40 fan dipole. We will meet at Mailbu's for lunch at noon. The antenna is stuck in the tree and is likely to be damaged on removal. Dave K4UZM recommended replacing the antenna with an alpha delta. We decided to wait until we try to remove the old antenna to make a purchase decision. Dave called for a commitment to buy an antenna and was reminded that the board has the authority to spend up to \$200 without a general vote.

MS Walk details followed the antenna discussion and the directions to the church were discussed. This year we will not locate next to the blaring loudspeakers. The Google earth view was displayed. The walk path will be the same as last year. Next we did the 50-50 drawing and the winning ticket was found to be in Dave KU0R's possession.

Dave, the speaker for the night, began the presentation by showing a block diagram of the 37 repeater. They want to put SAR net onto the repeater and move the Echolink input to the 220 receiver. Steve is not going to volunteer his 220 radio for the Echolink input. The repeater is capable of dual FM and digital fusion but is currently in FM only mode. Running in dual mode requires a long time to key up. The power output of the repeater is a sore point as Yaesu derates it to 20 watts at 100% duty cycle; however, our external amplifier puts out 70 W and draws 25 amps. Our repeater has both 2m and 440 capabilities with cross band repeat ability. The external controller is needed because the internal controller is very limited in capability and it locks up under certain commands and you lose all remote control.

The duplexer shows better than 80db isolation. An isolator protects the power amplifier. The antenna is up at 300 feet and the TDR has an as yet unexplained reflection and the repeater performance appears to be less than expected. Dave K4UZM suggested that one of the folded dipoles on the 37 antenna is pointed in the wrong direction. Rich KI4UZI reported working the 88 machine from the Sebastian Inlet bridge.

The 37 also has a 440 antenna for control. Dave's talk wound up around 8:26 PM and further discussion ensued about replacing that repeater antenna.

A motion to adjourn occurred at 8:33 PM and was moved and approved.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve N4UTQ

HAPPENINGS

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR) invites applications for the 2016-2017 academic year for the 46 scholarships it administers. Applicants must hold a valid Amateur Radio license and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical

school. Applicants attending schools outside the US must provide a brochure describing the school. Students do not apply for specific scholarships; each application will be considered for all of the scholarships for which the applicant is qualified. In order to be considered for the Chichester and QCWA

scholarships, applicants must obtain the appropriate recommendations. Applications must be submitted by April 15, although applicants may edit their applications until May 7.

March 19 is the next QRP outing. Check their web site for location.

HAPPENINGS

Saturday, March 5, Dwaine KM4HCN, Sandy AK4BZ, Curtis KK4PYP, Don W1DBV, Ernie K1CPO, Greg AB4GO and Steve N4UTQ rallied at Malibu's for lunch and then executed the activities at the Red Cross facility that Greg had requested. The radio and antenna was removed from the ERV and the 80/40 dipole was extricated from the tree, damaging it as expected. The 80/40 dipole was then repaired, tested and new ropes were installed to raise it back into the trees. Following the antenna raising it was tested with the Kewood

2000 and some contacts were made in the International DX Contest.

Remember: MS-Walk, March 12 at the Church of Viera.

There is increasing activity on the LF frequencies. This blog has information on recent activities by Canadian amateurs. <http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/630mactivity>.

From The Ares E Letter, January 20, 2016:

Tips for Beginning Net Control Operators:

Here in northwest Ohio, we have acquired many new hams and encourage them to operate as net control station (NCS) for various routine nets to gain them experience, providing us

with a pool of competent net controllers in the event of an emergency/disaster. Here are some of the basic tips we convey to our novice net control stations for a smoothly running net:

- Get a glass of water or something to drink.
- Make yourself comfortable. Sit in a good location with plenty of room on a desk or table to write.
- Have a good writing instrument and a back-up along with an extra piece of paper in case you need to jot down notes.
- Take your time; go at your own pace. Remember, you are in control of the net and the frequency.
- Don't worry about making mistakes; there are no mistakes to be made.
- To handle the crowd that is trying to check in, you will develop your own way.
- Stop stations from checking in ("Let's hold it for a minute") until you are caught up.
- Weak stations and stations who give their call signs too fast, are always a problem -- skip them at first. Go back later for repeats.
- Write your log as you see fit. You are the one that has to read it.
- Headphones are a good idea -- they help you focus on what you are hearing and help keep you from getting distracted. As I mentioned before, there are no mistakes, only experience. When you've finished the net that is what you will have. -- Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, Ohio

ON THE AIR

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DMØMORSE is QRV during all of 2016 to commemorate the 225th birthday of Samuel F.B. Morse. QSL via bureau.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H44MS from January 19 to April 14. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R44YETI is QRV until March 31 during the Russian Yeti Expedition. QSL direct to RL5G.

ARRL International Dx Contest March 5-6. (Starts Friday evening).

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Paul, G8AFC is QRV as 3B8/G8AFC from the north coast of the island in Pereybere until April 6, 2016. He is active on 20, 10 and 6 meters using SSB between 0900 and 1200z. QSL direct to hom call.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DQ200RHH is QRV during 2016 to commemorate the founding of Rheinhessen, a

major German wine-growing region.

HAITI, HH. Members of the Radio Club D'Haiti are QRV using special event call 4V1TL until April 30 to commemorate the 213th anniversary of the death of General Toussaint Louverture, who was known as the father of the country of Haiti. QSL via W3HNK.

