



IN-NEWSLETTER

Vol. 43, No. 6

February 9, 2018

Covers the period January 28 – February 3, 2017

Upcoming In-Person Meetings and Events

***2018 ARRL Florida State Convention
(Hamcation)***

February 8 – 11 @ Orlando, FL

2018 Vermont State Convention (Ham-Con)

February 24 @ South Burlington, VT

2018 Southwestern Division Convention

February 16 – 17 @ Yuma, AZ

2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention)

May 18 – 20 @ Xenia, OH

ARRL Audio News

Please listen to the latest edition of the *ARRL Audio News Podcast*, dated February 2, 2018:

<https://www.blubrry.com/arrlaudionews/31094248/arrl-audio-news-february-2-2018?sbe=1>

Chief Executive Office

Reported by Carla Pereira, KC1HSX

Dan Henderson submitted the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting to the Board for approval and Carla Pereira posted them to the website on Friday. The minutes are public and available to all staff and ARRL members.

Please note: Diane Middleton now has a new call sign: **W2DLM**.

Communications

Reported by David Isgur

Communications is working with ARRL's Emergency Preparedness team on the words and graphics for the website that is part of the new ARES Connect volunteer management system. The goal is keep the messaging on pages consistent and to make sure that ARES members understand the value and benefits of this new system.

Michelle and David met with Ed Hare and Bob Allison to put together a plan for creating and launching the "Ask the Lab" podcast. This planning session involved developing a clear focus of who the podcast's target audience would be and a list of responsibilities and assignments. We also established a timeline for the tasks needed to get us to a fall 2018 launch.

David continued working with Bill Morine, N2COP, Roanoke Division Vice Director and Board liaison to the Public Relations Committee, on interviewing candidates to fill vacancies on the Committee.

Among the new additions for February to the Media Hits web page are: a story from Virginia's *Radford News Journal* about an eight-year-old girl getting her technician's license and how she plans to use these skills when she becomes an astronaut. This article also includes an interview with former ARRL President Kay Craigie. Also, from Texas' *Killeen Daily Herald*, there's a good story about activities during Winter Field Day there. You can access these and other stories here: (www.arrl.org/media-hits)

The Second Annual AM Rally Special Event took place over the weekend. Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, and Ken Bailey, K1FUG, set-up at HQ for the event:



Top Social Media Posts:

Facebook: Members of the Warren County New York Radio Club participated in Winter Field Day over the weekend at #W1AW.

(Pictured: Bill, K2MQJ, Glenn, W2BK)

Instagram: Members of the Warren County New York Radio Club participated in Winter Field Day over the weekend at #W1AW. (Pictured: Bill, K2MQJ, Glenn, W2BK)

(Pictured: Bill, K2MQJ, Glenn, W2BK)



Twitter: ARRL #HamRadio Bouvet Island — So Near, Yet So Far Away - The 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition team now at anchor off... <https://twitter.com/i/web/status/959154547829760001>

Field Services

Reported by Steve Ewald, WV1X

With thanks to Diane Middleton and the Controllers Department for providing 2018 Section budget figures, Leona Adams and Steve Ewald were in touch with all Section Managers individually to let them know what their Section budgets are for this year.

As the early February receipt deadline approached for 2017 Simulated Emergency Test reports, several ARRL Emergency Coordinators and Section Emergency Coordinators submitted their activity and after action reports. Steve will be compiling these reports for a QST article later this year.

Lab

Reported by Bob Allison, WB1GCM

ARRL Heritage Museum

Curator, Michael Marinaro, WN1M reports: "As previously reported, we recently received a donation of a straight key used by Howard F. Mason (1ID, 7BU & K7QB) when he served on Admiral Byrd's 1928-1930 Antarctic Expedition that established a base at Little America. Initial examination of the material, provided by Lynn Burlingame, includes notes of interviews with Mason, various renditions of the expedition, including a first edition of the 1930 book, "Little America", by Admiral Byrd and a scrapbook of newspaper articles concerning the adventure. Michael is organizing the material and will be interviewing Lynn Burlingame in preparing to publicize this unique addition to the League's collection. See the key and the Little America radio operators in action in an original film available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-R9PysOaxI> You can also see the 15:00 mark for the first look at the towers erected there.

Lab Staff On-Air Operating

AM Rally – Over the weekend of February 3rd and 4th, Bob Allison participated in the AM Rally, an operating event spotlighting Amplitude Modulation on the Amateur bands. In preparation of the event, Joe Carcia designed and built an 80 and 40 meter dipole, which was erected with the help of Mike Gruber, Ken Baily and Bob Allison. Operating out of the Lab, using the K7DYY transmitter, with the carrier set to 180 Watts, Bob got on the air in the 75 meter AM window at 10:15 AM, with call sign, W1AW. A pileup was soon on frequency, which did not subside until 11:50 that evening. The following day, Bob operated from 9 AM until 10:07 PM. All contacts were made on 75 meters, except for a small handful of stations that were worked in the 40 meter AM window.

