



YL-Harmonics

A Bi-monthly Publication of the Young Ladies' Radio League, Inc.



March/April 2020

\$2.75

It 's Hamvention Time



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Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center

Xenia, Ohio

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In This Issue

President's Message	Page 4
Vice President's News	Page 5
Officer Lists	Page 6-7
District News	Page 11-16
VE News	Page 17-18
DX News	Page 19
Web Report	Page 9
New Members	Page 8-9
Scholarship Information	Page 10
Supplies	Back Cover

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March/April 2020

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Dues are **\$15.00** (US dollars) a year due and payable January 1, and delinquent February 1st. For new and reinstating (lapsed more than 2 years) members joining after June 30th, dues are pro-rated by half the annual dues for that fiscal year.

An additional **\$4.00** is required is for Canada and Mexico **airmail**.

Dues for a licensed YL family member (residing at the same address) are **\$3.00**. Subscriptions for non-members are \$15.00 per year and may not be pro-rated for portions of years.

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President's Message de Barbara Yasson, AC7UH

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As I write this column, I hear my OM Phil, AB7RW, the family CW op, making contacts in the ARRL International DX Contest. We became hams in 1995 and have had nothing but fun with the hobby ever since. Not too long after I earned my Technician license, I joined YLRL and have always enjoyed reading about our members' adventures in YL Harmonics. We had the local YL group, the Two Rivers YL Net, who met on the air weekly for the YL net as well as periodically at restaurants for lunch. The Two Rivers YL net is still on the air and going strong with Margaret Hardwick, AE7MB, as the net control station. The local YL nets and YLRL nets go back even farther than the 1990's and have always been part of the YLRL profile.

When Marti Brutcher, W7AYL/SK, became President of YLRL in 1996 she asked me to be the Database Manager and I said "yes". At the time membership was handled by several Receiving Treasurers who were assigned a group of call sign districts. They took care of recording the dues and forwarding the money to the Disbursing Treasurer; they forwarded the membership renewal and application information to me to record in the Access database we were building. Some twenty years have passed and we have one Receiving Treasurer for the US and Canada. As far as I can remember the DX Receiving Treasurer has always maintained the DX membership records. Last year we added payment from the website via PayPal, a convenient payment method, but the record-keeping has not changed much. Over the years my view of the workings of YLRL has changed, from being a member, to the Database Manager, which I did for about 4 or 5 years, to 2014 when a group of Two River YLs put on the 75th Anniversary YLRL convention in Vancouver, WA. That was great fun and an opportunity to connect with many of the members I had not seen in years, as well as to meet new members at their first convention. I had attended conventions in the past, but had to miss a couple just before the one held in Vancouver, WA. The convention in Oklahoma City was a good one and I'm looking forward to the next one when we can schedule it.

As you might imagine the view of YLRL as President is different from that of the Vice President or the Database Manager. While it is a fast learning curve, being president is not all that different from one organization to the next, so thanks to the MINOW Net (the Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington YL net), and the Clark County Amateur Radio Club (the local radio club), I have had the practice I need to get going. By the next YL Harmonics I hope to be able to fill you in on more of what is happening in YLRL this year.

33 de Barbara, AC7UH

President's Advisory Committee

Anne Manna, WB1ARU; Roberta Donohue, W1JX; Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD



Vice President's Message de Rita McConnell, NE0DB

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Snow is gently falling as I write my March/April Vice President message. Spring is upon us; trees are starting to bud and many of you are planting summer gardens. And, with Field Day only a few months away, it's a time to make new comradeship amongst those who share the same hobby, it's a time to tell the public what amateur radio is all about, and it's a time to promote young ladies to become involved, to obtain their license and to be a part of our wonderful world of the YLRL.

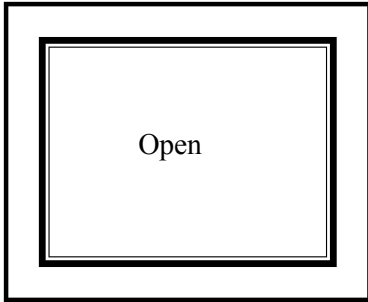
A big thank you to those who participated in the YL/OM contest last February. Results will be announced in YL Harmonics. Our next official contest will be the DX/NA YL Anniversary being held October 5 through October 7, 2020. More details to follow in upcoming issues of YL Harmonics; but, in the meantime, look us up on YLRL.org. It's a wonderful website. Take the time to thoroughly read each section. It is truly amazing. Thanks, Val, VE5AQ.

