

January 2010 Edition

Your Help Is Needed

Talking with the new Treasurer at last night's Board Meeting I found out some interesting new information. Only 35 members out of 105 have submitted their dues renewals to be processed. Now I know that 70 of you are not that disappointed in the way your organization is being ran and want to quit it totally. So how about it, let us that are holding off get off the dime and put his lonesome soul to work. Flood him with renewals we need to test him under a workload.

Most Popular Web Page Results

For months I have been wanting to know what the most popular web pages were at www.dbara.org and I finally got the "Webb Statistical program to work the way I wanted it to not the way it wanted to.

For Sale or Buy

Meeting Information

eGroundwave

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Board Meeting Minutes

How To Become a Member of DBARA

Renewals

January General Meeting

The results are in on the General Meeting program this month. President John LoCicero changed things around and had our guest speaker go first and then held a very brief "business update meeting" session at the tail end.

The presentation this month was literally "far out as far as the ham radio hobby is concerned. It was on the subject of "Radio Astronomy." Now that is truly "far out!" Vice President Bowen invited the Radio Astronomy Professor from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to speak and he gave us a wonderful over view of who, what, when, where and why on the topic but he also did a wonderful job of keeping the whole presentation at a level where we could understand how it was done and how the results were published.

After an hour of traipsing through the stars, galaxies and universes we came back to earth and enjoyed a brief coffee and doughnuts session combined with social networking before starting the business meeting.

Frank Reda gave his first Treasurers report of 2010. We are solvent. Then he had a

fist full of new membership applications that needed to be acted on. We have several new members and a family of three avid DX hounds now. Since your editor did not take notes we won't begin to guess names but just leave it as "welcome aboard!" What will occur now is your application information will be entered in to the DBARA information data base, your new membership badges ordered, your members CD which contains various tidbits of club information will be burned and available to you at the next general meeting.

Steve Szabo, K4BV Repeater Trustee and Guardian, gave the membership a briefing on the status and condition of the K4BV repeater site and equipment therein. Also, he had spoken with the Flagler County group and they may want to install a D-Star system at our site also. A brief conversation on using and users of the repeater and its current formatting on announcements. How did everyone like it , what would they like to see changed, and about some of the errors heard on the air with the learning curve on how to handle programming of announcements. Steve admits that he is a long way from being another Frank Haas when it comes to programming and understanding the present (antique) controller system. Justifiably so as Frank grew up and older with a few gray hairs with it for something like 15 years or more as Chief Control Operator. Paul Milward tendered his resignation as "Chief Coffee Pot Guardian." His arthritis in his wrists and hands is giving him a fit and causing him a great amount of physical discomfort and handling that big pot every month is just not in the future for him. The club is going to try to maintain future coffee making on a volunteer basis unless someone steps up to take the job on.

Glenn Karel won the 50/50 drawing this month.

Meeting adjourned.

Flagler County Is Going To D-Star Repeater System

I have some exciting news. last night on the VARECS net it was announced that Flagler County is putting up a D'STAR repeater. I was told later on that the repeater will be up by early February without a Gateway. The Gateway will follow shortly after. This will be a "2-Stack System" with 2M and 440 modules (no 23cm) - but will have full digital voice (DV) and slow-speed data (simultaneous 1200bps on the same frequency. Coverage should be from Volusia to Saint John's county.

More good news! Brevard county is also putting up a system. It is located at the Wuesthoff Health System in Rockledge FL. The antenna height is approximately 230 above sea level. The Repeater will be 2 meter, 440, 1.2 GHz high speed data with gateway on the frequency of 147.030 MHz. It is unknown what type of coverage this repeater will have. Being that it is Rockledge I am not expecting great coverage in Volusia however it's another piece of a puzzle that will provide us with multi county coverage.

If anyone has any questions about D'STAR, please feel free to email me at

kf4vrs@clearwire.net

73

Fred

Editor note - Is this a good thing for Volusia County or DBARA to participate it? Should your ham club investigate the possibilities or blow it off? Talk to your ham club officers give them your personal outlook or perspective on the matter now not later.

