



PAWA Lines

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Newsletter

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Repeaters

Falmouth: 146.730MHz (-600KHz) (T 100.0Hz)

Scarborough: 444.100MHz (+5MHz) (T 82.5Hz)

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Board of Directors

President	Jason Cote	W1WDW	W1WDW@jcwebdesign.com
Vice President	Bryce Rumery	K1GAX	K1GAX@juno.com
Secretary	Ariel Cote	KC1CCB	KC1CCB@jcwebdesign.com
Treasurer	Vacant		
Chief Operator	Ross Drivas	KB1OND	rmdkb1ond@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Steve Mitchell	KB1YBT	SJMitchell@maine.rr.com
Member at Large	John Bogner	W1JLB	JBogner1@maine.rr.com



Ham of the Year

Congrats to Ariel, KC1CCB. Our 2017 Ham of the Year!



Upcoming Events

Take a look at some upcoming events.



Club Treasurer

PAWA is in need of a treasurer. Please consider stepping into the role.



On The Web

Please visit us on the web! We have pages on Twitter, Facebook and the world wide web. Check out our addresses at the top of the newsletter's first page, follow us on Twitter, and like our page on Facebook to stay up to date on club activities. If you have something to add, please let us know!

President's Message

I'd like to start off 2018 by expressing my thanks to the membership of the club for supporting my run for club president. It is a distinct honor to serve this historic club and my intent is to bring about some positive and much-needed changes in order to bring new life to our club.

I would like to extend to the membership an invitation to express your ideas for the club to me so that i can get an idea of a direction to move the club in. In the next few weeks you will be receiving a survey via email. I would very much appreciate your direct and honest opinions.

I also want to remind the membership that we are in need of a club treasurer. Jack KC1UX has decided to step down after many years of dedicated service to us and we will need somebody to step into the role. As you may know, the club relies on our treasurer to ensure the bills are paid and without this key position, our club could very well come to an end. Please consider volunteering for this important role.

Thank you,

Jason Cote, W1WDW

President

Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report was available for December 2017. A reminder, annual club dues are due. Please bring payment to the January meeting. Thank you.

2017 PAWA Ham of the Year

Congratulations to Ariel Cote, KC1CCB for being selected as our Ham of the Year for 2017!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

✱ Next meeting:

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 - 7pm

Stuart Morrill American Legion Post #35 - 413 Broadway, So Portland

✱ January Contests:

6 Kids Day

20-21 North American QSO Party -SSB

20-22 ARRL January VHF Contest



Secretary's Report

General Meeting - December 6th, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 following the annual holiday potluck.

The secretary's, treasurer's and chief operator's reports were all accepted by unanimous vote.

The club is looking for a new treasurer. Jack, KC1UX, has decided to step down after many years of dedicated service. Jack gave a brief but thorough explanation of the duties involved for any interested members.

The slate for officer nominations was accepted and the following members were elected to the respective roles:

Jason Cote, W1WDW - President

Bryce Rumery, K1GAX - Vice President

Ariel Cote KC1CCB - Secretary

Ross Drivas KB1OND - Chief Operator

**John Bogner W1JLB and Steve Mitchell
KB1YBT - Members at Large**

Joseph Shortill, W1XXV reminded the membership to please consider making a donation to the repeater fund for maintenance and upkeep!

25th awarding of the Ham of the Year award goes to Ariel Cote, KC1CCB (thank you all!)

Following the presentation of the award, the meeting was adjourned.

Ariel Cote - KC1CCB

Chief Operator's Report

One of the sayings about amateur radio is that "ham radio always gets through". There is a certain elegance to a hobby that literally (sometimes) lets you throw a wire out a window and talk to someone doing the same thing part way around the globe with no supporting infrastructure. With the advent of the Internet and cells systems that idea is sometimes lost on us.

This year's hurricane season is a reminder that for all the talk about ham radio being passé with the advent of newer communication gear - in places like Puerto Rico, the sudden absence of any radio infrastructure - towers down, power out, that ham radio can still fill an important need to areas stricken by disaster. In Puerto Rico, amateur 2 meter simplex helped responders support police and utility crews. Not a lot of infrastructure needed to do that, and as far a 2 meter gear is concerned the price is about as reasonable as one can get.