Don't forget to participate in the "Favorite Bird" and the CLARA "Favorite Dog" contests. See the YLRL.org website for details.

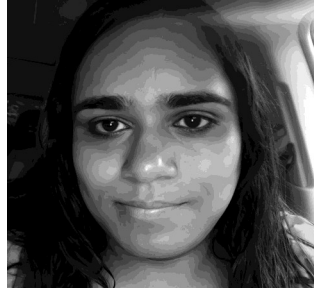
In closing, please remember to send your stories and pictures to your District Chair. She is your first contact for questions, she is there to assist, and she is there to be your mentor. She would love to share your stories/pictures in the YL Harmonics, but she needs you!

Vice President's Advisory Committee

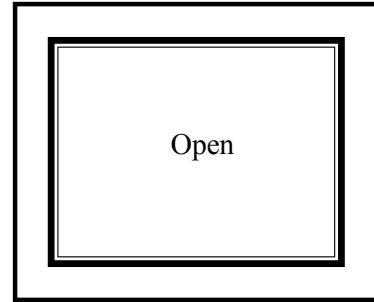
Marilyn Melhorn, AF7MM; Ria Jairam, N2RJ; Carol Laferty, K4SAF



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**District Two Chairwoman
Ria Jairam, N2RJ**



District Three Chairwoman



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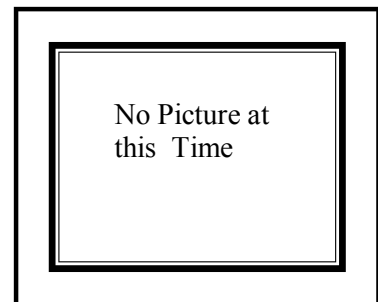
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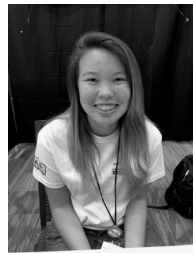
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DISTRICT 2

Abigail Gold KB6EE, VA2SHF

Abigail holds an Extra license and a Basic with Honours license. She is an Electrical Engineer. She is active on vhf and microwave and enjoys vhf contests. She is a member of Young Amateurs ARC and RPI ARC. David, KK6VBZ is a family member.

DISTRICT 4

Melissa Albertson KN4CTH

Melissa holds a Technician license and is a Shelter Lead. She is a member of Bledsoe Co. ARC and enjoys 2m and 70cm. Her OM is Andrew, KN4CTG

DISTRICT 5

Holly Roderick SUBSCRIBER

Holly is a Retired Teacher and her OM is Richard, K5UR

DISTRICT 7

**New YLRL Members
de Anne Manna, WB1ARU**

614 Webster St.
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(781) 878-9235

Eva Lindgren KJ7LMW

Eva holds a Technician license and is the owner of a nanny agency

Jeanne Crane KJ7HCP

Jeanne holds a General license and is retired. She is a member of Green Valley ARC. She is just starting out and becoming active.

DISTRICT 8

Sylvia holds a General license and is a Retired Teacher. She is the Secretary-Treasurer of TASYL and is active on 80m. Her OM is Chuck, K8CH.

Janet Sprague KE8MXN

Janet holds an Extra license and is a member of TASYL.

DISTRICT 9

Paula Roppuld KB9ZND

Paula holds a Technician license.

Mary Maclay KC9HQW

Mary holds a Technician license.

DISTRICT 10

Emma Matthies KE0YUP

Emma holds a General license and is a Computer Security Engineer.

Welcome to these new members! We look forward to meeting you on the air!

ALASKA

J. Cozette Green KL4RL

Cozette holds a General license and is Retired. She is a member of Anchorage ARC and JCARS in North Carolina. She enjoys operating while camping.

If any information is incorrect in this listing, please let Anne, WB1ARU know.



**Webmistress Message
de Val Lemko, VE5AQ**

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(306) 693-6127

Not much to say, the website is drawing lots of attention, and I have sent out quite a few certificates. If you have anything that you wish to put on, please send to me and I will put it on, I'm always looking for new articles from the district chairs and of course lots of photos.

