Club installs new officers at annual Christmas celebration

Minutes of Dec. 12 meeting:

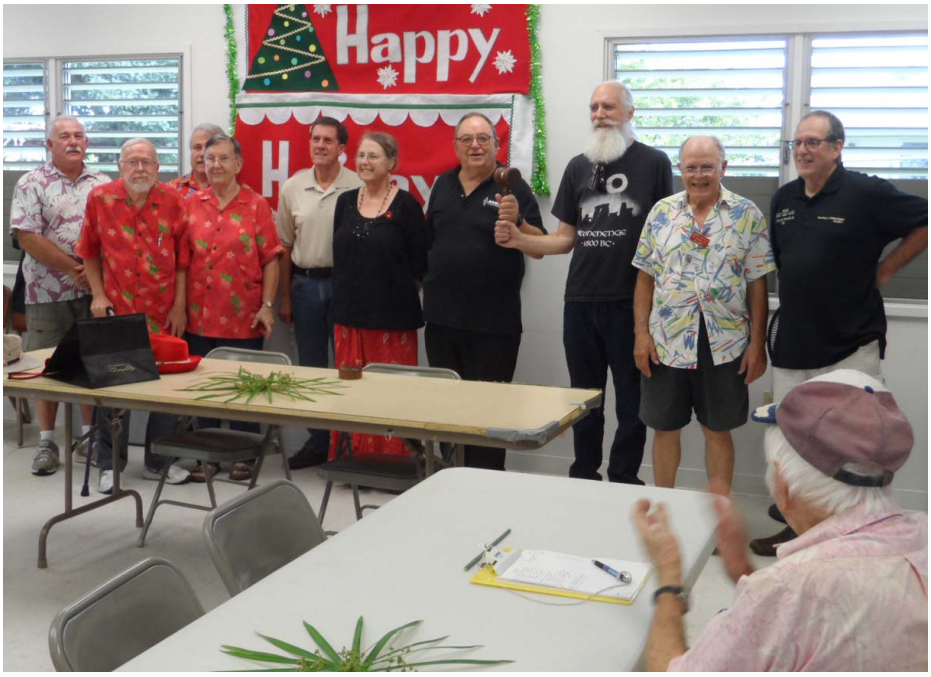
Happy Holidays to all. Our meeting was opened at 1400W by President Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK. A round of introductions followed. Secretary Beau Mills, NH7WV, couldn't make it, so I filled in and took minutes.

Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, announced he will teach a Technician class starting Jan. 13, with the exam to be Feb. 12. Contact Doug for details.

Starting in January, members are asked to bring potluck items to share during the refreshment break at each monthly meeting.

Following the brief business session, the club's most senior member, Corky Kirk, W6ORS, administered the oath of office to the 2016 officers and directors, the gavel was passed to the new president and the Christmas party took place.

Respectfully submitted,
Former VEEP,
now president,
Bob Schneider, AH6J



Corky Kirk, W6ORS, applauds as group photo is taken during the Christmas party passing of the gavel.

Photos courtesy of John Bush, KH6DLK, and Robert Oliver, NH6AH

New slate to guide club in 2016

Past, present and future BIARC members, family and friends shared holiday aloha at the club's annual Christmas party.

The theme of the celebration was "Reminisce, laugh and eat!" This East Hawaii tradition was observed during our December meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Keaau Community Center.

Officers and directors elected at the November meeting were installed. They are President Bob Schneider, AH6J; Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS; Secretary Beau Mills, NH7WV; Treasurer Doug Wilson, KH7DQ; Directors Bill Hanson, N0CAN; Barbara Darling, NH7FY; Richard Darling, AH6G; Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, immediate past-president; and returning Directors Gus Treewater, K2GT; Dennis McCartin, WH6ELY, and Paul

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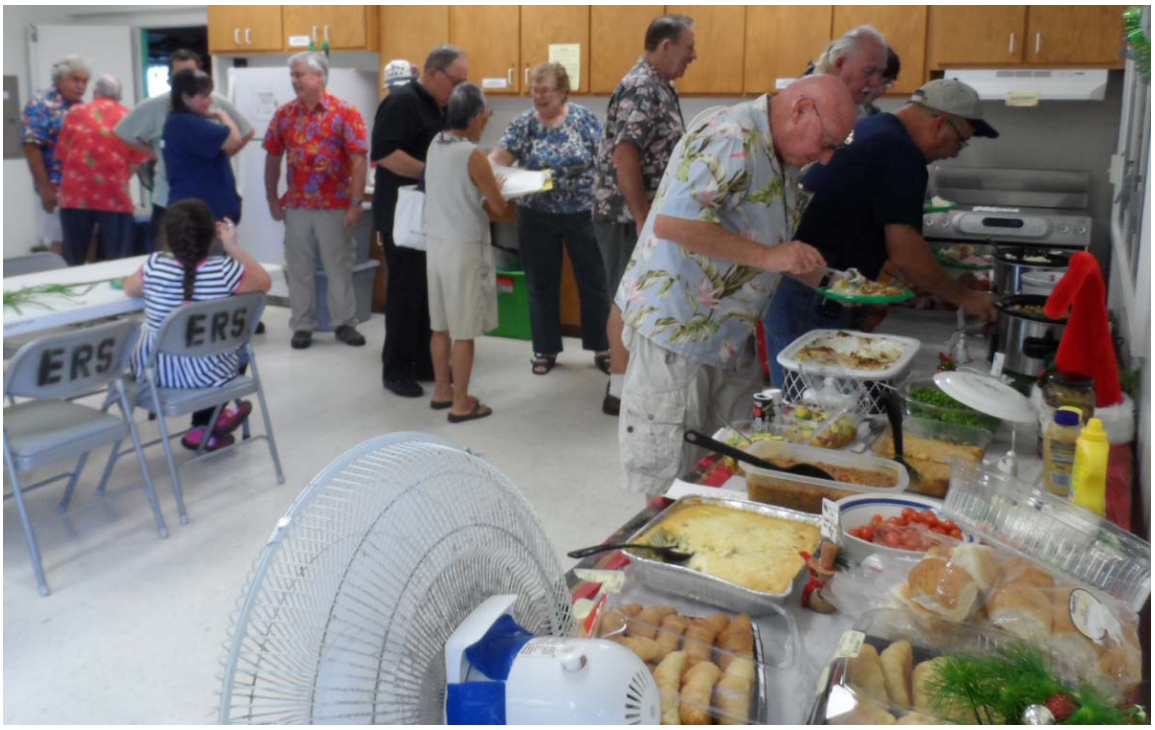


