

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

December 2016

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ARRL Expands Initiative to Fire Up Collegiate Amateur Radio Club

A growing number of campus radio clubs and student radio amateurs have begun to share ideas and suggestions on the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative (CARI) Facebook page, which is aimed at sparking renewed participation, activity, and idea-sharing among this special sector of the Amateur Radio community. The now-expanded initiative stemmed from two well-attended ARRL New England Division Convention forums for radio amateurs attending college, one hosted by the Amateur Radio clubs at Harvard (WIAF) and Yale (W1YU). As the forum

explained, the activity level at campus Amateur Radio club stations can vary wildly from one year to the next, as students graduate and newcomers arrive.

“The most common difficulty stems from uneven interest over time,” said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, in his “Second Century” editorial, “Cheers for College Amateur Radio: Sis-boom-bah!” in December 2016 *QST*. “Even the strongest leaders in college Amateur Radio graduate every 4 years, sometimes leaving their clubs without adequate continuity or leadership succession.”

Gallagher pointed out that “recognized” student activities require *students* in order to maintain that status. However, even officially recognized college club stations may find themselves at the mercy of administrations in terms of

space for a station and antennas, and some clubs have had to move more than once to accommodate their schools’ space requirements. Issues involving safety and security can also affect college radio clubs.

In a recent post, Kenny Hite, KE8CTL, a graduate teaching assistant at West Virginia University, said the university’s Amateur Radio club, W8CUL, has been unable to participate in recent on-the-air events “due to lack of working equipment and questionable antenna setups,” as he put it. “We are working to identify working equipment/coax lines.” Another poster, Dennis Silage, K3DS, who’s associated with the Temple University Amateur Radio Club (K3TU), said, “A key to a successful and long-running college club seems to be faculty involvement for

stability and recognition.” He invited other CARI participants to check out the club’s website to see what members have been doing.

“It occurred to us that, if college Amateur Radio could galvanize [mutual interests], then colleges might just provide the ideal bridge between youthful interest in the subject and lifelong participation in our community,” Gallagher wrote.

Some ideas are already being suggested, and the Facebook page has spurred communication among an ever-widening network of those involved or interested in Amateur Radio on campus, from students, faculty members, and administrators to college radio club alums. One suggestion has been to harness the competitive nature of colleges to organize operating events — perhaps with “conferences” resembling those for sports — to keep interest alive.

ARRL received permission to rebrand the Collegiate Amateur Radio Operators Facebook group, initially organized by Sam Rose, KC2LRC, as the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative. All collegiate radio amateurs, clubs, and alumni are invited to participate and to get involved in activities that advance the art and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. All suggestions are welcome.



FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Says Amateur Enforcement Will Be Aggressive

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith told a standing-room-only audience at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) in October that, despite FCC cutbacks, Amateur Radio enforcement will not be compromised. Smith spoke for nearly an hour and a half on a variety of FCC issues related to Amateur Radio, and the entire presentation is available on YouTube, thanks to Bob Miller, WB6KWT, and his son Robert, KA7JKP, who recorded the forum. Smith said that with the FCC set to shut down 11 field offices across the country in January, the Enforcement Bureau has reorganized into three US regions, and she does not anticipate any significant issues for the Amateur Service as a result.

“The amateur community will go forward,” she said, noting that amateurs have “an incredible ability to self-police.” In light of the field office closings, she has been working with ARRL to revamp the Official Observer (OO) program.

“We are going to redo the entire program,” she told the Pacificon forum. Given that the field office cutbacks have left the FCC short staffed, the OO program will step into the gap, with OOs serving as the first line of defense in Amateur Radio enforcement, she explained. Working more closely with the OOs, Smith said, will get information on problems to the field staff more quickly, so they can follow up.

Smith praised the OOs for contributing their time and effort to monitor the bands and to alert licensees both to problematic and positive behavior on the air.

She also said the FCC is more aggressively policing the Amateur Radio bands, and she cited the case of an unlicensed individual in New York, who was arrested and assessed a fine for interfering with Amateur Radio repeaters as well as with public service communication systems.

“We’re aggressively going after people who are cutting into your frequencies,” Smith assured her audience. So far this year, she said, the FCC has proposed some \$60,000 in fines to Amateur Radio licensees, for various alleged infractions. She said her office continues to receive complaints about intentional interference, and, she allowed, “Sometimes...okay, maybe all the time...we don’t

get to [these] as quickly as you might like.”

Smith said there are “band neighborhoods” on the bands, and, typically, offenders tend to stick together, and “you can avoid that neighborhood,” she said. “If you know a frequency is a ‘problem frequency,’ don’t go there.” Those who do engage troublemakers on the air, however, become part of the problem. “Spin the dial,” she advised. “Walk away. Don’t allow that ugliness to seep in. Avoid it at all costs.”

“It bothers me that we have amateurs out there who are misbehaving,” she said, “when the bulk of you are incredible people.”