Don't expect Much News

Since it has been so cold and your Editor, Reporter has not been out much lately combined with quiet repeaters there is just no new news worth repeating coming in to my "inbox" of late. About the only thing happening is the new club treasurer Frank Reda AJ4LE has been trying to figure out the former Treasurers methodologies of filing and bookkeeping. I think this is really a pretty normal transition learning phase that everyone goes through. Of all the positions within DBARA being a Director is one of the more fun places to be if you want to be a part of the working organizational structure. The second most fun position that is a non elective position is as the webmaster. No one wants your job so you never have any competition and you just have fun in a deranged manner. You don't have to be nuts but if you are it is most helpful.

A Reply to the ARRL Weekly News Letter and the Previous Local Commentary about Ham's Being Dinosaurs

HELLO bob and to every one in the group.

Well, well, 30,000 new hams in 2009 that kind of shoots the statement in the newspaper that we as ham radio operators are dinosaurs!

In 2008 I did an article that stated that we were growing by 550 a month according to the ARRL stats that's 6,600 new ham every year give or take a hundred or so! Heck I don't think you get that many a year in stamp collecting, coin collecting, model boat builders, or any other hobby every year. Now keep in mind that was just the ARRL VE teams account, that was not counting the other VE teams out there. So I guess by these new stats we are not going to become extinct as of yet as some folks keep trying to tell the world that we are in our grave! Not yet buddy! We are not dinosaurs, and we are not aging at 1.3 years every 12 months.

I am excited to say ham radio is a live and well! It's not just for old geezers to play with and have a hobby, young people are also enjoying the hobby as well. So I can quit crying about the money I have spent on this dying hobby.

So let the hobby grow and expand, and stop with the B.S about how ham radio is dying. If some folks keep preaching the hobby is dying; soon some will listen and decide we are dead! and tell their friend which in turn they tell their friends, and now the rumor has

become a folk tale, and the next thing you know its an urban legend then the whole thing will end up on "Myth Buster."

HIP ,HIP, HIP, HOORAY LONG LIVE HAM RADIO

73 to all and to all a happy ham radio night

k4tug

----- Original Message -----

Received: Thu, 07 Jan 2010 06:11:10 PM MST

From: "Bob Ledford" <wa4idi@cfl.rr.com>

To: <dbara@yahoogroups.com>

Subject: [DBARA] FW: The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2010

Whomever said "ham radio is dying on the vine?"

If you are having trouble reading this message, you can see the original at:
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2010-01-07>

January 7, 2010

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

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+ Hams in the News: White House Names Ham as New Cybersecurity Coordinator

President Barack Obama greets his new White House Cyber Security Chief Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, in the Cross Hall of the White House. December 17, 2009. [Lawrence Jackson, official White House photo]

On December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff. He will also work closely with his economic team to ensure that our cybersecurity efforts keep the Nation secure and prosperous."

In an exclusive interview with the ARRL, Schmidt said that he credits Amateur Radio with getting him involved with technology: "In high school, one of my friends was a ham and he got me interested in shortwave radio, which in turn got me into building shortwave radios and equipment, many from Heathkit. As I got older, I took courses from NRI and Bell and Howell in electronics and built a number of projects, preparing me for my first ham radio ticket. I love technology, and it was Amateur Radio that caused me to build my first computer -- a Sinclair ZX-80 to use for EME calculations. I studied all about the OSCAR systems and would build equipment to monitor when they would pass within range of Arizona. Building these computers to support my ham radio hobby gave me the technical skills that I needed to start doing computer crime investigations and work on the early stages of computer forensics, in turn enabling me to start working on cybersecurity issues." [Read more here.](#)

+ Spotlight on Amateur Radio: 2009 Sees Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees

In 2009, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new Amateur Radio licences -- an almost 3 percent increase in the number of new licenses issued in 2008. At the end of 2009, there were 17,084 Novices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals and 119,403 Amateur Extra class licensees.