Christmas kau kau was enjoyed by all, as a potluck buffet offered treats prepared by many creative chefs.

From previous page

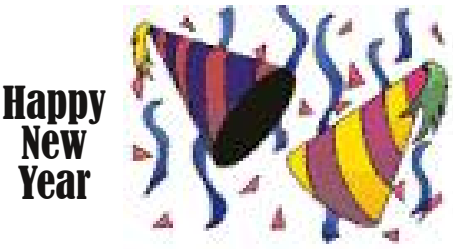
Ducasse, WH7BR.

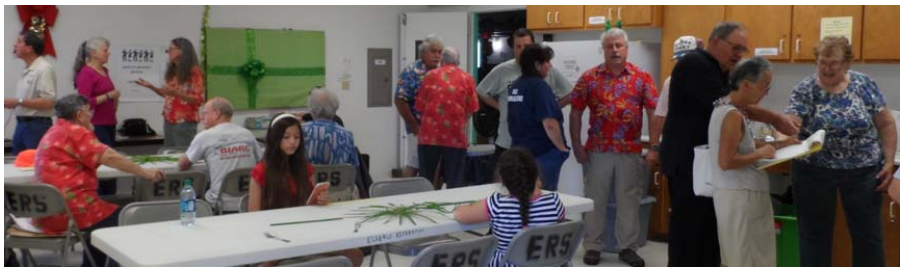
__ The 2016 BIARC Program Committee will be headed by John Bush, KH6DLK; and Les Hittner, K0BAD.

__ The Repeater Committee will be headed by Chair Bill Hanson, N0CAN. He will be assisted by Paul Ducasse, WH7BR; Paul Agamata, WH6FM; Bob Schneider, AH6J; and Lopaka Lee, WH6DYN.

__ The 2016 Field Day Committee will be chaired by Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS, with Robert Oliver, NH6AH, assisting.

The meal was coordinated by our dedicated, hard-working Hospitality Committee co-Chairs Nancy Lakin, WH6DYY, and Sharon McCartin, WH6ELV.





Technician License class Jan. 13

The next Technician License Class will begin on January 13, 2016 at the Keaau Community Center.

There will be 5 weekly classes of instruction beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Technician License exam on Feb. 10.

If you know anyone who may be interested in taking the class please have them contact me at: ***DOUSCELLE@aol.com***

I need to get a count before the class starts so that I have enough materials available for everyone. Again, there is no charge for the class and all materials will be provided. The only charge is to take the exam, which is $15.

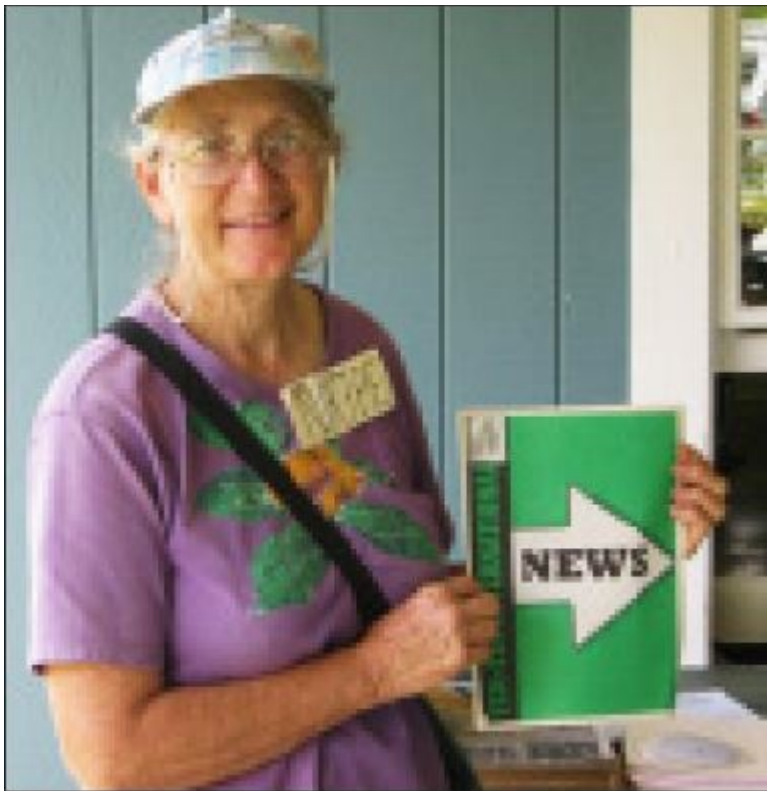
I have a brochure about amateur radio that you can give to anyone who may be interested. I can email it to you. Let me know.

