



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

>>>>>>> <http://www.barconline.org> <<<<<<<<

## November 2012

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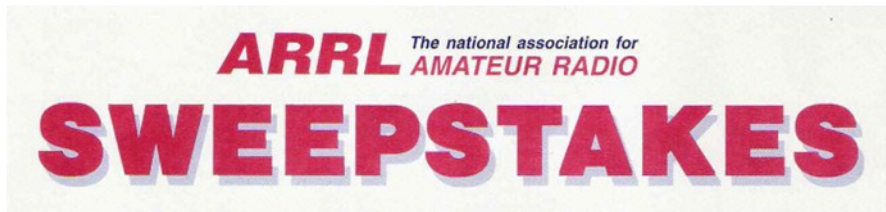
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are always looking for operating events and opportunities that excite and motivate amateur radio operators to be active, especially on HF. The [ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes](#) will hit the airwaves for the 79th year this November! What started as a simple on-air exercise to wish Hiram Percy Maxim a happy birthday has continued into the 21st century. This year's November Phone Sweepstakes is on November 17-18. The Sweepstakes or "Sweeps" as it is usually called is a contest in which modest stations can do exceptionally well. There's no need for giant towers and antennas or legal-limit amplifiers, for simple antennas and a "barefoot" HF rig will do just fine. Sweepstakes brings out many US and Canadian operators, and there will be a lot of stations to work on the bands. More stations = more contacts = more fun!

A major change is in store for 2012. Because of an administrative change at the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the Ontario Section (ON) has been split into four new sections: Ontario North (ONN), Ontario South (ONS), Ontario East (ONE) and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). With the elimination of the Ontario Section and the addition of these four new Sections, the total number of Sections required for a Clean Sweep has increased from 80 to 83 (80 -1 +4 = 83). You need to update your favorite contest logging software before Sweepstakes to ensure you can log the new Canadian sections properly. View a map of the new VE3 sections [here](#). (Courtesy Radio Amateurs of Canada)

So get on the air during the sweeps and make contacts throughout the US and Canada. This is an excellent opportunity for you to get that [Worked All States Award](#) with lots of operators on the air and great band conditions.

If you'd like to know more about Sweepstakes, download the [Sweepstakes Operating Guide](#) – there are simple explanations of the rules and a list of resource articles and websites to help you get the most from your Sweepstakes weekend.

Don't have a HF rig and want to participate in the sweeps? No problem. BARC will be participating in the sweeps on November 17 at the club ham shack in the Engineering Lab Building room EL224 on the USU campus. The Sweeps start at 2100 UTC and we will be there until 0700 UTC (that's 2 PM MST to midnight). Drop by and we will get you involved with whatever you would like to do, making contacts, logging contacts, or just watching what goes on.

Hope to hear you on the air or have some fun operating an HF radio at the club ham shack.

73,  
Cordell  
KE7IK

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

BARC Club Meeting - Elections — 10 November, 10:00 AM

RACES HF Net — 17 November, 8:00 AM 3920 KHz

BARC Club Meeting - Christmas Party — 5 December  
Meet at 6:00 PM, Eat at 6:30 at the Coppermill Restaurant

ARRL VEC-listed Local Radio test — 8 December, 8:00 AM ([Info on web site](#))  
USU's ASTE building (Room 108 @ 1498 North 800 East, Logan, UT 84321)

RACES VHF Net — 20 Dec, 8:00 PM 447.00 IRLP 145.49 Promontory 147.18 Snowbird

## Starting in 2013

Club Meeting - 12 January 10:00 AM

RACES HF Net — 21 January 8:00 AM 3920 KHz

BARC Club Meetings are normally on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 A.M. on the 3rd floor of the Cache County Sheriffs Complex on 200 North and 1225 West, Logan, Utah

ARES Meetings are usually held on the Third Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. at the Cache County Sheriffs Complex. Contact Tyler Griffiths for more information.

