



**INDIAN
RIVER ARC**

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

VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 5

SPURIOUS EMISSIONS

MAY, 2017

CLUB MINUTES

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ARMANDO DELGADO
KN4JN

The meeting began at 7:30 PM with the pledge of allegiance. President Dave KU0R was not able to make the meeting so Vice President Viron, N4VEP ran the meeting. Following the pledge, visitors were recognized. There were no visitors.

The membership recognized new member Tom Jay, W4HXR. The meeting minutes appeared in the April newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April minutes. They were approved by acclamation. Larry KK4WDD reported that we have \$2112.25 in the checking account and \$1277.11 in the Equipment Fund. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report for audit and the Treasurer's report was accepted and approved by acclamation.

Dave K4UZM reported that the power amplifier failed on the 37 machine. The 37 repeater is in service at a lower power output. A motion was made to fund the replacement of the power am-

plifier; a second was received and the motion was approved by acclamation. Larry WD5CKN reported for the EC. On Wednesday there was a meeting at the EOC to establish better communication between BEARS and the county. Since the deal with the city of Rockledge fell through, the BEARS1 vehicle needs a new home and there is still a need to find a place for Central Net. Ricky Deluco, K4JTT resigned as County EC and Mark Peterson, WL2AA will be acting County EC. Next Thursday morning there will be a county wide emergency exercise. Two volunteers need to be deployed to shelters. Les, W9BCH will become Central EC when such time an IRARC meeting is held with President KU0R in attendance to officially appoint Les. Brad KW1P reported that Hams Clubs Online sent an email about security changes. Mark, WL2AA called for volunteers for Thursday's morning test/exercise and several volunteers raised hands.

Greg, AB4GO reported for the Red Cross and informed the group that Brevard Emergency Management has taken over operation of all the shelters that the Red Cross used to manage.

Field Day: The crowd was offered a choice of Field Day locations. Options were the Red Cross or the Club House on SR3. A show of hands approved Field Day at the club house. We will run 3A: one phone station, one CW station and one digital station.

Old business: None

New Business: None

The 50-50 drawing showed the winning ticket to be in the hands of Shannon, KG4LHG. Following the conclusion of the business meeting a video was played showing a guided tour of the dome above the Arecibo Dish antenna.

After a motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM by unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve N4UTQ
Secretary

HAPPENINGS

From the ARRL:

The Amateur Service will officially get two new bands in the near future. The FCC has adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio access to the 630 and 2,200-meter bands, with minor conditions. A *Report and Order (R&O)* was released on March 29. The new rules become effective 30 days following publication in *The Federal Register*. The R&O, which

also addresses several non-Amateur Radio issues, allocates the 472-479 kHz band (630 meters) to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band (2,200 meters). The R&O also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license. More details

soon, on the ARRL website.

The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

<http://hamvention.org/about/hamvention/>

The International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System March newsletter reports that a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst system radar "foghorn" signal is being heard again on both 40 meters (jumping between 7,128 and 7,187 kHz) and on 20 meters (14,218 kHz). The signals are 10 kHz wide with burst durations of 3.8 and 7.6 seconds. Also, a "numbers" station said to be

HAPPENINGS

from the Ukraine SZRU intelligence agency was reported on March 30 on AM (female voice) on 14,212 kHz.

"Grounding" is the topic of the last episode of the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast.

"End-Fed Antennas" is the topic of the latest episode.

[Radio DARC](#) -- the shortwave broadcast program of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club in Germany ([DARC](#)) -- has announced plans to broadcast six programs during the 24th Inter-

national Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) [Conference](#), September 16-22 in Landshut, Germany. *Radio DARC* is the weekly magazine of the German Amateur Radio Club for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, with three broadcasts on 6,070 kHz for Europe. Preliminary Schedule: Sunday, September 17 through Friday, September 22, 2017
1730-1800 UTC: 13,775 kHz @ 300 kW for Africa
1730-1800 UTC: 9,790 kHz @ 100 kW for eastern Europe / Russia / Middle East
1800-1830 UTC: 6,070 kHz @

100 kW for central, northern, and southern Europe
1800-1830 UTC: 9,540 kHz @ 100 kW for western Europe

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet digipeater system is again operating on VHF -- 145.825 MHz. Packets digipeated in a valid APRS format via the ISS system and picked up by an internet gateway station are documented on the "[Amateur Radio Stations heard via ISS](#)" page.

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests on Saturday, May 13 to mark the 66th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD). Armed Forces Day is May 20, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event will take place a week earlier in order to avoid schedule conflicts with those attending Hamvention.

Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the US Army MARS website.

<http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>

ON THE AIR

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DM150HSM celebrates the 150th anniversary of the University of Applied Sciences at Mittweida and is active until the end of June. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly SSB, and some CW and PSK. QSL via DK0MIT.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Dane, S53T is staying here until the end of 2019 and is active as J28ND. QSL via S57DX.

JAPAN, JA. The Japan Ladies Radio Society (JLRS) celebrates its 60th anniversary with the call 8N60JLRS until the end of March 2018. QSL via bureau, JQ6FQI, direct.

ERITREA, E3. Zorro, JH1AJT will be joined by DJ9ZB, E21EIC and RA9USU, from May 19 to 29, on the air with the call signs E31AA and E39DI. Look for them on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JH1AJT.

