

Pacific Seafarer's Net Assists in Rescue of Sailors on Sinking Sailboat

11 October 2016 | by Matt W1MST

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A great story sent by David Richer, WB6VGO about how amateurs helped rescue a sinking vessel in the Pacific.

Excellent work!

On September 28, 2016 at approximately 0300 UTC, Charles Houlihan, KD6SPJ, a net relay station for the Pacific Seafarer's net while monitoring 14.300 received a call for assistance from the captain of the Sailing Vessel (SV) Rafiki. The captain reported that the SV Rafiki, a 35 foot sailing vessel, was taking on water. Charles who was the captain of the SV Jacaranda and located at sea, contacted Randy VanLeeuwen, KH6RC also a net relay and located in Hawaii. Randy contacted the US Coast Guard Station to report the incident and provide Rafiki's location, 230 miles south of Cold Bay, Alaska.

Randy remained in constant radio contact with the Rafiki until contact with lost. Fred Moore W3ZU (Florida) and Peter Mott, ZL1PWM (New Zealand) additional net relays maintained contact with the captain of the Rafiki until the arrival of the Coast Guard the subsequent rescue.

According to a press release issued by the United States Coast Guard Station-17th District, a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter and an Air Station Kodiak HC-130 Hercules were dispatched to the Rafiki's last reported position. Upon arrival the crew of the Jayhawk helicopter were successfully able to hoist the captain and one additional crew member to safety aboard the helicopter around 1000 hours UTC. Both men were reported to be uninjured. The vessel was abandoned.

This real-life incident happened during the daily "roll-call" conducted by the amateur radio operators (or "hams") and members of the Pacific Seafarers Net. Everyday at 0300 UTC amateur radio operators from North America, Hawaii, New Zealand and

Australia monitor the progress of maritime amateur radio operators who are sailing on the Pacific.

Prior to the start of the roll call for "maritime mobile" vessels, a call for medical, emergency or priority traffic is broadcasted. It was after such a call for any emergency traffic that the call for assistance from the Rafiki was received.

According to the net's website (www.pacseanet.com): "The Pacific Seafarer's Net is a network of volunteer Amateur Radio Operators that handles radio and internet email communication traffic between sailing and motoring vessels operating on all oceans and land-based parties. The land station Net Control Amateur Stations are located in various locations throughout the Continental United States, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand.

Communications traffic consists of daily position reporting and automatic posting of positions on several websites, message handling via email relays, Health and Welfare traffic, phone patch services, search and rescue coordination, and vessel equipment inventories for search and rescue operations. Life threatening emergencies are taken from any vessel whether or not they have ham radio licenses. Net control stations keep computer databases on participating vessels and their movements throughout the oceans."

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Special presentation

Dave WB9YIG visited ARRL headquarters while he was on vacation on the East coast and is willing to give a short slide show at the November meeting.



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Antenna construction tip:

Flexweave ® is a product that is a dream come true for QRP or portable antenna operation. Almost as flexible as small rope, will not knot or kink and has a pretty strong breaking point. It is very light weight and comes in various sizes and colors for almost any antenna project. Check it out for your next project.

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Brag File

Many of you are or have been working on a project or two. Some have enjoyed operating outdoors, from parks or other places of interest. Take a few minutes to jot down a few words about it so the rest of us can follow along. Have you made any antenna projects lately? How did it work? This is your chance to show your works or help others decide to do the same thing or not. Liven up your Sparks issue with personal stories or projects. If you made an antenna that worked, you can make fun of N9XAW, who has made several antennas, only one of which ever worked enough to get out of the park.

I will start:
I love fishing in the great outdoors. On one such fishing trip, I brought along my ham radio, a battery and a small homemade antenna. As the sun was sinking slowly in the west, making the fall trees look even more beautiful I was sharing this with some ham radio operators on 20 meters. All of which wished they could be there with me even if the fish were not co-operating that evening. It turns out the radio operation was more enjoyable than the fishing that day. Here is what we enjoyed at the Bluegrass over the radio that evening.