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009 -- an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! [Read more here.](#)

+ Public Service: MARS Gets New Name As It Fine Tunes Mission

On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an Instruction concerning MARS, effective immediately. This Instruction gives the three MARS services -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military Auxiliary Radio System. The Instruction is the first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988 -- as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications. In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD's Instruction now directs the three MARS services to provide "contingency radio communications" to support US government operations, DoD components and "civil authorities at all levels," providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support "to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate." MARS must also be capable of operation in "radio only" modes -- without landlines or the Internet -- and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed); some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment. [Read more here.](#)

+ Coming Up in QST: Look for the February Issue of QST to Arrive Soon

The February issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments, from public service to on-the-air activities, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone. You'll find a plethora of technical and general interest articles, as well as monthly columns such as How's DX, Hamspeak, Vintage Radio and more. [Click here](#) to discover what's in store for you in the February issue of QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

Hints & Kinks : A BNC Connector Tool

The completed tool aids in inserting or removing BNC jacks from a chassis without damaging the connector.

Scott McCann, W3MEO, of Queenstown, Maryland, made this tool by soldering a BNC connector to the shaft of an old screwdriver (see photo): "I cut off the blade and tinned the shaft with ordinary solder and flux. I then removed the center pin and Teflon from a BNC plug and soldered the plug onto the screwdriver shaft. While it was hot, I 'locked up' the nut and collar with solder. Now I have a BNC driver, very handy for installing and removing BNC jacks without marring them, which can happen using pliers or other 'make do' tools." Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint in QST, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members, such as speaking with representatives of the FCC's five Commissioners concerning BPL, representing Amateur Radio at various meetings leading up to WRC-12, rolling out new platforms for the ARRL's Tech Q&A, processing certificates and endorsements for the Hiram Percy Maxim 140th Birthday Celebration and more. This installment covers the month of December. Read more here.

+ Now You Know!: 4U1 Call Signs

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This past weekend when I was working the ARRL RTTY Round-Up, I came across a call sign that I had never seen before. But that's not what confused me (as I become more active on the air, I run across all sorts of interesting call signs, such as 3V8ST). No, what confused me was that the supercheck database and my logging program told me that the call sign was located in the US. We all know that AA-AL, K, N and W are all US prefixes. Then why was 4U1WB showing up as being located in the US, too?

I'm looking forward to getting one of these in my mailbox soon!

Upon assurances I was not going crazy -- and more importantly that the supercheck database and my logger were not broken -- I found out that 4U1WB is a United Nations call sign assigned to the World Bank Amateur Radio Club at the World Bank in Washington, DC. There are four 4U1 call signs around the globe: 4U1WB; 4U1UN, assigned to the United Nations; 4U1ITU, assigned to the International Amateur Radio Club at the International Telecommunication Union, and 4U1VIC, assigned to the Vienna International Radio Club at the Vienna International Centre.

In the past, the United Nations has issued 4U call signs to various entities, allowing its use in areas where the UN has had peacekeeping forces. In 1995, an operation from Western Sahara used 4U/KC0PA, while Burundi used 4U9U in 1994.

World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

While 4U1UN and 4U1ITU count for credit toward the ARRL's DXCC award, 4U1WB and 4U1VIC do not. The DXCC rules define 4U1WB and 4U1VIC as "ineligible areas." These areas are classified as "extraterritorial legal entit[ies] of any nature, including, but not limited to, embassies, consulates, monuments, offices of the United Nations agencies or related organizations, other inter-governmental organizations or diplomatic missions." This rule also clarifies that these two stations are considered part of their "host entity" for DXCC purposes. This makes 4U1WB part of the US and 4U1VIC part of Austria for DXCC purposes.

For more on 4U1UN, be sure to check out the February issue of QST. So now when you see or hear a call sign come across the ether to your radio with a 4U1 prefix, don't be alarmed when you find out that the call sign is based in the United States. Now you know!

Solar Update

The Sun, as seen on Thursday, January 7, 2010 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This image was taken at 304 Angstrom; the bright material is at 60,000 to 80,000 degrees Kelvin.

Tad "I yet have visions for the night" Cook, K7RA, reports: Looking at sunspot numbers for the past few years, we can identify three bottoms by using our 3 month moving average -- October 2007 at 3, August 2008 at 1.1 and 1.5 in March 2009. Between each of these months, sunspot numbers rose and declined. Now the 3-month average centered on November 2009 is 10.163, the highest since August 2007's average at 10.17. Currently, the Sun is blank; this is one of only two days without sunspots since December 9, but look for more sunspot activity soon. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, January 8. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Ode on Indolence.

