



# **IN-NEWSLETTER**

**April 3, 2020**

Covers the period March 23, 2020 – March 29, 2020

*Vol. 45, No. 12*

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENT**

*Most upcoming events have been cancelled until further notice. This section will be updated as new information becomes available.*

## **ARRL Podcasts: Downloads and Charts**

Reported by Michelle Patnode, W3MVP and Carla Pereira, KC1HSX

**ARRL Audio News** dated March 27, 2020:



<https://blubrry.com/arrlaudionews/57741759/arrl-audio-news-march-27-2020/>

- Downloads: **667,741**
- This episode hit #33 on Apple Podcasts USA Tech News

**Eclectic Tech** dated March 26, 2020



<https://blubrry.com/eclectictech/55965794/arrls-eclectic-tech-episode-4/>

- Downloads: **15,730**
- This episode hit #58 on Apple Podcasts USA Technology

**On the Air** dated March 11, 2020



<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/arrl-2/on-the-air-2?refid=stpr>

- Downloads: **14,272**
- Currently #230 on Apple Podcasts USA Technology

## **Chief Executive Office**

Reported by Carla Pereira, KC1HSX

Barry Shelley, N1VXY, and Diane Middleton, W2DLM, spent much of the week responding to the various issues arising from running the organization, and staff, remotely. They held a meeting with HQ managers to discuss any issues/concerns, as well as sharing any helpful insights, from the first week of HQ's building shut down. No one cited any major concerns, with most reporting their staff have been able to complete their responsibilities remotely. It was also noted that IT staff has been tremendously helpful in resolving IT issues promptly.

## Communications

Reported by David Isgur, N1RSN



### Top Social Media Posts

**ARRL Main Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn:** Learn how volunteers are using amateur radio and Arduino to make a low-cost ventilator for coronavirus patients. Read the story here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-amateurs-team-up-to-help-university-design-low-cost-ventilator> #ARRL #AmateurRadio #RadioCommunications #Arduino #COVID19 / **Twitter:** Radio Amateurs Team Up to Help University Design Low-Cost Ventilator <http://ow.ly/eYhi102d8gE> #ARRL #HamRadio

**On the Air Facebook:** One of the greatest attractions of digital for VHF applications is that a digital data signal contains more than your voice. It can include your call sign, your location, and more. There are three major systems to choose from in the world of amateur digital VHF: D-STAR, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), and System Fusion. Find out more – including how to choose the digital system that’s right for you -- in “The Digital Format Dilemma” in the March/April 2020 issue of On the Air.

	Equipment Availability	Ease of Programming	Number of Repeaters*
D-STAR	ICOM and Kenwood	Fair	1,100
DMR	Several manufacturers	Challenging	3,500
System Fusion	Yaesu only	Easy	1,500

\*As of January 2020, according to The ARRL Repeater Directory.

## Field Services

Reported by Steve Ewald, WV1X

Section Manager election ballots and candidate statements for Illinois, Indiana, Maine and Oregon Sections were mailed out on March 27. Thank you to Trish Feeney and Joe Johnsky of the Mailroom for securing the services of a close-by mailing company to handle this job when ARRL HQ had to close at the end of the day on March 23 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of those Sections should return their filled-out ballots to ARRL HQ by May 15, and the ballots are scheduled to be counted on May 19.

Leona Adams, W1LGA, reports that Connecticut Section Manager Chuck Motes, K1DFS, has been nominated to run for a new term of office. Nominations for this election cycle are due in Newington by June 6, 2020, and the terms of office begin on October 1, 2020.

## Lab

Reported by Ed Hare, W1RFI

The ARRL Lab wishes to thank the IT staff for establishing connections to our work stations. Also, thank you to Greg Kwasowski for arranging the necessary call forwarding. The lab staff is in business and is communicating with each other and importantly, with ARRL members.

The ARRL Lab has had a busy two weeks, getting the Lab prepared for the duration of the Connecticut shutdown orders. The major significant changes to the Lab’s operation are that the Lab cannot do Product Review testing and some of the RFI testing that it does from time to time. All of the Lab staff have full

access to their email accounts, all office phones are forwarded to home phone numbers and all staff have access to their office computer files.