BP

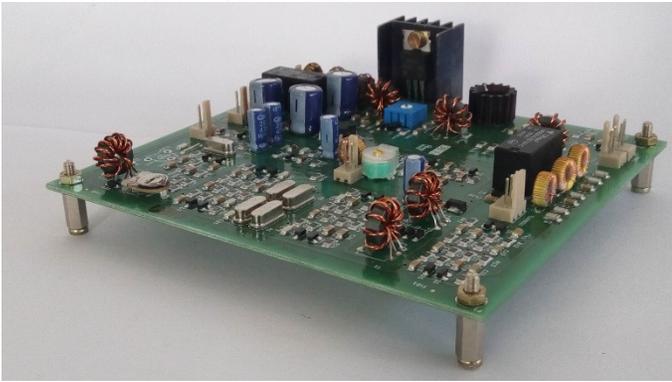
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Do you miss kit building? Do you miss the days of actually operating a radio you built yourself?

BITX40

Work the world on 40 meters

When was the last time you used a radio you had built? The BITX40 board is single circuit board 40 meter SSB transceiver module. Inside an evening, you can be on-air with this SSB transceiver module, chatting with the local gang or chasing DX. Plug in the earphones, the included electret mic, tuning and volume controls and you are on air! Included are high quality connectors, all the needed sockets and jacks, tuning and volume controls, mounting hardware, etc.



Imagine an under \$50 QRP SSB rig. For some months now, we have been working at a low cost, single board QRP SSB transceiver module based on my BITX design. So here is BITX transceiver module for \$45. It is 7 MHz, 5 watt SSB transceiver board. Fully tested and working. Something that you can easily fit into a box/case of your choice to make that portable or base station rig. This is an all analog radio with sparkling receiver that takes just 150 ma current and transmitter that provides well over 5 watts of clean audio. You can get more information from <http://www.hfsigs.com> .

Overheard on 20 meters.....

While tuning the band looking for some rag chew contacts I came across a station that had my meter full scale. He was talking with another ham in Texas who reported that he had an S9+20 signal. The station gave his location in Ohio and said he was running 1200 watts. The other station said he was running his 600 watt amplifier. They continued with their QSO, each impressing the other with their power and big signal reports. Wait a minute.....do we see anything wrong with this picture?

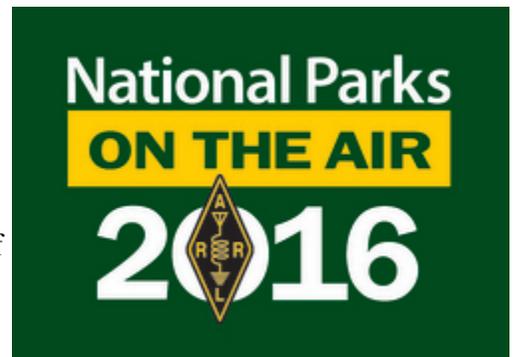
Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead

Things to look forward to:

National Parks on the Air Update

On October 19, the log from the 14,000th National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) activation was uploaded to LoTW. It also put the ARRL program just shy of 750,000 contacts made from NPS units in 2016. With a little more than 2 months to go, the NPOTA community is abuzz with the possibility of breaking the 1 million QSO mark.

NPOTA is the biggest operating event on the amateur bands this year. Tens of thousands of participants worldwide



have gotten involved in NPOTA, learning a lot about the National Park Service and the country and history it preserves. There's still time to join in on the fun!

Twenty-four activations are on tap for October 20-26, including the first-ever activation of Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site in Pennsylvania, and Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.

[Details](#) about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar. Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on [Facebook](#). Follow NPOTA on [Twitter](#) (@ARRL_NPOTA).

Hamfest Calendar

www.w9qyq.org

This is not a complete list, more for Indiana can be found on the IN ARRL section website.