33, 73, 88 Val VE5AQ



Scholarship Information de Linda Hynan, AC5QQ

Scholarship Information
Memorial Scholarships
Ethel Smith, K4LMB
Mary Lou Brown, NM7N
Martha (Marte) Wessel, K0EPE

The following donation was received:

In Memory of:
Present and Past SK

From:
WRONE (Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN, President)

Thank you for your generous gift!

All contributions to this fund support three annual YL Scholarships in the pursuit of higher education. The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) administers the amateur radio-related scholarships including those sponsored by YLRL. Applications are submitted to FAR in April of each year and the scholarship winners are selected in June/July. Information about FAR can be found at the following web site:
<http://www.farweb.org>

To make a donation

Make your check payable to:

YLRL Scholarship Fund

Send your donation to:

Linda Hynan, AC5QQ
1312 Western Ridge Dr.
Waco, TX 76712-8709
(254) 666-4873
LSHynan@hot.rr.com

District News

District 3

From the Editor: The City for the District 3 members was inadvertently omitted in the Directory issue. Below is the correct Directory grid.

I sure hope this is the last correction that needs to be made!!!

K3RRI	Kerri Paddack	See District 5
K3UU	Karin Anne Johnson	See District 4
KA3LVP	Josephine Katrainak	38 Hughes St. Forty Fort, PA 18704-4202 (570) 287-1425
KA3VXR	Blanche B. "Barb" Bender	533 Bovine Rd. Ebensburg, PA 15931 (814) 472-9465 ka3vvr@msn.com
KB3SJR	Melody Bowers	420 Fruit Farm Rd. Royersford, PA 19468 (484) 363-9219 mmbowers@gmail.com
KC3LCX	Pamela Saalbach	P O Box 1108 California, MD 20619- (240) 925-3253 psaalbach@yahoo.com
KJ3O	Joanne Solak	See District 8
KS3P	Kaitlyn Cole	See District 4
N1HMG	Jean Lucas	3421 Buttonwood Ct Reisterstown, MD 21136-4401 (410) 239-9767 jflucas@att.net
W3KAT	Robin Cartwright	P O Box 1028 Carlisle, PA 17013 (717) 422-1349 robin.cartwright@gmail.com
W3LEO	Leah Ohse	See District 5
WB3ANE	Hope M. Smith	See District 4
WB3EFQ	Lois Gutshall	130 Perry Lane Altoona, PA 16601 (814) 942-7334 wb3efq@atlanticbb.net
WB3IVA	Virginia E. Lange	342 Prospect St. Sharon, PA 16146 (724) 342-0213 ginnylange@hotmail.com

District 4

It is a privilege to serve as your 4th District representative, and I look forward to hearing from all the YL's, particularly those in District 4. Please forward any news or pictures about your radio activities to be included in the "Harmonics". My name is Dot Timmerman, AC4HH. Email address is dot@brtimmerman.com.

Prior to November 2018, my OM and I lived on Signal Mountain, about 25 miles northwest of Chattanooga, TN, in a log cabin for 37 years. The elevation of the mountain is about 2,000 feet; however, we were about 300 feet below the top. About a year after moving to the mountain, my OM and I studied and obtained our Novice class licenses and kept on until we had the Technician, General, Advanced, and finally the Extra Class licenses. I'm sure some of you remember the 20 wpm CW requirement for an Extra Class ticket. But I haven't used CW for years. My OM was first licensed in high school and thought it would be fun to get back into it—especially living on the mountain. We put up loop antennas, long wires, and had a 53-foot tower (which I was brave enough to climb) with a 3-element three beam.

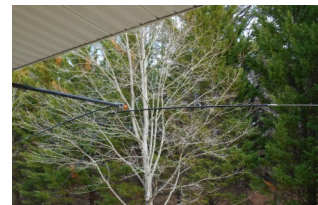
During the years we were quite active in DX'ing and contesting, especially on 10 meters. It was so exciting to walk to the mailbox and find a QSL card from a distant contact, many of which I still have.

About a year ago, we decided it was time to move to a place all on one level and rented a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment in an independent living community. What we especially liked was that the apartment was on the back side of the complex overlooking the woods, and we were granted permission to put



up a wire antenna to one of the trees. Even though we have to settle for fewer antennas and no tower, we were able to string a long wire from the balcony to a tree in the woods, stand a magnetic loop antenna on the balcony, and are currently working on a Hamstick dipole antenna for 75-80 meters. Two Hamsticks form the top of a "T" with the Hamsticks connected to opposite sides of a 6-foot metal pole that sticks out about 2 feet beyond the eaves of the roof.

