



The Rumble

Next Meeting

Feb 7, 2024 6:00PM

Program
tbd, maybe live demo

Meeting Location:

Northern AZ Fire Station #31,
2600 Northern Ave

From the Pres February 2024:

I first became involved in amateur radio in 1986. You may recall, the years around that particular date were at the top of the sunspot cycle. It was a great time to be in amateur radio and with my little station I had a lot of fun. I worked all 50 states mostly on CW the last being Rhode Island on sideband and have a three-ring notebook full of cards to prove it. I made a bunch of DX contacts without trying very hard. I worked packet with a mysterious, rectangular, black, box attached to my radio. Then life hit. The need to grow my new veterinary practice along with the need to grow my two baby girls, etc. became a priority. Ham radio soon became a fading memory.

I rejoined the hobby and H.A.R.C. about three years ago after recognizing the amazing technological advances that had been made since my earlier years. Retired, I had some free time on my hands. After rejoining it soon became apparent that all the club presidents, year after year, were faced with one glaring problem. How do you get people involved and keep them involved? Amateur radio is a fantastic hobby: multi-faceted, fast-moving, slow-moving if you like, challenging, endlessly engaging, and the list goes on. If you consider yourself any sort of ham it is extraordinarily difficult to sit around and completely ignore all of these attributes (even though I once did). I sincerely regret the fact that I allowed ham radio to fall victim to all that life threw my direction. I think, had I stuck with it, I might be copying CW at 35 WPM today. Well maybe not, but you get the point.

I am a collector of Quotable Quotes. I thought, as you consider your involvement in February 2024

H.A.R.C. specifically and amateur radio in general, you might ponder some of these quotes:

What you get out of any endeavor is proportional to how much you put into it. --Who Nose
We are not afraid of doing. What we are afraid of is failing, and we all fail. Doing then is courage.

–From the movie --Shadows in the Sun”
From the crooked timber of humanity no straight thing was ever made. –Immanuel Kant

Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right. –Attributed to Henry Ford

“Ugh, hobbies,” Daniel said, practically spitting it. “I hope I never have a hobby, the very idea of it is offensive. Commit to something or don’t do it.” –
The Ensemble, Aja Gabel

One of the things I always tell my kids is that it’s OK to head out for wonderful, but on your way to wonderful, you’re gonna have to pass through ‘all right’. When you get to ‘all right’, take a good look around and get used to it, because that may be as far as you’re gonna go. –Bill Withers

As we run ourselves ragged by chasing after too many thrills and tasks, so we may become centered and calm by remaining faithful to a few deep concerns. –Scott Russell Sanders

All great accomplishments are composed entirely of interlocking details. –Michael Ruhlman

...It took diligence, which, really, was just a matter of deciding to be diligent. —Joshua Max Feldman

"I was obliged to be industrious; whoever is equally industrious will succeed equally well."
—Johann Sebastian Bach

Never be afraid to try new things. Remember: amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic. --Anon

Interestingly, some of these quotes argue against being involved in any sort of hobby. Others argue for the idea that if you are going to get involved then be devoted to it. **It is entirely up to you.** I'm just a farm boy from Nebraska and my favorite quote is still, *"What you get out of any endeavor is proportional to how much you put into it."*

My favorite quote that has nothing to do with hobbies, but a lot to do with life is:

What you have, you cannot keep. What I have, I cannot lose. I wish you could become like me—a sinner saved by grace, an heir to eternal life. I would not like for you to share my chains, but I would love for you to share my faith.