A total of 386 contacts were made; none were "59 CT", but unique contacts with helpful technical information shared, with encouragement, as needed. This is more than double the number of contacts made last year (178). The reaction from the AM community has been mostly positive, with advice that we convert the Gates BC-1T AM broadcast transmitter that resides in the Lab to transmit on 160 meters. Bob wishes to thank Joe, Ken and Mike, with support from our CEO, Barry Shelley, for our ability to have a big signal on the air, with broadcast quality audio.

W1AW was heard from Northern New Brunswick, to Florida, to Kansas, to Texas, to Nevada. Bob had a very nice conversation with Bob Heil, K9EID, in Pleasant Hope, MO. Bob Heil thanked the ARRL for spreading the good will and joy of Amplitude Modulation. It must also be noted that Bob Allison contacted a few operators that were using Bob Heil's, "Pine-board" transmitter, featured on January's cover of QST. Also noted, were the many operator who commented that W1AW (in the AM Rally) was their first AM contact and or their first contact with W1AW. Several others commented that they haven't been on AM since the 1960's.

Grid Chase – It was a short work week for Zak. He took the last three days of January off to cap off the first month of the ARRL Grid Chase with a big push—he ended the month with 4029 QSOs on all bands from 160 through 6M (excluding 60M). As of 2/5/18, he has 658 confirmed grids, 1604 total grids, and 2534 LoTW QSL--good enough for #17 worldwide. This was accomplished using a solid state 600W amp, two dozen wire antennas with a maximum height of 40 feet, and a 20 foot flagpole antenna. The flagpole resonates on 30 and loads up better than the dipoles 40 meters. He upgraded from a 2009 Win 7

computer to a refurbished computer running Win 10 during the last week. For \$600 Zak got an Optiplex i7-2600 with 8 gigs of RAM, keyboard, mouse, 24" monitor, and a quality soundcard. It has hardware serial port.

The increase in speed was quite useful on FT8 as he could now call stations as soon as a "73" was received and be decoded by the next station with a reasonable chance of success. Many of the top stations in the grid chase are spending most of their time on FT8—with the JT modes it is easy to figure out whether a station is in a needed grid square. Zak also participated in the AM rally, having short contacts with Bob at W1AW and Clark N1BCG. He also spent some time in a roundtable with Steve WA1QIX, Burt K1OIK, and Steve, KB1VWC

Product Review Testing

Bob Allison, WB1GCM, completed testing of a 2 meter FM mobile transceiver after receiving a replacement control head. The first control head had a component failure during measurements of the receive to transmit turn-around time. Bob also continued working on a software defined receiver that is just a little larger than a USB memory stick.

Radio Frequency Interference

Mike wrote new material and incorporated it into the 27th draft of p1897, the recommended practice for the resolution of power line noise complaints. He also shipped the Lab's RFI locating equipment to Kermit Carlson. Kermit will be investigating several interference problems in the near future. Mike met with Dan Henderson and Ed Hare to discuss a problematic RFI case in California. Thank you to Dan for assisting in this matter.

Laboratory Volunteer Work

Laboratory volunteer, Ray Thornton, W1YFF, completed a restoration of a Johnson Valiant transmitter, which will serve as a backup transmitter for the (Joe Walsh) Valiant transmitter in use at W1AW. Ray also worked on a very rare Hallicrafter's FPM-200 transceiver.

Laboratory Volunteer Martin Ewing, AA6E, helped Media Specialist, Michelle Patnode, with soundbite explaining Radio Galaxies and other Radio Astronomy topics. The Lab is grateful to have an in-house Astrophysicist!

W1AW

Reported by Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

Joe Carcia processed two Qualifying Run certificates and two endorsements. He conducted some tests on the MFJ-1886 Loop antenna that is in for review. Joe updated the web code practice files and their archives. He also put back into visitor operator service a Yaesu FT-2000 H/VHF transceiver. Joe, with Bob Allison, Ken Bailey, and Mike Gruber, installed the 80/40 meter fan dipoles that are to be used in W1HQ/W1INF.

Scott worked on fast and slow code practice texts for the week. He processed eight paper and nine electronic VUCC applications for a total of 1076 credits.

Lifelong Learning & Knowledge (Education)

Reported by Ally Riedel

For the month of January 2018, the Lifelong Learning & Knowledge Department received the following submissions and requests:

Classes: **86**
Instructors/Teachers: **81**
Graduation Kits: **11**

Dates for the 2018 Teachers Institute have been established and instructors have been confirmed for each of the sessions:

TI – 2 – Headquarters – July 9th – July 12th – Instructor: Matt Severin
TI – 1 – Dayton, OH – July 16th – July 20th – Instructor: Larry Kendall
TI – 1 – Headquarters – July 23rd – July 27th – Instructor: Tommy Gober

Application details and agendas are being finalized and will be posted to the website soon.