<http://www.inarrrl.org/hamfest.html>

And all the ARRL hamfests can be found on the ARRL website.

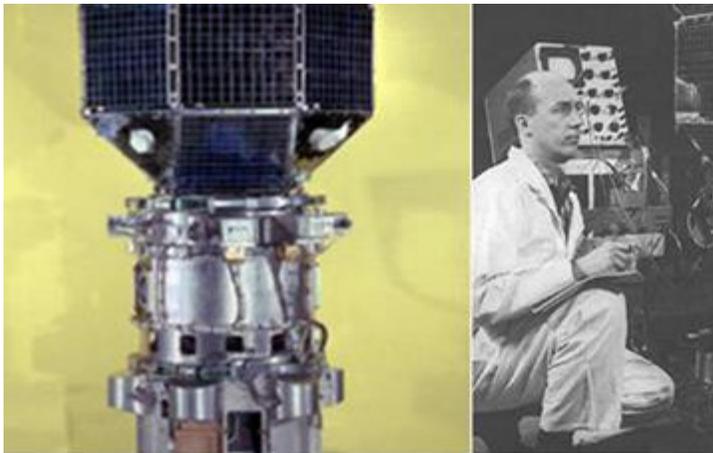
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

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Kevin Loughin to Amateur (Ham) Radio

4 hrs

Here's a challenge. An experimental satellite from around 1966 has started transmitting again! Crazy since the on board batteries have certainly disintegrated by now. TLE's are still available and it's transmitting on 237Mhz. Fire up your tracking software and see if you can hear the ancient bird on a daylight pass. Designated LES1.



Abandoned in space in 1967, a US satellite has started transmitting again

An American satellite abandoned in 1967, now assumed to simply be space junk, has started transmitting again after 46 years. This was one of the satellites
THEVINTAGENEWS.COM

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Your input is important

For many years the club has given an award to an outstanding ham or to someone who helped the club "above and beyond". We are taking nominations during November and December.

Do you know someone who has done an outstanding job of promoting ham radio or the club? If so, take a few minutes and write a short paragraph or two about someone you feel should be recognized for their efforts or contributions to ham radio in general or the club. Submit your ideas to ftg2pointer@gmail.com or you can fill out a form at the next club meeting. All entries will be reviewed and the award given at the TARS banquet.

Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES



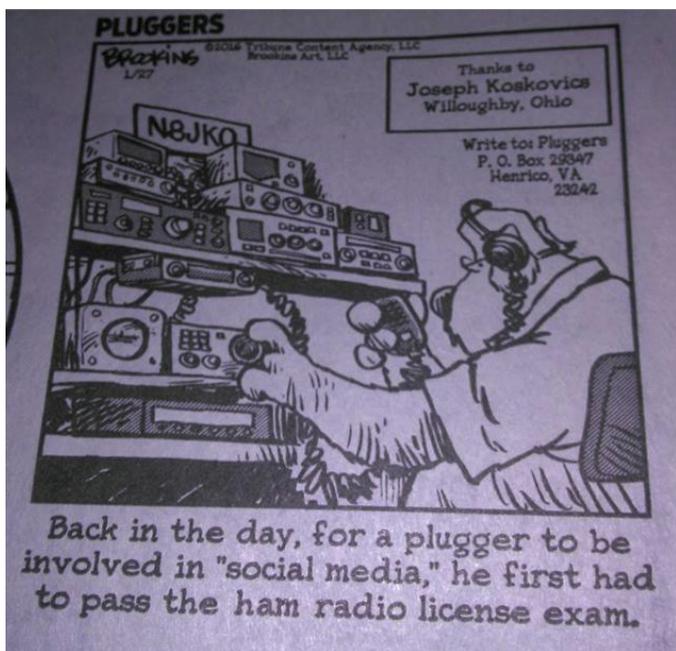
Interested in helping our community?