We are members of the Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club, the Sequatchie County ACS Radio Club and the Tri-States Amateur Radio Club. My OM and I have been active for many years in helping with special events, such as bike rides, races, Ironman competitions and emergency preparedness exercises with ARES and RACES. We are both VEs and help administer radio exams. I'm active in the local YL net, frequently doing technical training using a local repeater and have checked into the ALARA net a few times using EchoLink.



LOCAL YL NET – NEW INFORMATION: The YL net in this area is on a new frequency and new EchoLink node.

These are: YL TAG net, Monday nights at 8:00 pm Eastern on W4GTA 145.350 repeater. It has a negative offset and requires a tone of 100.0 with a backup of 144.100 repeater.

The EchoLink users: SELINK Node #387904.

73 and 33 from **Dot Timmerman, AC4HH**.

District 5

District 5 has been having fun!

Judy, KC7KPG, reports Quartzfest was as much fun as it has been for the last 20+ years. One other YLRL member that I could find attending was Rosalyn, AE6WT, in the picture. I also included the Ham Man Burning that takes place each year. There were about 839 attending this year with 49% first time attendees. We really missed seeing so many that have attended in years past.



Burning Ham Man

There were many interesting forums, an off road trail ride, a SOTA outing, star gazing, movies on the side of the RV each night, campfire cooking and potluck, campfire each morning and evening and making new friends and seeing old ones. Many of the YLRL brochures I put out were taken, so hope we'll get a few new members from Quartzfest. 33!! Be sure to check out some of Judy's pictures! Maybe we can get some more YL's out there next year!!



Judy, KC7KPG and Rosalyn, AE6WT

Arlington ARC and YLRL District 5 Team Up for Winter Kit Construction Fun!

On February 1st Virginia, NV5F, and Arlington ARC hosted a Young Ladies' Radio League District 5 winter get-together in Arlington, Texas. Michelle Carey, W5MQC, first asked Virginia about hosting the activity back in June 2019 at Hamcom in Plano, Texas, and following many months of planning, the kit build has finally happened. Ladies from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas attended and built a fun AM broadcast receiver kit called the Murania from 4 State QRP.

The build session was also open to Arlington club members. Of course Michelle came with three of her grandkids in tow: Kyle, Ryan and Aria, KG5BDF, along with Aria's friend Victoria. We also had Marolee, KG5FPI, and husband David, KG5FPH; Leah, W3LEO; Barb, KD0WAU; and Lorna, KI5FIZ. AARC members Ron, AG5QE, and John, KI5BUF, also joined in. Trey, AF5XS, stopped by to grab his kit on the way to work and President Dave, K5NN, also stopped by to check on us. In fact he was inspired to purchase one of the spare kits to build later. Rob, W5WS, was also there to lend Virginia his expertise in helping the builders, many of whom were first-timers, and he thought of bringing useful stuff like extra tools and bottled water!



This Boov watches Leah, W3LEO, building her kit.

We got started at 9 am with donuts and a fun introduction to the kit, which employs a unique construction technique which is good for beginners to get accustomed to soldering. With this large scale surface mount method known as "Pittsburg Style", errors are very easy to undo and correct. The kit also came complete with an enclosure made by soldering pieces of circuit board material together to form a sturdy box!

The kit itself is a simple circuit with one transistor and an integrated circuit, as well as a regenerative coupling between the antenna coil and a wire tuning loop. It has a nifty retro design inspired by the 2 transistor "boys' radios" of the 50's and a 1935 science fiction/western serial entitled "The Phantom Empire", starring Gene Autry!

It took the brave builders about an hour to get underway, and by that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. most of the radios were working! Ron was the first to finish and he stuck around to help Rob and Virginia with instruction and trouble shooting. By a little past 5:00 p.m. all was well with all the kits, and a happy bunch of builders departed for home!



It was fun to see so many ladies and younger folks enjoying the fun of building something yourself. They were all supervised by a pack of purple aliens who went along nicely with the retro sci-fi feel of the kit. They were also on hand to eat any damaged parts, wire scraps, or trimmed leads! At the end Virginia fired up her bagpipes to demonstrate them to Kyle, a very young aspiring bagpiper. The piping also served as a means of celebrating a job well done! Everyone enjoyed the day and Rob and Virginia were encouraged by the possibility of having more such activities for Arlington ARC in the near future. Perhaps other districts of YLRL will choose to follow suit as well. ~Virginia, NV5F



Michelle helps Barb and Lorna get going.