Ed Hare, Zak Lau, W1VT, and Paul Cianciolo, W1VLF, are able to do the vast majority of their work from remote locations. Bob Allison, WB1GCM, is able to do all but actual product testing, but in the interim, he is fully tasked with normal correspondence with members and manufacturers as well as making needed updates to the ARRL Test Procedures Manual and the technology web pages. Under Zak's leadership, Bob is assisting with the content of Technology-pages updates. *QST* Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, also asked Bob to write a Product Review, which Bob is working on as well, helping to fill in a gap that will help ensure that the lack of testing will have minimal impact on the Product Review process. Zak is continuing to answer member inquiries and is working on needed updates to the Technology web pages, doing the majority of the actual updates, based on his own expertise and content provided by other Lab staff.

W1AW is almost 100% functional. The evening code bulletins are able to go off on schedule, due to a provision in the government-mandated shutdown that allows a single employee at a given location. The morning code-practice run is only one hour and without the daily flux of visitors and without access to the rest of the building, the day shift would not be fully engaged, so the decision was made to forgo the morning code-practice run.

In addition to managing the transition of six staff to new work locations and times, Ed has been working with Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, on a report about electric-vehicle wireless-power transfer (WPT-EV) being prepared for some of the preparatory meetings for the US National Committee. As originally filed, this 60-page report and position paper prepared by a WTP-EV manufacturer contained unacceptable errors and conclusions. At one of the meetings, ARRL objected to the paper, but offered to have Ed and the manufacturer's engineering staff try to resolve differences. Three draft revisions and four teleconferences later, the paper was revised in a way that was at least not objectionable, so Jon agreed to remove the objection, pending some final tweaks over the next week. After this, it is still possible for ARRL to prepare a paper for the November meetings, so it was agreed to wrap this one up now and allow the League to develop its own position.

Late in the week, the FCC revisions to the RF Safety rules were published in the Federal Register, starting the clock for compliance and for the needed ARRL petition for reconsideration. Ed has engaged with David Siddall, K3ZJ, and the ARRL RF Safety Committee, to slog through a 20-page FCC report and come up with specific recommendations for a Petition for Reconsideration.

Bob Allison notes that the ARRL has two staff members in tight quarters at the Allison residence. They are also 160 to 2 meter ready to greet Radio Amateurs with good cheer (off hours, of course). Bob has cleared his workbench for business and has started a *QST* Product Review of a magnetic loop antenna. Just prior to Bob's last lab day, Monday, Bob completed 90% of the needed testing of a high-performance HF/VHF transceiver and compiled the test data in the form of a table for publication. Bob made one last trip to drop off another high-performance HF/VHF transceiver to the reviewer.

Zak evaluated two kits as part of an ARRL Lab discussion on what kinds of kits ARRL might be able to develop and sell as part of its educational objectives. The Lab created a Microsoft Team group to be able to discuss this efficiently while working remotely. Several good ideas came out of the discussion, so Ed will compile a report on our conclusions and ideas and provide it to Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and Kris Bickell, K1BIC.

Paul Cianciolo also had a busy week. He reports contact with 16 members during the week on various RFI matters. Five were new cases, which often take a considerable amount of time to educate the member

and then manage how the matter should proceed. Paul is also able to keep the RFI database that keeps detailed records of each case up to date. He also handled some of the TIS calls, speaking with three members about antenna-related issues, and fielded two questions about possible RFI from air-conditioning and solar panels. Paul is continuing to handle member RFI complaints and communication cases sent to him by the FCC, preparing cases to go before the FCC, as well as continuing to work with Solar Edge on solar-noise issues. He has a Solar Edge system at his house, so is able to try filtering and other techniques on the fly. In testing using a current probe, he did discover that the majority of the inverter noise is being conducted onto the series wiring that feeds the solar panels to the main inverter.

### W1AW

Reported by Joe Carcia, NJ1Q



With the ARRL/W1AW buildings temporarily shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, W1AW has temporarily altered its transmit schedule. For the time being, there are no morning code practice/Qualifying Run transmissions. The evening transmissions will continue to be sent as normal, including all regularly scheduled Qualifying Run transmissions. Thank you to Scott Gee, WB9RRU, for continuing to work the regular shift so as to maintain W1AW's on-air presence.