MALI, TZ. Denis, F8DAK is QRV as TZ6BB from Bamako and is here for about 18 months. Activity is on 20 meters. QSL to home call. In addition, Jeff, TZ4AM is QRV from Bamako. He is active on the HF bands, and possibly on 6 meters as well. QSL to W3HNK.

SWITZERLAND, HB. Special event station HB600NVF is QRV until the end of 2017 to mark the 600 years since the patron saint of Switzerland Niklaus von Flue was born. QSL via HB9JOE.

JAPAN, JA. Special event stations 8J4VLP, 8J6VLP, 8J8VLP and 8J9VLP are QRV [until June 30](#) to commemorate World QRP Day [on June 17](#). All these stations will be active on the HF bands using 5 watts. QSL all calls via bureau.

[VOACAP.com](#) has [a section](#) where you can plug in your grid locator, and get a series of charts predicting propagation for current and upcoming DXpeditions.

Battle of Coral Sea Special Event May 13, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250; PSK31 on 14.707. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship Radio Room, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101.

Learning CW by Armando Delgado, KN4JN

Prior to 1990 anyone seeking an amateur radio license had to learn Morse code. The entry level license at the time was the Novice license, which required 5 WPM code proficiency. This license allowed hams to operate CW in narrow segments of the 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters band. Those who wanted to expand their reach had to get a General license, which allowed voice operations and a broader band access, including the 20 meter band, which was inac-

cessible to the Novice licensees. The General license required 13 WPM code proficiency. Unfortunately, many hams stopped using CW once they obtained phone privileges and lost their code proficiency.

The good news is that the human brain never totally forgets the code skills. It is like riding a bicycle; it never

goes away. Even after many years without using CW, most operators will regain their baseline skills after a few weeks of regular practice; probably, half the time required for someone learning the code for the first time. The other piece of good news is that after reaching their previous baseline, most code re-learners will be able to quickly advance to

higher proficiency with continued practice much faster than those learning anew.

Of course, those who never learned the code will need to undergo the full learning process. There is no shortcut for that; however, some folks will learn faster than others. The average individual will require about 4-6 weeks of regular practice to achieve 5 WPM. At this speed it is possible to have

Learning CW

QSOs. Most fast operators will slow down for a beginner, so this should not be a concern. Achieving QSOs is critical because it reassures the ham that he is learning and that his code skills work. It also provides a level of practice and learning that cannot be obtained with rote listening to practice tapes and other code learning tools. The mental requirements to learn the code are motivation, perseverance and patience. Without the first one the others will soon go away, and getting on the air and practicing the new skills is the best way to maintain that motivation.

The biggest hindrance to learning the code is oversimplifying the learning requirements. We all have heard the stories of folks who can copy code in their heads while carrying on a conversation. These anecdotes may lead some to think that with a little practice they also will be able to achieve this same feat. What the anecdotes usually ignore is the fact that those folks actively operated CW for many years on a regular basis, many times in a professional capacity. It is like watching Tiger Woods play golf and expect to play at his level after a couple of lessons. That is not going to happen, at least not for the average person.

The code learning process is slow because the brain has to first learn the sound of each character and then, with lots of repetition, associate it with the particular letter. This cannot happen overnight. Yet, by printing the character it is possible to begin to copy slow code fairly rapidly. Fortunately, the regular QSO is short and follows an assigned format that expedites communications at any level of proficiency, but most so for the beginner.

The first step in learning the code is to memorize the Morse alphabet. Once the student is familiar with the correct sound of the letter, he should proceed to learn by rote each letter of the alphabet in Morse. This process does not require any device since it is a mental exercise, and can be done at any time or place. But it is critical that the sound learned is the correct one, and it would not hurt for the student to periodically recheck its accuracy by listening to those sounds from a learning device.

After the student can recite the alphabet forwards, backwards and using random characters in Morse in his mind without mistakes, then he will be pleasantly surprised at how quickly he begins to recognize the letters while listening to a transmission.

The next step is to get on the air as soon as possible using a straight key. Transmitting requires a little practice, but once the mind knows the code, it takes little time to produce the correct sounds. Practicing with a key off the air also reinforces the code learning process.

Of course, to get on the air requires an HF radio with all the paraphernalia, and the proper license; although, Technicians should remember that now they can operate CW in the General class CW segment of the 80, 40, 15, and 10m bands, a new privilege added in the amateur licensing changes of 2006. And if an HF rig is lacking, don't forget the club has HF radios and anten-

nas available to the members at the club house.

The technical hurdles overcome, the next difficulty for the beginner is fear. For some reason most people become terrified of microphones or keys when it comes time to transmit. Perhaps it is fear of making mistakes, but in reality these fears are unfounded. The only way to overcome them is to go ahead and get on the air.

Contests are another great CW learning tool. Just listening to the callsigns is an excellent practice. Even if achieving contacts be difficult, the trying will be good practice. And there are contests designed for the beginners, such as the Rookie Roundup that has a CW portion, this year in December.

Operating CW is an enjoyable and gratifying skill, but like all such skills, it requires effort to acquire.



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,
147.555.

W1AW QUALIFYING RUN

Local (Eastern)

Date	Time	Speed
May 2, 2017	7PM	10 - 40 WPM
May 19, 2017	9AM	10 - 35 WPM

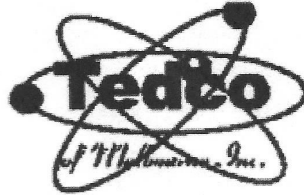


Editor's Note:

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

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