So, what is next for District 5?? Hamcom is June 12-13. The YLRL will have a table and a forum. The forum is at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. I am going to make this forum a little different. Anyone interested in building a fan dipole antenna? It's going to be hands-on for those that want to pull up their sleeves and give it a whirl if not, come watch and visit with other YLs!!

District 7

CJ, K7CJS: I first got my license to help out our CERT team in northern Washington and I joined ARES. That's when I found out about all the extra-curricular events where I could use my radio. We got to be communications for the Great Olympic Adventure Trail Run (GOAT Run), which goes through the mountains where there is no cell coverage. For the Race to Alaska we got to be land communications alongside the marine communications for the section of the race between Port Townsend and Victoria BC. Then there was the Active Shooter drill at the high school in Port Angeles where I was stationed at the Emergency Room of the location hospital. These are the kind of things that I found to be the most fun. Then I moved my home base to Pahrump, NV (I'm a full-time RVer). I was so disappointed when I found out that they didn't have much of an ARES group as they don't have much in the way of emergencies. That was two years ago, but, low and behold, I recently found that there WAS an ARES group and it was very active - in extra-curricular activities!! I had my first meeting last week and there was a good-sized group of about twenty of us. We're out in the desert with the closest city being Las Vegas, one hour away, but we have a few small towns in a 50-miles radius. HAMS came from there and locally. guess what? THERE'S A RACE coming up and it's manned by us HAMS!! The race is the first weekend in April:- The Baker, CA to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay; 120 miles of pavement, 20 stages, over 8,000 runners, guests, family members and support staff. It is the world's most prestigious and unique law enforcement foot race. Hot days and cold nights and we get to man all the stages, reporting back as runners come through. We will be the contacts for the runners, race officials and rescue squads. No cell phones in the desert so once again we HAMS will be the means of communication. OH boy!!! This means 24 hours in the desert, huddling around a fire at night to keep warm and shorts and tank tops to keep cool during the day. For me, that's going to be easy peasy since I will be able to haul my 29' travel trailer out to the stage I'm assigned to. I'll have a stove, fridge, heater and air-conditioner. Yes, life is tough, lol. I can't wait!! The nice side-benefit to doing all these activities is we usually get a t-shirt, or something, with the logo for the event. I'm told this one has given out jackets!!! Oh boy #2. So, HAM radio isn't just about sitting at your radio and talking to someone across the country or across the ocean or across the street. It's about having the fun of participating in community events. Usually free food, always good company and sometimes free stuff to wear. And knowing you were there to help and keep an eye on those that might need help. Oh boy #3!

District 8

First, welcome to the following new YLs in District 8: Sylvia, K8SYL ,and Janet, KE8MXN.

Verline, KI8V, writes: Good luck with your GS badge (radio). I am having the first GS cookies in years. I was rather upset after my experience at Edith Macy in NY when I worked on the Daisy Program, before they had Daisy GS. It is a long story about the political stuff that went on in my neighborhood. I was able to go to two of the big national camps - the one in Silver Springs, MD, and the Edith Macy one as well. I learned about the 75% that goes to council on the sale of cookies and it makes me gasp. Therefore, the first time I actually had cookies in years. Aldi actually sells pretty much the same cookies, but cheaper. I almost forgot to mention that I won THE LONG ISLAND MEDIUM contest but turned it down for personal reasons. I did not want it after they called me. There was only one prize. I am still entering those sweepstakes.

Marsha Fleming, N8FE, writes: I hope you and the family are doing well. I'm so happy that we here in Michigan have had a light winter. The fact that I'm originally from Ohio and grew up with lots of snow and blizzards I'm thrilled to have mild winters now that I'm older. In fact, going to the Great Lakes ARRL Convention in March in Toledo, Ohio is going to be fun. YLRL is going to be there. It will be like having 2 Dayton Hamventions in one year. Plus my family just made arrangements to go to

Hamcation in Orlando next February together. ALL of us Hamsters! So I'm hoping to see a lot of YL's this coming year. The other fun news is that I bought another radio. An Anytone DMR HT and will be buying an OpenSpot 3 at Dayton. I learned how to make my own code plug and use this radio for ARES since we use the DMR repeater. It's got a great signal for both digital and analog on both bands (2 meters and 70 cm). Of course, when I attach my car antenna..well then what else can I say. Reminds me of the '80s when the bands were hot and we drove down the road using HT's all of the time. So much fun. I can't wait to use the hot spot and see who I can talk to. DMR to DSTAR to Fusion etc. just jumping all over.... can't wait. happy spring 33.