*Photo of "Buffy" by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA*

Scott worked on fast and slow code practice run files for the week. Since mail is not able to be distributed internally, Scott is not currently processing paper VUCC applications. He has processed twelve electronic VUCC applications for a total of 988 credits.

### Lifelong Learning

Reported by Kris Bickell, K1BIC

The Lifelong Learning department is currently working with IMPART!, a Learning Strategy and Development partner, to provide instructional design services for new courses currently being developed for the ARRL learning center. Kris Bickell and Ally Flynn, KM3ALF, have participated in a series of virtual meetings to develop a roadmap for "course-ifying" ARRL content into dynamic and engaging learning experiences.

### Membership

Reported by Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF

March ended with 156,659 members, putting us 644 members behind year-to-date goal. A gain of 487 members was forecast for March; we gained 143.

New ham acquisition continues to lag behind typical figures (206 monthly average in 2019). As was

reported in January, the first two communications to this group no longer asks them to join but rather introduces them to ARRL and tells them about our suite of *On the Air* resources (magazine, podcast and blog), however, direct mail and web site acquisition was unusually high this month and has been since the start of the year. One possible explanation is that new hams are joining (even though we are not asking them to in the first couple of new ham communications) and are using a generic, direct mail or web site source code when they join. In looking at new hams for January and February 2020 (4,739), 495 (10.4%) joined and paid by March 31, 2020. In looking at data for 2018, there were 4,886 new hams in January and February, with 616 joined and paid by March 31, 2018 (12.6%). It should be noted that data from 2019 is unreliable as the government was shut down the first couple months of the year and it took several weeks for the mail room to catch up.

The second in the series of six new ham mailings solicits an e-mail address in exchange for a preview of a digital sample of *OTA*. So far, 4,867 postcards have been sent and helped us collect 1,026 emails, with 3.2% (158) of the e-mails for January – March being new hams. Just under half of those who provided an email were already members.

The *on-time* renewal rate for March expiries was 70% vs. 72% last March.

*OTA* print magazine has 8,398 current member subscribers. Among this group, 2,089 are new licensees – almost 25%. We are well on our way to meeting established performance metrics for the year.

Diane Petrilli helped to identify errors in the converted membership data on Personify, attending multiple meetings and trainings in March.

Diane is working with Jackie Ferreira, KB1PWB, on a series of email communications for those whose membership is expiring in the next few months, encouraging them to renew online or by phone during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updated text in the current print renewal notices will include language about *QEX* and *NCJ* being available digitally.

The Membership department sent e-mails to those eligible for loyalty pins & plaques to over 2,000 eligible members, and 560 of those long-time members opted to receive a free 40-year, 50-year, 60-year, 70-year or 80-year pin!

### **Product Development**

Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

Bob Inderbitzen helped setup an ARRL website resource to curate our news and info related to impact from COVID-19. Any of the following URLs will get you there, and there's a link posted from the ARRL home page as well.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-news-coronavirus-covid-19>

[www.arrl.org/coronavirus](http://www.arrl.org/coronavirus)

[www.arrl.org/COVID-19](http://www.arrl.org/COVID-19)

Bob and Deidre Methe, KC1MHN, finalized an agreement with a hotel and meeting venue for programming that will be organized in conjunction with next year's ARRL National Convention, taking place at HamCation in Orlando in February 2021.

Kris Bickell and Bob continue to develop a modest framework to advance some learning webinars in the short term (weeks/months.) A handful of Section Managers have contributed ideas.

**Hamfests/Conventions/Meetings with ARRL Representation/Vacations**

Leona Adams	07/09 – 07/13	PTO
Joe Carcia	05/22	PTO
“	07/06 – 07/10	PTO
“	07/17	PTO
“	07/24	PTO
“	07/31	PTO
“	08/03 – 08/07	PTO
“	08/14	PTO
“	08/21	PTO
“	08/28	PTO
“	10/09 – 10/12	PTO
“	12/04	PTO
“	12/11	PTO
Regina Galuppi	08/08 – 08/15	PTO
Scott Gee	05/14 – 05/15	PTO
“	09/14 – 09/19	PTO
Bob Inderbitzen	05/21 – 05/29	PTO
Diane Middleton	04/20 – 04/21	PTO
“	06/22 – 06/26	PTO

*Compiled and Edited by: Carla Pereira, KC1HSX, Executive Manager*