

# THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# Communicator

# March 2016

## **New Amateur Extra Question Pool Puts Greater Emphasis on Digital, SDRs, Propagation**

(ARRL 02/17/2016) The new Amateur Extra class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020, now is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website. The latest revision contains a few minor corrections that had been released in a February 5 errata of the initial January 8 release. NCVEC Question Pool Committee Chair Rol Anders, K3RA, said the new pool represents a fairly significant change relative to the current question pool, which expires on June 30.

“The primary change is modernization of the pool to place more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment, software defined radios, and propagation/space weather,” he said. “Also, a number of other topics were added, including questions on some additional antenna types commonly used by radio amateurs.” Anders said that room to cover the new topics was made in the question pool by dropping some questions that had been in the expiring pool.

“Many of the questions removed were on topics which were felt to be of less importance to the current amateur population,” he said. “However, there was also some ‘evening out’ of difficulty in the removal of a number of questions felt to be inappropriately easy or difficult relative to the rest of the pool.” As a result, he said, the net number of questions grew from 700 to 712 questions.

All questions in the expiring pool were re-evaluated for possible clarification or improvement, and approximately 60 questions were slightly modified.

“All in all, the Question Pool Committee has worked to keep the Amateur Extra class exam up to date, to provide a high-quality examination, and to ensure that the incoming Extra class amateurs are well-qualified to be leaders in the hobby,” Anders said.

<http://www.ncvec.org/>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-extra-question-pool-puts-greater-emphasis-on-digital-sdrs-propagation>

## **“Ham Radio Now” Hosting 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communica- tions Conference Presentations.**

(ARRL 02/19/2016) Full-length video of all major presentations at the 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) is now online, courtesy of “Ham Radio Now.” This includes the 16 individual talks on subjects ranging from making a WSPR transmitter from a Raspberry Pi to advances in HF receiver testing to building your own networked satellite ground station. Each talk runs about 45 minutes.

The DCC Sunday “Deep Dive” — 4 hours on a single topic — covered 3D modeling for Amateur Radio. The Saturday night banquet speaker was ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, posing the question: “Ham Radio... Now What?”

DCC videos going back to 2011 are online and conveniently grouped in a YouTube Playlist. All videos are free to watch. “HamRadioNow” is supported by viewer contributions.

Going to the HamRadioNow website, the individual episodes that contain the various talks are clearly marked with the TAPR and ARRL logos as well as the subjects of the talks. This is a good opportunity to learn more about a subject without having to travel to attend a conference.

<http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PL24Rak2jsMJRlvRDXpqtlnrWLpc7utxss](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL24Rak2jsMJRlvRDXpqtlnrWLpc7utxss)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-now-hosting-2015-arrl-tapr-digital-communications-conference-presentations>

## **Meeting Calendar**

**8am, February 27, 2016**

**8am, March 26, 2016**

**8am, April 30, 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**



**P.A.R.C. Officers**

**President**  
**KBØOGO .....Roger Behrns**  
**rb55930@windstream.net**

**Vice President**  
**KCØHYD .....John Titsworth**

**Secretary**  
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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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The meeting was called to order at 1805 by President Roger Behrns.

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO) and Linda, Kevin (KIØPY) and Sandy, John (KCØHYD) and Shirley (KCØHYE), Chuck (AIØN) and Beth (KGØKR), Bill (KEØXQ) and Pat (KBØFSI), George (KBØZZT) and Joan (KCØDTK), Derek (KEØETZ) and Lisa, Dudley (KCØNMD) and Kim (KDØBXB), Jim ( ) and Barb ( ), Brian (KI6VTY), and Ray (N5SEZ).

The meeting was held at Famous Dave's in Bellevue.

Fred (KBØLF) had forwarded some information concerning the Nebraska QSO Party that will be held in April on 16 (9 AM to 9 PM) and 17 (9 AM to 6 PM). More information can be found at [www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm).

Ballots were passed out for this years election and the results will be announced at the February meeting.

The Treasurer reported \$45.00 in dues to date with a balance of 362.85 as of 24 January. The annual expenses were reviewed with \$320 for insurance, \$60 for repeater electricity, \$50 donation to Murray for Field Day site as the primary expenses.