Radiosport

Reported by Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Paper/Fieldcheck Processing Time	2 weeks
Logbook Processing Time	1 – 2 business days
2018 DXCC Applications	1,109
2018 WAS Applications	357
2018 VUCC Applications	89
2018 WPX Applications	118

Sales and Marketing

Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

Covers the 2-week period, Jan 22-Feb 4

January product sales were \$229,372, falling short of the sales forecast of \$260,545. Net sales were short by \$19,972. Direct sales were \$131,876 (up \$7,600 over Jan 2017); dealer sales were \$97,495 (up \$2,809 over Jan 2017). Many of the sales class categories were softer than forecast this month, including the introduction of the new 2018 *ARRL Repeater Directory* – which was 311 units short on a 2,400 unit first month forecast. Royalties earned on sales of our Kindle e-books were \$6,961 (\$7,500 forecast).

An emailing was sent to the Southeastern Division, promoting ARRL's [expanded presence](#) at Orlando HamCation (Feb 9-11), the second largest hamfest in the US.

Yvette Vinci is assembling a social media calendar covering our department's planning for 2018: publication introductions and promotions, monthly digital *QST* announcements, events, etc. The information will be shared with David Isgur and Michelle Patnode for the overall social media calendar they've created.

The design for a 2018 ARRL Field Day logo has been completed by Sue Fagan and David Pingree, with ideas and input from an interdepartmental team. This year's logo plays-up participation in the International Grid Chase. 2018 Field Day products (t-shirts, pins, mugs, etc.) will be introduced soon, and will begin shipping in March. ARRL Field Day is June 23-24.

Bob Inderbitzen finalized a handful of planning milestones for ARRL's participation at 2018 (Dayton) Hamvention. Our staff travel team has been committed. Hamvention's 2018 theme is "Amateur Radio...Serving the Community" – and we have responded by organizing exhibit and ARRL-sponsored forums, focusing on Public Service Communications. We have also garnered the participation of some key volunteers from Amateur Radio's response to the 2017 hurricanes, including Section Manager (PR) Oscar Resto, KP4RF; Andy Anderson, KE0AYJ; and Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. Hamvention is May 18-20.

We have received a commission of \$4,885 from RFinder, earned on new and renewal subscriptions of RFinder made during the fourth quarter 2017 (\$25,588 for FY 2017; \$23,532 for FY 2016). ARRL established an agreement with RFinder, creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters, in February 2016 to be our preferred online resource of repeater frequencies.

Bob is working with U.S. Bank, the affinity benefit provider for the ARRL Visa Credit Card, on some program changes they're rolling out. ARRL earned program royalties of \$43,692 in 2017. An email to help promote the card to members has been readied by Jackie for distribution in February.

Jackie finalized marketing coordination for the upcoming new publication introduction of *Receiving Antennas for the Radio Amateur*, by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. The book goes to press very soon.

Summary of Sales and Marketing Department telephone group, reported by Yvette Vinci:

Week Ending	Calls Answered	Calls Per Hour	Total Talking Duration	Average Speed of Answer
2/2/2018	974	21.6	36:56:07	10 seconds
1/26/2018	899	19.9	29:19:33	9 seconds
1/19/2018	759	16.8	25:33:15	8 seconds
1/12/2018	845	18.7	29:17:19	12 seconds
1/5/2018 (4 days)	696	19.3	25:55:03	10 seconds

Summary of warehouse fulfillment activity, reported by Steve Capodicasa:

Week Ending	Packages fulfilled	Member Premiums
2/2/2018	878	623
1/26/2018	776	472
1/19/2018	889	406
1/12/2018	1,293	394
1/5/2018 (2.5 days*)	667	170

* Fulfillment had a short week (New Year's Day holiday, inventory, and an early closing for snow).

Hamfest/Member Contact/ARRL Representative/Meetings/Vacations

Bob Allison	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Ken Bailey	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Margie Bourgoin	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Steve Capodicasa	02/12	PTO
Joe Garcia	05/25	PTO
“	07/02 – 07/06	PTO
“	07/13	PTO
“	07/20	PTO

“	07/27	PTO
“	08/03 – 08/10	PTO
“	08/24	PTO
“	08/31	PTO
“	10/05	PTO
“	10/08	PTO
“	11/30	PTO
“	12/07	PTO
Mike Corey	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Jackie Ferreira	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Steve Ford	02/14	PTO
“	02/23	PTO
“	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Scott Gee	04/16 – 04/19	PTO
“	05/17 – 05/19	PTO
“	08/16 – 08/17	PTO
“	09/10 – 09/14	PTO
Dan Henderson	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Bob Inderbitzen	02/07 – 02/12	ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando HamCation
“	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Dave Isgur	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Sabrina Jackson	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Bart Jahnke	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Kim McNeil	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Diane Middleton	02/20 – 02/23	PTO
“	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Michelle Patnode	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
Diane Petrilli	02/08 – 02/12	ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando HamCation
Ally Riedel	02/15 – 02/20	PTO (starting 11AM Feb 15)
Barry Shelley	02/19 – 02/23	PTO
“	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH
“	05/22 – 05/31	PTO
Yvette Vinci	02/08 – 02/12	ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando HamCation
“	05/17 – 05/20	2018 Great Lakes Division (Hamvention), Xenia, OH

Please remember—pictures are always welcome!

*Compiled and Edited by:
Carla Pereira, Assistant to CEO*