

QRM FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Telles, K6SPP

I hope you have gotten most or all of your projects done. If you haven't noticed Ole Man Winter is coming at a gallop. I have one that I'm trying to sneak in before the ground turns white. But inside the shack conditions should be the exact opposite. I hope that conditions at the November and December are on the side of warmth and positive transition. I am speaking about the 2019 club elections. One of the three members of the nominating committee should be giving you a call. We are looking for new blood to move this organization forward. Some of us old guys make better "Elmers" than officers. None of the jobs are difficult and can be performed without much effort as I am a prime example. It is very rewarding to see the organization move forward with new members and activities. Speaking of activities, we have a good one going on. A large group learning CW is a thing to be proud of. It is the essence of amateur radio in its purest form. Our two instructors are doing a wonderful job.

Also please reserve the second Monday in December. That's the date for our annual Christmas party. Those attending always come away with a smile on their faces and glad they attended. It is one of our social activities of the year.

If you are not doing anything on Thursday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m., the KARS club has an informal coffee and doughnuts get-together in a vacant store front across from JoAnn's Fabric Store in the Silverlake Mall. A bottomless cup and a pastry are only a dollar, and the conversations are free. The subjects we discuss go from soup to nuts.

Hope to see you on Thursday and at the next meeting.

73, Larry Telles, K6SPP

p.s. 73 is singular, not plural

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS)

October 2018 Meeting Minutes

The October 8, 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 7:02 pm by Club President Larry Telles (K6SPP). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Glauser (AI7MG)

Attendance: Thirty members and four visitors were in attendance.

VE Testing: Four people tested and the results were as follows:

Passed Technician 3

Passed General 1

The Treasurer's Report was given by Rod Anderson (K7ZBE):

September 2018

Checking \$ 589.65

Savings \$1,102.42

Petty Cash \$ 83.56

TOTAL

\$1,775.63

Income: Savings interest (\$0.02), 50/50 Raffle (not reported), Memberships (not reported)

Expenses: Rathdrum Senior Center-Christmas Party Reservation deposit (\$50.00)

Jim Petersen (AD0AZ) moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Dan Smith (N6HRT) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Minutes: Rod Anderson (K7ZBE) moved to accept the September 2018 minutes as written; Bob Kesson (K7CGA) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Repeater Committee: Adam Crippen (N7ISP) reported that the equipment has been installed on Mica Peak. The tones are a little different than before due to the controller. The Little Blacktail equipment is being put in the rack and tested. The next step is to install the equipment on the mountain, before the snow flies!

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee consists of three club members. One member is chosen by the Club President, one is chosen by the Club, and the remaining member is chosen by the Board. Steve Murphy (KG7UWB) was chosen by the Board. Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) and Adam Crippen (N7ISP) volunteered for the other two positions.

Annual Christmas Party: Four to five volunteers are needed to plan the Christmas Party. Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) volunteered to provide music and a public address system. The Party will be held during the regular club meeting in December (12/10/2018).

Evening Presentation: Jerry Hart (W7KR) and Frank Krug (KD7FK) presented a lesson on Morse Code.

Raffle Results: 50/50 \$7.00 Rod Anderson, K7ZBE (claimed) Membership \$93.00 Larry Telles, K6SPP (claimed)

Gary Roth(KE7IAT) moved to adjourn; Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) seconded. The motion passed by member vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

New CEO Wants ARRL to Serve All Ages and Amateur Radio Interests

Newly elected ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, is still on the uphill side of the learning curve as he acquaints himself with ARRL Headquarters and the nearly 90 staffers who work there. The New Jersey native arrived at HQ on October 15 and has spent much of his time since meeting with department managers and others to get his bearings, with an eye toward building consensus and aligning people, programs, and services in the same direction.

"I'm still trying to understand what is working and where the challenges are," Michel said. "Once I understand where the challenges are, I need to understand *why*. Before I make any changes in what we're doing, I need to make sure the change is a step in the right direction and for the right reasons, and not kind of a random process."

Michel would like to see ARRL focus on the future of Amateur Radio and not become the redoubt of a particular generation of radio amateur or interest group. He said, "Ham radio shouldn't abandon the old guardians of the hobby, but at the same time, it needs to have new things that appeal to people who have different interests and different passions."

