

Arlington OEM Files Comments With FCC

Responding to the Federal Communications Commission public notice which requested comments concerning the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications, Arlington County’s Office of Emergency Management has filed comments with the FCC.



Addressing the FCC’s question concerning how the agency’s Part 97 rules could be amended to enhance ham operator support during emergencies, OEM Director Jack Brown highlighted OEM’s adoption of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service protocol for its Amateur Radio volunteers and encouraged the Commission to adopt a “standardized” training scheme and license endorsement: “Local governments would provide customized training pursuant to FEMA standards to augment the training required for volunteer registration with a served agency. The Commission could provide an endorsement to Amateur Radio licenses upon submission by a licensee of a certification issued by a served agency demonstrating that the licensee has successfully completed examination for knowledge of local and national training standards. The served agency would forward the documentation to DHS/FEMA, which would in turn submit an endorsement authorization to the Commission. The Commission would then issue an updated license bearing an emergency communication endorsement (EMCOMM License Endorsement).”

On the issue of private land use restrictions, Brown suggested that the FCC expand its 1985 Memorandum Opinion & Order requiring state and local governments and zoning boards, to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio operations: “Arlington OEM respectfully requests that an enhanced PRB-1 articulate a preference for approval under zoning laws as well as covenants and/or HOA rules where an Amateur Radio licensee demonstrates that he or she holds an EMCOMM License Endorsement as outlined in Arlington OEM’s answer to Question 1e. Enhanced in this way, PRB-1 would fairly balance the interests of zoning authorities and HOA members with the Commission’s interest in maintaining a pool of trained radio operators who are adequately equipped to provide EMCOMM services to our communities and the nation.”



PRB-1 does not presently address the issue of restrictive covenants that prevent many Amateur Radio operators from installing outdoor antennas.

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news@w4ava.org

The President's Pen



Preparedness

Gerry Greenwood N3EVT, ARPSC President

Many of you recently reported seeing the Space Shuttle *Discovery* overfly Washington perched atop a specially configured NASA 747. I too was among the spectators. But having heard the announced “good viewing areas” I sought out a spot not advertised. I wanted a clear horizon yet be near the path. I wanted to avoid the Mall and Gravelly Point. Proximity to coffee would be nice and proximity to a restroom might be prudent.

As I headed out WTOP was reporting that the Shuttle was running early. I headed directly for the Washington Sailing Marina off the GW Parkway. I intentionally left my camera at home and took only binoculars and a Yaesu FT-60 dual band HT with extra battery packs. Those of you familiar with this dandy little radio know that it has the added advantage of covering the AM aeronautical band. When I arrived at the Marina there were only a couple of people on the deck by the snack bar. All had cameras and were looking downriver assuming that would be the logical Southerly approach. I joined them and tuned into the Control Tower frequency at National Airport. The orientation of its antennas must be optimized for aircraft at altitude to easily hear them. So as you move away from the airport the arriving and departing aircraft remain Lima Charlie while the Tower can be weak-readable or less.

When the Tower announced a STOP to all arriving and departing aircraft I knew the Shuttle was close so it was then that I trained my binoculars to the South. Then I heard the communications between the DCA Tower and the 747. It announced that it was heading downriver approaching from the Northwest. I pivoted 220 degrees and spotted it. The 747 and *Discovery* were distinctively different colors, the Shuttle a muted yellow compared to the glistening silver of the 747. All the cameras were snapping away in rapid-fire succession. (Observation: These were modern digital cameras and could operate quietly, but the manufacturers seem to have added the artificial sound of the old SLR mirror flipping up and back in 1/1000th of a second. What's next - adding the sound of a Hemi engine to the Prius!).

Only after *Discovery* banked and passed low and slow just in front of us continuing down the Potomac did the cameras stop shooting and come to rest. There must have been hundreds of images shot just to my left and right. Then the fellow to my right looked at our little group, his camera and 300mm lens hanging from his neck dejectedly, and said, “I forgot to load a media card. I left it in my computer at home”.

And that is the message today. If we are to be a SERVICE organization (it's in our ARPSC name) we must be prepared, not just when an event or drill is pre-announced or when Field Day approaches, but every day all year long. Each of us needs to have a check-list that works for us and provides us the capability to communicate effectively perhaps for an extended period of time. That means having a Go-Kit near at hand ready to grab and go. It means having a radio of sufficient power and an antenna of sufficient gain to reliably hit our repeaters or work simplex within the County. It means having sufficient battery backup whether in extra packs, charging capability, or battery cases that take readily available AA cells. It means carrying nutrition, hydration and having any personal medication you need. And it means you know all the features of your radio. (It's embarrassing owning 6 different radios and forgetting how to enable or disable the Tone Squelch or Offset.) Pack the manual. If you are assigned

to a location that has a Kenwood mobile radio you should be familiar enough with its operation to be effective.

Preparation is a simple process, but requires advance planning and then follow-through and implementation. Think through the possible scenarios and factor in your needs and capabilities. If you haven't done this already, start the thinking and doing process today. You'll feel better. And we'll all be ready to serve.