Thank you!

73 & Aloha

Doug Wilson, KH7DQ

10-10 members invite everyone to hop on board for a fun 2016



We want to wish everyone Happy Holidays from 10-10 International, and especially from the Aloha Chapter of 10-10.

Events run from Jan. 1 0001UTC to Dec. 31 2359UTC.

QSO party entrants may submit a log of contacts with members that have the anniversary year contained in their membership number, for example: this year was the club's 53rd anniversary, so acceptable numbers, for example, would be 69535 , 65354 and 53126.

Each year, the anniversary number changes, making a new group of members the focus of the event and promoting the use of the 10-meter band.

In the Meet the Volunteers event, entrants may submit a log of contacts with members listed in the 10-10 News as being 10-10 volunteers. One contact per volunteer is permitted regardless of mode of contact.

In both events, contacts must be made on the 10-meter band with any legal mode (AM, SSB, FM, PSK, CW, etc...). Contacts must be listed in 10-10 number order and each entry must list the 10-10 number, date, call sign, name, QTH and mode, in that specific order. Certificates will be awarded for the top 10, however all entrants will be listed in the 10-10 News.

Logs must be postmarked no later than Jan. 15, 2016; only members in good standing (with dues paid) are allowed to submit logs.

Let's get those logs in and put Hawaii on the map.

73 and aloha,
Irene, NH7PE

2015 KH6 Hawaii QSL Bureau report: 18,508 cards by end of November

QSL cards received during 2015, through the end of November, total 18,508.

QSL cards received since March 2008, when BIARC took over handling the KH6 Bureau, total 200,315.

Hams who have helped the KH6 QSL Bureau during 2015 include the following: Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, from Oahu; Edward “Ned” Conklin, KH6JJ, from Oahu; Mitchell Oishi, NH6JC, from Kauai; Chuck Epperson, AH6SC, from Oahu and the Big Island; Joe Owen, KH6GA, Big Island; Vicki Owen, N4WV, Big Island; Barbara Darling, NH7FY, Big Island.

A special card-sorting party was held on March 21 to sort 9,000 cards that had accumulated while Barbara and Richard Darling, AH6G, were away. Those who showed up to help were: Ted, NH6YK; John, KH6DLK; Bob, AH6J; Joe, KH6GA; Vicki, N4WV; Rick, WH6LU; Lloyd, KH6LC; Ben, NH7D; Curt, AH6RE; Leigh, WH6LC; and Barbara, NH7FY.

Thanks to Ted and the Darlings for supplying the pizza lunch after the work was done.

Funds on hand for a total of 106 ham operators: $1,548.11 as of Nov. 30.

Aloha and 73,
Barbara Darling, NH7FY,
KH6 QSL Bureau manager,
Big Island (Hawaii)

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™

The ARRL Letter

Polish DXer puts North Korea on the air for first time in more than a decade

In an unexpected turn of events, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, who visited North Korea -- officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) -- this month in advance of a planned Amateur Radio operation early next year, showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity around 0000 on Dec. 20. During a "demonstration" for North Korean officials, P5/3Z9DX made nearly 800 DXers -- most of them in Asia -- very happy over the couple of days he was on the air. Grzyb operated mostly on 15 meters with some excursions on 20 and 10 meters, SSB only. The P5/3Z9DX preview was the first from North Korea since the 2001-2002 operation by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN.

The surprise appearance of P5/3Z9DZ on the air coincided with some of the worst HF conditions in days, if not weeks, no thanks to a geomagnetic storm. Grzyb's visit to Pyongyang this month had been scheduled to iron out the details of his 2016 operation. The radio equipment he took to North Korea remained behind in government hands, as agreed beforehand. A P5/3Z9DX operation from North Korea now is poised to take place in February.

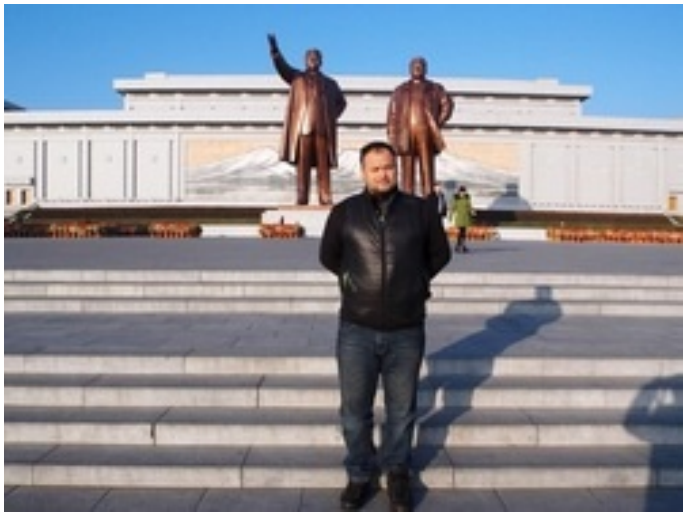
While operating from North Korea, P5/3Z9DX was running 100 W to a vertical antenna mounted on a metal fencepost some 7 feet above the ground among government high-rise buildings. He also was handicapped by high ambient noise levels. During the brief on-the-air stint, government officials came and went, apparently to keep a close watch on things.

Grzyb told DX-World on December 20 that his "real" DX operation in February might take place from a different location. **--** ***Thanks to The Daily DX and DX-World.net***

FCC proposes to penalize California ham $25K for intentional interference

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has proposed fining William F. Crowell, W6WBJ (ex-N6AYJ), of Diamond Springs, California, $25,000 for intentionally interfering with other Amateur Radio operators and transmitting prohibited communications, including music. FCC San Francisco District Director David K. Hartshorn released a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NALF) on December 18, detailing the allegations.