--Paraphrase of the teaching of The Apostle Paul by Alistair Begg

73, Jerry Zitterkopf, WS7T
D.V.M., H.A.R.C. President

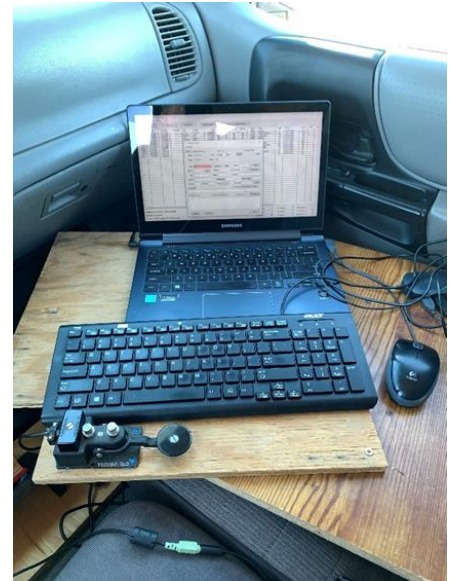
From H.A.R.C. Director and immediate Past President, Rick, K7CNT:

On the 27th after the club breakfast I went to Laughlin to activate Nevada for the Straight Key Century Club, SKCC. The callsign was K3Y/7 and only mechanical keys are allowed.

My scheduled slot was from 1800 – 2200UTC (11AM-3PM local time), 4 hours of back-to-back slow CW from 10 to 20 wpm and mostly around 15 wpm. I worked as far east as Nova Scotia and west to Japan and north to Alaska.

Operated from the driver side of my truck with the old Navy key, laptop and keyboard on the passenger seat. Tom N6BT loaned me one of his vertical antennas with above ground resonator elements. It was the easiest portable antenna I had ever used, and boy did it perform great. I managed 69 QSO's and many operators were very happy to work me as they were trying to get a clean sweep for the month-long event and NV was their last one.

My set-up inside the truck. What is not visible, but easy to imagine is that it is a small space to sit for 4 hours. Add to that a very cold day, with heat mostly from the rig and engine, plus no coffee maker.



The vertical antenna sitting in the scenic Nevada hills outside Laughlin. Easy to set up and I started on 20 meter. No radials on the ground was a real treat.

Repeater News:

All is well with the repeater and our relationship with KRMC. I was invited to an Emergency Management Staff meeting on Wednesday the 31st to provide this group with a rundown of HARC's ability to help the hospital in time of an actual emergency that would require our assistance with communications. They were receptive to what I had to say and seemed interested in what our abilities were to fill a void in communications if needed.

Trailer:

With that said the club com trailer needs to be equipped and ready to deploy at a moment's notice. This means adequate power to run the radios with reliable sources of power. I am hoping that the club will finally approve the installation of some form of solar/battery system along with a reliable backup generator. The last practice outing exposed some serious shortcomings in our equipment and must be resolved if we are to be successful. The HARC com trailer is the only one I know of in the Kingman area that could be deployed quickly to help our community in time of need.

Emergency Ops Personnel:

I believe we have identified our core operators for emergency ops. Anyone interested in being part of that team should step forward. These operators need to be able to deploy any time of the day or night and in any weather conditions.

If you want to be a mobile rover you need a mobile VHF/UHF radio with at least 40-50 watts and a good antenna. The club will continue to do a variety of practice scenarios and message handling (ARRL form type) exercises utilizing VHF and HF systems.

May God bless you

Thank you, Rick/K7CNT 73

Chs-rick@live.com

CLUB EVENTS

Feb 24 Saturday Breakfast at Olympus, corner of Eastern and Southern.

Selected News from the A.R.R.L.

Board of Director's Meeting

* BOD #04 - ARRL Life Membership

The Board approved the reintroduction of ARRL Life Membership and 70+ Life Membership (for members of age 70 and over) on a revenue-neutral basis. At its July 2023 Meeting, the Board had suspended the Life February 2024

Membership Program, pending the approval of an adjusted revenue-neutral program.

* BOD #05 – Youth Outreach

The Board approved two motions aimed at engaging young hams with a strong start to their lifelong journey with amateur radio and ARRL:

-- Free ARRL Membership for Students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students of age 21 and younger.

