

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

November 2019

ARRL to Launch New Magazine

(ARRL 10/17/2019) ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bi-monthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.

“*On the Air* responds to the brand new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers,” said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, WIBXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

“Too many new licensees never take the next step,” says Schoenfeld. “We’re excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air.”

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice — *On the Air* or QST. Current members receiving the print edition of QST, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the monthly print edition of QST or the print edition of the bimonthly *On the Air*.

All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both QST and *On the Air*. Members who already access QST on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access QST and *On the Air* starting in January.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-launch-new-on-the-air-magazine-in-january>

FCC Proposes Fining New York Ham \$17,000 for Deliberate Interference

(ARRL 10/04/2019) A New York Radio Amateur — Harold Guretzky, K6DPZ, of Richmond Hill — is facing a \$17,000 fine imposed by the FCC. Guretzky was issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on October 3 for causing intentional interference on a local repeater and preventing other radio amateurs from using it.

“Given his history as a repeat offender, this violation warrants a significant penalty,” the FCC said in the NAL.

The NAL recounted numerous complaints alleging that Guretzky was deliberately interfering with a repeater in Glen Oaks, New York. In June of 2017, the FCC issued a Warning Letter to Guretzky, advising him of the nature of the allegations against him and directing him to stop using the repeater going forward. Nonetheless, additional complaints were filed. In April 2018, agents from the FCC New York Enforcement Bureau office drove to Richmond Hill to investigate. Following an inspection of Guretzky’s station, the agents advised him in writing that he was prohibited from using the local repeater.

After the FCC received further complaints regarding Guretzky’s continued operation on the local repeater, an Enforcement Bureau agent again drove to Richmond Hill to investigate. The agent monitored the VHF repeater’s input and output frequencies and, after observing deliberate interference to other stations, used direction-finding techniques to identify the source of the transmission as Guretzky’s station.

“The agent monitored and recorded the transmissions emanating from Guretzky’s station for several hours that afternoon and heard him interfering with the local repeater,” the NAL said. “Later, the agent heard Guretzky making threatening comments toward other amateur operators. These transmissions were a deliberate act to control the frequency and prevent other Amateur Radio operators from conducting legitimate communications.”

The following month, FCC Regional Director David Dombrowski spoke with Guretzky via telephone, noting that the Commission was still receiving complaints about his continued use of the repeater and cautioning him against using the repeater.

The FCC said Guretzky “apparently willfully violated”

(Continued on Page 3)

2019 PAID MEMBERSHIP

- AGØLSteve Loyd [E]
- AIØN..... Chuck Engberg* [E]
- KØEGG.....John 'Tim' Eggertsen [G]
- K3CRF Dave Smith [E]
- K5LBS Jerry Gault [E]
- KAØIJY Keith Keene [E]
- KBØFSI Pat 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]
- KGØKR Beth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPY Kevin Faris [E]
- NØLZH John Harrington [T]
- WØDBW Derek Winterstien [G]
- WØZY Dave 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.

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**

KBØSMX

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Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site

www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

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**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**

MINUTES of the MEETING

The September 28, 2019 meeting was held at Mom's Café. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 am by President Roger Behrns

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Kevin (KIØPY), Steve (AGØL), Derek (WØDBW), Chuck (AIØN), and Jim Nelson (WØJRN)

The Minutes of the August meeting were approved on a motion by Chuck and second by Kevin.

The treasurer reported no activity which leaves \$305 in the repeater fund and \$695.35 in the general fund for a balance of \$1000.35. The report was approved on a motion by Chuck and second by Steve.

Jim is the District EC and discussed the state of ARES in the area and efforts to provide services to Cass County Emergency Management.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Kevin and second by Chuck at 8:53.



PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City	State	Zip	
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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:	Amount:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Primary (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham			<input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.	
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Meeting Calendar

8am, Sat Oct. 26, 2019

8am, Sat Nov. 30, 2019

at Mom's Café

No Meeting in December

Section 333 of the Communications Act and Section 97.101 (d) of the FCC's Amateur Service Rules, demonstrating "a deliberate disregard for the Commission's authority and the very spirit of the Amateur Radio Service by continuing to interfere with the local repeater" despite having been warned.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-fining-new-york-radio-amateur-17-000-for-deliberate-interference>
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-989A1.pdf>

ARRL Thanks Official Observers, as Volunteer Monitor Program Begins

(ARRL 09/24/2019) As the September 30 date for the closing of the Official Observer program nears, ARRL has expressed deep appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who gave their time as Official Observers (OOs) to help preserve the integrity of the Amateur Radio frequencies.