## Christmas Party

The Club Meeting in December will be the Club Christmas Party held at the Copper Mill Restaurant. The room will be available beginning at 6:00 PM, eating will begin at 6:30. The menu this year will be: Roast Beef, Medium Deep Fried Shrimp, Au Gratin Potatoes, choice of 3 Salads, Dinner Roll, Beverage, Chocolate Cake. The cost will be \$22 per person and can be paid to Tammy Stevens or any of the BARC Board, but must be paid by November 28th so that an accurate count can be given to the restaurant. A Grand prize drawing will be from tickets gathered from participation in events throughout the year as announced last year. This year the drawing will be for an ICOM 7000 HF radio. You do not need to be present to win. There will be a drawing for other smaller prizes for those that do attend. Come and enjoy!!!



## Club Meeting – November 2012

### Elections and How about Ten Meters

Date: November 10, 2012

Time: 10 AM

Location: Cache County Sheriff's Complex 3rd Floor, 1225 W 200 N, Logan

Elections will be held for BARC officers and board members for next year.

Our meeting topic is on the 10 meters. The 10 meter band (28.0-29.7 MHz, with Technician portion 28.0-28.5 MHz) is available to all hams. This means that the Technician Class license holders have access to an HF band where you can talk around the world when propagation is good. It offers superb long distance contacts (DX) even on very low power (QRP). An antenna for ten meters is smaller and easier to build than for any other HF ham radio bands. In other words, here is a band on which you are likely to get the "biggest bang for the buck" than on any other HF band. The solar cycle number 24 will peak next year and 10 meters should be radioactive through mid-2014. Sporadic-E propagation can also bring the band alive during certain times of the year.

Join us for a discussion about 10 meters, gear needed, simple antennas to build, and we'll have a HF rig setup on 10 meters.

See you there. As always, visiting with friends and refreshments after the meeting.

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## Upcoming Technician License Course

BARC and Utah 4-H will be offering an Amateur Radio –Get your Technician License Course in February 2013.

It will happen on Each of the 4 Wednesdays in February starting at 7:00 PM and going until 9:30 PM.

This course will feature both content for passing the test and a lot of demonstrations about the various aspects of the hobby.

Pass the word to your family members and Friends. More information will come out in a couple of weeks including an online signup for the course.

Kevin N7RXE



A couple of pictures of the Swaptoberfest courtesy of Michael Gordon WB7NTU



# Proxy (Absentee) Ballot and List of Candidates

For year 2013 Officers and Board  
Of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

Voting held on Saturday November 10, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.  
On the 3rd floor in the Cache County Sheriffs Complex on  
200 North and 1225 West, Logan, Utah

**Important Instructions:** *If you are unable to attend the above meeting and wish to vote you may mail this ballot to any club officer in time to be in their hands before the meeting time noted above, or, you may seal the ballot in an envelope and send it with someone to be handed to a club officer at the meeting. If you need help, please contact any club officer.*  
**You need to be a current member of BARC to vote**

<b>For President</b>	
• Cordell Smart KE7IK	
•	
<b>For Vice President</b>	
• Garth Timmons KF7ATL	
• Ted McArthur AC7H	
•	
<b>For Secretary</b>	
• Tammy Stevens N7YTO	
•	
<b>For Treasurer</b>	
• Kevin Reeve N7RXE	
•	
<b>For members of the board (Vote for three)</b>	
• Theo Thomson K7TWT	
• Tyler Griffiths N7UWX	
• Jared Smith N7SMI	
•	
•	

*You **MUST** get approval from a write-in candidate before submitting their name for office. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting, with the approval of the nominee. Ballot can be mailed to **BARC P.O. Box 111 Providence Utah 84332**. It must reach the post office box by November 9<sup>th</sup>. Send in your ballot or come in person.*  
*If mailed please put your name on the mailing envelope only.*

# **BYLAWS of THE BRIDGERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC**

## **Article I – NAME**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be **THE BRIDGERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

## **Article II – PURPOSE**

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to unite radio amateurs in fellowship, to aid those not licensed in learning code and theory, and to provide service to the community especially in times of emergency.

## **Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: All persons having a bona fide interest in amateur radio, whether licensed or not, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2: Application for membership shall be submitted to a club Officer. A member charged with conduct unbecoming a member of this Club may be expelled by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members if the Board of Directors (Board) has found the charges are sustained by its investigations. An expelled member may not reapply for membership unless approved by the Board.

Section 3: A member shall be defined as one who has submitted an application for membership and paid the appropriate dues.

