

AmRRON BEACON



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From AmRRON Headquarters

CQ CQ AmRRON!

Greetings patriot radio operators!

I was recently asked by an AmRRON Corps operator if there would be a conflict of interest by joining a local militia. The short answer is "no."

The real answer is still "no" but it's the long answer. AmRRON members' first love is normally radio and communications.

Organizations rise and fall, and come and go. When they do dissolve, the AmRRON radio operator, in our experience, gravitates back to focusing primarily on AmRRON and radio.

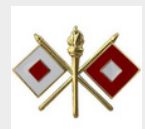
Unlike ARES, MARS, etc., we do not have a "served agency" per se, as an organization.

However, we encourage our operators to ply their skills and experience in support of their communities and their

country. There are different kinds of AmRRON members, and I will write more about this in the future. Some are dedicated exclusively to AmRRON, while others are members and still provide communications support to other organizations. Whether it be your local ARES, or Search and Rescue, or as the comms section leader in Preppernet, your local militia, community mutual assistance group, or your church's disaster response team, just be realistic about your obligations. If you are an AmRRON NCS and the other group you've committed to has an event scheduled at the same time as your net, make sure you arrange to have someone cover your net for you. It's the responsibility of each individual operator to deconflict their schedules and obligations. And be realistic.

God bless, and 73 everyone!

-JJS



"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

1 Corinth. 16:13

RADIO NEWS

ISSUE 12 | 09/05/2023

THE CHEAP RADIO HACK THAT DISRUPTED POLAND'S RAILWAY SYSTEM

From WIRED
<http://tinyurl.com/4xpyx2d8>

The sabotage of more than 20 trains in Poland by apparent supporters of Russia was carried out with a simple "radio-stop" command anyone could broadcast with \$30 in equipment.

On Friday and Saturday, August 25 and 26, more than 20 of Poland's trains carrying both freight and passengers were brought to a halt across the country through what Polish media and the BBC have described as a "cyberattack." Polish intelligence services are investigating the sabotage incidents, which appear to have been carried out in support of Russia. The saboteurs reportedly interspersed the commands they used to stop the trains with the Russian national anthem and parts of a speech by Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Poland's railway system has served as a key resource in the facilitating of Western weapons and other aid into Ukraine as NATO attempts to bolster the country's

defense against Russia's invasion. "We know that for some months there have been attempts to destabilize the Polish state," Stanislaw Zaryn, a senior security official, told the Polish Press Agency. "For the moment, we are ruling nothing out."

...the saboteurs appear to have sent simple "radio-stop" commands via radio frequency to the trains they targeted. Because the trains use a radio system that lacks encryption or authentication for those commands, Olejnik says, anyone with as little as \$30 of off-the-shelf radio equipment can broadcast the command to a Polish train—sending a series of three acoustic tones at a 150.100 megahertz frequency—and trigger their emergency stop function.

Poland's national transportation agency has stated its intention to upgrade Poland's railway systems by 2025 to use almost exclusively GSM cellular radios, which do have encryption and authentication. But until then, it will continue to use the relatively unprotected VHF 150 MHz system that allows the radio-stop commands to be spoofed.

MORE HEADLINES

FEMA AND FCC PLAN NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY ALERT TEST FOR OCT. 4, 2023

Test Messages Will be Sent to All TVs, Radios and Cell Phones

WASHINGTON -- FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) this fall.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

NEW RELEASE! FLDIGI, FLAMP, AND FLMSG UPDATES

<http://www.w1hkj.com/index.html>

New!

FLDIGI 4.2.00

FLMSG 4.0.23

FLAMP 2.2.09

New modes have been added (Thor 32, 44, 56), and rumor has it that these are more resistant to band fade than MFSK32, AmRRON's current primary mode for sending traffic over HF. We'll be testing and will let you know!

OCTOBER SOI MODIFICATION TEST (1ST AND 3RD WEEKS)

Bottom Line Up Front:

October, 2023 only: 1st and 3rd weeks

WEDNESDAY

20m National Nets:

- 1900Z Voice
- 2000Z Digital (900 on waterfall)

40m Rolling Regional DIGITAL Nets (900 on wf)

THURSDAY

40m Rolling Regional VOICE

- 1800 LOCAL (6pm)

NO DIGITAL NETS ON THURSDAY EVENING

AmRRON is constantly evaluating our operations and working to identify or improve best practices.

Several suggestions for changes to our net schedule and shared use of the frequency waterfall have been offered and reviewed by AmRRON leadership.

The following will be tested during **October only**:

- Utilizing the 40m band for rolling regional digital nets on Wednesdays
- Eliminate the 40m National nets on Wednesday evenings.
- Providing a 100hz 'guard band' between modes on the waterfall
 - Move JS8Call to minimum 1850 on the wf
 - Move FLDIGI modes to 900 on the wf
- Provide for 40m rolling regional **VOICE** nets on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays

1st and 3rd Wednesday (October 2023 only)

| ZULU --> | 19:00Z | 20:00Z | 21:00Z | 22:00Z | 23:00Z | 24:00Z | 01:00Z | 02:00Z | 03:00Z | 04:00Z |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------|---|---|--|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Eastern (DST) | 15:00 | 16:00 | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 22:00 | 23:00 | 24:00 |
| Central (DST) | 14:00 | 15:00 | 16:00 | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 22:00 | 23:00 |
| Mountain (DST) | 13:00 | 14:00 | 15:00 | 16:00 | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 22:00 |
| Pacific (DST) | 12:00 | 13:00 | 14:00 | 15:00 | 16:00 | 17:00 | 18:00 | 19:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 |
| | National Voice 20m | National Digital 20m | | Eastern 40m Digital Rolling Net | Central 40m Digital Rolling Net | Mountain 40m Digital Rolling Net | Pacific 40m Digital Rolling Net | | | |

THE ABOVE SCHEDULE APPLIES TO OCTOBER 2023 ONLY - This is only a test

COMMS RESOURCES!