Dudley (KCØNMD) discussed the Boy Scout Merit Badge University that will take place on March 5th from 9 AM to 5 PM We will be setting up equipment starting around 7 AM and the first session will be at 9. If anyone is able to assist, please contact Dudley (KCØNMD) or Ray (N5SEZ). There will also be a Jamboree On The Air event in October at Mahoney State Park.

Cub scout event in June, more information to follow.

At 1822 Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

<b>PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM</b>					
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?					

## Nebraska QSO Party April 16-17

The annual Nebraska QSO Party will be held on the weekend of April 16 and 17. On Saturday it will run from 9am to 9pm and on Sunday it will run from 9am to 6pm.

The objective of the contest is simple: make as many contacts as you can. For stations in Nebraska each Nebraska county, state, province or country that is contacted adds a multiplier for your score. For those outside Nebraska the multiplier is the number of Nebraska counties contacted.

For a copy of the rules and summary sheet go to:

<http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>

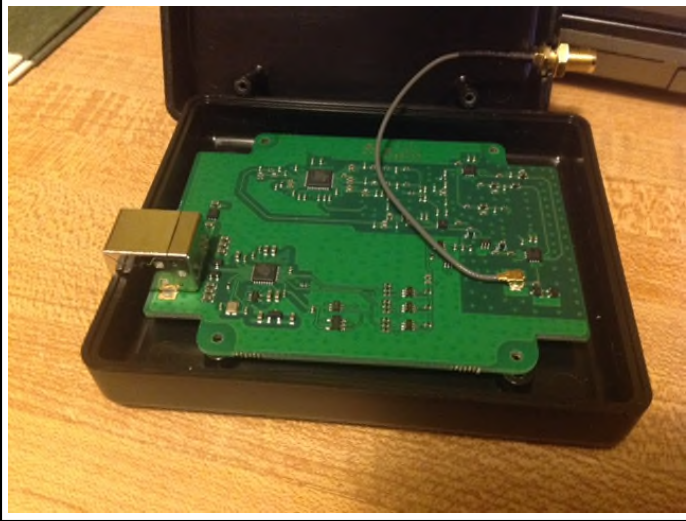


Want to play with a software defined radio? SDRplay is a receiver that features continuous coverage from 100 kHz to 2 GHz. It works with several popular SDR software programs on multiple platforms. Powered over a USB connection, and connected to an antenna it has performance that seems on par with conventional receivers. It is a step above the popular “stick” dongles in its wideband coverage and also has a series of band pass filters. And yes, those little, tiny parts do work.

HRO is the exclusive US distributor and has it for \$150.

<http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-014408>

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



## A 'First' for 'Last Man Standing'

(ARnewsline 1/29/16) If you're a fan of TV's "Last Man Standing," you can forget about Nielsen ratings. When you're talking about the Friday night sitcom on ABC, what you really hope to measure is the RST. After all, who wouldn't want good ratings on a QSO with Tim Allen, KK6OTD, who stars as TV ham Mike Baxter, KA0XTT?

So devoted is this show to the authenticity of its amateur radio connection that Tim Allen got his ticket last year - and now, he's getting his own amateur radio club. Well, OK.....the cast and crew together are the ones getting the club. The QTH is right there on the set in Studio City, California.

So be advised: The Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club, KA6LMS, is now QRV, complete with a new club station QSL card, ready to mail to any contacts when the crew, or selected guest operators, are on the air. KA6LMS can be heard calling on 20 meters or 40 meters between 0000 and 0100 UTC, Mondays and Tuesdays during dinner breaks on days episodes are being shot.

The show's producer, John Amodeo, NN6JA, told Amateur Radio Newsline that the club is the outgrowth of repeated inquiries from hams wanting to know how they can contact the stage.

Well, now they know. And now they can. Let the pileups begin!

<http://www.arnewsline.org/storage/scripts/nsln1996.txt>



## Entire Popular Science Magazine Archive Now Available

(ARRL 02/25/2016) The entire 140-year oeuvre of Popular Science magazine has been archived for free browsing, thanks to a partnership with Google. Popular Science includes some Amateur Radio-related articles, such as “You Can Talk Around the World” in the January 1932 edition, “Thousands of Radio Amateurs Find it Easy to Learn Morse Code” from the March 1932 edition, and “The Hams Join Up” from the November 1941 edition. Many other articles deal with radio and radio repair as well as do-it-yourself electronics projects.

<http://www.popsoci.com/archives>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/entire-popular-science-magazine->



**Field Day is June 25-26, 2016**

Information is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>