

## Hot Off The Press! HARC's May meeting May 2, 2017

May's meeting presentation isn't going to be a presentation at all! This month Humboldt Amateur Radio Club will bring in members to share experiences with **Anderson PowerPole** connectors. Remember, these connectors are nationally sanctioned as the defacto radio power connector! There will be connector tools available so you can make your own station connectors right there! I converted my shack over last year and submitted a story you can read below:

<http://www.humboldt-arc.org/harc/rain/year2016/July2016RAIN.pdf>

### Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – April 4, 2017

Officers Present: Jim Armstrong KW6JIM, Pres. / Peter Esko W6IES, V.P /  
Marcy Campbell KE6IAU, Treasurer / Dan Eaton KB6DE, Secretary /  
Anthony Wiese KG6LHW, Events Planner and Librarian/ and  
Jaye Inabnit KE6SLS, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem

Jim called the meeting to order at 1904 PDT in the Eureka Municipal Auditorium (Muni) Meeting Room @ 406 11th St. Introductions were made and the log book was and passed. 29 members attended.

Health and Welfare: Joyce Isherwood KJØYCE is under the weather this evening. We wish her well.

Secretary Report: No copies of the March minutes were provided this evening. Dan reported he is working on the HAM “M” rotor for our new roof antenna. It is cleaned, blasted and primer painted and needs final paint and reassembly and testing. It is in good condition considering it was built around 1974.

Treasurer Report: Marcy told us our April 4th balance was \$5,035.35 combined checking and savings. We were reminded that club dues are due and payable now. Harry Majors KJ6SYK made a motion to accept the report was seconded by Steve Isherwood KK6MPV. All members voted AYE.

EMCOMM Report:

- a) Peter told us the inventory of amateur radio equipment owned by the county at various locations is continuing per our plan.
- b) Peter reminded us the EmComm Group would meet here on Thurs. 4-20-17 at 1900.
- c) EVENT: Saturday April 22nd , Peter will be Net Control for a message traffic practice drill on the Far West repeater and simplex on frequency 146.700MHz. This will begin at 0900 and last an hour or two. Members are encouraged to log in participate from their home or mobile locations.

Old Business:

- a) The club has an urgent need for folding chairs. Jim suggested padded chairs such as those available at Costco. Donations to the club in the form of chairs will be gratefully accepted.
- b) The “fan dipole” antenna on the roof still needs to be tuned.
- c) Jim said the HexBeam (HB) antenna planned for the Muni roof will be all new and assembled on site by club members. This would make Jim’s HB available for Field Day again this year and it seems to be a better plan than assembling and then later disassembling the loaner HB owned by Jim.
- d) Jim will soon order a pallet and tripod designed for the rotor and HB. The club approved \$400 for the HB project at the March meeting.
- e) Marcy mentioned she knows of an office type trailer that is available. Jim will check it out to see if it is suitable and report to the club.

New Business:

- a) Del Freret W6KOZ announced he will hold an “Elmer” class to be scheduled for a Saturday following license test. Testing will be held at the Humboldt Bay Fire Dept., 6th and C St. (enter on 6th St.) on Saturday, May 20th, 10:00am.
- b) Jim bought 20 wireless FM microphone/TX kits. These can be used as soldering practice at a future meeting or Saturday event.
- c) Peter plans to have a hands-on demonstration of proper Anderson Pole connector assembly and use at the May meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their Anderson gear to demonstrate and share.

Past Event Report: Jim reported the Foggy Bottoms Run was sunny and uneventful. The Ham communicators set up a tent since we are without a portable shack.

Future Events:

- a) Peter is looking for volunteers for the Kinetic Sculpture Race on May 27, 28, and 29. It is not too soon to sign up.
- b) Ben Adams KK6SYJ said the next Arts Alive Arcata event is on Friday, April 14th. It is probably too late to participate this month. He will check things out for May.
- c) Tomas Vargas KM6BQC suggested (in March) we could provide a Ham Radio Emergency Preparedness outreach at the Eureka Rhododendron Parade on April 29th.