Carol, W8CSH, celebrated New Year's Eve with her friends at Bowling Green State University. She hasn't done much with amateur radio as her class work is keeping her busy. She did make the honor roll for the Fall 2019 term so this mom is happy for her. I, Nancy, KC4IYD, and Carol, W8CSH, went to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in early Jan to visit my Mom as we were not able to visit her during Christmas. While in FL, I helped my Mom reduce her cable bill by calling the cable company and letting them know my Mom didn't need 100+ channels. I also helped with some handiwork around her house.

Annette, KC8SQM, spent the Christmas and New Year's holiday in California with her son.

Finally, a reminder to all DC 8 YL that I gave you the following challenge, at the beginning of the year, to try something new in amateur radio (in any order) and write back about it. Here is the listing again so let me know how you are doing.

#1 - Use amateur radio and social media to promote the hobby.

#2 - Attend a ham club meeting or hamfest.

#3 - Try one of the many digital modes.

#4 - Try a new band or mode.

#5 - Try operating a contest or working DX.

#6 - Become an Elmira by introducing a family member or friend to amateur radio.

33 de kc4iyd/8

Nancy

District 10

Rita, NE0DB, writes:

We are in the midst of winter on the high desert of Colorado. We had several measurable accumulations of snow in October, and the snow stayed on the ground until two days before Christmas. I was so hoping for a white Christmas. My OM and I made two trips to Arkansas last year due to his sister's diagnosis of cancer. I was planning to participate on the Batfish SE, but family took priority. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the WWV event in Fort Collins due to our travels.

As you know, I was elected to serve as the YLRL Vice President for 2020/2021. The transition has gone smoothly thanks to President Barbara, AC7UH. I look forward to serving as the YLRL VP.

For the District 10 YLs, Doshia had asked in the last Harmonics; "What are your favorite modes?" My favorite mode is SSB. My specialty is Special Events. However, I recently entered the new world of FT8 and just purchased a Baofeng DMR HT for experimental use to determine if it's worth purchasing a hot spot. Time will tell.

Congratulations and Thank you, Rita.

I have to agree this has been a most unusual winter. At my QTH, only about a hundred miles north of Rita, it snowed just before Thanksgiving and didn't melt! There was a little bit of snow just after Christmas, and a little rain(!) in early January, but the last of the snow in the backyard finally disappeared late in the day on February third, over two months after it fell. It snowed again that night. Since then, it has snowed most days. The mountains are measuring snow in the feet (The ski areas are elated). Yes, the average temperature was slightly higher than usual, but the usual is warm days and very cold days. We haven't had that variation. Fifty degrees and sunny today seems downright balmy! The weather has really kept us in the house, while there is some antenna work we want to do.

I think the DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) systems are really starting to come into their own as a useful tool. We have found that on 70 cm and with an HT, they can transmit out of and receive from an elevator some distance away inside a hospital. There is also in Colorado now a backbone of repeaters that can reach clear across the state and into Wyoming and New Mexico. And with the cost of a basic level HT as low as it is (a quick search just now found less than \$70) trying them out is quite feasible. Unless you are good at taking instruction from U-tube videos (there are a number of good, basic videos), it is a good idea to find yourself a mentor to learn about getting an ID number and programming the radio. There are also a number of things the radio can do which are a little more complicated, and I need to hear that instruction again.

It is always fun to learn something new. Miserable weather is a good time to work on it.

Happy coming Spring, and 33!

Doshia, KB0NAS

District KL

Hello YL's sure hope this finds all of you very glad Spring is just around corner. Oregon, at least here in Brookings, has had a little more rain than usual but no snow. Can't say the same for home in Alaska where -20 was the norm for a couple weeks, then back to snow and a little warmer weather.