+ VEC News: NCVEC Releases New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

This Week on the Radio

Click [here](#) to watch ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, present a preview of two Product Review items in the February 2010 issue of QST.

This week, there is a running of the NCCC Sprint on January 8. The Mongolian RTTY DX Contest and the Midwinter Contest (CW) are January 9. The Hunting Lions in the Air Contest, the Michigan QRP January CW Contest, the WW PMC Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW) are January 9-10. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the Midwinter Contest (Phone) are both on January 10. Next week, there is another running of the NCCC Sprint on January 15. The Hungarian DX Contest and the North American QSO Party (SSB) are January 16-17. The Feld Hell Sprint is January 17, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is January 18 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 21. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page, the ARRL Contest Update and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page.

+ ARRL Recognizes: Robert H. Welsh, N3RW, Wins December QST Cover Plaque

Award

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for December is Robert H. Welsh, N3RW, for his article "How the Ionosphere Was Discovered." Congratulations, Robert! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the January issue by Sunday, January 31.

+ Silent Key: Knut Magne Haugland, Last Surviving Crew Member of Kon-Tiki Expedition, Passes Away

Knut Haugland and Torstein Raaby were the the two radio operators on board the Kon-Tiki. Both Haugland and Raaby were active in the Norwegian Resistance during WW II.

Knut Magne Haugland of Norway passed away on December 25. He was 92. Haugland was one of five men, who with Thor Heyerdahl in 1947, successfully crossed the Pacific Ocean in a 45 foot raft made of balsa wood and bamboo -- named Kon-Tiki -- to prove that people from South America could have settled Polynesia in pre-Columbian times. Heyerdahl and his companions sailed the raft for 101 days more than 4300 miles across the Pacific Ocean before smashing into a reef in the Tuamotu Islands on August 7, 1947. The expedition used call sign LI2B and carried three watertight radio transmitters. The first operated on the 40 and 20 meters, the second on 10 meters and the third on 6 meters. Each unit was made up entirely of 2E30 vacuum tubes providing 10 W of RF input. As an emergency backup, they also carried a German Mark V transceiver originally re-created by Britain's Special Operations Executive in 1942. Other equipment included a hand-cranked emergency set of the Gibson Girl type for use on the maritime bands, a special VHF set for contacting aircraft and two British Mark II transmitters. The Kon-Tiki also carried a National Radio Company NC-173 receiver. Dry batteries and a hand-cranked generator supplied the power. Read more here.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, January 24, 2010, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 10, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

YAHOO Group News as observed by Bob Ledford, Webmaster

Monday January 2010 I observed that the DBARA YAHOO Group mail was running a little bit slow so I tested it myself and I was right it is taking a wee bit longer but only about 6 minutes to make the round trip. I tried it on various groups that I frequent and the results are the same 5 to 6 minutes round trip.

For those of you that don't know DBARA has several YAHOO Groups now.

DBARA@YAHOOGROUPS.COM for general all members participation. The DF or direction finders group at DaytonaFox@yahoogroups.com and a technical support group at Tech_Help@yahoogroups.com If you are interested the simple way is to just go to the Yahoo Icon in the menu at www.dbara.org There is two special Yahoo Groups, one for the DBARA staff and one for students enrolled in Ham Bone College that has restricted access limited to only those that are currently Officers or enrolled as Students of HBC.

2010.01.04

2009 Has Gone written by a Ghost writer

If you have not noticed 2009 is no longer the present it is history. Therein lies the challenge for the 2010 staff, both old and new members, to successfully function and make the DBARA organization a better functioning ham radio club. The gauntlet has been thrown on the table by several hams of high visibility in the organization and the ham radio community to step up to the plate now and put their brains in gear instead of their mouths. You guys said once Frank Haas was gone you would get active and one even went so far as to say "if you would ever start a lifetime membership program you would consider becoming a member. Well guess what it is a fact. DBARA has a lifetime membership program and it works.

Frank is no longer an Officer holding a Club Office for 2010 and he has not attended a meeting since October 2009. So what is your excuse now? You been too busy to make it happen?

