



FEEDBACK

October 2016

The Amateur Radio Parity Act – Make your voice heard!

Equipment to Sell or Swap?

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell or purchase amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, 2016 when the US House of Representatives **approved** the Amateur Radio Parity Act, **H.R. 1301**. The focus now shifts to the US Senate.

The measure calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules “to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes.” While similar bills in past years gained some traction on Capitol Hill, it was not until the overwhelming grassroots support from the Amateur Radio community for H.R. 1301 shepherded by ARRL that a bill made it this far. The legislation faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate, however.

“This is huge step in our effort to enact legislation that will allow radio amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities the ability to construct an effective outdoor antenna,” ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. “Now we must turn our full attention to getting the bill passed in the Senate.” ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee, has been heavily involved in efforts to move H.R. 1301 forward. According to Mike, “the passage of the bill in the House is a major accomplishment, due to the hard work of so many — from the rank-and-file member to the officers and directors.”

While some of us may not currently live in an area where we encounter strict regulations about antennas, all amateur radio enthusiasts are being asked to throw their support behind the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

Here are four easy steps to show your support for the Act:

1) Click on the following link or copy and paste it into your web browser:

<https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

2) You will be routed to the ARRL Amateur Radio Parity Act page. At the bottom of the page, type in your zip code, hit “Submit.”

3) On the next page, complete the drop-down screens with your contact information. Click the “Save and Preview”

4) A copy of the letter supporting the Act will then be displayed. Click on “Send Messages” to route your letters to your senators. (You may also be asked to verify your phone number.)

...and that's all there is to it! Join me and our fellow amateurs in this endeavor. Together, we can make a positive impact on amateur radio! If you would like to read the actual act, you may access it via the following link:



Editor's Note:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor and get it published in FEEDBACK.

Equipment buy-sell-swap:

George Guerin, K8GG, has a CRT style 22 inch color TV to give away. Analog, not digital, and he may have a converter as well. Complete with remote. It works fine. If interested, please contact **George**, K8GG, via **(269)579-7373**

The family of **Russ Beutler N8UU**, still has several HAM-related items for sale.

For an updated list of equipment that is still available, please contact **Scott** at **(269)317-4139**

John Davidson W8JRD has equipment available for sale:

Kenwood TS-830S: 10-160m coverage. Matching external speaker and desk mic included, \$400

Yaesu FT-7900R 2M/70CM mobile rig. Includes external speaker and separation kit \$175

Kenwood TM-231a: 2m mobile \$50

Power supply for either above mobile \$20

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1301/text>

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ

(Many thanks to George Guerin, K8GG, and the ARRL for supplying the resources for this article.)



SMARS Officer Elections!

Nominations for club officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) are still open! Nominations will be taken now through the October 20th club meeting at which time elections will take place. I can say from my experience that being a club officer has been very satisfying way for me to show my support for SMARS and amateur radio, and it requires a small investment of my time. All club members are encouraged to run for office. We look forward to seeing many of you on October 20th!

Should U.S. ham tests be given abroad?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as "irregularities" in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/>).

I understand why (a) foreign national (would) go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio

Equipment buy-sell-swap:

Kenwood TM-631: 2m/1.25m mobile rig \$150

For more information or to make an offer, contact **John** at (269)339-1908 or via email w8jrd@arrl.net

Silent Key Notice:

We have learned that longtime SMARS member Richard "Dick" Wierenga, K8GHL, became a silent key on Sunday, October 2, 2016. A memorial service will be held at the Memorial Gardens cemetery (corner of Helmer Road and Columbia Avenue) on Saturday, October 8th at noon. All are welcome to attend.

licenses is the challenge. That's the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States. I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons. One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. Licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some call signs, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.

SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 09/06/16

Meeting called to order at 17:05

Attendees:

Gary Williams N8QC (President)
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (Vice-President)
Brian Marsh W8BDM (Secretary)
Janice Goodson W8JKG (Treasurer)
Tom Goodson WR8G
Jay Jarrett N8ARR
Kyle Brown W8KDB
Don W8RVT
John Davidson W8JRD

Business:

Motion was accepted to allow Jay N8ARR to have "signature authority" for the Hamfest Contract at Wing Stadium Event Center. It was also noted that we will need to make sure we have liability insurance for the HamFest event.

We discussed the request to attend the Brooks Field Fly-in Event.

Don W8RVT was reimbursed \$116.69 for the expenses associated with the PA system

Motion was passed for Brian W8BDM to purchase one set of electric brakes for the trailers, online. Doc would like to be considered for Member at Large position. HIAD event planned for September 17th.