AMRRON-RECOMMENDED WIRE ANTENNA CALCULATOR

[HTTPS://WWW.WS6X.COM/ANT_CALC.HTM](https://www.ws6x.com/ant_calc.htm)

WHERE WAS HAM RADIO?



Procedures:

OBSERVATIONS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM A HAWAIIAN AMRRON OPERATOR

By Hotel-18

Depending on how you look at the hobby, it is either thriving or dying.

If you only look at it as a hobby, then it is alive and well. So many different modes to choose from, always learning something new and you can spend your free time doing something that both excites you and keeps your mind moving forward. I even learned about APRS Group messages just tonight, 28 AUG. If you look at it as a way to help your community then you might think it is dying.

There was not much amateur radio involvement, none really, and no organizations asked for help. The Red Cross was even overheard saying, we have cell phones so we don't need ham radio operators. Fair enough, but it was reported that 95% of cell sites were down. 21 sites and 20 were down. On 12 AUG the FCC reported that all 21 sites were out of service. Some cell providers had back up

equipment on site and it was quickly deployed, other providers set up in Lahaina. The FCC granted permission to use several frequencies in the microwave to use as backhaul from five cell towers and to support two Cell-On-Wheels (COWs) and three temporary microwave sites.

Other organizations provided free Wi-Fi with StarLink and charging stations. The FCC reported as of 23 AUG that the total number of cell sites serving Kapalua, Napili-Honokowai, Kaanapali, Lahaina, Launiupoko, and Olowalu is 21. As of 8/23/23 at 6:00 a.m. (EDT) there are no cell sites out of service as well as the 911 Service. A number of wireless companies have deployed mobile assets to Maui to support wireless services while fixed cell sites are being restored.

Cable and wireline companies reported 14,466 subscribers out of service in the disaster area; this may include the loss of telephone, television, and/or Internet services.

What are amateur radio organizations doing to adjust to the ever-increasing availability of

communications that ham radio used to provide? I'm all for other organizations making their community better but amateur radio is going to have to adjust if they want to be variable in today's world. Winlink is not needed in most cases, it is a good way to make you feel safe but in reality, it may not be used in disasters. Hawaii is the most isolated, populated place on Earth, 95% of cell towers down on one Island, an estimated 65,000 customers were impacted by loss of power.

What are some possible solutions?:

Start helping in your local community. Not at the State level, but at your community level.

Talk to schools about starting amateur radio programs, offering classes after school for radio license, tie it into other school programs.

Stop putting all the emphasis on ARES. Yes, ARES is important but it is not the solution to everything.

What can we do to get people in our community generally prepared?

People of Maui need 'cash' and 'communication' -NewsNation

Native Hawaiians Turn To Coconut Wireless In Aftermath Of Wildfires
<http://tinyurl.com/3km93tbm>

FCC 95% of Cell Sites out In Areas Affected By Maui's Wildfires
<http://tinyurl.com/4px9snfr>

Crews Work To Restore Widespread Outage | Maui Thousands Without Power
<http://tinyurl.com/4rxxr5j8>

Hawaii Wildfires Communications Status Report Aug 12 2023
<http://tinyurl.com/mvr7y3rd>

<https://www.fcc.gov/HawaiiWildfires>

ATTENTION ALL NET OWNERS... CHECK THE DIRECTORIES.

In March 2023, John Jacob requested an audit of all Local and Sub-Regional nets. This task was completed mid-June and the corresponding Net Directories were updated in the weeks leading up to T-REX 2023. As a result of the audit, 65 local voice nets, 6 local digital nets, 13 sub-regional voice nets, and 11 sub-regional digital nets were removed from the net directories. Many of these were removed because the net owner could not be contacted via email. Mailboxes were full, services no longer existed, the owner stated the net was no longer in operation, or we just didn't receive a reply.

ACTION ITEM FOR ALL ACTIVE NET OWNERS! Please check the [AmRRON Local Nets](#) and [AmRRON Sub-Regional Nets](#) pages as soon as possible. If you are conducting an AmRRON net and it is not listed on either page or if the information listed is incorrect, please notify nets@amrron.com. If you are interested in starting a new net, please visit <https://amrron.com/net-resourcestools/join-or-start-a-net/> for information on how to achieve this. Having a sub-regional digital net is great but we really need to be plugged into the localities. Let's face it, incidents like a fire storm do not effect an entire region directly, but they do effect the individual communities and it's citizens.

VIDEO OF INTEREST

Area Study, by Mike Shelby on Canadian Prepper



Video link: <http://tinyurl.com/2n35j6v6>

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<https://amzn.to/3Y4wniJ>

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AmRRON
(FRONT)



OPERATOR
(BACK)

Cotton Blend or Tri-Blend