AmRRON

B E A C O N

April 04, 2023 / Vol 7

In this issue:

"Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit;
Through deceit they refuse to know Me," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:6

From AmRRON Headquarters

CQ CQ AmRRON!

Thank you all for the great feeback and encouragement related to the AmRRON Beacon. We've also had some operators offer to contribute content (thanks GT-08 and Cactus!).

We've had a couple others offer to contribute content, such as a regularly featured One Time Pad to practice with, and others.

We're always looking for additional resources, content, reviews, and other treasures you all stumble across or are experimenting with, so feel free to pass it along. If it's a good fit, we'll use it.

It would also be helpful if someone could contribute in a very simple way:

- Radio history or trivia
- Radio humor/cartoon
- Radio/Emcomm news
- Anything else you think might be of interest to others.

Secondly, our internet situation has been abysmal for a while. We are working to upgrade in several areas. Most significantly is the purchase of Starlink, which should arrive in the next couple of weeks. This will greatly enhance our ability to do many things, such as to begin producing videos again, and updating the database and process new and renewal memberships.

So, thank you for your support and your patience as we make improvements.

National nets are this week, so be sure to tune in! The next Partisan Operator Journal entry will be posted in the next couple of days!

Pray for President Trump and the Republic!

God bless, and 73 everyone!

-JJS

RADIO NEWS

AMATEUR INTERCEPT?

AMATEUR RADIO OPS & RUSSIAN DRONE CHATTER

Amateur radio hobbyists appear to have obtained audio recordings of the Russian military trying to retrieve a US spy drone.

The radio intercept started about eight hours after the collision in the Black Sea – in what was the first recorded physical clash between Russia and the US since the Ukraine invasion began.

The clips reveal conversations between multiple Russian ships and aircraft over a four-hour period, discussing attempts to recover the drone's engine casing, nose, wing and gas tank.

'At this moment, we have brought up three parts of the frame,' one unit code-named Apelsin (Orange) was heard saying. 'Now I am proceeding toward the helicopter to search for more.'

Read the full article at: https://tinyurl.com/mrvz4bkr

MORE HEADLINES

FCC WARNS PORTLAND CHURCH TO SHUT DOWN PIRATE FM OPERATING UNDER ITS STEEPLE.

The FCC says its Portland, OR-based agents tracked an unlicensed FM station operating on 90.5 FM to the church on 139th Avenue.

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau is giving the property owner ten days to respond to the warnings with any evidence they may have, showing they are no longer permitting pirate radio broadcasting to occur on their property. The warning letter to the church also points out it could face a penance of more than $2.3 million in fines. Read the full article at: https://tinyurl.com/ybm7bcf3

DANGEROUS C1-CLASS SOLAR FLARE LIKELY TO HIT EARTH

According to a report by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as many as 4 sunspots have been recently observed on the solar surface. Although solar activity is expected to be at a low, there is still a chance of a C1-class solar flare to be hurled out by the Sun in the coming days.

The report stated, "Solar activity is expected to be very low with a chance for C-class flares on days one, two, and three (03 Apr, 04 Apr, 05 Apr)."

Read the full report at: https://tinyurl.com/4887rc26

THE CACTUS CHRONICLES

AmRRON member [code name] CACTUS recently started a local net in his area. He offered to share his experiences on his journey of setting up a local net and overcoming the hesitation of stepping into the unknown. We hope this will be an encouragement and a source of inspiration for many more of you! Here is Part 1.

The Cactus Chronicles

Follow along as Cactus, chronicles his real-life radio journey towards being a better prepared radio operator for his family, his friends, and his faith. Over the next few months, Cactus will share about his successes and failures as he works to improve his communications skills and abilities.

The Cactus Chronicles, Entry #2023.03 30, Starting a Net

For the longest time, I've wanted to participate in a local AmRRON net, but I never saw one listed for my area. As a relatively inexperienced ham, I didn't feel I was qualified to run a net. I kept waiting for "someone" to start a local AmRRON net, and only recently did I realize that the "someone" I was waiting for was me.

While waiting for my application to be approved, I moved forward and started some simple preparation.

First, I went to the AmRRON website and printed out all the necessary Net Control Station forms and put them on a clipboard. Having a pre-made script really reduced my anxiety. Also, I downloaded and printed out the AmRRON SOI. Knowing that there was so much support material readily available, was

a huge factor leading up to me volunteering to start a net.