Editors note - It is time for everyone to realize that there is no "i" (eye) in the word "TEAM." If we are going to make it past the end of 2010 we have to function as a well oiled team and we are all equal as far as being dues paying members. We all breathe the same air, have to eat to have energy and have to get rid of it in the end. Although I think some of us retain a little more than others. It is time to bury the hatchet and join hands as a team and pull in the same direction, don't you think? I will print any comments received that are "G rated."

Out With The Old Time

At midnight tonight all of your old club officers lose their jobs and the new ones take office. Lets take time now to thank John LoCicero, Tom Davies, Carolyn Truesdale, Frank Haas, and Arthur Byrnes for doing a great job this year.

In With The New Time

At 12:01 or 0001 Friday morning our new Officers will assume their new offices. Jon Locicero will resume the Office of the President for his third term in office. Leah M. Bowen will assume the Office of the Vice President for her first term in office. Carolyn Truesdale will resume of the Office of the Secretary for her third term in office. Frank Reda will assume the Office of the Treasurer for his first term in office. Arthur Byrnes will assume the Office of a Director on the Board of Directors for his second term in office. Paul Milward (for two more years) and Bob Ledford (for one more year) retain their present positions.

webmaster 2009.12.31

Your Webmaster Is losing his mind

Ever since the web site started having problems about a week ago it has almost made me think I was going crazy. Now I know some of you would agree with that statement and state of mind. Don't go around spreading rumors if you can help it please.

One good thing has come out of all this mess. One of our greatest "naysayers" has given us one of the greatest off handed compliments he could without saying one positive word. "He would not join DBARA on a bet." But yet he thinks enough of our organization to visit our web site regularly. Thank You Mr Negative for the indirect compliment. webmaster 2009.12.16

The Annual DBARA Banquet Report

The annual banquet report is now on line in two locations, the eGroundwave and the 2009 Annual Christmas Banquet. I took notes at the banquet while having a severe attack of Parkinson's Penmanship. For those of you that don't know what that is in a nut shell it gets really tiny and squiggly and super difficult to read later. If you see an error please tell me so I can fix it please.

Dues are Due for Renewal

The Treasury Division as directed by the Treasurer is beginning its annual dues renewal drive in January. Down load your renewal form and mail it in early and take advantage of the no way I'm going to stand in line discount!

Renewal form

Update on Darrell Brock, N4GOA

As most of you know Darrell had a heart attack Saturday, December 12th about mid afternoon and was admitted to the new Florida Hospital on Williamson Blvd, Ormond Beach where he under went the roto-rooter process and the installation of a stint after his admission. He was kicked out of there on Tuesday after he stayed past noon so they could get another days room rent out of his pocket. He made lunch on Wednesday with the Hampton's Restaurant lunch bunch utilizing his livery driver Debbie. Friday he utilized the Ledford Livery Service for the Friday Hampton's ham gathering. Come Monday he has to drive himself back to work and lunch.

He is doing exactly what the MD told him to do and that is rest, relax, de-stress himself as much as possible, exercise and lose some weight.

2009.12.19

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December 18, 2009

'Koala Talkers' dig ham radio at DeLand school

By LINDA TRIMBLE

Education Writer

DELAND -- Five-year-old Samara Cortez is still learning to spell her last name and now she's learning to tap it out using the di-dah-dit sounds of Morse Code.

This week, the kindergartener at Starke Elementary in DeLand also had the chance to talk about Christmas plans and pets with a Horizon Elementary student in Port Orange, using amateur radio.

Samara is one of the "Koala Talkers," named for Starke's school mascot, who are learning about ham radio with the help of volunteers from the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association.

Starke, which started the program in November as part of its after-school program, is the third Volusia County school to get involved with the ham radio program. Samsula Academy also participates.

"Our goal is to stimulate young minds," said Doug Hubbs, a DeLand ham radio operator for 31 years who is helping out with the program at Starke. "We're not trying to make ham radio operators out of them. If we do, fine. If not, we've sown the seed of curiosity." Plenty of those seeds were sown Wednesday as children huddled around Hubbs and volunteers from the Daytona Beach club to practice Morse Code, talk on the radio and learn how robots work.