"Deliberate interference undermines the utility of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing communications among licensed users that comply with the Commission's rules," the FCC said in its NALF. "Mr Crowell's deliberate interference to other users, using voice, noises, and music, directly contravenes the Amateur Radio service's fundamental purpose as a voluntary noncommercial communications service..."



Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

An Advanced class licensee, Crowell is no stranger to the Enforcement Bureau, which warned him as far back as 2000 about intentional interference. In 2008 the FCC designated his current license renewal application for hearing, alleging that he had caused intentional interference, interrupted others' communications, transmitted music, and made one-way transmissions, including some containing "indecent language," the FCC said. His license, which expired in 2007, has not been renewed, but Crowell may continue to operate while his application is pending. Prompting the December 18 NALF were complaints earlier this year by members of the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA), which conducts nets three times a week on 75 meters.

The Enforcement Bureau recounted that its agents and the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center monitored Crowell's transmissions during the WARFA Net on 3908 kHz on August 25 and August 27. As the agents and the HFDF Center listened, Crowell "repeatedly interrupted other amateurs using noises, recordings, and music, in addition to talking over amateurs affiliated with the WARFA

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Net, so as no not allow them to transmit on the frequency," the FCC said in its NALF. "His transmissions and recordings included racial, ethnic, and sexual slurs and epithets." According to the NALF, the interference continued until the net shut down.

Philippine radio amateurs respond to typhoon threat over archipelago

The Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA) activated its Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) on December 12 as Typhoon Melor -- locally called Typhoon Nona -- threatened the Philippine archipelago. The storm boasted winds up to and slightly in excess of 100 MPH. National Traffic System Chairman Jojo Vicencio, DU1VHY, announced the activation during the early-morning DU NET. HERO used 7.095 MHz for emergency traffic, and other hams in the region cooperated in keeping the frequency clear.

Stations from the Eastern Visayas area hit by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 as well as various emergency communication groups and clubs checked into the net. Melor made its first landfall between Catarman, Northern Samar, and Sorsogon, Southern Luzon. Stations in Eastern Samar and Tacloban City were on alert. Some hams embedded with local disaster risk reduction and management councils/offices.

The eye of Typhoon Melor made a second landfall over Bulusan, Sorsogon. The province of Albay declared a state of imminent emergency. Workers and students were sent home, and stores and shops closed. Pre-emptive evacuations were undertaken in coastal towns in danger of dangerous storm surges, as reported by HERO stations. As the storm progressed through the Bicol region, PARA members continued to give reports on 7.095 using emergency power.

The typhoon abruptly weakened into a tropical storm on December 16. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) forecasters lifted high-level storm warnings, as winds dropped to between 75 and 90 MPH. ***-- Thanks to Ramon J. Anquilan, DU1UGZ, via IARU Region 1 News***

Preliminary CQ worldwide survey results: contesters trending older

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee has posted the preliminary results of its September survey of CQ WW participants. The committee received 5117 responses from contesters around the world, the greatest number -- nearly 2600 -- from Europe. An analysis of the results showed that most survey participants were in the older age brackets and that there were not many youth participants.

"This is especially true when we look at the age distribution in North America," said the analysis, prepared by Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q. "There is very little survey participation in North America from those under 40 years of age." More than 900 of the nearly 1500 respondents from North America were at least 60 years old, according to the survey.

CQ said the situation in Europe was "a little more optimistic," where the age curve trended about 10 years younger overall.

"While the missing young people could be a symptom of the survey methodology, any look around a ham radio club meeting [or] convention reveals similar findings," the survey commentary said. "Should we be concerned about the future of radiosport (and Amateur Radio)? What can we do to encourage more young people to participate?" it went on to ask.

The CQ WW Contest Committee analysis concluded that older-skewing operators may lead to lower operating times, increased multioperator entries, or eventual less overall activity.

CW was far and away the most popular operating mode, at least among participants age 40 or older. Nearly 62 percent of those participating in the CQ WW survey indicated they were either serious contesters or part-timers trying for the best score.

"It was very gratifying to receive so many survey responses in such a short time," the CQ WW Contest Committee said in summary. "The CQ WW community is passionate and engaged -- both on the air and in considering the future of the event." Other summary highlights:

- Europe is the leader for contest activity.
- Contesters are getting older.
- There is a wide range of interest levels.
- CW is the favorite operating mode.

The CQ WW Contest Committee said that a future blog post would discuss the results of questions related to possible rule changes.

US applicants move into next stage of ARISS contact selection process

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced that the proposals of 17 schools and organizations submitted during the recent application window will move forward into the next stage of planning to host Amateur Radio contacts with ISS crew members. Once scheduled, the contacts will take place between July and December 2016.

"This is a significant step in ARISS' continuing effort to engage young people in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities and raise their awareness of space exploration, space communications, and related areas of study and career possibilities," the ARISS announcement said.

The 17 schools/organizations now must complete acceptable equipment plans that demonstrate the ability to execute a contact. Once the ARISS technical team approves equipment plans, the final selected schools/organizations will be matched up with contact opportunities offered by NASA.

The schools and organizations are Boca Raton Christian School, Boca Raton, Florida; The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana; Frontiers of Flight Museum's "Moon Day 2016," Dallas, Texas; Howell L. Watkins Middle School, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; iSPACE,

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Cincinnati, Ohio; John Glenn Middle School, Maplewood, Minnesota, and Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal, New York.

Also, Lawrence Public Library, Lawrence, Kansas; Museum of Innovation and Science, Schenectady, New York; Northland Preparatory Academy, Flagstaff, Arizona; Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria, Illinois; University of Nebraska's Peter Kiewit Institute, Omaha, Nebraska; South Street School, Danbury, Connecticut; Space Jam 10, Rantoul, Illinois; United Space School, Seabrook, Texas; US Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama, and World Genesis Foundation, Goodyear, Arizona.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of AMSAT, ARRL, and NASA in the US, and other international space agencies and Amateur Radio organizations around the world. Its primary purpose is to organize Amateur Radio contacts between ISS crew members and classrooms or informal education venues.

Slow Scan TV image likely was a prank

A Slow Scan TV (SSTV) image that a Brazilian radio amateur reported receiving on Dec. 13 from Fox-1A (AO-85) was most likely a prank, not any sort of official test of the satellite's SSTV capabilities. AMSAT Vice President for Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, said the Robot 36 image, which depicted a cartoon fox and the legend "Testing Fox-1A/AO-85 AMSAT satellite," was of terrestrial origin and transmitted via the AO-85 satellite's transponder.

"I can tell you that in South America, they are having some fun, and that our analog-to-digital to analog IHU processing of the audio seems to work very well at SSTV frequencies!" Buxton told ARRL. "I don't know who uplinked the signal, but it was a ground-satellite-ground contact, nothing that originated on AO-85."

Buxton called the prank "just a very good demonstration of the capability of the FM repeater on the Fox-1 series satellites." The FM satellite uplink is at 435.170 MHz (67 Hz CTCSS tone required). The downlink is at 145.978 MHz. Both frequencies are subject to Doppler shift.

While transmitting SSTV images via satellites is not recommended, the South American "experiment" did not appear to interfere with other transmissions. "At some point we will set up a period to try it over the US, but until then please refrain from repeating this experiment," AMSAT VP of Operations Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA said. ***-- Thanks to Jerry Buxton, N0JY, and Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA***

Straight Key Night a New Year tradition

Every day is a good day to operate on CW, but set some time aside on New Year's Eve and Day to enjoy Straight Key Night (SKN). The annual event gets under way at 000 UTC on January 1 (New Year's Eve in US time zones). The 24-hour event is not a contest but a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage.

Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW contacts, preferably using a straight (hand) key or a semi-automatic key (bug). Activity traditionally centers on CW segments in the HF bands. There are no points or obligatory exchange. The only requirement is just to have fun!

Send your SKN list of stations work and your votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" by Jan. 31.

Concurrent with the ARRL Straight Key Night, AMSAT will hold its own SKN on OSCAR 2015, this year dedicated to the memory of Ben Stevenson, W2BXA, who died in 2011. No log is necessary, but AMSAT also asks for "Best Fist" nominees via e-mail to Ray Soifer, W2RS.

Stevenson, who was licensed in 1929, was one of the world's top DXers on HF and satellites and held Satellite DXCC No 1. He was the founding president of the North Jersey DX Association.

ARRL RTTY Roundup is a good way to kick off the 2016 Contest Calendar

The ARRL RTTY Roundup over the January 2-3 weekend is a veritable digital festival, so dust off those keyboards! In addition to conventional Baudot, RTTY Roundup ops may use ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet (attended). It's very easy to get on RTTY and other digital modes, and some late-model transceivers even have RTTY and other

digital capabilities built right into the radio. Participation in this annual operating event has grown along with the enthusiasm for digital modes, and newcomers are always welcome to join the fray.

The 2015 ARRL RTTY Roundup runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, Jan. 2, through 2359 UTC Sunday, Jan. 3, with operation on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Participants may operate 24 of the 30 available hours. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and state/province, while DX stations send a signal report and consecutive serial number, starting with 001.

Submit Cabrillo logs via e-mail or by using the web applet. Send paper logs to ARRL RTTY Roundup, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 2359 UTC Tuesday, February 2, 2015.

Contact the ARRL Contest Branch for more information.

Kids Day coming up Sunday, January 3

The next Kids Day will be Sunday, Jan. 3, from 1800 to 2400 UTC. The twice-yearly event, sponsored by the ARRL and The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, is an excellent opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to youngsters and even to hand over the keys so they can get some hands-on experience.

Share the excitement with your own children or grandkids or youngsters in the neighborhood! For youngsters, their positive ham radio experience may foster an interest that leads them to get licensed one day. For veteran radio amateurs, it's a chance to share their stations and affection for Amateur Radio with the next generation.

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To solicit contacts call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. There is no limit on operating time, and stations may work each other more than once if the operator has changed. Repeater contacts (with permission of the repeater's sponsor) are okay too, and satellite contacts may provide a real thrill. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

All participants are encouraged to post stories and photos to the Kids Day Soapbox page and are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. You can download the free certificate, customized with the youngsters' names, after filling out the Kids Day Survey found on the same page as the certificate generator. Alternatively, you can send a 9 × 12 SASE to Kids Day Certificate Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

IARU praises WRC-15 choice to keep amateur bands solely for amateur use

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has welcomed the exclusion of all existing Amateur and Amateur-Satellite frequency allocations from bands under possible consideration at World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) for non-amateur satellite use. WRC-15 last month in Geneva recommended WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.7 regarding spectrum studies for short-mission satellites; it removes from consideration the Amateur-Satellite allocations at 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

"This is an excellent result for the amateur services and clearly shows that non-amateur satellite constructors need to consider spectrum other than the very limited and congested segments that are available for amateur satellites at 144 MHz and 435 MHz," said IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA.

Agenda Item 1.7 calls on delegates "to study the spectrum needs for telemetry, tracking, and command in the space operation service for non-GSO [geosynchronous] satellites with short-duration missions, to assess the suitability of existing allocations to the space operation service and, if necessary, to consider new allocations, in accordance with Resolution COM6/19 (WRC-15)."

Resolution COM6/19 specifies 150.05-174 MHz and 400.15-420 MHz as the frequency ranges that may be considered for possible new allocations.

One factor the conference considered in deciding on those particular frequency ranges was that, contrary to the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations defining the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services, "some non-amateur satellites have used frequencies for telemetry, tracking, and command in the frequency bands 144-146 MHz and 435-438 MHz which are allocated to the Amateur-Satellite Service."

MARS-amateur radio event is success

A 2-day Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) communications exercise in early November is being considered an overall success, especially in terms of MARS-ARES cooperation. The Nov. 8-10 exercise was built around a scenario of a simulated massive coronal mass ejection (CME) that disrupts conventional communication systems across the US.

Following the simulated CME, MARS stations returned to the air and received requests for information from the supported Department of Defense (DoD) organizations asking MARS stations to establish contact with Amateur Radio operators in as many of the 3142 US counties as possible. MARS operators were limited primarily to HF NVIS bands and to VHF and UHF repeaters. Communication between MARS and Amateur Radio operators was to be made directly, without relying on Internet-linking capabilities or store-and-forward messaging systems.

"Data analysis following the exercise shows that MARS members successfully contacted 816 counties across the US (26 percent)," US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, told ARRL. "Amateur Radio participants in this exercise included individuals, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)-affiliated clubs, and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), as well as a few state, county, and city emergency operations centers." English credited advance publicity given to the exercise by ARRL and others for MARS exercise planners having received 181 e-mail inquiries from individual, clubs, and emergency management personnel wanting to receive more information about the exercise and how they could participate. English said MARS received inquiries from 41 states, which included more than 50 ARES groups.

"The purpose of these exercises is to reach beyond interoperability and focus on our ability to exchange usable and relevant information from the local level to the national level following a crisis event," English explained. "Only through the cooperation among MARS and the larger Amateur Radio community (individuals, ARES, RACES, SATERN, etc) can we hope to achieve that synergy."

Amateur radio volunteers respond to flood emergency in Southern India

In the wake of recent severe flooding in Southern India resulting from several days of torrential downpours, volunteer radio amateurs jumped in to provide emergency communication and other disaster assistance. Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) President Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, said hams swung into action soon after flood waters -- 3 to 4 meters deep in some places -- overwhelmed India's fourth-largest city, Chennai, and the surrounding region. Power outages in many parts of the affected area hampered Amateur Radio relief operations, and some radio amateurs were caught in the flooding.

Hams with emergency power were able to pitch in, however, via two local repeaters. An HF network remained on standby. Local hams, several belonging to the South India Amateur Radio Society (SIARS) in Chennai, contributed to relief and rescue operations, working in part with ALERT, a non-governmental relief organization.

"Once it became possible to move, hams started going out assisting

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with delivery of food and water to stranded individuals and assisting with rescue from tall buildings, where people were trapped," Madhavan said. ARSI National Coordinator for Disaster Communication Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU, said the flooding was one of the city's worst disasters and was unexpected in a metropolitan area. Most of the cell phone network, Internet, and other communication systems were knocked out due to power failure and flooding.

Chennai is slowly recovering, but it is expected to take a long time. More than 300 people were reported to have died as a result of the disaster. ***-- Thanks to Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU, Jim Linton, VK3PC, and Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN***

UK Astronaut's 'Principia' ISS mission to highlight educational activities from space

European Space Agency Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, of the UK recently launched from Kazakhstan to the International Space Station (ISS). The English-born Peake -- a former British Army Air Corps officer and helicopter pilot -- lifted off aboard a Soyuz spacecraft on Dec. 15 as part of the Expedition 46 crew.

Through his Principia Mission, Peake will dedicate part of his schedule in space to educational activities for youngsters on Earth. The mission is named for Isaac Newton's text, Philosophæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy). Peake will spend 6 months in orbit on the ISS, mostly working in the Columbus laboratory module.

"I'm extremely proud to say that Mission Pricipia is the largest and most ambitious educational outreach program of any European space mission," Peake said in a pre-flight video. In the video, he thanked the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, the UK Space Agency, the ESA, and others on a long list of supporting educational institutions and organizations. As part of Peake's educational efforts, a pair of Astro-Pi computers will head separately to the ISS for use in various sensor experiments. "Send your code to me, and I'll run it for you onboard the space station," Peake has invited. He'll also be taking along some seeds to grow in space to compare the results with similar seeds grown on Earth.

"Also, I'm really looking forward to talking to many schools using the Amateur Radio system that we have on board the space station," Peake said, referring to ARISS, in a mission overview video posted on the Principia Mission website. Working with the UK Space Agency, ARISS is giving a number of UK schools the opportunity to speak directly with Peake. Initial ARISS school contacts with Peake at the mic will take place in January.

Part of the Principia UK team, including Ciaran Morgan, M0XTD, Graham Shirville, G3VZV, and Noel Matthews, G8GTZ, will be joined by RSGB General Manager Graham Coomber, G0NBI, at the "Principia Partners" booth for the official Tim Peake launch party at the London Science Museum.

Accompanying Peake on his ride to the ISS will be NASA astronaut Tim Kopra, KE5UDN, and Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP. While on station, Peake will carry out an intensive schedule of European and international experiments, in addition to his numerous educational activities.

Peake, 43, is the first British citizen to be selected as an astronaut by ESA.

Scouting's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) participation dips for third year

Despite what the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) called "solid results from an exciting JOTA weekend," Scout participation for the October 2015 event was reported down by 8 percent from 2014, although the number of registered stations and station reports remained about the same. The BSA said 7117 Scouts took part in JOTA 2015.

The number of visitors, at 5138, was also down by 8 percent. The Boy Scouts said only 60 percent of registered stations -- 208 -- filed a station report, so the report may represent only part of the activity and could be updated if additional information comes in. The 346 total stations registered for JOTA 2015 represented a slight improvement from 2014, however.

"The total number of Scout councils involved dropped from 149 to 127," said the report posted by National Jamboree On The Air Organizer Jim Wilson, K5ND. "Therein lies our big challenge -- getting the word out to local Scout councils about the biggest Scouting event in the world and how they can participate."

Participation took a big jump in 2012, with 18,566 Scouts and visitors. In 2013, however, participation was down by nearly 4700, and it slipped further in 2014.

On a more positive note, 208 JOTA-participating stations have filed reports. That's up 1 percent over last year's event. In all, JOTA stations worked 106 countries, as 979 Amateur Radio operators put 847 radios on the air to make 8360 contacts -- all up from 2014.

"The most memorable thing was the Scouts who absolutely said they weren't getting on the air. But when they did, you couldn't pry the mic out of their hands," said Philip Jacobs, W2GSB, at the K2S JOTA special event station. "They turned out to be some of the best Scout ops we had."

The Scouts blamed persistent challenges from propagation, contesting, a lack of council involvement, and failing to get information to those who needed it. "Propagation and contesting will remain ongoing problems. "Changes to the Worked All Germany contest to reserve JOTA frequencies have been helpful," the Scouts reported. "[We] need to activate a similar arrangement with USA-based QSO Parties in New York, Iowa, Illinois, and South Dakota."

Looking ahead to JOTA 2016, the Scouts are planning "consistent, persistent, and even relentless communication...to increase awareness of available information."

JOTA 2015 took place over the Oct. 16-18 weekend.

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Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers assist Cottonmouth 100 Run in Florida

Volunteers from Florida's West Panhandle District ARES recently supported communications for the inaugural Cottonmouth 100, an "Ultramarathon" 100-mile endurance run. Sixteen Amateur Radio operators from three Florida counties -- Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa -- took part in the event over the Nov. 14-15 weekend.

ARES volunteers used 2 meter simplex and one repeater -- the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club's 147.36 MHz Crestview repeater, W4AAV -- in providing communication support at six aid stations as well as at the start and finish lines. The race, with 150 runners, took place in part of two counties in a wooded area encompassing nearly 200,000 acres in the Blackwater River State Forest Bear Lake Recreation Area.

"The original plan called for reporting only the first male and female runners arriving at each aid station," said the after-action report prepared by Santa Rosa County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Daisy Crepeau, KT4KW. "Because many were interested in runner progress, it was quickly changed so that each aid station reported each runner's number as they came through each aid station. This change assisted in tracking runners. A large portion of the race occurred in darkness, and there needed to be a way to account for each runner, in case someone was hurt or lost. This change proved invaluable."

The plan called for using simplex as much as possible and only using the repeater for those aid stations that could not be heard on simplex. Among lessons learned was a need for more operators and a backup net control station, as well as a runner at net control.

"Overall the event was a resounding success," Crepeau said.

Netherlands opens a 100 kHz band at 5 MHz following WRC-15 consensus

Just days after delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) reached consensus on a new global 15 kHz-wide allocation at 5 MHz, the Netherlands opened a 100 kHz band for Amateur Radio use. Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations lets countries authorize frequency assignments that are contrary to the international Table of Allocations, but only on a non-interference, non-protected basis.

Hams in the Netherlands have been authorized to use 5350-5450 MHz at up to 100 W PEP. The Netherlands' IARU member society VERON has recommended the use of USB.

WRC-15 laid the foundation for a global, secondary Amateur Radio allocation of 5351.5 kHz to 5366.5 kHz at up to 15 W effective isotropic radiated power in the US (some Region 2 countries will be permitted up to 25 W EIRP).

The new worldwide band won't be available for use in the US until the FCC institutes a rule-making proceeding and establishes operating parameters for the band.

Yasme Foundation gives Excellence Award to logging software team

The Yasme Foundation Board of Directors has named the N1MM Logger+ logging software development team to receive its Yasme Excellence Award. Team members include Tom Wagner, N1MM; Rick Ellison, N2AMG; Steve London, N2IC; John Bednar, K3CT; Nikolay Safronov, NA3M; Pete Smith, N4ZR; Andreas Hofman, KU7T; Larry Gauthier, K8UT, and Richard Ferch, VE3KI.

The Yasme Excellence Award recognizes an individual or individuals who, through their own service, creativity, effort, and dedication, have made a significant contribution to Amateur Radio. "The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating, or organizational achievement, as all three are necessary for Amateur Radio to grow and prosper," the Yasme Foundation announcement said.

N1MM+ is a major revision to the original N1MM Logger program, involving a volunteer effort to rewrite and test more than more than 250,000 lines of code. The program continues to be available free, and is updated and supported on a regular basis.