The Official Observer program has served the Amateur Radio community and assisted the FCC Enforcement Bureau for more than 85 years. The OO program is giving way to the new Volunteer Monitor (VM) program, established as part of a formal partnership between ARRL and the FCC. ARRL and the FCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) earlier this year that establishes the Volunteer Monitor program as a successor to the Official Observers. The first Volunteer Monitors should be in place and ready to begin their duties this fall.

"Thank you for your dedication and service," ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said. "It was the good work of the OOs over many years that laid the foundation for the FCC to recommend this new agreement for enforcement." The FCC proposed the program following the closures of several FCC regional offices and a reduction in field staff.

Last February, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, was named to oversee the development and implementation phases of the Volunteer Monitor program.

Under the new VM program, volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the airwaves and gather evidence that could be used to correct misconduct as well as to recognize exemplary on-air operation. ARRL will refer instances of flagrant violation to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines, and the FCC will give priority to enforcement cases developed by the VM program.

Official Observers were invited to apply to become Volunteer Monitors, and many did. The requirements for being a Volunteer Monitor include:

- Ability to utilize state-of-the-art receiving equipment and to access no-cost remote receive sites; strong writing and communication skills
- An understanding of the importance of thorough documentation
- Basic word processing and data entry skills
- The ability to send such information, including recordings, to ARRL electronically.

Applicants also must be ARRL members, have no history of FCC enforcement action, hold a Technician or higher li-

cense class, and been licensed for at least 3 years.

Applicants underwent a training and certification program administered by ARRL and were vetted by ARRL through at least one oral interview and a preliminary evaluation by ARRL staff. Volunteer Monitors will serve 3-year terms at the pleasure of ARRL.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-thanks-official-observers-as-volunteer-monitor-program-is-set-to-debut>
<http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-monitor-program>
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Volunteer%20Monitor/2019%20ARRL%20MOU%20-%20final%203-12.pdf>

PACTOR Developer SCS Announces Monitoring Software

(ARRL 10/15/2019) SCS, the company that created PACTOR, has unveiled software that offers the ability to monitor the content of PACTOR 1, 2, and 3 transmissions over the air. The free PMON software runs under the Linux operating system. A software version to monitor PACTOR 4 is scheduled to become available next year. PMON will offer "thorough observation and documentation of all presently available PACTOR 1, 2, and 3 transmissions," SCS said.

"PMON covers all PACTOR levels with the appropriate speed levels and packet variations," SCS said. "PMON will read in parallel PACTOR 2 and PACTOR 1. The very wide receiving range (frequency offset ± 200 Hz), as well as automatic sideband recognition, ease routine operation of PMON with PACTOR 2 and PACTOR 3 considerably."

According to SCS, only minimal hardware is required to use PMON. The equipment complement includes a Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+ (minimum) computer and a USB sound device. SCS noted in an October 11 news release that all SCS PACTOR hardware modems include a command to allow PACTOR monitoring on the fly. The German company says PMON now makes this possible without a modem and adds the ability to decode B2F/LZHUF-compressed messages — Winlink email and others.

"This exciting new software development for Raspberry Pi complements and surpasses previously released SCS software that leveraged PACTOR modems' ability to monitor PACTOR to read Winlink for meaning," SCS said. The company also said the new software permits modem-less monitoring of all kinds, something that would be useful for monitoring Winlink email traffic.

The Winlink Development Team called the new software a "welcome contribution to the Amateur Radio community."

The issue of message transparency arose in recent months with respect to renewed attention to ARRL's so-called "symbol rate" petition for rulemaking (RM-11708) and the accommodation of automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many of which employ Winlink. Some commenters on ARRL's petition have asserted incorrectly that PACTOR facilitates de facto message encryption, which would violate FCC Amateur Service rules.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/pactor-developer-scs-announces-monitoring-software>
<https://www.p4dragon.com/en/PMON.html>
<https://www.winlink.org/>