Next, I studied my all of the reference materials. I kept that printed copy of the SOI in my backpack and read it at every opportunity. With the VHF net control script, I would read it over and over. Eventually, I started reading it out loud, and when that felt comfortable, I took it one step further and would practice reading the script with my disconnected microphone in my hand, while I was in front of my radio. I tried to make my preparation and practice as real as possible.

Finally, I watched a few YouTube videos about being a net control station and I read a couple of blogs about the topic. There are a variety of ideas and opinions about running a net, but in the end, for me, it was about the learning process, not having a polished product. I gave myself permission to make mistakes, as long as I documented them and learned from them.

Despite feeling prepared, as my time to key the mic inched closer, I was still a nervous-wreck. I simply didn't want to mess this up by sounding foolish or saying something wrong. As the seconds ticked away, I felt the tension rising. Eventually, it was time to start, so I

(Cactus Chronicles Cont..)

took a breath, trusted my training and just started the net!

Overall, the net turned out well. My voice was strong, the message was clear, and the net was a success!

During the net, I only had one other person checked in : my wife! I felt relieved that I didn't have to talk to strangers and nevertheless, during our net of "two" we still practiced proper net etiquette.

So, if you have been waiting for "someone" to start a local AmRRON net, maybe that person is you!

You can do this. You don't have to be seasoned radio operator or have a perfect radio voice. But you have to be willing to try. You will learn a lot more from trying than you ever will from wishing!

So, sign-up, get your comms up and I'll see you next week!
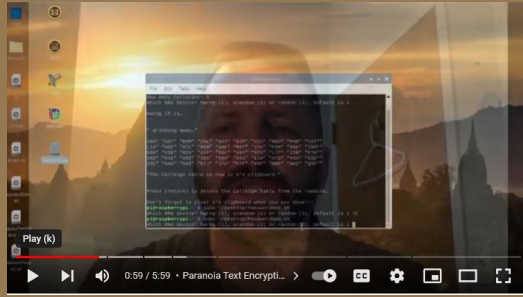73's
Cactus

The Winlink Question

Recently, a couple of operators have asked for clarification on an AmRRON policy implemented in 2019, with a white paper issued, titled 'White Paper – **AmRRON Temporarily Suspends the use of Winlink System**'. AmRRON Corps used to conduct nets using Winlink Express. However, due to the decision by the WInlink staff to post the content of all Winlink traffic on their website, we felt (and still feel) it is a best practice to use other tools available to us over radio. It was always understood that the Winlink node system operators (Sysops) had the ability, and were encouraged, to inspect the traffic going through their nodes, to self-police against abuse and ensure FCC compliance. We felt that posting all traffic to their website was something that is not in the best interest of AmRRON, as an organization, to continue to use.

While Winlink is a wonderful service, which individual operators in AmRRON still use, it is to a more limited degree that the way it was used before. Operators in grid-down environments continue to use the service to send emails and text messages, and in many instances it is a very suitable tool for making contact with the outside world (such as sending an email to your wife from hunting camp). One just has to keep in mind that anything you send will be viewable to thousands of others, and not just the sysops.

Video of interest.... (click image to view vid on YT)

Matthew, at the Tactical Comms Youtube channel introduces **PTE** (Paranoia Text Encryption) as a free and open source tool for sending secure/encrypted text over radio.

Matthew gives a great shout out to JJS, the Partisan Operator Journals, and AmRRON Corps. Thanks!

This is not to be misconstrued as an endorsement of encryption over the Amateur Radio bands. In fact, he makes it very clear, "just don't do it." And of course this reflects AmRRON policy on the issue as well. We *are* technically still in peacetime now after all.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT PTE?

AmRRON provides opportunities to legally practice with encryption on a regular basis.

An encrypted message is posted to the **Partisan Operator Journal page**, containing a new journal entry in the ongoing saga following characters in a post "event" scenario. Emphasis is placed on communications, and the tactics, techniques, and procedures which might be used during a catastrophic civil defense environment.

To get involved, and develop the skills and tools that could become necessary in the future, feel free to participate in the 'AIB VERICODE PROJECT'. It's free, and it's like a radio-based scavenger hunt.

Learn how to participate at: **AIB 'Veri-Code': Layered Training with Rewards**

Secret Space Encryptor
Android

Paranoia Text Encryption
iOS (iPhone/iPad/iPod)

Paranoia Text Encryption
Cross Platform (Desktop)

S.S.E. File Encryptor
Cross Platform (Desktop)

AIB VERICODE PROJECT

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