## **Article IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD**

Section 1: There shall be a Board of Directors which shall consist of the Officers, the immediate past President and two at large Board Members.

Section 2: The Officers of the club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3: All Officers and Board members shall be members of the club in good standing.

Section 4: Any person elected to the office of President shall have served at least one year as Officer or Board member of the club, whether before or after incorporation.

Section 5: The immediate past president shall serve the subsequent year as a member of the Board.

Section 6: Committee chairpersons of the various committees required shall be appointed by the Board. Additional members of said committees shall be appointed by the committee chairperson.

## **Article V – ELECTIONS**

Section 1: The Officers and Board members of the club shall be elected for the term of one (1) year and until such time as their successors shall have been elected and take office. Newly elected Officers and Board members shall take office the first day of January of the next year.

Section 2: The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three (3) members, at least one (1) of whom shall be a member of the Board. They will present their list of nominations by notification as specified in Article XII Section 6.

Section 3: Election of Officers and Board members shall be held at the November Club meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Those receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

Section 4: Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by a special election at a general meeting after which the withdrawal or resignation is made known. Nominations for replacement shall be made by the Board. Nominations shall also be accepted from the floor. Voting shall be conducted per Article XII and the person receiving the largest number of votes will be the new Officer. The newly elected Officer shall take office immediately.

Section 5: Officers and Board members may be removed by a petition signed by at least ten (10) members and upheld by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote.

#### **Article VI – DUTIES OF THE BOARD AND OFFICERS**

Section 1: The Board shall be the governing body of the Club and as such shall formulate and be responsible for all matters of policy. Decisions of the Board shall be reached upon majority vote; and thereupon the President shall execute the decisions so made or the policies so formed.

Section 2: The newly elected President shall call an organizational meeting of the old and new Officers and Board members within 30 days of the election meeting.

Section 3: The President shall preside at all meetings of this Club; shall enforce due observance of the by-laws; shall decide all questions of order; shall sign all official documents that are adopted by the Club; and shall perform all customary duties pertaining to the office of President.

Section 4: The Vice-President shall possess all the powers and assume all duties of the President in the event of the absence, disability, refusal, or failure to act, of the President. The Vice-President shall further assist the President in all functions of that office and shall perform such other duties as are properly assigned by the Board.

Section 5: The Secretary shall countersign all deeds, leases, and conveyances executed by the corporation; shall keep a record of all proceedings of all meetings; keep a roll of members and the current status of these members; shall keep a roll of members present at meetings; accept applications for membership; keep a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws present at all meetings; carry on all correspondence; read communications received at each regular meeting, and give notice of all meetings.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all club funds, including dues from members; shall keep an accurate record of all such transactions; and shall give a financial report to the Board and members upon request.

#### **Article VII – MEETINGS**

Section 1: There shall be a general Club meeting held monthly. This meeting schedule may be changed, subject to a decision by the Board.

Section 2: Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President, provided the entire Club membership is notified in writing of such special meeting ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Notification may be done per Article XII, Section 6. The President shall be required to call a special meeting upon receipt of a written request signed by ten (10) or more members.

Section 3: The Board shall meet in a general or special meeting in order to transact business. The Board shall normally meet once a month. All meetings of the Board shall require ten (10) days notice to the Board members.

Section 4: All meetings of the Board shall be open to all Club members.

## **Article VIII – DUES**

Section 1: The annual dues will be recommended by the Board and approved by the members. The dues year shall be January 1 to December 31. Pro-rated dues will only apply to new licensees or those new in the area. The Board has the authority to accept dues paid from any valuable consideration.

## **Article IX – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: The by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at a general meeting, providing that members shall have been notified per Article XII, Section 6. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing to a Club Officer.

## **Article X –RULES**

Section 1: Roberts's rules of Order shall govern all proceedings of this Club.

## **Article XI – BUDGET AND REPORTING**

Section 1: The Board shall give an annual report to the members on the activities of the Club with a financial report including the receipt and disbursement of Club funds. The Board shall present an annual budget after receiving input from committee members and members at large. The members shall vote upon said budget within the guidelines of said budget. A vote of the members will not have to be given again unless the budget is changed materially or exceeded in total.