Would like to pass on part of a story on Ham radio in the Feb Auxiliary Magazine. I QUOTE
"Technology of today has changed how we communicate that first began in the late 1800's is still existence, thanks to ham radio enthusiasts. The ALNH and Legion posts around the country have their own stations which are part of the American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC). One of the largest clubs in America with more than 4,000 members and more than 40 posts with radio call signs. Headquarters is in Indianapolis is K9TAL. To learn more about TALARC visit Legion.org.

Enjoy any Convention you might be attending this year. Wish I could join you.

Claudia Doyle, KL0HI

VE News

Well here we go, looking forward to Spring. I am sure many of you are going to be so glad when Spring finally gets here.

Here in Moose Jaw, we had a very different winter, as we got lots of snow in September and October, which all disappeared in early November. Then we got down in temps for November, up in December, and got 4 days in January where we were actually quite chilly. In my city, we did not end up with lots of snow, and I also know that the outlying areas did not get enough snow cover to get moisture for the coming growing season. Oh well, maybe March and April will give us the moisture we need. One can only hope.

On the news front, I am finally on the waiting list for a total knee replacement, so I am looking forward to that. Don't know how much gardening I will be able to do this year, but I will not be staying out of the gardens. I am still a kid at heart, and I love playing in the dirt, so that I can enjoy all the flowers and such during the summer. I also plan on doing a lot of reading this summer as I got myself a new Kindle Reader—must conserve out trees. I love a book in my hand, but unfortunately the books I like to read, the print is just not large enough, so a Kindle is the only way to go. Also plan on doing more crocheting in between weeding and planting. Won't be doing much traveling this year, but will definitely take a few days to go home and see family.

That's it folks, just a short read this time around.

Do take care one and all and enjoy the spring.

33, 73,88's as the case may be **Val, VE5AQ**

Ann, VE3HAI, writes: She got CLARA's Winter Clarion out, finally. She says "finally" refers to three computer crashes of her new Dell Inspiron. Then an impossible hard-drive recovery by a special friend, followed by replacement of her dishwasher. Then, came the plumber's visits for "howling" hot water pipes and two toilet valve replacements. Just be sitting down when the plumber tells you what he charges for an hour of his labour !! Ann says her lawyer is cheaper. The final insult was a Lifeline fall-detect false alarm. Golly those firefights are good looking, says Ann, but she found it hard to appreciate them, with a fire truck out front, lights flashing and neighbours rushing to help. And all because she bent over starting the snowblower. Who knew that could trigger the darn thing? So those of you who wondered why the Winter Clarion was so very late, now you know.

33 Ann, VE3HAI

Suzanne, VE7IM, writes: It is now mid-February as I write this and winter, on the west coast of Canada, is slowing passing and everyone is THINKING SPRING !! We have had a couple of dumps of snow as well as torrential and unending days of rain, however, that has not stopped the promise of spring. Little snowdrops are in full bloom everywhere and crocus, daffodils and tulips are all pushing up through the soil. My bird feeders have been a great success this winter especially the hummingbird feeder and I have enjoyed watching many varieties coming to my garden to feed. Our theatre season is in full swing with some super productions and great entertainment. Have been enjoying chats and keeping in touch with good friends on EchoLink and Skype. "Tawd the Dawg" and I go for long rambles most afternoons no matter what the weather. Life is good. My best to you all and mind how you go.

33 Suzanne, VE7IM

Helen, VA1YL, writes: Fred and I just got back from Ecuador. We met up with our daughter Margaret, VE2ZOO, and went to the Galapagos. It was a Lindblad/National Geographic trip. 47 people on the cruise and they were all awesome. Hikes every day and snorkelling some days. Kayaking one day. Ten islands in 8 days. After the cruise we went to see our daughter's boat and northern Ecuador. Getting home was a challenge because there was an ice storm in Nova Scotia. The trip home took us 52 hours...Sadly the ice storm took down our antenna loop – so I can't get on 40 meters. Hope someone can climb up the tower & replace the mast. Thinking Day on the Air will be on February 15th & 16th and 22nd and 23rd. I will have girls in on the first weekend. 33 Helen Archibald VA1YL

Heather, VE3HQH, writes: Not much news from here. Most exciting radio thing I've done recently is to take part in the YL-OM contest this past weekend. Conditions weren't great but I had fun. It was the longest time on the radio for sometime. Everyone here is doing well with no colds or flu.