Ham radio appears currently entrenched with opposition often expressed to FT8 and other digital modes and protocols that bend Amateur Radio traditions and conventions, Michel observed. However, as he sees it, technology for the whole of Amateur Radio has been changing, and detractors to advances have always been present. He'd like ARRL to encourage more technological diversity without creating controversy.

"My kick is seeing the technology advance," the former IEEE president and CEO said. "I want to see hams embrace the new technology - as long as we do that in a way that those who *don't* adopt the new technology won't feel abandoned." In his view, the real reason behind the continued enthusiasm for CW "is not the technology; it's the legacy."

At the same time, resources should reflect usage and interest, with respect to the spectrum and with respect to how many pages *QST* devotes to a particular interest area. “Everything should reflect the growth and change, without abandoning the legacy interests.”

Acknowledging the incessant push to get more young people into Amateur Radio, Michel wants to explore ways “to morph some of the League’s processes and services and products into something that would appeal to the newer generation of hams.”

“Young people in general don’t join organizations, but they join causes,” he said. “With that kind of attitude, how do we develop the same kind of ability for people interested in Amateur Radio to self-organize around causes? And if we can design the infrastructure around that, maybe they’ll see value in ARRL and become a new type of member — not one who necessarily comes to ham club meetings once a month but finds the League can facilitate what they want to do.”

Michel said he’s always enjoyed tinkering with ham gear, building it, modifying it, and repairing it, and then making it do something new or different. He concedes that while he has not had an opportunity to do much hamming as he’s moved around with the military and for academic and business pursuits, he’d like to become more active, and he is presently exploring his options as an apartment dweller. As for FT8, he’d like to try it, if for no other reason than the novelty.

Michel said he definitely wants to encourage partnerships with other organizations with which ARRL might share some common ground, including IEEE.

“We can’t do everything ourselves. We have to find partnerships,” he said. Some IEEE operating units would be applicable to Amateur Radio, and he’s already heard from two unit heads that are both hams.

Michel also feels that radio amateurs need to extend their gaze beyond the everyday nuts and bolts of Amateur Radio operating. “What we need to do is protect the spectrum from competition, develop interest in the various facets of Amateur Radio, and not try to pick fights ‘in house,’” he said. “Spectrum is the gold of the 21st century.” (ARRL News)

Bank of Lithuania Gold Coin Features Amateur Radio Satellites

The Bank of Lithuania (Lietuvos Bankas) has released a commemorative gold 5€ coin featuring the country’s LituanicaSAT-1(LO-78) and LitSAT-1 Amateur Radio Satellites.

The two CubeSats were launched to the International Space Station (ISS) on January 9, 2014, and deployed from the ISS on February 28. LituanicaSAT-1 carried a FM transponder and a camera, while LitSat-1 had a linear (SSB/CW) transponder developed by William Leijenaar, PE1RAH.

The face of the gold coin features the Lithuanian coat of arms as a star constellation, with LituanicaSAT-1 and LitSAT-1 on the other side. (ARRL News)

Achieving a “Clean Sweep” is the Brass Ring of ARRL November Sweepstakes

The [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) weekends are nearly upon us. The popular operating events - one for CW and the other for phone - typically attract approximately 3,000 logs combined. For this 77th running ARRL November Sweepstakes, the CW event is November 3 - 5 (UTC), and the phone event is November 17 - 19 (UTC). Each starts at 2100 UTC on that Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC on that Monday. Stations may operate 24 of the available 30 hours. **Logs are due within 7 days after the event is over.** Last year saw 1,275 entries for the CW weekend, while the phone weekend attracted 1,674 logs.

The challenge of SS - or “Sweeps” - is to work as many stations in as many of the 83 [ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada \(RAC\)](#) sections as possible within the 24 available hours. The number of sections worked is a score multiplier. Making a “clean sweep” is the goal of many SS aficionados - working all 83 of the available US and Canadian multipliers, and qualifying for a clean sweep coffee mug. In the 2017 CW event, only 10 operators managed to “work them all.” SSB participants had better luck with 78 clean sweeps. Last year, Puerto Rico (PR) and the US Virgin Islands (VI) were still reeling from devastating hurricanes.