And the beauty of the hobby is you can get involved to whatever degree you feel comfortable with. That can go from a passing familiarity with the terms of the different modes to seeing them demonstrated, to actually using them for your, and perhaps other's benefit.

NBEMS - Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software is used on both VHF/UHF and HF frequency to allow hams to send and receive data using a computer and a radio. This can serve as a valuable compliment to the standard ARRL Radiogram message handling. The software is free and you can acoustically couple your laptop to the radio if you want to start with this in a minimalist configuration just to get your "feet wet". There are even NBEMS apps available for the phone, so with a smart phone (instead of a PC) and an HT you can participate.

The ARRL Radiogram - I can't tell you the last time I heard someone passing message traffic on the

repeaters or even on the air. If nothing else it is the ultimate fall back to these other modes - especially if your phone or your laptop battery is dead.

As Bryce has pointed out many times in his training on Sundays, the time to learn things is now, not later when the actual event happens. How many people buy a car and bother to check to see where the spare and jack are in case they need it? The time to learn about it is before you are on the side of the road hunting around in the glove compartment for the owner's manual...and if you are going to prepare for something, how realistic are your preparations?

This last wind and rain storm brought some of that message home to me as well. I was fortunate to have power but while helping friends and relatives a) generators that had been tested earlier in the year had problems, b) a backup unit had a different plug set up then the original (20 amp versus 30 amp) c) a general reluctance to get things running because the "power should be back on shortly". I know of many people that had power until the morning **after** the storm when they lost it. Again the assumption was it will be right back on. I think we were all fortunate that this happened at a very temperate time. Another rerun of the ice storms with their cold weather would have made things even more hazardous.

Field Day is a great chance to showcase amateur radio's ability to operate in the field and participate in a contest. But much of that is done ahead of time. If you had to relocate at a much shorter timeframe, what would you take? Is it readily available? (I know, a lot of this depends on our personal organizational skills...) What if you only had an hour? If the club repeater is out do we have a fallback repeater? If none is available, is there a 2 meter simplex frequency we should establish ahead of time? Or a radio net on NVIS HF?

This last storm was a reminder that everything works until the unexpected happens. Fortunately we have the tools that few others have to deal with just that eventuality. A little organization, experimentation, and education can be a benefit to us all.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/media/Group/Fillable%20Radiogram%20Form.pdf>

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/MPG104A.pdf>

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/On%20the%20Air/Tutorials/Introduction_to_NBEMS_ARRL.pdf

How To Sound Like A Ham Or Perhaps Not

By Bryce Rumery, K1GAX

As we all know there is no code requirement to get an Amateur Radio license. There are a few things that creep into "Ham Speak" from CW that really shouldn't be there in voice communication.

These take the form of "Q Signals" Q Signals came about in CW to shorten the words being sent. Q Signals have for some reason have migrated to voice. This should never have happened. I guess that folks feel that sound more like a ham if they use them on voice. The problem is that most new hams don't understand Q Signals or their meaning.

Let's look at a couple of examples. There is "QSL". Sent on CW in the form of a question it means "can you acknowledge receipt?" Sent on CW as a statement it means "I can acknowledge receipt". Of late on voice it means "yes" or "10-4".

Now for "QTH". In classical CW in the form of a question it means "what is your location by latitude and longitude?" Sent on CW as a statement it means "my location is (by latitude and longitude)". Used on voice it just means "what is

your location” Some hams on voice add an adjective and come out with “I’m at the home QTH or I’m at the work QTH.”

Now why not just use plain English instead of a Q Signal? Instead of QSL why not just say yes. Instead of saying home or work QTH why not just say “I’m home or I’m at work.”

There are dozens of other Q Signals that have migrated to voice communication all of which could be better understood if said in plain English.

Best Regards, Bryce, K1GAX

What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. At first, I didn’t think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, “What heck are these guys thinking?”

What the minutes document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for “criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct[sic] and drawing the Board’s collective decision making into disrepute.” I won’t quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? It’s official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the

ARRL website at <http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRLCodeofConduct.pdf>

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA’s censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won’t quote the entire section here, but basically what it says an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted it against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, “Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization’s members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization’s rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. @arrrl board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body.” Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place?

What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and

that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be "short, non-aggressive, and

to the point." He suggested the following:

Dear [your director's name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the "Code of Conduct") and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

1. Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.

2. Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted "the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations." Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.