-- ARRL Student Coding Competition. The Board approved the creation of a coding competition that will challenge students 21 and younger to design a software application that meets the specifications established by ARRL. Awards of up to a total of \$25,000 will be granted by an awards committee to the winning student(s). The terms and schedule for the competition will be determined by the committee.

* BOD #06 – ARES

With a goal of recruiting and developing greater participation in the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Board has approved, at the recommendation of the Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee, a commitment to expand messaging and marketing for the program.

More A.R.R.L. information

* Comments regarding On The Air Articles

The League's newest magazine is, On The Air ("OTA"). The latest Jan/Feb, 2024 issue has more interesting information. The ARRL says that OTA "covers a range of ham radio interests and topics, delivering introductory techniques and stories to help anyone with a beginner-to-intermediate-level of experience." It might well have a lot of value to all of us, no matter our experience level.

The new issue has articles explaining all the many details of their Band Allocation Chart; what "line-of-sight" really means (it's not always actually line of visual sight); thoughts and ideas on building your junk box, something every ham should have; building a low-cost, high-performance 2-meter beam antenna; and a shout-out to another one of the many ham radio YouTubers, continuing their series of such items.

All League members have access to all four of the ARRL magazines, including OTA, in digital form via Android and

iPhone apps and on the League website. Get started with OTA at (<https://www.arrl.org/on-the-air>).

OPERATING

* Question:

What is the result of increasing the Q of an impedance-matching circuit?

- A. Matching bandwidth is decreased
- B. Matching bandwidth is increased
- C. Matching range is increased
- D. It has no effect on impedance matching

How's this for a remote station? It probably is now off the air, but...

Ham Station on the Moon

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, one of two small lunar probes released by SLIM, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business." It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

Relating to licensing and VE's:

A couple of items from the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator:

--The NCVEC* Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released errata for the new 2024 – 2028 Extra Element 4 question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2024. The errata includes one question (E9E10) withdrawn from use, five modified questions (E1D07, E1F03, E4D12, E4D13, and E6A06), and two rule's citations that have been updated (E1E10 and E1E11). You can get the complete pool of questions and errata at (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>).

NCVEC = the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

-- The ARRL VEC also reports that "The largest number of complaints we receive cite examiners as the primary noise source and distraction for candidates." So, if you're a VE, and especially if you're a VE Team Lead, please work hard to keep the exam room quiet. Strive to keep noise levels of examiner administrative discussions to a minimum. The VE team should suppress any unnecessary or excessive noise in the exam room, irrespective of the source, and take corrective steps to ensure exam sessions comply with good VE practice and VEC policies. Socializing should be conducted before or after the session, not during, to minimize distractions.

Question and the Answer:

What is the result of increasing the Q of an impedance-matching circuit?

A. Matching bandwidth is decreased

[Extra Class question pool (2020-2024) no. E5A05 (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2020-2024-extra-class-pool>).]

A.R.R.L. International DX Contests:

Contest Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. One contest period is CW-only and one is Phone-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

W/VE amateurs: Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible.

DX stations: Work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible.

New for 2024:

Limited Antenna Overlay: Any Single Operator or Single Operator Unlimited entrant can enter using the Limited Antennas Overlay. Operation is limited to the use of single-element antennas such as a single vertical, end-fed wire, or a single dipole antenna no more than 50 feet above ground at its highest point. The antenna(s) may cover multiple bands, as in the case of multiband verticals and dipoles with fan or trap constructions.

Dates:

CW: Third full weekend in February (February 17-18, 2024).

Phone: First full weekend in March (March 2-3, 2024).

Contest Period: Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday.

[Complete ARRL International DX Contest Rules \(PDF\)](#)

A.R.R.L. School Club Round-up

There are two School Club Roundups during each school year in October and February. Each 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event.

October Session: The third full school week of October.

February Session: The second full school week of Feb.

October Session: October 16-20, 2023

→February Session: February 12-16, 2024

<https://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

2200Z, Feb 23 to 2200Z, Feb 25

<https://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

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