



IN-NEWSLETTER

February 7, 2020

Covers the period January 27, 2020 – February 2, 2020

Vol. 45, No. 4

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ARRL Northern Florida Section Convention

(Orlando HamCation)

February 7 – 9 @ Orlando, FL

6th Annual TECHCON

February 21 – 22 @ Punta Gorda, FL

ARRL Operating Specialty Convention

(OzarkCon)

April 3 – 4 @ Branson, MO

ARRL Louisiana State Convention

March 13 – 14 @ Rayne, LA

Maine State Convention & Hamfest

April 10 – 11 @ Lewiston, ME

Administrative & Finance Committee Meeting

April 18 @ Denver, CO

ARRL Podcasts: Downloads and Charts

Reported by Michelle Patnode, W3MVP and Carla Pereira, KC1HSX

ARRL Audio News dated January 31, 2020:

<https://blubrry.com/arraudionews/55290689/arrrl-audio-news-january-31-2020?sbe=1>

- Downloads:
- #34 on Apple Podcasts USA Tech News

On the Air dated January 16, 2020

<https://blubrry.com/arrrlontheair/>

- Downloads:
- #21 on Apple Podcasts USA Technology

Chief Executive Office

Reported by Carla Pereira, KC1HSX

Barry Shelley, N1VX, completed his first week back at HQ. (He worked remotely the week before.) Barry spent the week meeting with managers from various departments and getting updated on the work done over the last year as well as goals and initiatives for 2020. The Management Council met last week as well.

Carla Pereira completed and submitted the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting to the Board of Directors for review and comment. Once the news report for the website and newsletter have been approved, the minutes will be posted to the ARRL website.

Dee Methe, KC1MHN, posted all of the reports from the Board meeting to the website. Planning is currently underway for the Administration & Finance Committee meeting in April, and the Executive Committee meeting in May.

Communications

Reported by David Isgur, N1RSN

David Isgur wrote and distributed a press announcement about the introduction of three new ARRL Groups (discussion forums on the Groups.io platform):

- “Antenna Law and Policy” (moderated by ARRL New England Division Director and attorney Fred Hopengarten, K1VR)
- “Regulatory Affairs” (moderated by ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND)
- “New Hams” (moderated by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, editor of *QST* magazine)

This brings the total of such Groups to seven, with these added to a roster that already includes Groups on Contesting, Awards, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), and Logbook of the World.

Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, wrote and posted content on the ARRL’s social media channels about the AM Rally, which brought several visitors to ARRL HQ and W1AW to participate. Read more about the AM Rally in the “Lab” section of this newsletter, below.

Michelle worked with Scott St. Onge, WF4STR, to set up the account for obtaining statistics for digital *On the Air*.

David assisted Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, in crafting a news story about amateur radio volunteers’ assistance following an earthquake in Turkey. He also continued to monitor news about earthquake issues affecting Puerto Rico.

Michelle also worked on updating some of the PowerPoint slides on the ARRL HQ Lobby monitor.

Media Mentions

Among the notable stories posted to the Media Hits (www.arrl.org/Media-Hits) web page recently were:

- A 96-year-old amateur radio operator in Toronto made contact with the International Space Station as part of an ARISS event
- The county government web site in Orange County, Florida, highlighted the value of amateur radio on its pages
- The Boston University News Service did interviews with local amateur radio operators for a feature story
- Stories on Winter Field Day activities from media outlets in Kentucky, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Top Social Media posts:

Facebook: ARRL Teacher's Institute is accepting applications now until May 1st, 2020. Apply now! To learn more and for the application, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-in-the-classroom> and watch our video. #ARRL #AmateurRadio #TeachersInstitute

Twitter: New Amateur Extra Question Pool Released <http://ow.ly/TDfb1027R1v> #ARRL #HamRadio

Field Services

Reported by Steve Ewald, WV1X

Leona Adams, W1LGA, reports that Bill Ashby, N6FFC, of San Jose, California, has been nominated to run for the office of Section Manager of Santa Clara Valley. In Illinois, Thomas Beebe, W9RY, of Marion, has been nominated to run for the Illinois Section Manager position.

The following incumbent Section Managers have been nominated to run for new two-year terms of office: Wisconsin Section Manager Patrick Moretti, KA1RB, of Dousman; Vermont Section Manager Paul Gayet, AA1SU, of Essex Junction; and Maine Section Manager Bill Crowley, K1NIT, of Farmingdale. Nominations for this particular election cycle need to arrive at ARRL Headquarters no later than March 6. New terms of office begin on July 1, 2020.

Section Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators have continued to submit their 2019 Simulated Emergency Test results in advance of the early February receipt deadline. These SET results will be compiled and reported in a QST summary article later this year.

Lab

Reported by Bob Allison, WB1GCM

On January 24, at the request of Bob Heil, K9EID, Bob Allison presented to a large group of historical enthusiasts at the Wes Schum Symposium, in Collinsville, IL. Bob's requested topic was about the history of the use of Amplitude Modulation at ARRL Headquarters, featuring the donated equipment from Bob Heil and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and the acquisition, restoration, conversion and operation of the Gates BC-1T transmitter.

The following day, at the request of the St Louis Amateur Radio Club, Bob Allison repeated the same presentation at Winterfest, the ARRL Midwest Division Convention. Bob, along with Midwest Division Director, Rod Blocksom, K0DAS, and section managers from the division were on hand to meet and greet attendees and answer their many questions. Since the Midwest Division Convention was held in the Central Division, Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, was also on hand to meet and greet. After the convention, Bob Allison and notable RF Test Engineer Rob Sherwood received a tour of the Heil Audio manufacturing facility and Bob's Amateur Radio shack at his home. Bob and Rob were then treated to an impromptu Electronic Organ concert. By the way, you can listen to Bob Heil play the organ on WTWW, 5.085 MHz short wave, every Saturday at 8 PM Central Time.