All ARES/RACES members and any Amateur interested in emergency communications are encouraged to participate. For ARES/RACES announcements you can join the Emergency Comms yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join

Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

Chris KE9YK

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From the desk of Herb AlvyKB9MZH

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The following is a message from the National Weather Service Office in Paducah, KY.

Spotters,

Here are some upcoming events I wanted to be sure you know about. First we will be holding our annual round of Winter Weather Workshops. We have an exciting variety of topics which will feature some of our local TV meteorologists and some upcoming changes in technologies and weather services. They are as follows:

- * **November 10** - Poplar Bluff, MO (Kay Porter Theater, Poplar Bluff Middle School, 1300 Victory Ln)
- * **November 15** - Evansville, IN (American Red Cross, 29 N Stockwell Rd)
- * **November 17** - Carterville, IL (John A. Logan College, Rm F106/Crisp Room, 700 Logan College Drive)
- * **November 22** - Grand Rivers, KY (Community Center, 155 W Cumberland Ave)

Each workshop is from 9 AM - Noon CST. Registration and all details are at <http://www.weather.gov/pah/winterworkshop2016> (be sure to click "Submit" at bottom) Second, we have a few upcoming spotter classes as

listed here:

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

Last, we look forward to your reports when severe weather again occurs - and it will. Also, a reminder that as we go into the winter season (some hints of much colder conditions for the last half of November) please report any accumulations of snow and ice, especially when roads and other surfaces first become covered.

Thanks for serving as a Skywarn Spotter!
Rick Shanklin
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Paducah KY

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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

November 10th Eating Before the Meeting will be 5:30 at Schlotzsky's Deli 301 North Green River Road.

Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

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If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact Chris (KE9YK@arrl.net).

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Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is **November 17th, 7:00 pm** at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](http://www.weather.gov/pah/winterworkshop2016).

Anyone interested in emergency communications is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK



Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net)
H: 812.626.0069 C: 812.453.1972

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It is Auction time again.

January is always a fun meeting. The annual club auction takes place. Start going through your shack and find some items you would not mind parting with (like the stuff you bought at the last auction and never used). Donated items will be sold and the proceeds go directly to the club.

You may also bring items to sell on consignment and offer a donation to the club after the sale. If you have an item of value, you may want to put a minimum bid price on it. (club members are notoriously frugal :-)

Don't miss the annual club auction. Fun for all.

Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the **Tri-State Emergency Net**, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

Nov	2	KC9TYA
	9	KE9YK
	16	KB9YWQ

	23	KC9UVG
	30	N9QVQ
Dec	7	KE9YK
	14	KC9TYA
	21	KB9YWQ
	28	KC9UVG

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) 626-0069

We now have internet access at WEMA and Len N9QVQ will be updating the packet node to get internet access back online as soon as we have a network address assigned. If you have packet capability connect to N9QVQ-1 on 145.010 @1200 or 440.950 @9600.

2016 regular meeting dates:

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If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring.

Or for those wishing to take some basic spotter classes online, or take refresher courses on the material presented by the NWS, MetEd offers an alternate way to achieve your training.

[Role of Skywarn Spotter](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=817#.VQrsP3sYEsI)

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=817#.VQrsP3sYEsI

[Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=816#.VQrsZXsYEsI)

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=816#.VQrsZXsYEsI

Once you have completed this training, you may contact ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov or christine.wielgos@noaa.gov for instructions on making spotter reports.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).
<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

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Call for Elmers

Len pointed out that we have several Extra Class licensed hams in our club. We also have new hams getting their technician license at almost every VE exam session.

These new hams often are overwhelmed. What radio to buy? What kind of antenna works best for my situation? Stuck on a particular area of the General Class question pool? Would like to try digital modes but don't know where to start?

All this and more is available from the club's Elmers (all you smart people). At one time we had a list of Elmers and their area of expertise published in Sparks. Many of those have moved on and are not available. Now is your chance to help others. Be an Elmer !

The pay is great and the rewards are many.

Send me an email to add you to our list of available Elmers. List any particular areas you can help with (rules, theory, getting on the air etc.) along with contact information.

