

# THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# Communicator

# February 2016

## Winter Field Day January 30-31

(ARRL01/20/2016) There really is a Winter Field Day, and this year, it takes place over the January 30-31 weekend, sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA). The annual event's stated purpose is to encourage emergency operating preparedness in the winter, but it's also a great opportunity to operate in the great outdoors. The WFDA describes itself as a dedicated group of Amateur Radio operators who believe that getting ready for emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that take place at ARRL Field Day each June, all while taking some additional unique operational concerns into account. The WFDA points out that disasters are unpredictable, and its goal is to help enhance operators' skills and prepare for all environmental conditions typically found in the US and Canada throughout the entire year.

"We believe...that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios," the group says. "The addition of a Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations."

The event is not restricted to North America. All Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate. Operation will be on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. The event runs 24 hours. US and Canadian stations exchange call sign, operating category, and ARRL or RAC section. The rules are similar to those for the ARRL Field Day, held in June.

Last year, WR5J, W7KXB, KG7NJQ, and K7ZFO braved the conditions to operate as NC7G near North Bend, Washington. Curt Black, WR5J, recounts, "We had a fantastic team — young, new hams and some amazing octogenarian hams. All contributed to the effort and the triumph. We had fantastic operating conditions." Black said the weather was great too — with balmy temperatures.

"We had a blast — worked all night long — bounced from band to band and mode to mode. We had no idea it was going to be as warm as it was," he said. — Thanks to The ARRL Contest Update

(Editor's Note: If you are going to try this please let us know how it went—after you thaw out.)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/winter-field-day-set-for-january-30-31>

<http://www.winterfieldday.com/>

## First Geosynchronous Amateur Radio Could Aid in Disasters

(ARRL 12/24/2015) Well-known AMSAT figure and Virginia Tech researcher Bob McGwier, N4HY, says the Amateur Radio payload planned to go into geosynchronous orbit in 2017 will be like "a new ham band" for the Americas, available every hour of every day. McGwier, a research professor in Virginia Tech's Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of Research for the Hume Center for National Security and Technology, said the satellite's geosynchronous orbit also makes it viable for emergency and disaster communication. AMSAT-NA announced in April that Amateur Radio would be a "hosted payload" on the geosynchronous satellite that Millennium Space Systems (MSS) of California is under contract to design, launch, and operate for the US government.

"It will allow rapid deployment to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders," McGwier allowed in a December 22 Virginia Tech News report. McGwier, a former AMSAT director and Vice President for Engineering, has said the Amateur Radio payload must be delivered for testing and integration by next spring.

According to AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, the satellite's potential footprint would extend over the US from the Mid-Pacific to Africa.

The Hume Center team that's building the ham radio pay-

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Meeting Calendar

January meeting will be at Famous Dave's in Bellevue at 5:00 pm on, Sunday January 24, 2016  
8am, February 27, 2016  
8am, March 26, 2016  
at Mom's Café

**2015  
PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- AGØL .....Steve Loyd [E]
- AIØN..... Chuck Engberg\* [E]
- K3CRF.....Dave Smith [E]
- K5LBS ..... Jerry Gault [E]
- KBØFSI ..... Pat McCollum [T]
- KBØLF .....Fred Ericksen [E]
- KBØOGO .....Roger Behrns\* [E]
- KBØSJB.....Tom Katalenich [G]
- KCØHYD ..... John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
- KDØHLE ..... Leonard Lawton [G]
- KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
- KDØBXB..... Kim Allen [T]
- KEØETZ..... Derek Winterstien# [T]
- KEØXQ.....Bill McCollum [E]
- KGØKR .....Beth Engberg\* [E]
- KIØPY ..... Kevin Faris [E]
- KI6VTY ..... Brian Johnson [T]
- N5SEZ..... Ray McNally[E]

*\*Charter Members #New Ham*

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

**Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.**

**Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM**

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB**

**KBØSMX**

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**Repeaters:**

443.45<sup>+</sup> is located in downtown Omaha

443.225<sup>+</sup> is located in Murray.  
147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

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**MINUTES of  
the  
MEETING**

*The minutes of the November meeting were not available. This is a reprint of the previous meeting.*

The October 31, 2015 meeting was called to order at 0827 by President Roger Behrns.

