



The STATIC

January 2018

The monthly newsletter for members and associates of the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club
Copyright HCARC 2018

President's Message

It is traditional to make resolutions at the beginning of the New Year. I thought I'd share a few of my ham-related resolutions with you.

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- Get my casual QSO CW speed above 30 wpm and my contesting CW speed above 35 wpm.
- Try out a new mode – work some satellite QSOs.

- Improve my low band receive antennas while solar activity is low.
- Add more automation to my station.
- Try out SO2R contesting.
- Build something.
- Be a better QSLer - get those cards out quickly for those who want them.
- Get those last few countries confirmed that I need for DXCC Honor Roll.
- And, most importantly: keep balance in my life between my hobbies and my family. Family and friends come first.

* * * * *

On a different note, please be sure to see the announcement elsewhere in this issue of The Static about the change in meeting place and time for our January meeting. We'll be having a special guest speaker, Gerald Youngblood K5DSR, President of Flex Radio Systems, and I expect a large turnout for his presentation.

Happy New Year to all!

73,
Dale - K4DG

Welcome to our Newest Members

A warm Hill Country welcome to:
No new members

Congratulations to the new licensees & upgrades

A Hill Country Cheer for:
No examinations given

Winter has arrived with no more snow so far, a reminder
of what it looks like

Club Calendar

January 4th - The regular club meeting will be held at Buzzies BBQ for a special presentation on SDR - Y'All Come

February 1st - The regular monthly meeting will be held at the Red Cross



Committee Reports

Repeater - Curtis Eastwood AD5UZ

No news since the last report

Red Cross Liaison - Terry Hipkind W0HIP



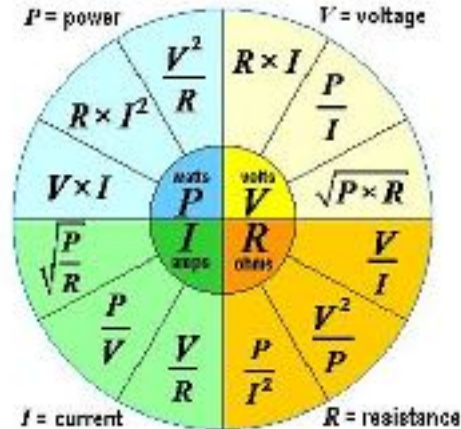
The Hill Country Chapter continues to install smoke detectors in Kerrville homes as part of the Red Cross Fire Campaign

I continue to respond to home fires within our region of coverage. Last fire was on Christmas day. Faulty heating units and long extension cords continue to be the main cause of home fires during the recent cold weather. Be safe this winter!

Upcoming
Conventions

- Jan 13th: Amateur Radio Festa at Schertz Civic Center
- Jan 19-20th: North Texas Section Convention
- Jan 20th: GARS TECHFEST Convention
- Jan 26-27th: Delta Division Convention

VE Testing - Fred Gilmore W0LPD



December 2017 we had no VE sessions. Hopefully this next year we will see growth in the Amateur Radio community and in HCARC.

In January 2018 I will be re-compiling our membership list for the VE team. If you would like to join us, let me know and I will email you the information to become a VE. We have lost several VE's in the past couple years and have a few others who have not participated so we can use a few more who would like to help.

ARES - Terry Hipkind W0HIP



No training or deployments took place during the month of December.

ARRL has announced changes to ARES at the beginning of 2018. Details are forthcoming.

SKYWARN - Larry Altman N5QGD



No new news since the last report.

Announcement - ARRL / FCC

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB025
ARLB025 FCC Seeks Comments on
Technological Advisory Council
Recommendations

ZCZC AG25
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 5, 2017
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB025
ARLB025 FCC Seeks Comments on
Technological Advisory Council
Recommendations

In a Public Notice released on December 1, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) has invited comments by January 31, 2018, on a wide-ranging series of Technological Advisory Council (TAC) recommendations that, if implemented, could alter the spectrum policy regulatory landscape - especially with respect to interference resolution and enforcement. An advisory body, the TAC's membership includes several Amateur Radio licensees. ARRL will file comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 17-340.

The Public Notice is in PDF format on the web at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1201/DA-17-1165A1.pdf

The TAC has called on the FCC to:

* Consider adopting the spectrum management principles spelled out in the Council's Basic Spectrum Principles white papers of March 2014 and December 2015, and "set clear expectations about the affected system's capabilities regarding interference, such as harm claim thresholds."

* More broadly adopt risk-informed interference assessment and statistical service rules. "In judging whether to allow new radio service rules, the TAC observes that the Commission has to balance the interests of incumbents, new entrants, and the public," the Public Notice explained. "The process of analyzing the tradeoffs between the benefits of a new service and the risks to incumbents has, to date, been essentially qualitative."

