

## QRM FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Telles, K6SPP

Finally we have wonderful weather dropped in our lap. In order to take full advantage of it, we should do something out of doors. That would be our booth at the Kootenai County Fair on August 22-26.. This is the second year that we have planned this event. Last year was our first after a long drought. Those of us who were there for one or two shifts had a great time talking up amateur radio with the passing crowds. A fair takes in the atmosphere of a community from the kids' event to the marvelous food offered by the numerous vendors. It is also an opportunity to display KARS, a big secret to most residence of Kootenai County. Disasters and emergency communications have been discussed openly, but a majority of our population hasn't got a clue.

One of the hidden benefits is an opportunity to set up a station or stations in a short time which is only done during our other big event, field day. With the fair, you don't have a large area to operate in, or a space for multitude antennas, nor operating equipment. We have to keep it simple. That's where my VP, Jim Peterson, AD0AZ come in. He will have a sign-up sheet at our August meeting. If you can sign up for a full shift, or half shift, that will be wonderful. I know you will have a good time leaning all about this side of amateur radio. I will not be at the August meeting due to a prior commitment.

In years past we didn't have a void in our summer and spring activities. As of now we have this event, then the Christmas party. In the recent past we held an Ice Cream Social in the closing days of summer. It had been held at the QTH of Bob and Bonnie Kesson. It was more than just Ice Cream. It also had a barbecue attached. Something to think about. But for now, the fair is our next event. Hope you can take a few hours to come to the fairgrounds and participate in a yearly and fun event.

September is the Spokane Hamfest and November is election of officers. The year is going by at lightning speed.

See you at our September meeting. Thanks for taking the time to read this. Jim and I also need your input.

73, Larry Telles, K6SPP

p.s. 73 is singular, not plural.

## KARS July 2018 Minutes

The July 9, 2018 KARS meeting was held at the Search & Rescue Building located at 10865 N Ramsey Rd. Hayden, Idaho.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President Larry Telles (K6SPP).

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Latuseck (KG7UWF).

Attendance: Twenty-three members and three visitors were in attendance.

VE Testing: No tests were taken this evening.

Treasurer's Report Rod Anderson, K7ZBE):

April 2018

Checking	\$973.78
Savings	\$2,527.31
Petty Cash	\$96.63
TOTAL	\$3,597.72

Income: Savings interest (\$0.06), 50/50 Raffle (\$6.00), Memberships (\$58.00), Donations (\$95.00)

Expenses: Industrial Communications - Repeater (\$1,090.60)

Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Lindy Bryant (KE0AZD) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Repeater Report: Rod Anderson (K7ZBE) reported that an equipment order for the new repeater installation was due for delivery on 7/16. The order includes the following equipment: CAD 800 controller, 800 rack enclosure, black box enclosure, editor software, and a remote switch link. The cost for this equipment is \$794.61. Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) has submitted paperwork to the frequency coordinator for a new repeater frequency pair and new link frequencies to tie into the two existing repeaters.

Minutes: Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) moved to accept the June 2018 minutes as written; Dave Boss (KF7YWR) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Hamfest Cancellation: Larry Telles (K6SPP) explained the two reasons that the KARS Hamfest was cancelled this year. 1) The estimated cost for renting the facility was considerably higher than last year. Last year the KARS club paid \$250 for use of the facility from 6 AM to 2 PM and it included the time for setting up the evening before the event. This year, the cost would have been \$675 (for the day of Hamfest) plus \$75 per hour for setup the evening before. There were also going to be some other associated costs, bringing the total to nearly \$1,000. The Club only made \$300 at last year's Hamfest and there were a lot of donations. 2) Only four people volunteered to help with the event.

Field Day: Several of those present gave reports on their experience with this year's Field Day event.

#### Upcoming Events:

North Idaho Fair: August 22-26

Dave Boss (KF7YWR) is helping an individual in Bonner County, who has radio equipment for sale, to coordinate with any interested hams to come to his place for a swap meeting. Contact Dave if you are interested.

Rod Anderson (K7ZBE) mentioned that the KARS banner is missing and may need to be replaced.

Raffle Results: 50/50 \$6.00 Rod Anderson, K7ZBE (claimed).

Membership \$57.00 Dan Walker, N7BRD (not claimed).

