

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

May 2019

ARRL & FCC Sign Memorandum to Implement New Volunteer Monitor Program

(ARRL 04/16/2019) ARRL and the FCC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that paves the way to implement the new and enhanced Volunteer Monitor program. The memorandum establishes the Volunteer Monitors as a replacement for the Official Observers (OO) program. Current OOs have been encouraged to participate in the new program.

“We are excited by the opportunity to codify our partnership with the FCC and to work together to achieve our mutual interests of protecting the integrity of our Amateur Radio bands,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. “This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the foundation for a new level of partnership on this very important issue.”

ARRL has contracted with retired FCC special counsel and former Atlantic Division Vice Director Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to oversee the ARRL’s role in the development and implementation of the Volunteer Monitor program.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 2018 meeting, the new Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The intent of this program is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff.

“Under this program, the FCC will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitor program, without the delay of ARRL having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process,” Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program: Development, Solicitation and Training, and Implementation.

- The Development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining the ARRL’s and FCC’s requirements and needs as part of the program, writing a job description for volunteer monitors, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

- The Solicitation and Training phase will involve identifying the geographic locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications and guidance from Section Managers in reviewing applicants. (Those currently volunteering as Official Observers are invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors.)

- The Implementation phase will involve having the volunteers provide field reports to ARRL, with staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information collected meets requirements for FCC enforcement action.

Hollingsworth has committed to FCC and ARRL officials to ensure the adequacy of training for the new positions, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement actions, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that within 6 to 9 months the first Volunteer Monitors will be in place and ready to begin their duties.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-and-fcc-sign-memorandum-to-implement-new-volunteer-monitor-program>

AMSAT-India Successfully Launches APRS Satellite

(ARRL 04/09/2019) The Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) payload on AMSAT-India’s AISAT-1 satellite is operational on 145.825 MHz following a successful April 1 launch on the PSLV-C45 mission. The payload was powered up on schedule over Europe, and AMSAT-India announced that DK3WN was able to digipeat through the satellite. AMSAT-India requests that radio amateurs use the payload and SatGates to feed the traffic.

The fourth stage of the PSLV rocket (PS4) will become an orbital platform in a 485-kilometer orbit hosting

2019 PAID MEMBERSHIP

- Paid memberships in **Bold**
 AGØL.....Steve Loyd [E]
 AIØN..... Chuck Engberg* [E]
 KØEGG John 'Tim' Eggertsen [G]
 K3CRFDave Smith [E]
 K5LBS.....Jerry Gault [E]
 KA0IJY Keith Keene [E]
 KBØFSIPat McCollum [T]
 KBØLF..... Fred Eriksen [E]
 KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
 KBØZZT..... George Bellairs [T]
 KCØDTK..... Joan Bellairs [T]
 KCØHYD.....John Titsworth [G]
 KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
 KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
 KEØBXB Kim Allen [T]
 KEØXQ..... Bill McCollum [E]
 KGØKRBeth Engberg* [E]
 KIØPYKevin Faris [E]
 N5SEZ..... Ray McNally [E]
 NØLZHJohn Harrington [T]
 WØDBWDerek Winterstien [G]
 WØZYDave McLaughlin [E]
 WØZYD ... Debbie McLaughlin [G]
 W3DCQ.....Bill Pulsifer [G]

**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



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443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
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The March 30, 2019 meeting was held at Mom's Café. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 am by President Roger Behrns

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Kevin (KIØPY), Ray (N5SEZ), Keith (KA0IJY), Gary (WØ0CFC), John (WR5I) and Tim (KØEGG).

The Minutes of the February meeting were approved on a motion by Tim and second by Gary.

The treasurer reported dues and donations of \$40 and insurance expenses of \$320 which leaves \$305 in the repeater fund and \$710.35 in the general fund for a balance of \$1015.35. The report was approved on a motion by Derek and second by Dave

It was decided by acclimation to hold Field Day in Murray again. Roger is sending a letter of request to the Village Board. Field Day will be June 22 & 23.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Kevin and second by Tim at 8:10.



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?					