* Implement "a next-generation architecture" to resolve interference, and establish a public database of past radio-related enforcement activities. The TAC also recommended that the FCC

"incorporate interference hunters in the [interference] resolution process."

The TAC spelled out a set of three "Interference Realities," which, in part, assert that harmful interference "is affected by the characteristics of both a transmitting service and a nearby receiving service in frequency, space, or time," and that radio services should expect occasional service degradation or interruption."

The TAC also posed three "Responsibilities of [Radio] Services that, in part, state that "receivers are responsible for mitigating interference outside their assigned channels" and that "transmitters are responsible for minimizing the amount of their transmitted energy that appears outside their assigned frequencies and licensed areas." The TAC acknowledged that the FCC, by and large, does not regulate receiving systems.

Another three principles under "Regulatory Requirements and Actions" the TAC suggested that the FCC may "apply interference limits to quantify rights of protection from harmful interference." According



to the Public Notice, the TAC "has recommended interference limits as a method for the Commission to communicate the limits of protection to which systems are entitled, without mandating receiver performance specifications." The TAC called for a "quantitative analysis of interactions between services" before the FCC could "make decisions regarding levels of protection," The OET said.

"[T]he TAC believes the principles can be applied to all systems and result in an optimal solution for each service," the Public Notice said. The TAC has suggested that the FCC not base its rules on exceptional events and worst-case scenarios but on reality.

"The TAC recommends that the Commission start soon, and start small, and not attempt a major overhaul of its regulatory approach," the Public Notice said.

NNNN
/EX



Received Dan Romanchik's KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog on December 29, 2017

It is being included here for you to read and consider as recent news in the press [Editor]

What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking?

By 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/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.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. [@arrl](#) 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-arrl-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.

License Study Class - Dale Gaudier K4DG



Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding licensee study classes.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Dale.

Contact Dale Gaudier at k4dg@arrl.net



This little poem is from Edna, the XYL of
Chet Rankin, W5TKE (SK) a former President of HCARC.
Submitted by Patti, K7HER

Buyin' A Bra

I've never been much for shopping
I try to stay away from town;
Except when shipping time comes
I sure ain't easily found.

But the day came when I had to go
and I left the kids with ma.
But before I left she asked me
"Would you pick me up a bra?"

Without thinking I said "sure"
how tough could that be?
I bent down and kissed her
And said, "I'll be back by three."

When I'd done the things I needed
I started to regret
Ever offering to buy that thing,
I was working up a sweat.

I crossed the street to the ladies shop
with my hat pulled over my eyes,
I wasn't takin' any chances
on bein' recongnized.

I walked right up to the sales clerk
I didn't hem or haw,
I told the lady right straight out,
"Ma'am, I'm here to buy a bra."

From behind I heard some snickers
so I turned around to see
at least fifteen women in the store
and they's gawkin' all at me.

“What kind would you be looking for?”
Well I just scratched my head,
“I've only seen one kind before,
thought bras was bras,” I said.

She gives me a disgusted look
“Well sir, that's where you're wrong.
Come with me,” I heard her say,
like a dog, I tagged along.

I followed her across the store
where bras was on display.
I thought my jaw'd hit the floor
when I seen that lingerie.

They had all these different styles
that I'd not seen before
I thought that I'd go crazy 'fore
I left that women's store.

They had bras you wear for eighteen hours,
and bras that cross your heart.
There was bras that lift and separate,
and that was just the start.

They had bras that made you feel like you
weren't wearing one at all.
And bras that you can train in
when you start off when you're small.

Well I finally make my mind up
picked a black and lacy one.
I told the lady, "Bag it up,"
and figured I was done.

But then she asked me for the size.
I didn't hesitate.
I knew them measurements by heart,
"Six and seven eights."

"Six and seven eighths, well sir,
That really isn't right."
"Oh yes ma'am, I'm positive,
I just measured them last night."

I thought that she'd go into shock,
musta took her by surprise.
When I told her that my wife's bust
was the same as my hat size.

"That's what I use to measure with,
I figured it was fair
But if I'm wrong I'm sorry ma'am."
this drew another stare.

By now a crowd had gathered
and they's all crackin' up.
When the lady asked to see my hat,
to measure for the cup.

When she finally had it figured
I gave the gal her pay.
I turned to leave the store,
Tipped my hat and said, "Good Day."

My wife heard the whole story 'fore
I ever made it home.
She'd talked to fifteen women
who'd called her on the phone.

She was still a-laughin'
but by then I didn't care
now she don't ask and I don't shop
for women's underwear.