Until the Koala Talkers program began, third-grader Jordan Roberts didn't know anything about ham radios.

"I've seen a Morse Code thing in a book, one of those tappers," the 9-year-old said, but now he's learning firsthand how it can be used to communicate across the street or around the world.

"Electronics are cool," Jordan said, talking about how communications technology has progressed in recent years. "They didn't have hand-held phones. They had to plug them into the wall, and now they have this wireless stuff."

For children who've grown up with cell phones, e-mail and the Internet, learning about ham radios is a new experience, said Kathleen Messina, who coordinates Starke's after-school program. "In this age of computers and iPods, they have no idea about this," she said.

Messina and Sharon Lloyd, a Starke kindergarten teacher who's also working with the Koala Talkers, are working on getting their ham radio licenses so they'll eventually be able to supervise the children themselves and possibly get other students involved.

Jahmall Collins, a 6-year-old kindergartener, got his chance to talk to a boy from Horizon this week.

"It's fun to do," Jahmall said. "We talked about brothers and sisters. He said he had 16." John LoCicero, a retired tugboat captain who's president of the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association, said the children are learning as well as having fun. The program -- sponsored nationally by the American Radio Relay League -- exposes them to electronics, science, math, robotics and even geography as they mark on a map the location of people they contact by radio.

While it's not the primary goal, Hubbs hopes some children may end up as ham-radio operators, bringing another generation into a worldwide fraternity that promotes friendship and helps with emergency communications during emergencies.

"The ham-radio community is aging faster than the calendar," Hubbs said, with the

average age of amateur radio operators increasing about 1.3 years every 12 months.
"We're already dinosaurs." [So does that make Doug Hubb a "doughussesosaurus?]
linda.trimble@news-jrnl.com

2009.12.17 [Webmasters note - I sat here in the sanctity of my home office and listened to these kids work each other and it was purely enjoyable to listen to them pickup the rhythm and tempo of talking to each other and breaking the mike fright syndrome and cold feet idea. They really got the conversation flowing at a rapid pace. In fact, if you did not pay attention you got lost in who was talking to whom and about what. George Silver, David Lammers and Doug Hubb did a commendable job of controlling everything and on the fly instruction.]

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Hello Charles and every one in the yahoogroups

You ask what it takes to get the press on board?

Believe me its a full time job getting things organized. It takes a lot of planning, and you have to be ready for a whole lot of rejection.

Let's start at the beginning!

First comes getting a crew (volunteers) together to help with the work. Now that's the hardest thing to do! It's like looking for chicken teeth in the barnyard. You have to convince people they were meant to be the person that you need for the job you have in mind.

After getting the volunteers together, the big job starts! You have to figure out what, and who can do what! We all have talents but the hardest job is trying to figure out what a person's best talent is, and what is the best use for that talent! You never want to give someone a job they'll surely fail at! And if you have a weak link, then you need to place the weak link with a strong link. So figuring out what is a good job for this person or that person, and if they can handle the job and if they need help is a stand back and watch for the first few days situation. And remember there is no I in team work. The captain doesn't leave the dock without the deck hand untying the line from the dock. So team work is essential. No one person is any more important than another.

Now that we have our crew working like a fine tuned watch, comes the hard part, the challenge of getting the news media interested in whatever your project is! Now you become a used car salesman! It takes lots of e-mails, phone calls, and a lot of B.S. frosting. And it also helps to become these folks best friend if possible. The most important ingrediant to this mix is the ability to listen. The worst idea can spawn a great notion.

So there you have it in a nut shell Charles. There's nothing to it! Simple as pie!

K4TUG 73

----- Original Message -----

Received: Fri, 18 Dec 2009 09:53:56 AM MST

From: "Charles McGuinness" <cmcguinness@mindspring.com>

To: <dbara@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: RE: [DBARA] News-Journal On-Line dot com

It's so nice to see press like that!

I would be curious to read some of the "behind-the-scenes" details: How did the writer come to hear of the program, what motivated her to write the article, what was the process like, etc. -- just curious how to build upon this success to get further recognition in the press for these kind of efforts as well as other aspects of ham radio!

Congratulations!

Charles KJ4NGS