We're busy now with Valentine's Day in a couple of days, I hope we have good weather for delivering the flowers. What ever the weather we'll get it done. Looking forward to an early Spring. 33 for now, Heather VE3HQH

Charla, VE7VSL, writes: It is getting close to our departure date of 28 Feb 2020. We guess 14 months for our circumnavigation. Just hope to hear from some of the YLRLs. Not sure what frequencies (bands) that members are working? 33 Charla Mason

To All YL/OM operators: I have contacted Charla, VE7VSL, asking if she will supply us with more details. Such as the name of their sailing vessel, the call-signs she will be using, at sea, and the times and frequencies she will be monitoring her radio. I have had no reply from her, at this time (February 15th), but I am sure she is very busy preparing for their departure. I have arranged with Val to post any information I might receive on both the YLRL and CLARA Websites. Keep checking those websites !! No matter where you live, in the world, this is something interesting to listen for and, hopefully, you will be lucky enough to make contact with Charla while they circumnavigate the world. What a wonderful and exciting voyage !!! Happy Sailings, Charla... 33 Suzanne - VE7IM



Margaret, VE2ZOO and turtle



Margaret, VE2ZOO and iguana



Fred, VE1FA; Helen, VA1YL; Margaret, VE2ZOO

DX News

I have been busy here lately, replacing our Windows 7 computers with Windows 10. My radio station laptop has been more challenging with all of the additional software that I need to download for contesting, logging and interfaces for the various modes. I had asked the DX ladies to share their related experiences.

As always, I hope that our adoptees and sponsors keep in touch throughout the year – whether by postal services, email, Facebook, Echolink, or in person! And hopefully, the bands will be more cooperative in 2020 and we can have more HF success!

33 Anne, KC9YL

Threeza, DW3TRZ (Philippines)

Been raining here 2 days now. Bands been noisy and unfriendly at my QTH when the new year entered. Guess this is really the peak of Grand SOLAR MINIMA. I am (we are, maybe) dealing with my antenna and orientation remained constant. I experienced the GLORY of working far-away DXCC way back in 2014-2015-2016 where SOLAR MAXIMA at its peak and friendly.

Can't even live stream DU HF NET CALL due to bad/poor band conditions mostly noise. There is an opening of the bands but just a short period of time and fluctuating each day.

Experimented putting ferrites to minimize noise but didn't help much.

I didn't make notes but by observing every day I open my HF Radio, I sense the bands are not cooperative, but been trying working some DX who can possibly hear me. Contest or DXing stations.

I was using wires before and still using wires till now.

T... 33 Mabuhay

Rosel, DL3KWR (Germany)

On the amateur radio is for Hardy, DL3KWF, and me, the date YYYY-MM-DD a self-evident fact. In general [the usual format in] Germany DD-MM-YYYY. We both have no problem with the time, because our computers and laptops show strictly UTC. I have had the entrance in the digital world as “a Fifty” with a course for CAD (computer aided design). The learning was not as easy any more as during young years. From the strict logic enthusiastically, we searched [for] a programme with which we both could administer our log digitally on the same computer. In 1993 on the HAM RADIO in Fridrichshafen we found it with SWISS log“(DOS operation system version 6.3). In 2002 we changed with the new generation of computers under Windows to the German logbook programme HAM office“. This was much more extensive and more comfortable, also with regard to printing QSL cards. About 200,000 QSOs are saved now in my six log directories. This would be a 660 millimetre (26 inches!) high stack of 6,600 sheets of paper and Hardy has 70,000 QSOs more than me! For contests and holiday activities we use the French programme “Wintest.” Its DX-peditions mode helps us very much in the pile-ups if we send from abroad. In formerly time we have written every contest log three times: Writing pad and logbook by hand, the contest log by type. Nowadays one sends the ready log from the contest programme directly as an email to the organizer.

My last activity was the QSO party at Sunday, 2nd of February. Here I had to have a QSO with an OM which gave me as to be exchanged control number for his age - 98! (YLs may hide her age with “00”). We have meet often before on the air. For him are transceiver and computer a complete radiostation, including to transfer the log datas by internet. Conclusion: who operates by air, cannot be old!!!

33 Rosel DL3KWR

Marietjie ZS6CEZ (South Africa)

We are getting lovely rain and it is cooler here this year in February this year. News is scarce here because my antenna is down because I am near an airport. I am getting news on Facebook about the YL groups.

Keep well and hope the snow is less.

73, 33 Marietjie and Abra ZS6CEZ

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