At one time, the most difficult SS multiplier was Northern Territories (NT) in Canada, where J. Allen, VY1JA, in Yukon Territory, often was the only station available. That’s changed, now that the VY1JA station not only has been thoroughly upgraded but is able to be remotely operated (as VY1AAA), although by a Canadian operator, thanks to Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, who plans to be at the helm of VY1AAA again this year for both the CW and phone weekends, operating SOHP. The antenna complement in Yukon Territory is a 4-element quad at 45 feet for 20 - 10, a 2-element phased ground plane array on 40, and a single element ground plane on 80. “J has constantly been working on antennas as time and weather permits, and we should have some more antennas ready for 160 and later contest events,” he told ARRL.

Hull said he prefers to operate CW at or above 32 WPM but will honor any request for him to QRS. He expects to hang out in the bottom 5 kHz of the band or above 40 kHz from the bottom.

“Take a moment to send thanks to J, VY1JA, for the tremendous work he has done to keep it all running,” he urged.

Other hard ones in 2017 appear to have been Alberta (AB), Northern New York (NNY), US Virgin Islands (VI), and Wyoming (WY).

SS is a “domestic” contest with broad appeal, and even stations with modest equipment and antennas can enjoy success. Many stations like to operate in the QRP category (output of 5 W or less), although that challenge is more daunting in this stage of the solar cycle.

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) is the oldest domestic radiosport event (the first was in 1930). The SS contest exchange has deep roots in message-handling protocol and replicates a radiogram preamble. In SS, stations exchange:

A **consecutive serial number** (NR). Operators do not have to add leading zeros on serial numbers below 100.

Operating category — **Q** for Single Op QRP; **A** for Single Op, Low Power (up to 150 W output); **B** for Single Op, High Power (greater than 150 W output); **U** for Single Op, Unlimited, regardless of power; **M** for Multioperator, regardless of power, and **S** for School Club.

Your call sign.

Check (CK) — the last two digits of the year of first license for either operator or station.

Section — [ARRL/RAC Section](#).

“Casual operators are very important to SS, so I would advise that if you come across [operators] who just want to help you out with a QSO, take the time to walk them through the proper exchange sequence and encourage them to work other stations and to submit a log,” said now-retired SS Manager Larry Hammel, K5OT. “Your patience might be rewarded with a motivated op next year!”

The SS *Operating Guide* package, available for [download](#), explains how to participate in the Sweepstakes, including all rules and examples of log formatting. Clubs or public service teams thinking about entering this year will find the guide a useful source for information.

The deadline to submit CW entries is November 12. The deadline to submit phone entries is November 26.

Club Eligibility Lists

A system is in place to submit [club eligibility](#) lists, either by [uploading](#) a file of eligible members or by copying and pasting from a list, right up until the time of the contest - November 3 at 2100 UTC in the case of SS CW, and November 17 at 2100 UTC in the case of SS phone.

[Direct](#) questions to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. - *Thanks to Gerry Hull, WIVE; Larry Hammel, K5OT, and Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.* (ARRL News)

FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 Overhauls Marking Requirements for Short Rural Towers

Thanks to ARRL efforts on Capitol Hill, language in the [2018 Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Reauthorization Act](#), just signed by President Donald Trump, resolves the issue of problematic or preclusive rules affecting some rural Amateur Radio towers. The previous FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 had instructed the FAA to enact tower-marking requirements, similar to those in some state statutes, aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs). These towers are typically between 50 and 200 feet and set up in rural areas, often on short notice.

In the wake of fatal crop-dusting aircraft collisions with METs, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) had recommended that states institute laws, sometimes called “crop duster” statutes, requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop-duster laws exempted ham radio towers, federal regulations dating to the 1996 FAA Reauthorization Act did not, and ARRL had expressed its concerns since.