The parade is on Saturday and begins at 10:00 am and travels east on Seventh Street, south on H Street, west on Henderson and concludes near the rear of the Eureka Mall.

<http://redwoods.info/showrecord.asp?id=3970>

- d) FIELD DAY: Don Campbell KE6HEC we have permission to use the Woodley Island site again this year for Field Day June 23, 24, and 25.
- e) Anthony told us we might be able to use a park in Blue Lake as a secondary site (out of the Tsunami Zone).

Special Interest: Gene Bass K6PCS told us about an app called Broadcastify. Gene is a contributor to this interesting service described on the website as follows: Broadcastify is the radio communications industry's largest platform for streaming live audio for public safety, aircraft, rail, and marine related communications. Please refer to: <http://www.broadcastify.com/>

Presentation:

Anthony presented a still video and audio show of the ISS contacting and responding to French Guiana via a school in Santa Rosa CA. He was able to visually follow the ISS position in the night sky and record the audio using his HT and a handheld antenna. Cross banding was not needed. WOW!

Break and Raffle: Great cookies and juice were provided by Don C. Raffle winners were: Jim, Chuck KD6HEM, Greg AA6GD, Steve KK6MPV and Harry.

SWAP MEET

A good time was had by all. Jim adjourned the meeting at about 2115 PST

Note to new or prospective Members:

The club has an informal lunch every Thursday, 1130 at the Pantry Restaurant on Broadway in Eureka (next to the Motel 6). All are welcome.

CORRECTION: Howard KB6NN kindly assisted me with this note;

Correction to January HARC minutes (page 3 of March RAIN):

" Jim, Steve Isherwood KK6MPV, Anthony and Howard and did some satellite work in the desert on the way back from Quartzfest in January. Too fun."

--I was not along on that trip (but I may have copied Jim's PSK31, or was that last year? Time flies.)

Minutes submitted by Dan Eaton KB6DE

## **Are You Ready To Take Your Amateur Radio Exam?**

**Here's where you can find a testing location**

**April 15, 2017**

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Daniel R. Martin (707) 768-9147 Email: Dan.AG6JW@gmail.com

Location: Fortuna Volunteer fire Dept 320 S Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna CA 95547

**May 20 2017**

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Irma D. Ruegg (707) 826-0767 Email: hamradio1991@hotmail.com

Location: Fire Dept (Classrooms) 6th & C Street, Eureka CA 95501

Sponsor: Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

## **Blue Lake Rancheria Resiliency Preparedness Fair**

On April 29th from 10am-3pm, the Blue Lake Rancheria will be hosting an "Emergency Preparedness" type fair. Agencies including NOAA, CERT, HCSO Posse, CAL-ORE life Flight, will be represented.

Anthony Wiese, KG6LHW, has taken the lead roll in representing HARC at the fair. He will be setting up a portable HF, VHF, digital and satellite stations for demonstrations, have literature available for handing out and answering questions.

If club members would like to participate, make suggestions, volunteer time and the like, please contact Anthony at [anthonywiese@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonywiese@yahoo.com)

Humboldt County EmComm meeting on Thursday, April 20th at 1900L.

Humboldt County EmComm exercise Saturday, April 22nd.

Avenue of the Giants Marathon Sunday, May 7th.

### **Our annual Big Picnic**

September 10 !!! Rich, WB6MYF, has confirmed the use of the park @ Scotia again this year for our annual FWRA picnic – Mark the date!

73--MARK AA6DX

June is Field Day Month.

Peter is looking for volunteers for the Kinetic Sculpture Race on May 27, 28, and 29.

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Jaye Inabnit ke6sls, ke6sls@arrl.net

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.humboldt-arc.org> or write to:

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club  
BOX 5251  
Eureka, CA 95502-5251

## **"Notwithstanding a Series of Obstacles," Kids in French Guiana Speak with Space Station**

It seemed nothing was going to stand in the way of nine youngsters and their two teachers from Trois Palétuviers (Three Mangroves) School in French Guiana, South America, and their chance to speak with Astronaut Thomas Pesquet, KG5FYG, on the International Space Station via an Amateur Radio

link. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) contact was set for March 23. "I love talking to kids, their questions are often better than adults' questions!" Pesquet said on his [Facebook page](#), which has a little video that tells the story of the contact.