## **Article XII –VOTING**

Section 1: Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

Section 2: All voting shall be by majority vote of the members present, unless specially stated otherwise in these articles.

Section 3: Voting for the election of the Board and Officers; expulsion of a member; Board member or Officer; adoption or amendments of the By-laws; approval of the annual budget and dues; and other issues as designated by the Board shall be conducted as stated below in Section 4 through 6.

Section 4: Voting on matters specified in Section 3 of this Article shall be by secret ballot of members in attendance and by members Proxies.

Section 5: A Proxy shall be included with the notification as specified in Section 6 below. Proxies may be given to a Club Officer or any other member by mail or in person. Proxies may be specific or general. The form of the proxies, ballots and balloting procedures shall be determined by the Board.

Section 6: Notification to members of the subject matter of any vote to be taken shall be by publication in THE OHM TOWN NEWS the issue prior to the meeting in which the voting is to be done. The notification shall include the time, date and place of the meeting in which the vote will be taken. The notification shall be sent no later than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting date.



# ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update -- October 2012

Division website: [www.RockyMountainDivision.org](http://www.RockyMountainDivision.org)

## ===== Recognizing those who Seek the Thrill of Ham Radio =====

We continue with a new feature of our monthly Division-wide communication: to spotlight hams who are participating in or promoting the seemingly endless fun and magic of ham radio. Does this describe you or your group? If so, please touch base ([n5zgt@arrl.org](mailto:n5zgt@arrl.org)) and we'll pick someone or some group in a future Division-wide email for all to enjoy.

This month we take a look at ARRL Life member Rick Harris AI5P of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rick began monitoring the short-waves in 1959 around the old-style family shortwave radio set found in many homes in the 30s and 40s and soon discovered ham radio. Only one problem: his town in Arkansas didn't have a ham club and he didn't know any of the local hams. Still he monitored, and actually stumbled onto a county hunting net. As he heard new counties, Rick sought to confirm them with SWL cards and confirmed over 1,000 counties as a SWL, earning him his first county hunter award: CQ USA-CA as a SWL.

Rick finally became licensed in 1969 and immediately continued his quest to collect as many counties as he could. As one who enjoyed traveling and learning history, Rick jumped to the other side of the equation in 1972 and began operating while mobile across the United States to hand out counties needed by others.

Forty years later Rick not only put an abundance of much-needed counties into the logbook of hams across the nation and world; he reached a major milestone of his own. During a month-long trip to Alaska to tour and operate on the air, Rick fulfilled his goal of transmitting from every one of the United States' 3,077 counties. You can read about Rick's trip to Alaska and achieving his goal in his own words in the August 2012 edition of County Hunter News at <http://www.chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20August%202012.pdf> (page 23).

Rick's other passion is both chasing DX, and being chased as the DX. In the course of his travels around the world he's operated from 77 different countries. His other achievements include 5BDXCC, WAZ (from two locations), DXCC (from 10 locations), CW-DXCC (from two locations), and WAS (from several locations). Rick has also worked all the 3,077 counties in the United States five times over with the last time being all 2XCW. To say Rick has enjoyed being on the air since becoming licensed is an absolute understatement. His activity as a ham, and the operating skills gained along the way, is exemplary.

If you are interested in the challenge of working counties, Rick offers the following advice: "The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) web site is a good place to start learning about county hunting. CQ Magazine sponsors the original USA-CA (USA- Counties Award) while MARAC sponsors a number of other awards associated with county hunting. Also, listen to the County Hunting Nets prior to 'jumping in' so you know the procedures and learn the process of working the counties on their frequencies."

Some websites he recommends for further information include: <http://www.cquest.com/ch/index.html>, <http://www.marac.org>, and <http://www.countyhunter.com>

Rick, thank you for sharing a bit about your superb story and accomplishments.

## ===== Save the Date: 2013 Rocky Mountain Division Convention =====

Speaking of superb conventions, the good folks in Colorado are spinning up the 2013 Division Convention in Estes Park. Mark your calendars for a superb event at the gateway of Rocky Mountain National Park on June 28-30, one weekend AFTER Field Day. Bookmark the event's website: <http://www.hamconcolorado.org/wordpress/> Many more details are forthcoming.