At the request of Atlantic Division Director, Tom Abernathy, W3TOM, Bob flew from St Louis, MO to Pittsburg, PA to attend and present at the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club meeting, with club President, Tim Duffy, K3LR presiding. Bob was once again requested to speak about the Gates BC-1T transmitter and later, about Product Review Testing and how to interpret performance parameters as seen in QST data tables. The presentation was very well received, with many compliments on the quality of QST Product Reviews. Prior to the meeting, Bob Allison received a special tour of Summit Racing, DX Engineering and its manufacturing facility, with CEO Tim Duffy as personal tour guide much of the time. Bob also made a presentation to the DX Engineering Staff and then appeared on Facebook, live, then Instagram, live, with Tim Duffy. Tim then gave Bob a tour of his impressive, super-contest station, K3LR.

After arriving back in Connecticut on the 29th, Bob drove directly from the airport to the ARRL Lab to appear, via Skype, on Bob Heil's, "Ham Nation", live. The topic was the promotion of the upcoming

weekend's AM operating event, "The AM Rally", an event that spotlights the AM mode, using both new and old technology. A video of the broadcast is on YouTube, Ham Nation #438.

Bob Allison and W1AW Station Manager, Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, prepared the operating stations for the AM Rally, which started at 0000 UTC Saturday, February 1st. Operations were set up for 160, 80, 40, 20- and 6-meter AM. Bob Allison opened operations Friday night at 7 PM (0000 UTC), using the Gates transmitter. The next day, guest operators graced the ARRL Laboratory with their presence; Kerri Hamersma, KC2UFU, Stephanie Boles, WX3K, Tanya Pfaeffle, W3TKP, Brian Kress, KB3WFV, Lisa Kress (great QSO logger!), Ken Hamersma, KC2UDZ, Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, Mike Pfaeffle, K3FEF, Clark Burgard, N1BCG and Larry Bearse, WA1LGQ. Saturday's operation highlighted the female operators, which was enjoyed by all who tuned in to listen and make contact.



Clockwise, from top left: Bob Heil, K9EID, Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX and Brian Kress, KB3WFV.

The AM Rally is not a contest, but a leisurely operating event, with information shared about the type of AM equipment and antenna used. While there were many venerable old "boat anchor" type transmitters heard, new transceivers were more abundant than last year; all sounded very good on AM. It was gratifying to all present each time we heard the words emanating from the speaker, "Wow, you're my first AM contact and it's with W1AW!". Many photographs and videos were taken to document the event. Search "AM Rally 2020" on YouTube. The pileups lasted until the end of operations at 5 PM, Sunday. Special thanks to Joe Carcia for his assistance and thanks to Paul Cianciolo, W1VLF, for the use of his remote receiver, with superior signal to noise ratio. This operation was one of the many examples of showcasing the ARRL's enthusiasm and promotion of Amateur Radio. 73 de WB1GCM.



5 meters: Kerri Hamersma, KC2UFU (standing), Lisa Kress (left), Stephanie Boles, WX3K (right)

WIAW

Reported by Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

Joe Carcia processed three Qualifying Run certificates and one endorsement. He also created the texts for the week's WIAW Qualifying Runs.

Joe upgraded the web code practice files and their archives. He also readied PCs/laptops that were used for AM Rally logging. (Joe created a "*User Defined Contest*" module for N1MMLogger+ for use in the 2020 AM Rally.)

Joe had to make a quick repair to the W1HQ 160-meter dipole antenna (in preparation of the 2020 AM Rally). He moved antenna cables from an old Heathkit Antenna Relay (located on the tower on the penthouse roof) to the new DX Engineering antenna relay switch. This switch is used in W1HQ to change between the various antennas on the roof.

Joe also began to troubleshoot an issue with a *Phaser Digital Mode Transceiver* kit that is in for Product Review.

Scot Gee, WB9RRU, worked on fast and slow code practice runs for the week. He also processed six paper and thirteen electronic VUCC applications for a total of 636 credits.

Membership

Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF

January ended with 156,681 members, putting us 24 members ahead of year-to-date goal. A loss of 98 members was forecast, but we lost only 74.

New ham acquisition is down slightly because the first 2 communications to this group no longer ask them to join but rather introduces them to ARRL and tells them about our suite of *On the Air* resources (magazine, podcast and blog).

The on-time renewal rate for January expiries was 74% vs. 72% last January. As of January 3, we have 5,007 current member subscribing to *On the Air* in print.

Radiosport

Reported by Sharon Taratula

Paper/Fieldcheck Processing Time	2 Weeks
Logbook Processing Time	3 Business Days
2020 DXCC Applications	1543
2020 WAS Applications	214
2020 VUCC Applications	85
2020 WAC Applications	13
2020 WPX Applications	93
2020 WAZ Applications	88

Hamfests/Conventions/Meetings with ARRL Representation/Vacations

Bob Allison	02/21 – 02/23	TECHCON, Punta Gorda, FL
“	03/02	PTO
Kathleen Callahan	02/05 – 02/09	ARRL Northern FL Section Convention, Orlando, FL
“	02/10 – 02/14	PTO
Steve Capodicasa	02/24	PTO
Joe Carcia	04/10	PTO
“	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
Scott Gee	03/30 – 04/03	PTO
“	05/14 – 05/15	PTO
“	09/14 – 09/19	PTO
Diane Middleton	03/06	PTO
“	03/09	PTO
“	03/12	Jury Duty
“	03/30 – 04/07	PTO
Michelle Patnode	02/05 – 02/11	PTO
Maria Somma	03/05 – 03/11	PTO

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