A small village of 180 inhabitants between the Amazonian Forest and the Oyapock River -- a natural border with Brazil -- Trois Palétuviers isn't all that easy to get to. It is accessible only by dugout canoe; the voyage takes about an hour. At the school, there is no electricity during the day, no internet; and only recently has telephone service become available. The village population is exclusively Native American, many residents having strong ties with Brazil. The school has about 50 students in two classes.



**These youngsters in French Guiana and their teachers were very determined to speak with Astronaut Thomas Pesquet, KG5FYG, on the ISS.**



**Astronaut Thomas Pesquet, KG5FYG, at NA1SS. [NASA photo]**

To reach the location where the students would speak with Pesquet entailed not only the hour-long canoe trip but a 3-hour bus journey, and things did not quite go as planned. As the bus neared its destination, the passengers learned that roads to both their primary and back-up locations were blocked due to a strike. The only solution was to use a teacher's mobile telephone. That's how the students and their teachers ended up in the small kitchen of a private home.

The contact was a "telebridge," with W6SRJ in California serving as the Earth station for NA1SS and two-way audio provided via telephone to the contact site, where the youngsters planned to ask a dozen or so questions (they had 17 ready) in French.

"Notwithstanding a series of obstacles, the radio conversation between the students and astronaut Thomas Pesquet was a success," one of the teachers said. "This was Amateur Radio at its best."

## **Cheers To Our Newest Ham!**

Steven T Bates  
**KM6JXA** USA flag: USA  
McKinleyville, CA 95519  
Grid Square CN70xw  
US State California

Last Update 2017-04-14 16:00:03  
Class Technician Codes: HAI  
Effective 2017-04-13  
Expires 2027-04-13  
US County Humboldt

## Humboldt International Space Station Excitement!

Anthony's instructions worked like a champ! I caught nearly all of the ISS part of the QSO!

First, I looked the pass up on ISS Spotter (free iPhone app) to get the part of the sky I'd need to aim at (SW, SE, NE), then I used my portable 4-element Arrow beam and a handheld w/ manual squelch.

As soon as I entered the frequency and opened squelch, I started aiming SW, and the ISS came up immediately. At that time, they were 800 miles SW of San Francisco. ISS comms came in full quieting, nearly full scale at at the apex, solid 3/4 scale w/a bit of static for the rest of the time. The QSO continued until sign-off near Minot, ND, 1,200 miles ENE!

They talked about the visible effects we humans have on this planet, keeping fit in space, being maybe 2 seconds younger when returning to earth due to General Relativity effects, raising insects and other creatures on the ISS, and how they'll miss their crew buddies once they all come back down and disperse to their respective countries.

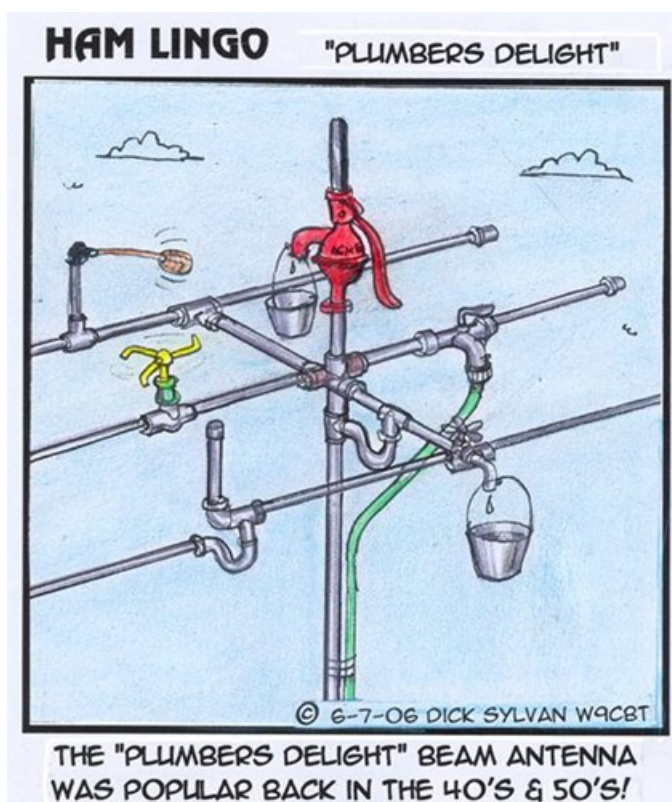
As I type this, The ISS is coming back around and is on its way to Seattle, WA / Vancouver, BC.