Evening Presentation: Michael Glauser (AI7MG) gave a presentation on solar power.

Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) moved to adjourn; Gary Roth (KE7IAT) seconded. The motion passed by member vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**AMSAT OSCAR Number Administrator Bill Tynan, W3XO, Steps Down**

Citing poor health, AMSAT OSCAR Number Administrator - the individual who confers the alphanumeric designators on Amateur Radio satellites - has stepped down from the volunteer post after granting numbers to qualifying applicants for more than 2 decades.

"I want to thank Bill for his many dedicated years of service to AMSAT," said AMSAT President Joe Spier, K6WAO, who named AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, to succeed Tynan.

"Ever since the launch of OSCAR 1 in 1961, it has been traditional for Amateur Radio satellites to carry the name OSCAR - for 'Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio,'" Spier explained.

OSCAR satellites are customarily referred to by hyphenated names, the first selected by the builder, AMSAT-OSCAR 7, abbreviated as AO-7. Spier called OSCAR numbers "a proud tradition of Amateur Radio, one that we hope to keep going for many years to come."

A past AMSAT President, Tynan was licensed in 1946, initially as W3KMV. His requested W3XO in the 1970s because it was the call sign of Washington, DC's first FM broadcast station in the experimental years. Involved in AMSAT-NA from the start, Tynan managed the "The World above 50 MHz" column in *QST* from 1975 until 1992. (ARRL News)

### **ARRL Board Adopts Volunteer Monitoring Program; Official Observer Program to be Retired**

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted the recommendations of the Official Observer Program Study Committee, which would retire the Official Observer (OO) program and institute the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) program. The Board took the action at its July 20-21 meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, instructing that the transition "be implemented as soon as practicable." Under the terms of the new program, current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The Board expressed its appreciation for the OOs and their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

The Board said the action is expected to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands and was undertaken at the request of the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff. Coordination of cases and evidence gathering would become the responsibility of ARRL Headquarters staff, while the FCC will retain the responsibility for final decisions regarding action in specific cases.

The study committee report spelled out the additional steps necessary to launch the Volunteer Monitoring program. Among them would be the appointment of a dedicated Headquarters staff member or an independent contractor working under the direction of ARRL Headquarters to administer the new program and interface with its participants. The Volunteer Monitoring program administrator would, among other duties, create a vetting and accreditation process for prospective Volunteer Monitors. The authority to accredit, appoint, and dismiss Volunteer Monitors would be assigned to ARRL Headquarters staff. Section Managers will continue to be a part of the vetting process for VMs, although they will not have appointment or dismissal authority.

Volunteer Monitor accreditation would be limited to a 3-year term, renewable by satisfying requirements necessary to ensure competency. A new *Volunteer Monitoring Training Manual* is in the final stages of development.

The administrator will create a target for the number of geographically distributed Volunteer Monitors. Preliminary plans would include up to five Volunteer Monitors per ARRL Section and up to 250 Volunteer Monitors overall.

In other duties, the administrator would “develop a rubric or other aid for program participants to highlight offenses and other criteria that the FCC considers a priority,” the motion said. The administrator also would be charged with organizing periodic webinars, highlighting technologies, techniques, and other continuing education topics that would assist, motivate, and better enable Volunteer Monitors. The FCC will be actively involved in the development and presentation of these training opportunities.

The new Volunteer Monitor program would continue to send notices recognizing good on-the-air operating practice. Under the new program, positive or negative operator notices eventually would be sent from ARRL Headquarters, not by individual Volunteer Monitors, in part to maintain their anonymity.

Another function of the Amateur Auxiliary - Local Interference Committees - will continue to be part of the total package, although their work is not directly addressable by the FCC.

The Board directed the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to study the feasibility and cost of developing a centralized, web-based IT system that Volunteer Monitors as well as ARRL and FCC staff could access, in order to maximize the efficiency of administering the modernized program.

The action further authorized ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to terminate the standing *Amended Agreement* between ARRL and the FCC Field Bureau regarding the use of amateur volunteers and execute a new *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* between the ARRL and the FCC Enforcement Bureau. The *MOU* is under final review.