## ===== ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Net =====

The next Rocky Mountain Division net takes place via IRLP. Anyone with a VHF/UHF radio within range of an IRLP repeater can check in and hear the latest Division news. Here are the details:

DATE: Wednesday, November 14  
TIME: 7:30 PM Mountain  
IRLP NODE: 9871 (link to this reflector from your local IRLP repeater)

## The ARRL Letter for November 1, 2012

### *Public Service: As Hurricane Sandy Wreaks Havoc on East Coast, Hams Heed the Call to Help*

Even though Hurricane Sandy was declared a post-tropical cyclone by the time it made its final landfall -- just 5 miles southwest of Atlantic City, New Jersey at about 8 PM EDT on Monday, October 29 -- the storm still had winds in excess of 80 miles per hour. Hams across the region, from the Carolinas to Maine, responded to requests for assistance and activated local nets, supported the Hurricane Watch Net's and the VoIP Hurricane Net's operations, assisted their local and state Emergency Operations Centers and provided assistance at shelters and wherever needed. Read more [here](#).

**QST de W1AW**  
**ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025**  
**From ARRL Headquarters**  
**Newington CT November 1, 2012**  
**To all radio amateurs**

**SB QST ARL ARLB025**  
**ARRL025 ARRL Requests Hams Do Not Self-Deploy**  
**to Areas Affected by Hurricane Sandy**

Amateur Radio operators who want to assist those Sections affected by Hurricane Sandy should not self-deploy to those areas. "There are many ARRL Sections involved in the impact area, and each has different requirements on how they locate, credential and deploy volunteers," explained ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U. "If a need for manpower is identified that cannot be met locally or in the Section, Section leadership may contact other Sections for assistance. If the need is still not met, Section leadership may then contact ARRL HQ for assistance."

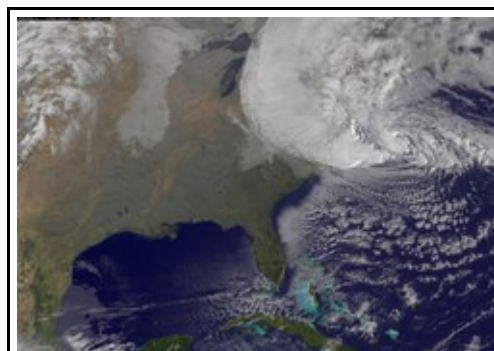
NNNN

## The ARRL Letter for November 1, 2012

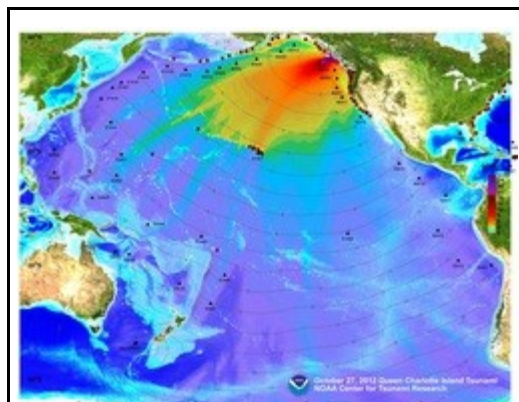
### *Public Service: Hawaii Hams Activate for Tsunami Warning*

On Saturday, October 27, radio amateurs in Hawaii responded to a tsunami warning, providing valuable and timely information to emergency management officials. The tsunami was triggered by a magnitude 7.7 earthquake which struck at 5:04 PM HST (0304 UTC on Sunday, October 28) in the Queen Charlotte Islands, located off the coast of British Columbia, Canada.

At 7:14 PM HST, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center sent out a tsunami warning and said that the tsunami had an estimated wave arrival time of 10:28 PM. After being notified, Hawaii State Civil Defense RACES Coordinator Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, began notifying Oahu leaders via cell phone while ARRL Hawaii Section Emergency Coordinator Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, began activating the ARES Emergency Coordinators on each island. Read more [here](#).



This image from NASA shows Hurricane Sandy as it moves toward the East Coast on October 29.



This image from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows the far-reaching effects of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck British Columbia on October 28. The earthquake triggered a tsunami warning in Hawaii.

## Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, Missing at Sea after Sinking of Tall Ship *Bounty*; Ship's Electrician Doug Faunt, N6TQS, Rescued

Every DXer knows the story of the HMS *Bounty* and Pitcairn Island, VP6: In 1789, the HMS *Bounty* -- a small three-masted sailing vessel sent by Britain's Royal Navy to the Pacific on a supply expedition -- was roiled by tension between its crew and its captain, William Bligh. After landing in Tahiti and taking on a cargo of breadfruit, the *Bounty* set sail for the West Indies; it never reached that destination. Instead, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led the men in a mutiny, eventually allowing Bligh and his loyalists to sail off in a longboat. After an arduous journey, they reached safety at the Dutch-owned port of Kupang. Christian and his followers ended up on Pitcairn Island where they burned the *Bounty* and settled on the island. Passing ships did not discover the enclave until after the turn of the century.

On Monday, October 29, a replica of the *Bounty* -- built in 1960 for a remake of the 1962 film *Mutiny on the Bounty* -- sank off the coast of North Carolina as Hurricane Sandy made its way toward New Jersey. Of its 16 crew members, 14 were rescued by the US Coast Guard. *Bounty* Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, never made it to one of the two deployed life rafts and is presumed dead. Claudene Christian, who claimed to be a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian, was unresponsive and passed away at a North Carolina hospital on Monday evening.

Doug Faunt, N6TQS, of Oakland, California, was one of the 14 who was rescued by the Coast Guard; Faunt served as a deckhand and was also the ship's electrician. A noted DXer and ARRL Life Member, he was part of the FO0AAA DXpedition crew in 2000 to Clipperton Island. He was also a member of the VP6DIA DXpedition to Ducie Island, and in 2007, he was part of the DXpedition to Lakshadweep. According to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, Faunt had satellite communications equipment and *Winlink* capabilities on board the *Bounty*, but he was not the ship's radio officer. "Sailing on replica ships was a hobby of Doug's," Roscoe told the ARRL. "He had previously sailed across the Great Australian Bight on a replica of the *HMB Endeavour*, Captain Cook's ship. He was an able seaman of the watch." Roscoe was the radio officer on the replica *Bounty* for its original voyage to France in 1962.

Faunt told the ARRL that the *Bounty* crew tried various methods, including a satellite phone, to call for help, "but we got nothing when tried calling out on HF. We tried calling the Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had *Winlink* on the ship that we used for e-mail and accessing the Internet to post to blogs and to Facebook, and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used *Winlink* to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. Within an hour, we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Walbridge, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages.



*Bounty* Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, is presumed lost at sea.



Doug Faunt, N6TQS, served as a deckhand and electrician on the *Bounty*. He, along with 13 others, was rescued by the US Coast Guard.

"I don't know how I made it off the ship," Faunt recalled. "I had finished serving a long watch, and then we started going down. I was exhausted. I had to swim to get to the life raft. The water was full of rigging, and here I am, in my Gummy suit, trying to swim. It was so difficult. While swimming to the raft, I came up for air and a spar was coming at me. I finally found a raft and tried to climb into it, but I almost didn't make it, tired as I was. Through the help of my shipmates who were already aboard the raft, I got on." The two life rafts were out about 100 miles from shore when they were rescued.

The vessel left Connecticut on Thursday, October 25 with a crew of 11 men and five women, ranging in age from 20-66. After being treated at a hospital in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Faunt arrived back home in California on Wednesday, October 31. "I'm looking for a new boat to sail and a DXpedition to go on," Faunt told the ARRL. "Ham radio got me into my position on the *Bounty*, and ham radio got me out alive!"

## 2012 ARRL Field Day Results Now Online

If you can't wait for your December issue of [QST](#) to arrive in the mail to see how you did in the 2012 ARRL Field Day, don't worry! The results -- including a [copy of the QST article](#) (with line scores) and a [results database](#) -- are now available on the ARRL website. Be sure to also check out the 101 comments in the [Field Day Soapbox](#). It's not too soon to start making plans for next year -- the 2013 ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 22-23, 2013. Just a note: The results from Wyoming are missing in print edition of *QST*; they will appear in the digital edition of *QST*, as well as online.