– Gerry Greenwood, President ARPSC

The Little House – Arlington Station #107



← Arlington Fire Captain Ed Hughes and ARPSC President Gerry Greenwood discuss RACES support of Arlington County after a weekly Wednesday net.



↑ Fire Fighter Floyd Walters returning to Fire Station 107, "The Little House", after a successful run. Station 107, less than 60 seconds from busy Shirlington and adjacent to the Alexandria City border and I-395, is a multi-jurisdictional station.



← ARPSC is proud of our Station 107 firefighters.

ARPSC Member Spotlight

ARPSC member Dinesh Cyanam holds a new call sign, AB3DC. He was initially licensed as KC2YQJ. Dinesh, who resides in the District of Columbia, is enrolled at The George Washington University seeking his Master's degree in Molecular Biochemistry and Bioinformatics.

Dinesh has been working toward reestablishing the GWU ham radio club, and is trustee of call sign KB3YGP, registered to *George Washington University Amateur Radio Club And Research Station*. You can visit the club's [web page](#).

Dinesh has been doing well with his handheld transceiver and window antenna, with a solid signal into the main repeater site and the Rockville and Oxon Hill remote receivers.



WA3GIN S-9 In Europe On 40 Meter Monobander



Dave Jordan WA3GIN has raised his 40-meter homebrew Yagi to 75 feet on a crank-up tower, and reports working Europe with ease.

With the help of fellow ARPSC member Dale Robertson, Dave improved the accuracy of his Orion rotator, which was diminished by a control cable length of over 300 feet. The controller uses a “pulse counting” circuit for moving the rotator – and the antenna – to the desired heading. By lengthening the duration of pulses, Dave said good accuracy was achieved.

Dave’s beam uses three full-sized elements (72 feet) constructed in part from a Hy-Gain 204BA 20m mono-band beam and lengths of irrigation tubing.

Club Members in 2012 Virginia QSO Party

Three ARPSC members reported being active in the Virginia QSO Party in March. Don Smith KI4FON made 8,229 points from Alexandria City, Lukas Hoska WA3UEA earned 4,220 points from Arlington County, and Dave Jordan WA3GIN racked up 97,882 operating from King George County.

John Huggins KX4O, created a DX Cluster for spotting rover stations during the 2012 event, with the web interface located at [qsoparty.com](#).



The Virginia QSO Party web site includes a PDF of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club, listing the rules for the 1971 Virginia QSO Party. Some believe the earliest state QSO parties were held in the 1930s or 40s.

Adding a Pulley to Antenna Support

Brad Farrell K4RT, ARPSC Member

After we moved last year, one of the first things I did to get back on air was put up my low band inverted-L antenna. At the old place, our chimney supported the inverted-L. But the only tall supports where we reside now are trees. So I ran the vertical segment of the antenna up one tree and tied off the horizontal segment to another tree using nylon cord.

Gusty winds soon snapped the cord and the horizontal segment of the antenna dropped to vertical. The movement of the two trees was more than the line could withstand. The solution was to take the load off the



horizontal cord and a pulley did the trick. I screwed an eyebolt into the trunk of the tree and attached the pulley using a lightweight grapple hook.

Once the rope or cord that is tied to the antenna wire insulator is passed through the pulley, it is routed to ground level for attaching to a weight. I routed Dacron cord I used as a support through a smooth piece of plastic that has two holes in it as a guide to keep the nylon cord from rubbing on branches and fraying, attaching the plastic to a branch with nylon ties. The end of the cord was tied off to a five-gallon bucket on the ground that held several bricks.

The bricks provided enough weight to keep the bucket from lifting off the ground in a stiff wind. Used in this manner, the cord was able to bear the weight of the antenna. When the tree sways in the wind, the pulley wheel turns and does not place additional stress on the cord. After researching the depth to which an eyebolt can be safely screwed into a tree without causing harm, I recently replaced the bucket with the bolt shown in the photo.

Using a pulley in a tree to help support a wire antenna is not a new idea. I believe it's been described in a number of ham antenna books through the years.



2012 Field Day: June 23-24. Visit the ARPSC Field Day Page:
<http://www.w4ava.org/fieldday.htm>

CQ Magazine's DX Marathon

Sentinel Staff

If you're interested in working DX and have yet to try CQ Magazine's *DX Marathon*, try giving it a closer look. DX Marathon runs from January 1 to December 31. You work as many countries and CQ Zones as you can. Each country and zone counts only once, so you can concentrate on working new countries rather than working the same ones on multiple bands or modes.

A sample DX Marathon score sheet for 2011 is shown in Figure 1.