In other action, the Board:

- unanimously adopted recommendations of the ARRL Executive Committee to update ARRL’s *Articles of Association* and *Bylaws* (see the July 2018 issue of *QST*, p. 74, or refer to [Minutes](#) 22-25 of the Board’s July 20-21, 2018, meeting).
- established a 3-month general comment period for the *ARES Strategic Plan* with comments, due no later than October 31, after which the Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG) will present the final plan to the ARRL Annual Board of Directors meeting in January 2019 for consideration for adoption.
- received the preliminary final report of the PSEWG regarding the rollout of the ARES-Connect program, which will be announced in the September issue of *QST*. The Board agreed to obtain additional field input this fall.
- received an update from the CEO Search Committee.
- was informed, as part of the CEO’s report, of current work under way in preparation for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC 2019). The issue of wireless power transmission (WPT) continues to be a concern leading up to the international conference.
- heard greetings from International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, and from Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) President Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA. Both attended as guests of the Board.
- heard the report of the ARRL Foundation from its president, New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, who reported that the Foundation recently approved the award of approximately 80 scholarships totaling some \$130,000.
- accepted and discussed [reports](#) from standing committees as well as ad hoc and advisory committees of the Board.

(ARRL News)

### **FCC Cites Baofeng Importer for Illegally Marketing Unauthorized RF Devices**

The FCC has issued a *Citation and Order* ([Citation](#)) to [Amcrest Industries, LLC](#) (formerly Foscam Digital Technologies, LLC), an importer and marketer of popular and inexpensive Baofeng hand-held transceivers, alleging that the company violated FCC rules and the Communications Act by illegally marketing unauthorized RF devices. The FCC asserts that Amcrest marketed Baofeng model UV-5R-series FM hand-held radios capable of transmitting on “restricted frequencies.” The Baofeng models UV-5R and UV-5R V2+ were granted an FCC [equipment authorization](#) in 2012 to operate under Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio Service (Land Mobile) rules.

“Under § 2.803 of the Commission’s rules, an entity may not market a device that is capable of operating outside the scope of its equipment authorization,” the FCC *Citation* said. “RF devices that have been authorized under Part 90 rules, such as the model as issue, must operate within the technical parameters established in those rules.” The FCC also maintained that the UV-5R 2+ is capable of operating at 1 W or 4 W, while the Part 90 Equipment Authorization limits the power output to 1.78 W.

Amcrest conceded that the units were capable of operating on restricted frequencies but told the FCC that, per discussions with the manufacturer, were “only capable of operating at 1 W, the FCC said. The company instructed the manufacturer to fix the problem and later confirmed with the manufacturer that all Amcrest inventory on order and in the future would operate only on 145 - 155 MHz and 400 - 520 MHz.

While the *Citation* does not mention Amateur Radio, the UV-5R series radios can be programmed in a channelized configuration to function on 2-meters and 70-centimeters. According to the *Citation*, Amcrest had added a warning in its user manuals and marketing and sales materials implying that the UV-5R V2+ could operate on unauthorized and restricted frequencies, including Part 87 Aviation Services frequencies, Part 80 Maritime Services frequencies, and frequencies reserved for federal government use. The FCC said Part 90 radios that permit the operator to use external controls to program and transmit on frequencies other than those programmed by the manufacturer are “generally prohibited.”

Amcrest told the FCC that it had ceased marketing four models in the Baofeng UV-5R series “a few years ago,” but it did not remove them from its website until last February. Numerous online retailers continue selling UV-5R series radios for less than \$25, with some ads indicating that these are “ham” equipment.

Amcrest Industries, LLC, which owns and operates Baofengradio US, is an import, distribution, and marketing company based in Houston, Texas. It also sells hand-held transceivers under its own label.

“While we recognize Amcrest’s efforts to date to achieve compliance with the Commission’s rules, the company must nonetheless ensure the version of the UV-5R V2+ it is marketing operates only on frequencies specified in its Equipment Authorization,” the FCC said in its *Citation*. The FCC directed Amcrest “to take immediate steps to come into compliance with the Commission’s equipment authorization rules and cease marketing unauthorized RF devices in the United States.” Amcrest could face fines of nearly \$20,000 per day if it fails to comply.