Reminder of the upcoming Ham Fest events:

- Kalamazoo Ham Fest: October 16th
- Fort Wayne Ham Fest: November 12th-13th

Quote of the Meeting: "Okay Hillary"

Closed: 17:32

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

SMARS Meeting Minutes 09/15/2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG. Board members absent; Brian W8BDM. 17 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report was accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2017 – Wings Event Center has been reserved and the 50% down payment has been sent. Jan and Steph will look into making sure that liability insurance is on hand. We have a company name from last year but no other information.

SKYWARN – Meeting yet to happen; no report.

VE session – HIAD at Emmett Township scheduled for Saturday the 17th. A request for volunteers showed several hands among those present. Should have a good turnout of VE's! (Update: No candidates showed up so VE session was cancelled.)

Trailers – Electric brakes have been ordered for one trailer. Old tables have been removed from the trailer for easier pickup by Brian in October (Comstock Township has a trash pickup where he lives). (Update: Four 6' bifold tables have been procured and are stored in trailer. As a note, old tables were 67# each and new tables are 25# each.)

Christmas party – Group is booked into Clara's for Saturday December 17th beginning at 6:00 pm. Deposit has been placed to secure the venue. Steph is planning on meeting the manager to discuss the menu for the evening. A head count will be taken during the October meeting.

Old Business:

Elections – Nominations were opened again for any new interested parties; none were forthcoming. Nominations will be opened again during the October meeting just before the voting.

New Business:

The Radio Parity Act has passed in the House and is now in the Senate. A pdf form for signing and sending to our Senators is available on the ARRL website. All amateurs are encouraged to sign and submit.

Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest – 10/06/2016

For more information, go to:

<http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests>

Pennsylvania QSO Party – 10/08/2016

See the following link for more info:

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/>

Arizona QSO Party - 10/08/2016

More information is available via:

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

FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint - 10/08/2016

See the following link for additional information:

<http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

North American SSB Sprint - 10/09/2016

Contest details can be found on:

<http://ssbsprint.com/rules>

10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint – 10/10/2016

More details are available via:

<http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Iowa QSO Party – 10/15/2016

See the following link for more details:

<http://www.wa0dx.org/IAQSO>

New York QSO Party – 10/15/2016

Additional information can be found at:

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

ARRL School Club Roundup Fall Contest

10/17/2016 -10/21/2016

Details can be found via the following link:

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

Telephone Pioneers QSO Party – 10/17/2016

Go to <http://www.tpqsos.com/> for more info

RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint, SSB

10/27/2016

For more info, go to <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

CQ Worldwide Dx Contest – 10/29/2016

See <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm> for more info

*A more thorough listing of October 2016 Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page Contest Calendar, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Terry N8LN will be starting another series of Technician classes beginning on Monday the 19th at 6:00 pm. Classes will last for 6 weeks, 3 hours per session. The class is free and textbooks will be available for those wishing to purchase them.

Smokey N5MKY reported that the Northern Michigan Amateur Radio Service Team (NM8RT) has announced that it is working with the MI DNR, Parks & Recreation Division to operate a three-year HAM radio event called the "Michigan State Parks on the Air". It will kick off in conjunction with Field Day 2017. There is a FaceBook page; search for MSPOTA2017.

John W8JRD has spoken with Larry Camp regarding a new two way mobile radio that includes encryption. Amateur operators are forbidden from encrypting their transmissions and this was the question that was posed. Larry replied that there is nothing preventing the manufacturer from creating such a radio but woe betide the operator who uses it!! We are a self policing group and we will follow the rules.

Quote of the evening: "Tom wants to get rid of his warts and he wants you to get 'em!"

No presentation this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, acting secretary

Treasurer's Report

Income & Expenses 8/31/16-9/30/16:

Total Income:	0.11	Dividends
Expenses:		
8/22	65.87	Library books
	168.24	Hamfest & Misc.
	233.20	Tires for Trailers
8/23	10.00	Refreshments
	285.00	Church Room Rental
8/25	100.00	Clara's X-Mas Party Deposit
9/08	116.69	Don – Electronics
9/20	21.00	AT&T
	11.98	Refreshments
9/26	1300.00	Wings Stadium Deposit for 2017 Hamfest
9/27	21.88	Club checks
Total Expenses:	2333.86	

Respectfull submitted,

Jan Goodson, W8JJKG, Treasurer

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Board Meeting: October 4th @ 5:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 6th @ 11:30am SMARS Breakfast: October 8th @ 8:30am Kalamazoo Hamfest: October 16th 8:00am-Noon Club Meeting: October 20th @ 7:00pm SMARS VE Session: October 27th @ 7:00pm</p>
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