Meeting Calendar at Mom's Café

8am, Sat April 27, 2019
8am, Sat May 25, 2019
at Mom's Café
 Field Day is June 22-23

the APRS digipeater, an Automatic Identification System (AIS) from India's space agency, ISRO, and an ionospheric analyzer from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST). — Thanks to AMSAT News Service

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amsat-india-successfully-launches-aprs-satellite>

<http://amsatindia.org/>

<https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/pslv-c45-emisat-mission>

Solar Cycle 25 Predicted to be Similar to Cycle 24

(ARRL 04/08/2019) Scientists charged with predicting the Sun's activity for Cycle 25 say it's likely to be much like that of current Cycle 24, which is declining and predicted to bottom out in 2019 or 2020. Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel experts said Cycle 25 may get off to a slow start but is anticipated to peak between 2023 and 2026 with a sunspot range of 95 to 130. This is well below the typical average of 140 to 220 sunspots per solar cycle. The panel expressed high confidence that the coming cycle should break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles. The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel forecasts the number of sunspots expected for solar maximum, along with the timing of the peak and minimum solar activity levels for the cycle. The outlook was presented on April 5 at the 2019 NOAA Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado.

“We expect Solar Cycle 25 will be very similar to Cycle 24: Another fairly weak cycle, preceded by a long, deep minimum,” said panel co-chair Lisa Upton, a solar physicist with Space Systems Research Corp. “The expectation that Cycle 25 will be comparable in size to Cycle 24 means that the steady decline in solar cycle amplitude, seen from cycles 21 – 24, has come to an end and that there is no indication that we are currently approaching a Maunder-type minimum in solar activity.”

The solar cycle prediction gives a rough idea of the frequency of space weather storms of all types, from radio blackouts to geomagnetic storms and solar radiation storms. In addition to its effects on Amateur Radio signal propagation, space weather can affect power grids; critical military, airline, and shipping communications; satellites and GPS signals, and can even threaten astronauts through exposure to harmful radiation.

Solar Cycle 24 reached its maximum in April 2014 with a peak average of 82 sunspots. The Sun's Northern Hemisphere led the sunspot cycle, peaking more than 2 years ahead of the Southern Hemisphere sunspot peak. Given that the Sun takes 11 years to complete one solar cycle, this is only the fourth time that US scientists have issued a solar cycle prediction. The first panel convened in 1989 for Cycle 22.

For Solar Cycle 25, the panel hopes for the first time to predict the presence, amplitude, and timing of any differences between the northern and southern hemispheres

on the Sun, known as hemispheric asymmetry. Later this year, the panel will release an official sunspot number curve showing the predicted number of sunspots during any given year and any expected asymmetry. The panel will also look into the possibility of providing a solar flare probability forecast.

“While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the sun can occur at any time,” said Doug Biesecker, panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). An example of this occurred on July 23, 2012, when a powerful coronal mass ejection (CME) eruption missed Earth but enveloped NASA's STEREO-A satellite. A 2013 study estimated that the US would have suffered between \$600 billion and \$2.6 trillion in damages, particularly to electrical infrastructure, if the 2012 CME had been directed toward Earth. The strength of the 2012 eruption was comparable to the famous 1859 Carrington event that caused widespread damage to telegraph stations around the world and produced aurora displays as far south as the Caribbean.

Visit the SWPC to obtain the latest space weather forecast. — Thanks to NOAA

<http://www.arrl.org/news/solar-cycle-25-predicted-to-be-similar-to-cycle-24>

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

Where Marconi Made His Mark

(ARnewsline 4/19/19) Saturday the 27th of April is all about the Marconi connection. Hams around the world will be calling QR Zed from sites in Wales, Canada, Australia and other locations where radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi lived, worked or operated.

One of the many operations honoring Marconi on the 27th of April is the result of a partnership between the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club and the Long Island CW Club, both in New York. Hams will be on the air at a small marina in the village of Babylon, Long Island not far from where a Marconi shack once stood as one of the first wireless stations in the United States. This was a training school in 1901 and it remained in the Long Island waterfront community until its relocation further east to the Long Island community of Rocky Point in 1930. According to Howard Bernstein WB2UZE, who belongs to both clubs, the shack had a 210-foot antenna and could contact ships as far away as 200 miles.

Hams are hoping for an even better reach on Marconi Day. Be listening between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. for two call signs: W2LCW will be operating CW and W2GSB will be operating SSB and digital. The CW station will drop its power to 5 watts for QRP operation every hour for a 15-minute period. Both stations will be spotting on the clusters. For a full list of stations visit gx4crc.com and click on the tab for IMD Stations 2019.

<https://www.arnewsline.org/>