Be a hero, be an Elmer.

Also, any time you have a question, problem or just need information

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Request for assistance:

Dave WA9C has served as our Public Information Officer (PIO) for several years. He has done a fantastic job but admits the work is not hard and does not take a lot of time. The job of a PIO is simple: promote amateur radio,

promote your club and work with the public.

Dave is asking for someone to take over the position. I know, when we ask for volunteers everyone looks away or down at the floor hoping not to be ask, but hopefully someone will step forward in support of the club. The work is not hard and can be very rewarding. The ARRL thinks the position is so important they offer free training to help you learn. It was even suggested the PIO be part of the board so as to keep everyone up on what is going on. Dave is a great teacher himself and can have you up and running in no time.

Please consider taking this position and helping your club.

(P.S. the pay is great)

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Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

A big thank you to Don KB9YWQ for running several SKYWARN nets and for everyone who checked in during the latest weather events. Remember to tune into the 146.79 repeater during severe weather to make your SKYWARN reports and follow what is happening with the weather.

If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring.

Or for those wishing to take some basic spotter classes online, or take refresher courses on the

material presented by the NWS, MetEd offers an alternate way to achieve your training.

[Role of Skywarn Spotter](#)

[Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](#)

Once you have completed this training, you may contact ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov or christine.wielgos@noaa.gov for instructions on making spotter reports.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

Net operators WANTED

A microphone is nothing to fear. Millions of people use them and none have been harmed by one. Put on your cowboy pants or cowgirl britches and be a net control operator. You can do it.



TARS is in need of volunteers for net control operators. While we could use a couple more for the regular Wed night nets we desperately need volunteers for Skywarn/Weather nets. We have not recently had consistent weather nets I am working to change that. Weather nets are not only good for local hams to find out what coming their way but the National Weather Service depends on Hams via Skywarn to be their eyes and ears to confirm what the radar data is telling them and find out what they may be missing.

If you are interested in being a control operator contact Chris KE9YK@arrl.net 626-0069. Next

time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

Many thanks to our award winning Net Control operators.



You provide a valuable service to the club and the community. We often fail to thank you enough for your service. Keep up the good work.

On the Wednesday night net you can hear the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and good old-fashioned rag chewing.

If you would like to help run the net please Help is always appreciated and it is fun.

Net controls: Please forward a list of your check-ins to KE9YK@arrl.net thanks.

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VE Test information



Test dates:

1/31/2015	7/25/2015
2/28/2015	8/29/2015
3 none	9/26/2015
4/25/2015	10 none
5/30/2015	11/28/2015
6/27/2015	12/26/2015

All ARRL examination sessions will be held at the Evansville Chapter of the American Red Cross. The ARC is located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, at the intersection of Stockwell Road and Lloyd Expressway. Sessions start promptly at 9:00 AM, Evansville time.

Those candidates wishing to earn their first Amateur Radio License, or upgrade their present valid license, need to bring the following:

1. Their original signed and valid FCC Amateur Radio License.
2. Any previously earned CSCE.
3. One copy of the license *and* CSCE.
4. Two forms of Identification, one bearing a recent photograph.

5. The current ARRL testing fee of \$15.00. You “**must**” have your Social Security number or EIN with you

Don't forget to check out our web page
www.w9og.net

2016 Club Officers and Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#) 812.305.4100

Vice President [Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812.205.6490

Treasurer [Leonard Schmitt N9QVQ](#) 812.963.0027

Secretary [Ron Hanes KC9OUT](#) 812-568-1168

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[Stevan Wells KC9SOE](#) 812.473.5918 (2015-16)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) 812.589.5235 (2015-16)

[Steve Connaughton K9SRC](#) 812.480.1395 (2015-16)

[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 812.425.2118 (2016-2017)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812.963.6455 (2016-2017)

[Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#) 812.858.2968 (2016-2017)

TARS is an **ARRL** affiliated club

ARRL Indiana Section

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