CQ Magazine DX Marathon - January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011							
2011 CQ DX MARATHON SCORE SHEET - v2011.2							
Submission Information (Please enter your comments on this contest at the bottom of the form) Save file as: yourcallsign.xls	Callsign	K4RT		Countries	60		
	Name	Brad Farrell		Zones	18		
	Address			TOTAL	78		
	City	Alexandria					
	State/Province	VA		Enter your Club name below:			
	Postal Code						
	Country	Unlimited		Enter your email address below:			
	Your CQ Zone	5					
	Entry Class - check one only	Unlimited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Describe Antenna Used in Formula Class:		
		Formula: 100w	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Formula: 10w		<input type="checkbox"/>					
Prefix	Entity	2011		GMT (HHMM)	Freq (MHz)	Mode (CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65, PSK, etc.)	Callsign
1A0	Sov. Mil. Order of Malta						
1S	Spratly Is.						
3A	Monaco						
3B6, 7	Agalega & St. Brandon Is.						
3B8							
	French Guiana						
G	England	11	08	2028	14.000	SSB	MX0TBG
GD	Isle of Man						
GI	Northern Ireland	12	10	1920	14.000	CW	GI4DOH
GJ	Jersey						
GM	Scotland						
GM/Shetland	Shetland Is.						
GU	Guernsey						

Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the bottom section where CQ Zones worked are recorded.

KL7,VE8, VY1	Zone 1						
VO2,VE2,(North of 50 deg)	Zone 2						
W6-7; VE7	Zone 3	18	09	2042	14.000	SSB	W6Q
W5,8,9,0; VE3-6	Zone 4	14	12	0257	7.000	SSB	A14SR
W1-4;VE1,2,9,VO1,VY2	Zone 5	31	01	0142	3.500	CW	OH3JR/VP9
XE	Zone 6	06	04	0321	7.000	CW	XE2WWW
HP,HR,TG,TL,V3,YN,YS	Zone 7	02	02	1716	14.000	CW	V31YN
West Indies	Zone 8	17	02	2218	14.000	SSB	8P9AA

Figure 2

As you enter data for each contact in the countries section and new zone information in the bottom section of the form, the score sheet automatically tallies your countries, zones and total score. Submit your score to CQ Magazine, or just keep it as motivation to work even more DX the following year. Visit dxmarathon.com to review the rules, CQ Zone guide, and more.



Good Weather Spurs Winterfest Attendance

The Vienna Wireless Society’s *Winterfest* hamfest on February 26 drew a big crowd to the Northern Virginia Community College campus in Vienna. The outdoor flea market and indoor section were well attended.

ARPSC members who attended the hamfest include Don Smith KI4FON, Doc Strickland KG4YIU, Terry Thompson K7MPP and Brad Farrell K4RT.

Terry K7MPP at Winterfest →



Road Trip To Constitution State Nets Boatanchor & Lobster

When ARPS member Brad Farrell K4RT saw an ad for a Heathkit Apache transmitter for sale he contacted the seller in Connecticut. But weighing in at 107 pounds, the transmitter had to be picked up. ARPS member Terry Thompson K7MPP offered to go along on the 700-mile trip and soon they were pulling up in the driveway of Al Feder W1UX in Killingworth, Connecticut. Al was a gracious host.

Before heading home, Terry and Brad stopped for some tasty lobster rolls in the nearby town of Clinton.



Brad expects to have the Apache on air soon paired with a National receiver. Heathkit sold the Apache, an AM/CW transmitter, from 1958-1964.

← A freshly made lobster roll



REMINDER: This is the last club newsletter in PDF as ARPSC transitions to web-based news.



Arlington County • Virginia

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Weekly Net Exercise • W4AVA Repeater • 146.625 MHz

Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. 146.625 MHz (– 600 KHz offset / CTCSS 107.2)



Arlington Radio Public Service Club

Application for Membership

Name:		Call Sign:
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
E-mail Address (do not submit an e-mail alias):		

New Application
 Renewal
 ARRL Member: Yes No

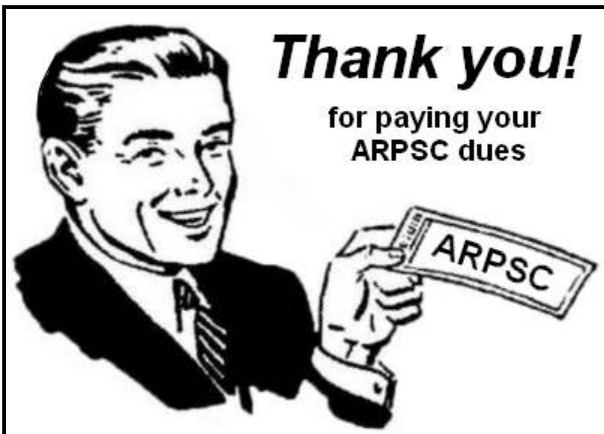
Annual Membership Fee - Select One: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25.00	Voluntary Donation to ARPSC, Inc.: <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (\$)
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I understand that my application for membership is subject to approval by the ARPSC Board of Directors and that ARPSC membership is subject to the corporation bylaws.

Signature:	Date:
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Submit form with payment to:

ARPSC, Inc.
 5262 Bessley Place
 Alexandria, VA 22304



NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK
MAY 27 TO JUNE 2, 2012

Sun	May 27	Hurricane Basics
Mon	May 28	Storm Surge
Tues	May 29	Wind
Wed	May 30	Inland Flooding
Thur	May 31	Forecast Process
Fri	Jun 1	Get a Plan
Sat	Jun 2	After the Storm

hurricanes.gov/prepare & ready.gov