I don't know about you, but I'm hooked!

73 everyone  
Jim K6FWT

**The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.**

Surprise!, Surprise! It was an Apple.  
But with extremely limited memory.  
Just 1 byte.  
Then everything crashed!  
[Bob wb6qpg]



FWRA minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN

RARC minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN

SHARC minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN



## **Low Bands Have Improved FINALLY**

This past winter brought some harsh low band conditions. Many nets, especially those that happened in early evening were extremely difficult to check into due to very poor propagation conditions. The Humboldt County Emergency Net which meets every Monday at 7:45 PM Pacific time started asking operators to start monitoring the frequency (3.955 MHz LSB) early for more distant hams to check into. This actually worked very well. However, right around the Daylight Savings Time shift, the band began to improve. We still monitored for early check-ins for a few weeks, but it soon became clear that the band was quickly improving for night time use. If you found it impossible to check into your regular nets, now is the time to add them back into your schedule.

Even the digital nets had a hard time getting through a regular net, but we resorted to our ancestral roots and started asking for relays. I can hear you, you can hear the net control, so you act as a sort of a repeater. With digital work, it's quite easy to simply copy text, then when you go into transmit mode, Paste the text. Voice work requires a lot more effort. Our Emergency Digital Net starts at 8:05 pm right after the HF net on 3.581 MHz, using the mode MFSK31. It' is a very quick net and a great way to keep improving your digital working skills.

Speaking of nets, are you checking into your regular VHF and UHF nets? We know that it can be easy to forget the nets. Even if you are mobile, give it a go and try to check in. If net control doesn't hear you, there is a very good chance another member WILL hear you and relay you into your net. Mark your calendar, pencil in a reminder ring tone for Monday, 7pm and join us! All the net frequencies are listed at the end of each addition of RAIN.

/ed

**THANK YOU**

To all the hams that sent in links, pictures, and articles for this addition of RAIN.

RAIN  
Box 5251  
Eureka, California, 95502-5251

North Coast Nets

Sunday	0800	North coast emergency net	3.855 MHz LSB
Monday	1900	Arcata Emergency simplex net	146.430 MHz
Monday	1900	Eel River Emergency net	147.090 PL103.5
Monday	1900	Eureka Emergency simplex net	146.460 MHz
Monday	1900	Southern Humboldt Emergency net	146.790 PL 103.5
Monday	1915	Eureka & north UHF Emergency net	444.400 +5000 PL103.5
Monday	1930	Humboldt county Emergency net (nearest FWRA repeater to you)	146.700 PL1031.5 147.000 PL1031.5 146.760 PL1031.5 146.610 PL1031.5
Monday	1945	Humboldt County HF emergency net	3.955 MHz LSB
Monday	2000	California State net	3.992 MHz LSB
Monday	2005	Humboldt HF Digital emergency net	3.581 USB MFSK32
Tuesday	1930	ORCA digital operations net	3.581 MHz USB
Tuesday	1930	California-Mendocino net	3.915 MHz LSB
Wednesday	1000	California State net	7.230 MHz LSB
Wednesday	1930	FWRA net	146.760 PL103.5



[humboldt-arc.org](http://www.humboldt-arc.org)