Smith returned as FCC special counsel to Amateur Radio enforcement in June after being detailed to another enforcement assignment for 2 years. Her position is now in the Spectrum Enforcement Division, which, she pointed out, gives her access to field engineers as well as to attorneys, engineers, and analysts in the Division.

She noted that it is now possible to file Amateur Radio-related complaints online and said doing so expedites handling.

Charter Member JOE H VITTITOW, SR W4PIQ SK

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Joe Vittitow W4PIQ.

Joe was one of three remaining charter members of the Mammoth Cave ARC.

Joe Vittitow W4PIQ died Monday December 5 of complications from dementia and strokes.

Joe was born in 1926 in Nelson County KY, near New Haven. He attended parochial schools And joined the Army in 1945 but the war ended about the time he finished training.

He had a variety of electronics careers, retiring as a parts salesman for a distributor in Lexington in 1991. For the next 20 years or so he repaired and sold many antique radios from his home in Lawrenceburg KY. Joe lived in Glasgow for a time in the late 1950’s, working as an appliance and TV salesman for the Kentucky Philco distributor. He was a Charter member and the first secretary of MCARC in 1957.

Minutes – Nov 15, 2016

The meeting came to order at 7:05pm with 18 members and 6 guests present. The guests were Ryan and Micheal Gledhill, Fritz Kullack KM4YSV, Don Whitehead KC2JLQ, Debbi Whitehead KB2WEY, and Tucker Hill. The minutes were approved as printed and the treasurer reported \$10,428.25 in savings and \$8875.01 on hand. It was announced that David Welch K4PL died Oct 29, a memorial service was

held Nov 5 at Glasgow Faith Church.

Repeater committee reported that Bill Kidd is acquiring 300 feet of LDF5 7/8” hardline for us and will help schedule a professional climber for the Bonnieville site. The Glasgow site has major problems with the DB224 2M antenna. We have a DB264 antenna cut for 155 MHz that we believe can be modified for 2M, if this is successful we will pursue a climber to install it at the Hwy 63 site. James W3JBG is helping to get the internet in the clubroom suitable for Echolink; kd4ss will procure a new cable modem and router later this week.

It was noted that we have installed the tower top on the city hall roof, and we will meet Friday Nov 26 to to run new feedlines in preparation for the eventual antenna installations.

Hamfest committee reported all in order for the March 4 2017 hamfest. Johnny Doyle, son of John Doyle K4KLM (SK) has much of John’s equipment on CraigList Springhill TN.

Fritz Kullack KM4YSV was nominated for membership. Next meeting will be the annual Christmas Potluck December 20. Gather at 6, eat at 6:30. Club will provide Ham and Turkey, to be prepared by Herb and Sandy respectively. Members may bring sides, salads, etc. Election of 2017

officers and awards will follow the dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.



ARRL Vows Continued Pursuit of the Amateur Radio Parity Act in the 115th Congress

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, died an unbecoming death as the 114th Congress of the United States drew to a close today. After having passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Over the course of the past year, Sen. Nelson has received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward. Negotiations, which led to an agreement with the national association of homeowner's associations and publicly supported by CAI and ARRL, were brushed aside by Sen. Nelson as irrelevant.

In a final meeting with the Senator's staff earlier this

week, it became clear that no matter what was said or done, the Senator opposed the bill and refused to allow it to move forward. Unfortunately, as the bill did not receive floor time, the only manner in which it could get passed in the Senate would be through a process that required unanimous consent, which means no one opposes the bill.

The legislation will be reintroduced in both houses of Congress after the 115th Session begins in January. We have already been in contact with the sponsors of the bill to allow for an early introduction, which will give us more time to obtain success. We believe that we can get his bill adopted given the fact that we were inches away from crossing the goal line. We will continue to need the support of the membership, particularly in Florida, as we go forward through the next year.



Bouvet Island 3Y0Z DXpedition Identifies Landing Zone

The Bouvet Island 3Y0Z DXpedition Team reports that it has found "a suitable landing zone on Bouvet Island" and identified the apparent "best operating location in the area" for the early 2018 venture. The

proposed site is approximately 600 feet above sea level on the Slakhallet Glacier on Bouvet's northeastern quadrant, the DXpedition team said in a December 7 news release. An on-site inspection upon landing will determine the team's ultimate operating location.

The team has selected Antarctic shelters to house stations, sleeping quarters, and an eating and meeting facility. "These were selected to survive the high winds, precipitation, and temperatures expected on Bouvet," the team said.

The 10 HF beams used on the Amsterdam Island (FT5ZM) DXpedition will be used on Bouvet. Verticals for 160, 80, 60, 40, and 30 meters will be placed to minimize interaction.

Three experienced DXpedition leaders — Ralph Fedor, K0IR, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Erling Wiig, LA6VM — and a large team of operators will activate Bouvet, the number 2 most-wanted DXCC entity. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E in 2007-2008. A dependency of Norway, Bouvet (Bouvetøya) is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic.