



# The Wave Bender

February 2020

AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

A green line-art illustration of a person in a cap and jacket, appearing to be in motion, bending a wave. To the right of the illustration is a small logo for the Ohio Section, featuring a diamond shape with "A V R" and "R E S E R V E" inside, and "Ohio Section" written below it.

## WRARC PREZ



Greeting everyone, I hope you are all enjoying this warm winter we've been having. It sure helped having good weather. I was glad to see so many of you were able to attend our Club holiday party. As always it's a nice end to the busy year we've had. We've especially had a rough past year losing so many great members and friends, that's always hard on everyone.

As I write this I specifically waited for After the Holidays Dinner/Meeting/party, and my first official board meeting, so I could have some things to talk about. One of those things is our new members we added at the party, John, N8VPD, and Wes, W8IZC. I'm sure most of us knew them, but if not, make sure to say hello and let them feel welcomed.

Speaking of new members, at the board meeting we discussed some ideas to help out some of our new members and Hams in general. I would like to ask some of you to send me some ideas as well about what you would have liked or would even like now that would help you. We already plan on doing some radio refresher courses this year to help our new members understand radio better. Even some of our older members they may enjoy these classes to help refresh your memory or even learn something new about our hobby.

I'm excited to say too that it looks like we already have some great ideas for speakers at meetings for this coming year. Remember too if you have a topic you would like covered, or know of a speaker you would like to see, just let your board members know, and we'll see about getting that scheduled for everyone.

We have some time but before we know it field day and our public service events will be here. I hope everyone is already thinking about field day, that's always a great event for us. There is a lot that goes into the planning for that weekend so if there is anyone with ideas or would like to assist with that just let someone know.

Once the weather breaks and we no longer have the threat of rain and snow, I will have some antenna projects personally this year. I am inviting everyone to come help out with. One of which is, I have an HF loop antenna I will be installing. So if you're interested in seeing one or have no idea what one is, it will be a great opportunity to learn about another antenna option. I also have an HF vertical antenna I will hopefully be tuning and laying a ground radial field for. Now both of those projects will be secondary to me, the Club events will be taking priority for me, and we'll work on those when we have time.

Now before I go on too much longer, I'll stop here, and as always, please feel free to contact me about anything, whether it be a simple question or even just to chat.

73 de WF8U Chris

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**2020 Officers:**

- President:** Chris Monske, WF8U      wf8u@wrarc.net
- VP:** Maureen Stein, KD8NXS      kd8nxs@wrarc.net
- Secretary:** Mike Cibella, KC8UNR      kc8unr@wrarc.net
- Treasurer:** Bob Kramer, KE8HHH      ke8hhh@wrarc.net
- Past President:** Bob Mitzel, N8RCM      n8rcm@wrarc.net

**Trustees:**

- Steve Fabry, KC8SOY      kc8soy@wrarc.net
- Darrin Cannon, N8DMC      n8dmc@wrarc.net
- Ray LaShure, K8NVY      k8nvj@wrarc.net

**Appointed Positions:**

- Social: Maureen Stein, KD8NXS  
kd8nxs@wrarc.net
- Repeater & Nets: Steve Fabry, KC8SOY  
kc8soy@wrarc.net
- Classes: Chris Monske WF8U  
kd8ely@gmail.com
- Testing: Darrin Cannon, N8DMC  
n8dmc@wrarc.net
- Newsletter/Web: Jane Avnet K8JAA  
k8jaa@wrarc.net
- Historian: Rose Marko, KD8TII  
kd8tii@wrarc.net
- Badges: Darrin Cannon, N8DMC  
n8dmc@wrarc.net

**Officer's Meeting:**

February 11, 2020, 7:00 P.M. At Eat 'n Park,  
Austintown, Eat 'n Park,  
5451 Mahoning Ave  
All members welcome

**Members Meeting:**

February 18, 2020 at Davidson's  
3636 Canfield Rd., Cornersburgh

**Speaker:** None

**OTHER IMPORTANT WEB SITES**

**THE ARRL EXAM SEARCH PAGE**

<[HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/FIND-AN-AMATEUR-RADIO-LICENSE-EXAM-SESSION](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session)>

**OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET**

<[HTTP://WWW.OSSBN.ORG/INDEX.HTML](http://www.ossbn.org/index.html)>

**ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE AVERAGE TERRAIN (HAAT) CALCULATOR**

[HTTPS://WWW.FCC.GOV/MEDIA/RADIO/HAAT-CALCULATOR](https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/haat-calculator)



<http://www.wrarc.net/>

## FROM OUR VP



Greetings, All. Here we are starting another year for WRARC. Our new officers have been installed and are ready to begin this new year. We had another very nice After the Holidays Dinner/Meeting/Party on Sunday, January 12. Mother Nature cooperated and gave us a nice day. We chose the right weekend as the forecasts for this one (the 18th/19th) and the next are not good. We had, I think, 31 in attendance- members, families of members, and some very welcome guests. Everyone had a great time socializing and we topped it all off with cake again. Yum! Thank you once again to all who contributed to the free will offering to purchase the cake. There was \$5.02 left over after the cost of the cake that went to the treasury, as we had said would be done with anything collected over the cost of the cake. We had a door prize item for which we had a drawing to give to a lucky winner. That item was a 2019 ARRL Handbook given to us to use any way

we wanted by our SM, Scott Yonally, N8SY, when he came to speak to us in September. A member of Davidsons wait staff pulled the name for the drawing, and I can honestly say it was not rigged - LOL. Our winner was none other than Mike Stein, KD8YML, my husband, who then gave it to Kevin, KD8NXR, our son. That was totally by chance! Just the way it worked out. I would like to say that if anyone wants to reference anything out of it, we would bring it to a general meeting night.

Looking ahead into the coming year, I would like to remind us all that we need everyone's participation for Club Activities. Our new President, Chris WF8U, has some very good ideas for some Club Activities that he will elaborate on at our February general meeting on the 18th. Otherwise, I would just like to remind us all of our regular yearly public service events for 2020. Please plan to participate and mark your calendars now. I did some checking on the websites for each of our three major events that we cover for their 2020 schedules. So far the Peace Race does not yet have anything up for 2020. They usually do their race in October. We will have to keep watching for this year's information to be put up on their website. In 2019, it was run two weeks prior to the Youngstown Marathon. If that is the case again, the date likely will be Sunday, October 11, 2020. I will have to keep checking and will pass it on to you when I see it. I'll keep you updated, and will have sign-up sheets prior to each event.

The Youngstown Marathon is officially scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2020. The full and half marathons kick off at 8:00 A.M. and the 5K at 8:15 A.M. That will be an early arrival time for us once again. We most likely will continue to gather at the back parking lot of the Fellows Riverside Gardens to sign in and get our individual station location assignments. We will most likely do some pre-event preparations/workshops as we have done in the past. The interesting date is for the Panerathon in August. The 2020 website gives the date as Sunday, August 25. If you check a 2020 calendar, though, you will see that the date of the 25th falls on a Tuesday. This is a race that has always been run on a Sunday, therefore the event date is likely to be on the 23rd. I'll keep you all updated. I think that is likely to be an error that will be corrected later. That is the best we have right now. With these dates in mind so far, we can tentatively mark our calendars ahead of time. Another fun event is the Family Fun Day at Boardman Park on a Saturday in early September. We look forward to these events, and will likely not be adding any more Public Service Events.

In closing, I would like to send out get well wishes to Ray LaShure, K8NVY, as he recovers at the Cleveland Veterans Hospital. We are all behind you, Ray. Please keep him and Marilyn in your thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks. We are all set to have a good year, and I am sure it will fly by very quickly as time always seems to do anymore.

73, Maureen, KD8NXS  
VP/WRARC



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Feb.01 YL Breakfast - PTBD
- Feb.11 Board Meeting - Austintown Eat 'n Park  
Members welcome  
Ham Community Breakfast - Austintown Eat 'n Park
- Feb.18 Members Meeting
- Feb.24 Ham Community Breakfast - Austintown Eat 'n Park
  
- Mar. 07 YL Breakfast - PTBD
- Mar. 10 Board Meeting - Austintown Eat 'n Park  
Members welcome  
Ham Community Breakfast - Austintown Eat 'n Park
- Mar. 17 Members Meeting
- Mar.24 Ham Community Breakfast - Austintown Eat 'n Park



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CONTACT WRARC ELMERS WITH YOUR QUESTIONS - [QUESTIONS@WRARC.NET](mailto:QUESTIONS@WRARC.NET)

Fabry, Steve KC8SOY  
 Haren, Roy KD8IJF  
 Williams, Russ NR8W

Yaesu FT8900, FT8800, Mobile  
 ???  
 Electrician, tele-data, Amateur  
 Extra

kc8soy@yahoo.com  
 harens@juno.com  
 rwilliams@neo.rr.com

Articles from members for the Wave Bender are encouraged. They must be received by the editor by the 20th each month. Please send your articles to: [k8jaa@arrl.net](mailto:k8jaa@arrl.net), and put WRARC on the subject line of your email. You may also send your articles to the editor: Jane Avnet, 1440 Skyhawk Pl., Wright City, MO 63390

HELLO FROM YOUR NEW SECRETARY



Just wanted to say hello, hope everyone is well. I will try my best as it has been a long time since I have done any Secretarial duties. For a few months I have asked Stan, KB3WPD, for his opinion and help so that minutes are correct. Oh! and yes! I am buying his meals at membership meetings to review what I have done. I am not Stan so please don't expect multiple pages of perfect grammar and punctuation. Just a note as I don't know all of the new members. I will try and make it a point to meet and learn everyone's name and callsign. Also for the new members, please don't be afraid to ask questions if you are new to Ham Radio. You may get various answers from different members most have different ways of doing things so, many answers may not be wrong. [Just different] Don't have much else to say at this time.

I have added some pictures of a myself and Chris, WF8U, helping John, Ayers, KD8YME, take down some old TV and short Ham towers about a month ago. Hope to see everyone at next meeting -

73 Mike Cibella, KC8UNR



OPERATING TIP

**Choosing Your FTx Transmit and Receive Frequencies in Crowded Contests**

Summary: choose an audio offset frequency greater than 500 Hz, and less than the suggested frequency intervals (e.g. 2000 Hz). In crowded band conditions, the "base" transmit frequencies for FT4 or FT8 are suggested to be at 2 kHz intervals. For example, some stations may be set their rig frequencies to 14.130 MHz, while others are at 14.132 or 14.134 MHz. Under these conditions, it makes sense to choose a transmit frequency offset of greater than 500 Hz, but LESS than 2 kHz. Here's the reasoning: If the CQing station chooses 14.130.0 with an offset of 2400 Hz, then a listening station tuned to the rig frequency of 14.132.0 will "see" that station at 400 Hz. Many radios have audio passbands of between 500 Hz and 3000 Hz - frequencies outside that range are not received as well. A reduced sensitivity at 400 Hz can make the difference for a successful decode. The station answering the CQ (rig at 14.132.0) should likely pick a frequency at or near the CQ frequency, since they don't know whether or not the CQing rig's frequency is at 14.130 or 14.132. If they choose, say, 1500 Hz, this would be at 14.133.5. The CQing station set to 14.130 may not be decoding all the way to 3500 Hz from the rig offset frequency.

**Join us for the WRARC Friday night Net 9:00 P.M.  
KD8DWV - 145.270, PL -110.9  
Upcoming Net Control Operators**

Jan. 24 Bob, KE8HHH  
Jan. 31 Bill, KD8HCQ  
Feb. 07 Steve, KC8SOY  
Feb. 14 Rose, KD8TII  
Feb. 21 Bill, KD8HCQ  
Feb. 28 Bob, KE8HHH

If your name has never been on this list  
Contact Steve, KC8SOY to take a turn at Net Control  
330-774-6346



**WRARC Simplex Frequency 146.565**

**Mahoning County ARES® Nets**

**1st Monday 8.40 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)**

**&**

**3rd Monday 8.40 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)**

**ARES thanks MVARA for the use of their repeater**

**W8SGT is facilitating The Ohio HF net every Tuesday - 7:00 PM**

**The net is run from the State of Ohio EOC on the**

**Ohio ARES Admin frequency 3875 kHz LSB**

**moves to 7240 Khz after 20-min.**

**All are welcome to check in.**



**The Ohio ARES/OES Digital Emergency Net held every Tuesday at 8:00PM.  
held on 3585 kHz USB.**

**Please note all digital communications are Upper Side Band.**

**<http://www.http://ohden.org/> for net details. Net Manager Gary NJ8BB**



Thanks & 73 to all of our members (and others) look forward (hopefully) to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those articles, jokes, and suggestions! sending those articles, jokes, and suggestions!

Thanks goes out to this month's contributors; KD8TII, N8SY, W5YI, the ARRL, FaceBook, and the World-Wide Web.

A NOTE FROM DARRIN



I hope everyone had a great time at the After the Holidays Dinner/Meeting/party on 1/12/2020. I must apologize though. I had every intention to set up the annual slide show of our picture collage, due to the restaurant rearranged the dining area. I thought we would have another area to plug in the computer and projector. I would like to seek out a volunteer that may be able to put an updated one out. If interested, please reach out to any officer and we can start getting you the pictures! There's plenty out there I'm sure of it!

Everyone should have received the qst email blast regarding club wear. I put a due date of our next February meeting on the 18th! Please visit and click on the member page and you will find a printable club wear order form. Simply fill it out and give it to me, Darrin - N8DMC. Again, Due on February 18th, 2020

Please keep your thoughts and prayers to one of our members, Ray Lashure K8NVY, as he is up at the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Hospital battling cancer again. Also, if you have any QST magazines you are finished reading, get them to me, Darrin - N8DMC, and I'll pass them along to his wife so she can deliver them to Ray. Thanks in advance! I'll try my best to keep you all updated on his treatments/recovery and pass them along when I know, such as on a Friday night net, or at our regular club meetings.


If you know of anyone else that maybe ill and would like to pass that information along to us, please do so! We want ALL of our fellow Hams to be happy and healthy.

Are you ready to upgrade? We are ready to test you! As you may be aware, I'm WRARC's Contact Volunteer Examiner and would be more than happy to arrange a testing session for you! In the past, we have either tested at Davidson's restaurant after our normal meeting, or finding another location that would accept us. On another note. . . We have been granted access to a local church in Canfield, Ohio. We're looking at options for classes at a later date. Stay tuned! But you don't need to wait if you would like to express your interest in a class. Reach out to Chris - WF8U Your President! and he'll jot you down as one that is interested!

Do you have a Ham Radio related topic you want to learn more about? Let us know and one of our clubs Elmers will reach out to you and help you out. Who knows, maybe it will turn into a presentation at our next club meeting!

73 for now!  
Darrin Cannon - N8DMC  
WRARC/Trustee





**Semi-Monthly  
Ham Community  
Breakfast  
Second and Fourth  
Tuesdays  
9:00 A.M.  
Eat 'n Park Restaurant  
in Austintown  
Join Us!**

**Dave DeSimio WA8GCF - SK**

December 24, 2019



Please join WRARC Members  
in expressing our  
feelings of sadness at  
Dave's passing.  
Losing a friend is never  
easy!.



**Bill McClaren, KB8MNE - SK**

December 22, 2019



Please join me & Al  
in expressing our  
feelings of sadness at  
Bill's passing.  
Losing a good friend is  
never easy!.



Loss

Losing friends is never easy. Dave was a member of both WRARC and PCARS. He was a good friend of Russes who talked him into joining our club a couple years ago. Al and I got to know Dave when we sold him one of our towers while getting ready to move - a nice guy.

Bill was a long time friend. He and his wife Lela, KB8YPD, were fun, active, long time members of SAARA. The Ham club we belonged to for a short time down in Salem. We always enjoyed seeing them in Dayton every year. Bill and I would 'race' our skooters, space available of course. Nice folks, good friends.

Losing friends, short or long time, at Christmas time is especially hard, because the season is so full of joy, but I guess there's never 'a right time.'

73 - Jane, K8JAA  
WRARC/ye ed



**GROW LIGHTS CAUSE INTERFERENCE TO HAM RADIO**

(Submitted by Gregory Drezdzon, WD9FTZ)

The Lansing State Journal, on January 14, reports amateur radio operators have been complaining of interference from marijuana grow lights.

The newspaper says:

The rumbling, noise, and buzzing would startlike clockwork. Gregg Mulder, WB8LZG, noticed the static each evening when he finished dinner and turned on his radio equipment.

The noise made it impossible for Mulder to communicate with other amateur radio enthusiasts. Mulder, who lives in Dimondale, Mich., built an antenna device called a "sniffer" and tracked the interference to a house a few doors down. The problem, Mulder determined, was a high-powered light used by his neighbor to grow cannabis.

It is legal for Michiganders to grow marijuana in their homes under certain circumstances. But, some amateur radio operators complain that grow lights are interfering with their signals.

Problems arise from products that exceed emission limits from the Federal Communications Commission. The uncertified products, typically the ballasts that send power to light bulbs, are often manufactured overseas.

PostScript – January 20th Edition





ARRL CEO CHALLENGES MEMBERS

**ARRL CEO Challenges Members: "Dare to Imagine"**

In his January 2020 QST "Second Century" editorial, ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, challenges members to imagine what ARRL and amateur radio will look like in 5 years and beyond and to dare to imagine change.

"Younger hams are not just younger versions of you or me," Michel writes. "They have grown up in a different world." He points out that 75% of non-members hold Technician licenses. "But more than license class, their interests are different. Their demographics are different. They are different, and they want different things," he said. His approach is to target specific interest groups, which he calls "verticals," that will allow ARRL to provide individual members what they want.

"We can try to mold the future generation of hams to our image, or we can embrace new hams for what they are," Michel asserted. "ARRL needs to do the latter."


In addition to initiatives such as the new On the Air magazine, debuting this month in print and digital editions, and the Lifelong Learning program to engage new licensees, Michel is proposing verticals focusing on radiosport, experimentation, and emergency communication. He's recommending a new family of "mini-magazines" to reach niche membership interests. "To jump start the mini-mag revolution," he said, "We will offer NCJ and QEX in digital form to everyone." ARRL also plans to hire a national club coordinator this year.


"Our focus will be on developing ways, and an infrastructure, that members can use to organize themselves in ways they want, to do things that they consider meaningful," Michel said. He members' comments.




The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2020







KE8JTS David Earley  
N8DMC Darrin Cannon



**Amateur Radio Operator "Amateur means we're simply professional volunteers" ARRL reflector**

**COULD I BE LOOKING FOR YOU?**

Could I be looking for YOU? This is the Wave Bender YOUR Newsletter. We have plenty of room for YOUR article(s)! If something is of interest to you, odds are that we all will enjoy your thoughts and activities! Have a favorite radio? Have some reminiscing to do? maybe you have a question for one of our Elmers. OR, a Tip or Trick you learned that would help one of YOUR WRARC friends. You are warmly invited to contribute! Don't worry about writing or formality - we can help you with that. Your article could go in this spot next month!!

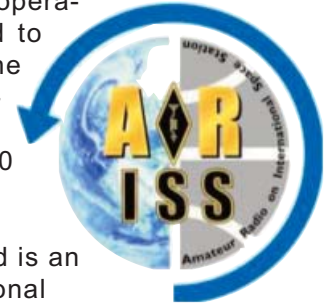


Tell us how you got interested, or how you got started. Maybe you had an Elmer you'd like to tell us about. -ed

ARISS NEXT-GENERATION RADIO SYSTEM

**ARISS Next-Generation Radio System Ready for Launch to Space Station**

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) reports that its first Interoperable Radio System (IORS) flight unit -- serial number 1001 -- has been delivered to NASA's Johnson Space Center for launch in early March. The IORS represents the first major upgrade in ARISS equipment on the International Space Station since Amateur Radio gained a permanent presence onboard the ISS in 2000. In December, ARISS received approval from NASA Safety to launch the IORS on SpaceX CRS-20 and stow the radio system on the ISS for future installation.



"The IORS is a foundational element of the ARISS next-generation radio system and is an incredible engineering achievement by the ARISS hardware team," ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said. "This first element delivery will support easier radio mode transitions and enable new, exciting capabilities for hams, students, and the general public."


The new system includes a higher-power radio, an enhanced voice repeater, and updated digital packet radio (APRS) and slow-scan television (SSTV) capabilities for both the US and Russian space station segments. The IORS consists of a custom-modified JVC Kenwood TM-D710GA transceiver, an AMSAT-developed multi-voltage power supply, and interconnecting cables.

The IORS set to launch in March will be installed in the ISS Columbus module; a second flight unit is expected to be launched later this year for installation in the Russian Service module. The ARISS hardware team will assemble four flight units -- and 10 IORS units in all -- to support onboard flight operations, training, operations planning, and hardware testing.



ARISS International President  
Frank Bauer, KA3HDO

"Future upgrades and enhancements to the next-generation system are in various stages of design and development," Bauer said. "These include a repaired Ham Video system -- currently planned for launch in mid-to-late 2020, L-band (uplink) repeater, ground command operations capability, LimeSDR signal reception, a microwave 'Ham Communicator,' and Lunar Gateway prototype experiment." Bauer said a lot of "heavy lifting" remains to prepare the IORS for operation on the space station. "ARISS has 92 engineering requirements and our operations Phase III safety review to complete," he explained. "The space agencies take a position of 'trust, but verify.' Thus, these engineering and safety 'verifications' all need to be closed out before the IORS can be unstowed and turned on. This will be the ARISS hardware team's focus over the next few months."

Bauer reminded that ARISS is almost entirely run by volunteers and encouraged donations for next-generation hardware developments, operations, education, and administrative functions. - *The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2020* 

AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Australian Bushfires Causing Major Telecommunication Outages, Hams on Duty

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) President Greg Kelly, VK2GPK, says the bushfires in Australia have caused significant disruption of telecommunication services in the states of Victoria and New South Wales. **Radio amateurs are supporting relief operations and communication.**



WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) in New South Wales reports it has been active assisting in a number of multi-agency activities during the bushfire emergency, in its role as a support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) operations center in Bega. WICEN teams in NSW and in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) have sent a team to Bega to help re-establish radio communication services, disrupted by fire activity.

Continued page 11

## AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

WICEN and other VRA squads continue to support the Rural Fire Service (RFS) at various Fire Control Centers and the Bushfire Information Line. Other WICEN members remain active with the RFS and the State Emergency Service.

Kelley has asked radio amateurs in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 to monitor the emergency communications frequencies, per the IARU Region 3 band plan, whenever possible, as well as repeaters. "Amateurs seeking to establish emergency communication should use these EMCOMM frequencies in the first instance, or repeaters if available," he said in a statement posted on the IARU Region 3 website.

"Radio amateurs who are volunteers for [WICEN and other emergency communication organizations] should keep themselves updated," Kelley advised. "Emergency communication is one of the main reasons radio amateurs have access to RF spectrum. Please assist if and when you can."



The IARU Region 3 emergency "center of activity" frequencies are 3.600, 7.110, 14.300, 18.160, and 21.360 MHz. These are not net frequencies, but they are recommended as starting points for emergency traffic, and activity may extend 5 kHz above or below the designated center frequency.

South of NSW in the state of Victoria, WICEN VIC reports that the amateur repeater network is largely off the air, possibly due to a lack of power. "Some sites may have been directly affected by fire," WICEN VIC said on January 4. "It could be some weeks until the sites can be reached for inspection."

The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2020



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is pleased to announce that we will again sponsor the DX Dinner, held in conjunction with the 2020 Dayton Hamvention®. This, our 35th annual dinner, will be on Friday, May 15th, 2020, at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409.

We will have another fantastic array of great prizes at the Dinner and the Forum!

There will be a cash bar starting at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00. Following the event, there will be a separate room and cash bar available for more fellowship. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new hams and to renew old acquaintances as well as to learn about past DXpeditions and those in the planning stages.



The Marriott is very accommodating to a group our size. The dining room is on the ground floor so there are no steps, the dining room is very large, and there is ample free, on-site parking.

This dinner is always well attended by some of the most avid DXers in the world. The 2019 dinner had over 400 attendees! As in the past, there will be some major door prizes, and there is always great anticipation as to who will be named the "DXpedition of the Year®", the "IOTA DX-Peditioner of the Year", as well as the inductees in to the CQ DX Hall of Fame during the dinner.

Tickets can be purchased on the SWODXA Events website at

Program details and a list of the prizes will be on the website as they become available and updates will be sent out regularly via Twitter. Follow us on Twitter -@SWODXA

You can check <https://swodxaevents.org/latest-news/> for the latest news.

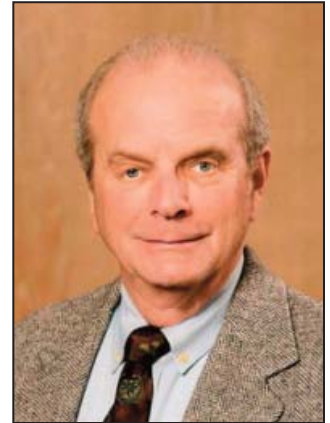


VM PROGRAM COORDINATOR LOOKS FORWARD TO A POSITIVE 2020

**Volunteer Monitor Program Coordinator Looks Forward to a Positive 2020**

In a holiday season message to ARRL leadership and to members of the new ARRL Volunteer Monitor (VM) program, its coordinator, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, expressed his gratitude to all involved for their contributions to getting the program off to a solid start in January.

"It will be a good year," Hollingsworth said. "We will have fun, you will enjoy it more than you probably think, and -- thanks to the talent and generosity of one of our VMs -- a computer program will make your reporting much easier (there will be no need for bi-monthly reports!)," he wrote. "This is our opportunity to help amateur radio last another hundred years and to pay forward this wonderful avocation that joyfully occupies our lives. This could be our legacy if we do it with all the energy and devotion that characterized the Official Observer (OO) program for decades."

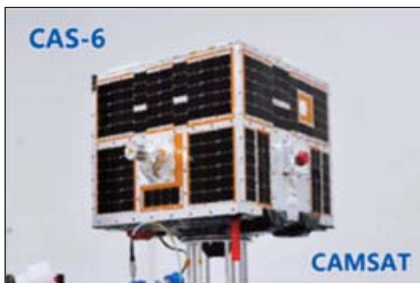


Hollingsworth said the success of the OO program convinced the FCC to trust ARRL with the responsibilities now to be taken up by the Volunteer Monitor program. "Those of you who are former OOs have an extra reason to be proud, and amateur radio is grateful to you more than you will ever know," Hollingsworth concluded. "Thank you. It will be a privilege to work with you this new year."

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors in 2018, the Volunteer Monitor program supplants the venerable OO program. The VM program represents a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used to correct misconduct. The program also will recognize exemplary on-air operation, something not done during the OO program. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The FCC proposed the new program in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff. It will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitor program without ARRL's having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process.

The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2020



**CAMSAT Says CAS-6 Activation for Amateur Use Has Been Delayed**

Chinese Amateur Satellite Group (CAMSAT) CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, told ARRL this week that some problems with the precise attitude determination of the newly launched CAS-6 amateur radio satellite have delayed deployment of the antennas. The satellite was to have been put into service within 3 days.

"If the V/UHF antennas are deployed now, additional torque may affect determination of the satellite attitude," Kung said. "Engineers need to modify and upload the software, which will take some time." He said that taking

into consideration the upcoming long Chinese New Year holiday, the test work is planned to be completed sometime in late February or early March. At that time, VHF/UHF antennas will be deployed, and the amateur radio payload will be available for use.

Kung points out that the satellite's CW beacon has been turned on, although the antenna has not yet been deployed. "If you have a 'big ear,' you may be able to receive weak signal leaked from an undeployed antenna on 145.910 MHz," he said. "A polyimide cover on the antenna chassis can help to leak some RF signal."

CAMSAT has provided CAS-6 Satellite Digital Telemetry Description and CW Telemetry Beacon Encoding Format documents. -- Thanks to Alan Kung, BA1DU - The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2020



AFTER THE HOLIDAYS DINNER MEETING - CONTONUED



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE OFFICERS, BOTH THE OUT-GOING AND THE IN-COMING



# February 2020

PREPAREDNESS LEADS TO READINESS - MATT W8DEC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1		WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	1 National Freedom Day
2 Groundhog Day 	3 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	4	5	6	7 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	8
9	10	11 Ham Breakfast Eat'n Park Austintown 8:30 A.M.  Board Meeting Eat'n Park Austintown 7:00 P.M.	12	13 	14 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	15
16	17 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	18 WRARC Meeting 7:00 P.M. 	19	20  WaveBender Articles Due	21 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	22 Be Humble Day
23	24	25 Eat'n Park Austintown 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	26	27	28 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	29 Leap Day