Ham Radio Outlet founder Robert G. Ferrero, W6RJ, SK

Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) Founder Robert G. "Bob" Ferrero, W6RJ (ex-K6AHV), of Danville, California, died on December 4 after a period of ill health. He was 78. An ARRL Life Member, Ferrero was a California state trooper and US Navy veteran when he acquired Ham Radio Outlet in Burlingame, California, in 1971. He characterized the original store as a "little radio emporium on a wooden train platform." HRO is now the world's largest Amateur Radio retail chain.

Ferrero took part in DXpeditions to Kingman Reef in 1974, the Austral and Marquesas Islands, and the now-deleted Bajo Nuevo and Serrana Bank. He also operated as 9J2RA, TJ1GB, and W6RJ/Z2, as well as from HZ1AB in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Ferrero was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 1997 and into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2005. He was a member of the A1 Operators Club. In 2009, the editors of CQ, in conjunction with the Visalia DX Convention, recognized Ferrero "for his many contributions to Amateur Radio."

US Rep. Walden, W7EQI, among latest Amateur Radio Parity Act co-sponsors

US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), is among the latest House members to sign on as an Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 co-sponsor. One of three radio amateurs in Congress, Walden chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, tr H.R. 1301, the House version of the legislation.

As of Dec. 2, there were 117 cosponsors in the US House and three cosponsors for S. 1685, the US Senate bill, which cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November

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18. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said co-sponsorship by Walden, the subcommittee chair, is a highlight of the bill's progress in the House.

"Rep Walden and his subcommittee staff have been very helpful all along the way," she added. President Craigie also said it's important that ARRL members continue to write, call, or e-mail their members of Congress, including those who already have become cosponsors.

"We want the members of Congress who signed on months ago to be reminded periodically that their help is important and appreciated by constituents," President Craigie said. "Keeping Capitol Hill's attention is not a one-and-done thing. Thanking our supporters is both good manners and good strategy."

Other US House members who became H.R. 1301 cosponsors in November include three from Texas and two from Wisconsin: Reps Ron Kind (D-WI), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Gene Green (D-TX), Sam Johnson (R-TX), and Vela Filemon (D-TX)

The bill calls on the FCC to apply its "reasonable accommodation" standard to private land-use restrictions. It would offer Amateur Radio operators an opportunity to negotiate with homeowners associations in subdivisions that now preclude the installation outdoor ham antennas. More information on the Amateur Radio Parity Act is available on the ARRL website.

Revamped FCC website debuts

The FCC's large-scale website redesign rolled out earlier this month.

The FCC said the new website has been designed to provide "better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability." Earlier this year the Commission's IT Department opened a beta-test version of the site to gather user comments.

"Extensive user research revealed how the FCC could improve the website's information architecture to make content easier to find," the Public Notice said. The FCC said its new website has been designed to operate on tablet and mobile device browsers with the display optimization based upon the device.

The FCC said web pages and files that have not already migrated to the new site will remain available, and existing bookmarks will be redirected to the appropriate content on the new site.

ARRL Lab gets Keysight generators

The ARRL Laboratory has acquired two new Keysight N5182B MXG signal generators, which will replace two of the Lab's aging Marconi 2041 analog signal generators. ARRL Senior Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, said the new equipment will expand the Lab's testing capabilities.

"Operating in a range from 9 kHz to 6 GHz, the MXG can generate both vector and analog RF signals at high performance levels, which will allow the ARRL Laboratory to develop new tests for measuring the performance of digital receivers and transmitters," Allison said. "The MXG can also function as a waveform generator and has the ability to download complex RF signals captured by the Lab's Keysight spectrum analyzer. This allows the Lab to capture both digital and analog signals and play them back as a signal source for test purposes."

Keysight Engineer Tom Holmes, N8ZM, recently visited the ARRL Lab to discuss ideas regarding new tests with Allison. "Once Tom hooked the cables from the MXA to the MXG, I realized the potential the ARRL Lab now has," Allison said. "While our Marconi signal generators have been faithful to us for many, many years, they lacked the ability to generate digital signals needed for today's Amateur Radio equipment."

'The Radio Amateur's Workshop' explains workshop essentials

"The Radio Amateur's Workshop," by Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, is now available from the ARRL Store, ARRL publication dealers, and as an e-book for the Amazon Kindle.

It is a guide to setting up and maintaining an efficient at-home laboratory and work station. It describes the tools you'll need for projects ranging from assembling electronic kits, to building and testing antennas. Subsequent chapters look at a wide variety of workshop test equipment, including an explanation of how various instruments can be used to develop, fabricate, and evaluate projects.

The Radio Amateur's Workshop (ARRL Item No. 0482, ISBN: 978-1-62595-016-1) retails for $22.95; special ARRL member price is $19.95. To order online, visit the ARRL Store or order by phone, toll free in the US, (888) 277-5289.

Richard A. Strand, KL7RA, SK

Well-known contester and station builder Richard Strand, KL7RA, of Kenai, Alaska, died Nov. 20 after suffering a heart attack a couple of weeks earlier. He was 69.

A radio astronomer, Strand was an ARRL Life Member. KL7RA was a regular in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, handing out the relatively rare Alaska Section multiplier, and he had hoped to recover in time for the 2015 ARRL November Sweepstakes events. He also was active in DX contests.

Strand was a Volunteer Examiner with the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club VEC, and he had been a contributor to The ARRL Handbook.

UK author Peter Dodd, G3LDO, SK

Columnist and author Peter Dodd, G3LDO, of England, died Nov. 17 at age 83.

Dodd was well known for his antenna expertise and was a long-time contributor to the Radio Society of Great Britain's journal, RadCom, for which he edited the "Antennas" column. He also wrote several articles for QST and QEX. In addition he was the author of several books on antennas and on low-frequency operating.