Fred W0LPD

-30-

Other Radio News

January 2018 Special Meeting Announcement

Our next HCARC meeting will be on its regularly scheduled date: Thursday, **January 4th**. However, we're going to start 2018 off with a special presentation at a special meeting place and time. Our presenter will be Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, the founder and president of Flex Radio Systems. He will be speaking on the latest developments in software defined radios. He will also be giving us a live demonstration of one of Flex's new products, the Flex 6600M.

In view of the high interest in this topic, we have also invited the Kendall Amateur Radio Society and the South Texas DX and Contest Club to join us.

We will be meeting at **Buzzie's BBQ** (<http://www.buzziesbbq.com/>) **213 Schreiner St.** in Kerrville. We have reserved the large banquet room for our meeting.

We will have a brief club business meeting beginning at 6:45pm followed by Gerald's presentation starting at **7:00pm**. In view of the time available and as a courtesy to our visitors,

the business portion of our meeting will be abbreviated.

This will be a great program and we expect a large turnout. So, if you plan to attend, I urge you to come early to get the best seats and enjoy the best BBQ in Texas.

73,

Dale – K4DG
President - HCARC

Amateur Radio Fiesta 2018

Sponsored by the San Antonio Radio Club

Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 0800 to 1400 cst

Schertz Civic Center

More info at <http://w5sc.org>

For Sale - Yaesu FT-1000MP with all the trimmings.

Didn't get what you wanted from Santa? Looking to upgrade your station to something more substantial? Want to sound more manly on the air? Then my Yaesu-FT-1000MP and accessories are for you!



This transceiver was purchased new by me and was used in a non-smoking household. It was my main HF rig for many years. It is in A+++ condition. The rig has dual independent receivers, built in tuner and power supply, puts out a solid 100 watts on 160-10m and comes with every optional filter (CW and SSB) and accessory (except TXCO) available for this rig. It has a CAT port for computer control, an internal CW keyer, DSP for noise reduction and signal enhancement, two switchable HF outputs and a separate receive antenna input. This is a top of the line DXing and contesting radio, but it works well for casual QSOs, too. It's a proven winner - I have over 270 DXCC countries credited using just this rig.

More details on the rig itself can be found at:

<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/ft1000mp.html>

What's included:

- Yaesu FT-1000MP transceiver, with all optional CW and SSB filters for both receivers and the original printed manual
- DVS-2 digital voice recorder
- FH-1 wired remote keypad
- SP-8 matching speaker
- MH-2 hand mic
- MD-1 desk mic

Plus, I am including a **Digikeyer II** USB digital mode interface with Yaesu specific cables. See <http://microham-usa.com/store/product-info.php?pid2.html> for more info. This interface

makes it easy to get on the air using RTTY, PSK31, JT-9/65 and FT-8 and many other popular digital modes. It also includes a Winkeyer chip that allows you to send CW using your computer keyboard.

All of this is available for **\$1200** or best offer, for pickup/delivery in the Kerrville and nearby area. If interested, email me at k4dg@arrl.net or call me at 830-257-0073 for more details.

73, de Dale K4D

Contesting Calendar

Go to the Contest Calendar webpage for a complete listing of upcoming contests. Following is a few from their January Calendar

from contestcalendar.com

Some upcoming January contests:

06th: ARRL RTTY Roundup

13th: NA QSO Party, CW

20th: NA QSO Party, SSB

20th: ARRL January VHF Contest

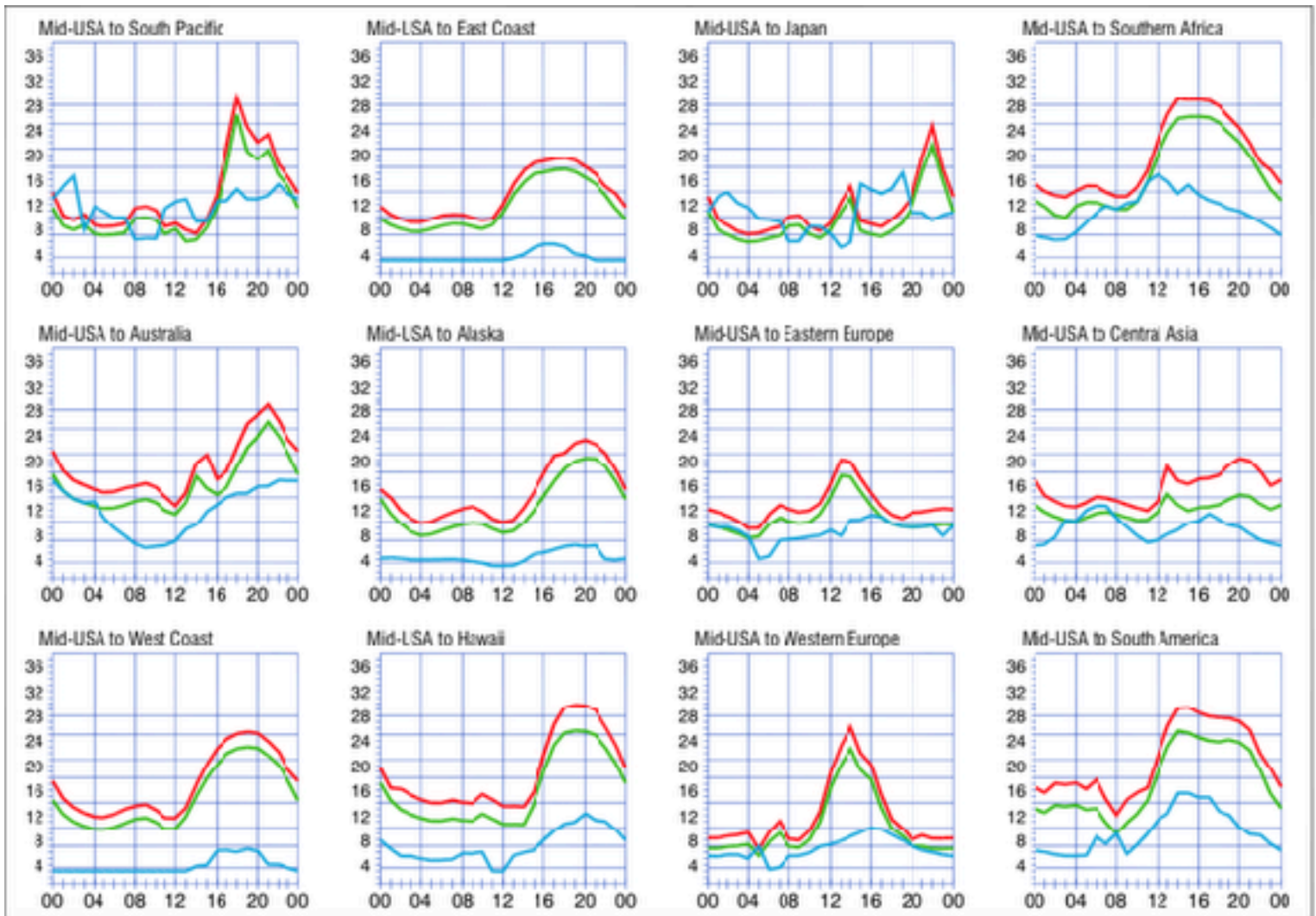
26th: CQ 160M, CW

27th: Winter Field Day

ARRL PROPAGATION CHART FOR JANUARY 2018

When are the bands open? These charts, generated using CAPman, show probabilities for average HF propagation in the month of January for the paths indicated. The horizontal axes show Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the vertical axes frequency in MHz. On 10% of the days of this period, the highest frequencies propagated will be at least as high as the upper red curves (HPF, highest possible frequency) and on 50% of the days they will be at least as high as the green curves (MUF, classical maximum usable frequency). The blue curves show the lowest usable frequency (LUF) for a 1500-W CW transmitter. For SSB or a lower transmitter power, the LUF will be somewhat higher than the blue curves indicate. See Oct 1994 QST, pp 27-30, and Feb 1995 QST, pp 34-36, for more details. The predictions assume an observed 2800-MHz solar flux value of 73. This is a Very Low level of solar activity. See the detailed propagation tables on The ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM

See ARRL - Technology - Propagation - Charts





HCARC General Information

Repeater: N5HR 146.98(-) Tone 162.2
General Meeting: First Thursday of every month except December at 7pm at the American Red Cross, 333 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, TX. Meet & Greet begins at 6pm
Club Net: Every Monday at 7pm on the N5HR Repeater
Website: www.kerrhams.org
Email Reflector: To sign up go to http://www.kerrhams.org/general_misc.html
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hillcountryARC>
Officers:
President: Dale Gaudier K4DG k4dg@arrl.net
Vice President: Gary Johnson N5BAA n5baa@hctc.net
Treasurer: Dennis Robertson W5FBG robertson@ctesc.net
Secretary: Johanna Bruns KG5PBS kvhome@windstream.net
Static Editor: Starr Center KI5SC starr@arrl.net

The HCARC is an ARRL affiliated club

RC & ARES photos by T. Hipskind
Other photos by the Editor

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

+CONSIDERATE...He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

+LOYAL...He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/her country, through which Amateur Radio in his/her country is represented nationally and internationally.

+PROGRESSIVE...He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.

+FRIENDLY...He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

+BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

+PATRIOTIC...His/her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.