A MOST CHALLENGING AMATEUR ACTIVITY by Armando Delgado, KN4JN

Amateur radio utilizes many modes and activities to engage its participants. Among the most difficult, complex and expensive are Dxpeditons; that is, voyages to operate from locations in the world that lack amateur radio operators. Call signs from these regions are coveted by many hams around the world, primarily because of their rarity, but also as additions to the sought-after DXCC awards. Prefixes from some of these sites may

appear in the ham bands once or twice in a generation, so activating those places makes them much desired commodities.

Rare locations become so owing to two principal factors. One is that the region is remote and uninhabitable, like so many islands in the far south fringes of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, generally bordering the poles. These locations as a rule

are difficult to reach, making their realization both dangerous and expensive. Many, likewise, are reachable only on certain seasons of the year, their surrounding waters and grounds covered by ice most of the time.

The other causes of scarcity are administrative or political. Places like North Korea have no licensed amateur radio operators and will not

Allow foreigners to activate radio stations, even for brief periods of time. In other locations, conservation or security issues impede access to those territories. A case in point is Navassa Island, a United States territory in the Caribbean Sea located between Jamaica and Haiti. This remote piece of land, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Services and sporting the prefix KP1, was

A MOST CHALLENGING AMATEUR ACTIVITY

activated early in 2015 after a hiatus of about 10 years since the previous amateur activation of the island. Because of the unique fauna and flora of the island, the USFWS restricts who can set foot on the place.

In recent years, Dxpeditions are increasingly common, occurring a few times a year, partly because of improvements in radio equipment, now sturdier and lighter in weight, and partly due to the ease of transportation to these sites. Yet the inaccessibility of these settings makes them expensive to reach and difficult to inhabit. Expeditioners will invariably suffer days of deprivation and hardship while trying to operate their radios 24 hours straight for consecutive days. But these folks suffer the hardships because they are passionate, dedicated, top notch operators who love what they do.

Working these Dxpeditions is also a challenge for the hams at home who want to contact them. It takes skill, perseverance, the right propagation conditions and a bit of luck to make a successful contact with one of these operations. One piece of good news is that the exchange is very brief, usually just a signal report. Generally, these stations run split frequencies, listening up from their transmitting frequency 1-2 KHz in CW and 5-10 on phone and RTTY, in order to manage the pile ups that ensue. To work one of these stations requires a lot of listening, switching between the listening and transmitting frequencies to discern the operator's pattern of response and the precise listening frequency, which invariably changes every few minutes, depending on the intensity of the pile up. Once their listening frequency is obvious, timing and patience become the secrets of success. And success is highly rewarding. There is nothing like making that contact and finding your call sign in their log. Even more rewarding is working them in

multiple bands. So when the next Dxpedition comes around turn on your radio and go hunting, you will not regret it.

Of course, the first step is finding when the Dxpedition will take place and what frequencies they will utilize. QST will announce most of these operations months in advance. They also will make announcements in their weekly email reports, *ARRL Letter* and *ARRL Dx Report*, as the date of activation draws near. These reports do not give details of operations, but usually provide call signs, dates and web page information that will have all the details. Other means of finding these operations are spotting nets and sites like Dxwatch.com that provide information in real time activity on the bands. By checking the spotting net once the Dxpedition goes into effect, it is possible to locate the bands and frequencies they are using and the localities they are contacting, which will much depend on frequency, propagation, and time of day.

After making a contact, hams can confirm it by checking the log of the Dxpedition at their web site or by checking Clublog.org. Most Dxpeditions register with this free web site that manages dx contacts. The site also keeps tabs on dx activities and has much logging and propagation information.

Keep your eyes and ears open for these challenging events. They are worth the effort.



W1AW CW PRACTICE TRANSMISSIONS

7 PM EST) Slow CW : Mon,
Wed, Fri

7 PM EST Fast CW: Tue, Thu

FREQUENCIES:

1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475,
18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675,
147.555



Send comments or contributions to the newsletter to the editor's email address:

olardelga@aol.com



MISCELLANEA From the ARRL Letter

If you are missing Alaska to complete WAS, here is an opportunity. The "RST" stations will take to the airwaves in February and March from several locations in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, with members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) at the helm. All call signs will have "RST" suffixes: KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, and VYORST.

The idea is to further promote Amateur Radio in that part of the world.

The event gets under way on February 15 at 0001 UTC and it continues THROUGH March 27 at 2359 UTC. Exchange signal report and state/province. (The NCDXA RST stations will send town or city.)

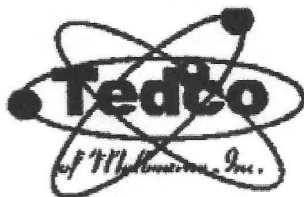
All modes on 160 through 6 meters will be used, and SWLs are welcome to participate. The object is to work or log (SWL) as many NCDXA "RST" stations as you can from their different locations. Work/log each "RST" station only once per QTH/band and mode. Cross-band, cross-mode, or remote operating is permitted.

Attached is a picture of me and VE's celebrating my successful passing of Amateur Extra exam Sunday, February 28th at Veterans Center.

Pictured left to right are Larry Hendersin (KK4WDD), Don Vargas(W1DBV), Dave Slawson(K4UZM), Bob TRAPNELL (KM4LLW), and Porter Cummings(WA4WW)
Thanks!

Bob TRAPNELL

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