## The ARRL Letter for October 18, 2012 Postage Rates to Increase in January



The US Postal Service has announced that as of January 27, 2013, the cost to mail First Class letters, postcards and packages within the US will go up. The cost to mail a first class letter will be 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard will be 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent for each. This is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years; in April 2011, the USPS boosted the postcard stamp price from 28 cents to 29 cents, and [from 29 cents to 32 cents](#) in January 2012. The USPS will also introduce a First Class Mail Global Forever Stamp in January. This new stamp will allow customers to mail 1-ounce letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10.

The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters will also increase. Click [here](#) for more information on all the 2013 postal increases.

## The ARRL Letter for October 25, 2012 FCC News: FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes to Amateur Licensing Rules, Emission Types

Earlier this month, the FCC [released](#) a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 12-283 -- proposing to amend the Part 97 rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. On October 24, a [summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register](#) and the FCC is seeking comments on it.

\Specifically, the Commission is proposing to modify the Amateur Radio Service rules to grant examination credit for expired and beyond-the-grace-period-for-renewal Amateur Radio operator licenses; to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed; to revise the time a call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system correspondingly, and to reduce the number of volunteer examiners needed to administer an amateur license examination. The *NPRM* also asks for comment on amending the rules to permit remote test administration, and proposes to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit certain additional emission types.

Comments must be filed on or before December 24, 2012 (60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*); reply comments must be filed on or before January 22, 2013 (90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 12 of the *NPRM*.



## Questions for General Class License

- 1.(G1A15) What is the appropriate action if, when operating on either the 30 or 60 meter bands, a station in the primary service interferes with your contact?
  - A. Notify the FCC's regional Engineer in Charge of the interference
  - B. Increase your transmitter's power to overcome the interference
  - C. Attempt to contact the station and request that it stop the interference
  - D. Move to a clear frequency
2. (G2A11) What does the expression "CQ DX" usually indicate?
  - A. A general call for any station
  - B. The caller is listening for a station in Germany
  - C. The caller is looking for any station outside their own country
  - D. A distress call
3. (G3A16) What is a possible benefit to radio communications resulting from periods of high geomagnetic activity?
  - A. Aurora that can reflect VHF signals
  - B. Higher signal strength for HF signals passing through the polar regions
  - C. Improved HF long path propagation
  - D. Reduced long delayed echoes
4. (G4A14) How should the transceiver audio input be adjusted when transmitting PSK31 data signals?
  - A. So that the transceiver is at maximum rated output power
  - B. So that the transceiver ALC system does not activate
  - C. So that the transceiver operates at no more than 25% of rated power
  - D. So that the transceiver ALC indicator shows half scale
5. (G5A13) Which of the following devices can be used for impedance matching at radio frequencies?
  - A. A transformer
  - B. A Pi-network
  - C. A length of transmission line
  - D. All of these choices are correct
6. (G6A13) What is an effect of inter-turn capacitance in an inductor?
  - A. The magnetic field may become inverted
  - B. The inductor may become self resonant at some frequencies
  - C. The permeability will increase
  - D. The voltage rating may be exceeded
7. (G7A07) What is the output waveform of an unfiltered full-wave rectifier connected to a resistive load?
  - A. A series of DC pulses at twice the frequency of the AC input
  - B. A series of DC pulses at the same frequency as the AC input
  - C. A sine wave at half the frequency of the AC input
  - D. A steady DC voltage
8. (G8B12) What is the relationship between transmitted symbol rate and bandwidth?
  - A. Symbol rate and bandwidth are not related
  - B. Higher symbol rates require higher bandwidth
  - C. Lower symbol rates require higher bandwidth
  - D. Bandwidth is constant for data mode signals
9. (G9A13) What would be the SWR if you feed an antenna that has a 300-ohm feed-point impedance with 50-ohm coaxial cable?
  - A. 1.5:1
  - B. 3:1
  - C. 6:1
  - D. You cannot determine SWR from impedance values
10. (G0A13) What precaution should be taken when installing a ground-mounted antenna?
  - A. It should not be installed higher than you can reach
  - B. It should not be installed in a wet area
  - C. It should be limited to 10 feet in height
  - D. It should be installed so no one can be exposed to RF radiation in excess of maximum permissible limits

(For answers to test questions see page 14)



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Answers to questions on page 13: 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D, 6-B, 7-A, 8-B, 9-C, 10-D