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Kevin (KIØPY), Fred (KBØLF), Derek (KEØETZ) Brian (KI6VTY), Ray (N5SEZ), John (KCØHYD) and Shirley (KCØHYE).

The meeting was held at Mom's Cafe in Plattsmouth. John moved and Brian seconded the September minutes be accepted.

The Treasurer reported no change and there was discussion that next years budget will be the same as this years. John moved and Shirley seconded the acceptance of the treasurers report.

Kevin mentioned there is a good chance Murray repeater should be on the air in the next couple of months.

The annual dinner will be at Famous Dave's in Bellevue on 24 January and those attending can order off the menu.

Fred discussed the Nebraska County weekend event. More than 40 counties were activated and 29 of the 30 most wanted Nebraska counties were activated. Between the NE QSO Party and the Nebraska County event, stations were able to operate from 57 counties. Sounds like everyone had a great time and look forward to next years activities.

Shirley moved and John seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 0840.



PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City		State	Zip
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham		● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer.		Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General	
Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.					
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

**Geosynchronous** (Continued from Page 1)

load met with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, in September to discuss the project. At last summer's ARRL National Centennial Convention, Fugate and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed an agreement outlining how the two organizations will work together to provide disaster relief.

McGwier pointed out in the Virginia Tech News article that transmitting emergency communications via the geosynchronous satellite would be much more dependable than HF, allowing Amateur Radio volunteers to provide more reliable communication support. With a geosynchronous, the satellite would always be within a band of longitudes over the Americas, continually accessible to any Amateur Radio operator there. That would include the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station.

MSS will operate the satellite on behalf of the US Air Force, while AMSAT will manage the Amateur Radio payload, being designed and built by Virginia Tech students.

According to the article, the Hume Center team is designing a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own communication channels through the satellite. "This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event," the article suggested.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/first-geosynchronous-orbit-amateur-radio-payload-could-aid-disaster-communication>

<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2015/12/122215-ictas-humegeoradio.html>



## Digital Communications Conference Presentations Available Online

(ARRL 12/14/2015) Some of the presentations from the 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference now are available on YouTube, courtesy of Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of "HamRadioNow." He also has produced audio podcasts. To subscribe to the "HamRadioNow" podcast, enter this URL manually into a podcast app: <http://HamRadioNow.tv/hrn/hrnrs.xml>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/digital-communications-conference-presentations-available-online>

You can visit <http://HamRadioNow.tv> to find the individual video programs. There is a list of the available programs and a description of the topics covered. The ones that contain presentations from the TAPR conference are marked with the TAPR logo. Each program seems to have a lead-in from KN4AQ then the program recorded at the conference. This is a good way to learn about the various topics presented from speakers who are knowledgeable without having to travel to a conference. There are a number of digitally related topics that should be good to update our skills.

## FCC Proposes to Penalize California Licensee \$25,000 for Causing Intentional Interference

(ARRL 12/19/2015) 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 (NAL) on December 18, detailing the allegations. An Advanced class licensee, Crowell is no stranger to the Enforcement Bureau, which had 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 NAL 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.

"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 NAL. "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..."

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 Net, so as not allow them to transmit on the frequency," the FCC said in its NAL. "His transmissions and recordings included racial, ethnic, and sexual slurs and epithets." According to the NAL, the interference continued until the net shut down.

During an inspection of his station, Crowell acknowledged to FCC agents that he operates on 3908 kHz among other frequencies on most nights, and that he was transmitting on the evening of August 27. The agents warned Crowell that his transmissions violated the Communications Act and FCC rules. Crowell asserted that playing recordings was not against the rules and, the FCC reported, "that he would continue to operate his amateur station as he had been doing." The FCC said on August 30, the HFDF Center again monitored Crowell "using his amateur station to engage in the same types of intentional interfering transmissions during the meeting time for the WARFA Net."

Crowell was given 30 days from the release of the NAL to pay the forfeiture or to file in writing seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed penalty.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-penalize-california-licensee-25-000-for-causing-intentional-interference>