“There is no evidence whatsoever that even one Amateur Radio antenna below 200 feet has ever been involved in an aviation accident,” ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said. “To impose painting and lighting requirements on Amateur Radio antennas between 50 and 200 feet tall would preclude many, if not most, of the exurban, rural, and, in some cases, suburban Amateur Radio antennas that are and will be sited outside incorporated towns and cities. This would ironically defeat the entire reason such antenna facilities are sited in those environments: because rural and exurban areas are where such antennas are permitted and the few areas where antennas are not precluded entirely by private land use regulations.”

Prior to 2017, per long-established FAA regulations, unless such short radio towers were located within the glide slope of airports or heliports, they were not required to be painted or lighted.

After attempting to address the issue through the FAA, ARRL’s legislative team met with staff members of Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and other lawmakers and their staffs associated with the congressional committees of jurisdiction. Senator Inhofe - himself a pilot - was of the view that the 2016 legislation was excessive and that exemptions should exist for both broadcast and Amateur Radio antennas and support structures. “We worked with our close allies at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), [who were] afraid that this legislation would have a large adverse effect on short broadcast towers,” Imlay recounted. “We also worked with the Association of American Railroads, which has hundreds of short towers along rail lines in rural areas that would have been affected.”

Imlay said Section 576 of the large 2018 FAA reauthorization now requires that the only towers less than 200 feet tall that have to be painted and lighted are meteorological aids and those within the glide slope of an airport or heliport. The remainder of such towers in rural or agricultural areas lower than 200 feet need to only be included in an FAA-maintained database, which will be updated by the owners of such towers.

Imlay credited members of the ARRL Legislative Advocacy team, as well as Senator Inhofe and ARRL’s broadcast and land mobile association partners for getting the language revised in the new, 5-year Reauthorization Act. “We consider this a big success for Amateur Radio,” Imlay said, “and it would not have been possible but for the visibility that has been achieved for ARRL through our active Capitol Hill advocacy for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.” (ARRL News)

Online Fundraising Campaign Backs ISS Radio Upgrades

[ARISS](#) and [AMSAT](#) are supporting a [FundRazr campaign](#) to raise \$150,000 for critical ham radio infrastructure upgrades on the International Space Station (ISS).

“ARISS is in critical need of infrastructure upgrades to ensure that programs such as talking to astronauts in space using Amateur Radio can continue,” ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said. ARISS seeks several upgrades, including new Amateur Radio communication and experiment capabilities, such as an enhanced voice repeater, updated digital Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), and slow-scan television (SSTV) with image uplinks and downlinks in both US and Russian segments; next-generation radio systems that will support easier mode and capability transitions, and a multi-voltage power supply to support present and future radio capabilities.

Bauer points out that ARISS needs to build 10 next-generation radio systems to support the development of on-orbit operations, training, and long-term maintenance. This includes two units for on-orbit use (one unit each for the US and Russian segments), two flight spares, three units for training, one unit for testing, and two units for ground-based maintenance and troubleshooting. - *Thanks to AMSAT News Service via Frank Bauer, KA3HDO (ARRL News)*

WHERE THE LIZARDS ARE QRV

PAUL/ANCHOR: Our final story is about some low-power transmitters making their way through the swamps of the UK. As Jeremy Boot G4NJH explains, they're operating mobile - atop a group of endangered lizards.

JEREMY: Satellites, weather balloons and other more traditional venues for transmitters have just gotten some unusual company: Twenty four sand lizards living in Eelmore Marsh in Farnborough in the UK. Just think of it as “Lizards on the Air” - but without any clever awards scheme.

These lizards are the UK's rarest and, according to a report in the Warrington Guardian, two dozen are now wearing the lightweight radio trackers to help scientists at Marwell Wildlife Zoo follow them and study their behavior. The trackers are not even 5 percent of the creatures' body weight. University of Southampton PhD student Rachel Gardner told the newspaper that the lizards blend in very well with the environment and, as such, would be lost from sight in the dense undergrowth. She said having them wear transmitters will make them easier to follow as they make their way through the habitat. The lizard is found throughout Europe and Asia but has become the focus of conservation efforts in England and Wales where its numbers have been diminishing.

The radio tags are expected to stay in place for a while - or at least until the animals shed their skins at which point one can assume the lizards will be going QRT.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH.
(SOUTHGATE ARC)