(ARRL News)

## **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend Welcomes First-Time Lights**

Marking its 21st anniversary this year, the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend ([ILLW](#)) in August will celebrate Amateur Radio operation at several lighthouses that will make debut appearances in this year's event. So far, 300 [groups or individuals](#) have registered to indicate plans to participate from a lighthouse or lightship during the 2-day operating activity. Newcomers joining the list of perennials include the Ashdod and Mount Carmel lighthouses in Israel; Shabla Lighthouse in Bulgaria; Porthcawl Breakwater in Wales, and Tanjung Datu in Malaysia. Additional newcomers are in Mexico and Cuba, sponsors said.

ILLW is always held on the third full weekend in August. This year, it will get under way at 0001 UTC on August 18 and continue until 2400 on August 19 - 48 hours in all. The ILLW typically attracts more than 500 lighthouse entries in dozens of countries. Registration is not required for participation, but it does let other stations know which lighthouses and lightships will be activated.

Other lighthouses making a first appearance in ILLW include Malarif in Iceland and Akmanrags Lighthouse in Latvia. The Lightship Huron on the St Clair River in Michigan also is a newcomer.

As the ILLW website notes, "August seems to have become the international weekend for lighthouses." In the US, August 7 is [National Lighthouse Day](#), which is marked by Amateur Radio operations at lighthouses during US National Lighthouse Week. In Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend during the third full weekend in August, coinciding with ILLW.

Sponsors stress that the event is *not* a contest - and there are no prizes, certificates, or other enticements to participate. Each station's operators decide how they will operate their station with respect to bands and modes, and participating stations do not have to be on the air for the entire weekend.

Activity does not need to take place inside the structure itself. A Field Day-style setup at the light or other building adjacent to the light is sufficient. Sponsors say the intent of that requirement is to make the station visible to visitors. (ARRL News)

## **Slovenia Gains 60-Meter Band Allocation**

According to the Association of Radio Amateurs of Slovenia ([ZRS](#)), radio amateurs in Slovenia now have a 60-meter band available to them as of July 14. The allocation is 5.351.5 - 5.366.5 MHz, with a maximum EIRP of 15 W, in accordance with the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, with operation on a secondary basis. This band will be available to Class A licensees in Slovenia. - *Thanks to IARU Region 1 HF Manager Tom Kamp, DF5JL, via Southgate Amateur Radio News*

## **Thailand Reported to Have the Third Largest Ham Radio Population**

The small Southeast Asia nation of Thailand is reported to be the country with the world's third largest population of radio amateurs - a total of 101,763 as of last February, or slightly fewer than California's 106,000 Amateur Radio licensees. The Thai ham radio count represents a drop from a reported high of 247,676 hams in May 2012. Only the US and Japan outrank Thailand in terms of the number of radio amateurs.

Thailand has a population of about 68 million, and the vast majority of the current Thai ham population are Novice operators, which have privileges on 10 and 2 meters. Intermediate and Advanced licensees make up the remainder; both of those classes may operate all bands authorized in Thailand, the only distinction being authorized power. Only in the past 2 years have individuals been able to take the exams for the Intermediate and Advanced licenses. All statistics were included in a [report](#) to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 conference this September in South Korea.

“Contesting is at the heart of Amateur Radio in Thailand, and back in the 1980s, contest participation by [the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand] ([RAST](#)) played a key role in persuading the authorities to grant permission for the activity,” said the report, prepared by Tony Waltham, HS0ZDX/G4UAV. In 1982, the telecommunications regulator at the time had forbidden all ham radio activity while new Amateur Radio regulations were being drafted.

“RAST then applied to operate from a club station in major international contests from an academic campus and, with HF amateur radio operations otherwise forbidden, these repeated requests - which were all granted - meant that Thailand could remain active on the HF amateur radio bands,” Waltham recounted. “And, as it turned out, this participation in international contests would enable HF activities to continue in Thailand for 5 years during the mid-1980s before new regulations were drafted and licensed HF Amateur Radio finally took off.”

Thailand’s late King, Bhumibol Adulyadej, HS1A, was the patron of RAST and inspired Amateur Radio activity in his nation. He died in 2016.

Waltham said in his report that HF activity in Thailand has increased steadily over the past few years, and the current Thai telecoms regulator, the NBTC, “has been very supportive of Amateur Radio.” — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News for some information*