

# Eastern Pennsylvania Section Report - August 2019

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# **Monthly Summary**

# FROM THE SECTION MANAGER



George Miller (W3GWM) EPA Section Manager

I'm proud to be the ARRL EPA Section Manager. This is a great section and, with your help, we're only going to get better. I've wanted to send out a section newsletter ever since I became the Section Manager, and this is the first one. In fact, I think it's the first ever for EPA. I hope to make this a monthly newsletter.

I need your help. Send an email about what's going in in your club to

<u>news@arrl-epa.com</u>. If you are involved in community events, I'd like to know about it so I can share the news with other EPA Hams.

I'd like to thank the clubs which have included me on their email lists for their newsletter. I invite all clubs to send me a copy of your newsletter. This is an excellent means for me to keep up with what's going on around EPA.

### We've got a TON of information this month!

Among coming events is the Pennsylvania QSO Party, October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Even if you're not a big-time contester, reserve some time to get on the air and give some points to stations that are in the chase. I'll have more news about the QSO Party next month.

We need help with our Section Traffic Nets. The ARRL is in the process of revising the National Traffic System. In the meantime, we need your help to keep the section nets going.

ARES enjoys great success. Everyone wants to be onboard to aid during an emergency. That's what motivated many people to become Hams. ARES is only half of the emergency communication process.

Once you have a message, you need a means of sending it and getting it delivered. That's where NTS comes in. NTS members train to send and receive messages over the air. Once the SHTF, it's too late to learn how to use NTS and originate and relay radiograms.

We have two section nets, the Pennsylvania Traffic Net for CW operators (3585 KHz at 7 and 10 PM) and the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net (3917KHz at 6 PM) for phone operators. Section nets are training nets. No experience is necessary and net members are glad to help new people learn about traffic handling.

Several people have said the 6 PM net is too early and would like a later net. I'm considering a new net at 7:30 PM. If you are interested and would participate at that time, send me an email so I know whether I should continue planning. Don't worry. I'm not going to cancel the 6 PM net. We'll have 2 phone nets.

With regrets I have accepted the resignation of Andy Shecktor (N3OMA) as EPA Section Emergency Coordinator effective September 1st. Andy filled a valuable position during a critical time of implementing ARES Connect and I am grateful for his help. W.T. Jones (WN3LIF) has accepted my invitation to step back into the position he held for so many years and serve once again as the EPA Section Emergency Coordinator. I am glad to have W.T. as part of our team.

#### **ARES NTS Liaison**

Many counties are claiming NTS Liaison in their monthly reports.

Any county nets not sending monthly reports to Scott (N3SW), our Section Traffic Manager and providing liaison to EPAEPTN or PTN on a regular basis are *NOT* part of NTS. Do not report NTS liaison to ARES because you have someone appointed for emergencies. This does not make you an NTS net. Only nets with someone actually checking in to our NTS nets may claim NTS Liaison. I will reject all others claiming liaison to NTS.

I'm looking forward to talking with you again next month. Tell your friends that may not be signed up to receive Section/Division email reports to send me their email address and I'll add them to my mailing list for *The Communicator* or go to the <u>ARRL webpage</u> and change their profile to receive Section/Division reports.

This is our first attempt at providing a section newsletter. I invite your comments or suggestions. Please don't ask to be removed from the mailing list yet. Give us a chance to grow and change to satisfy your requirements. I'd like to have a means to communicate with everyone in East Pennsylvania.

Please share this newsletter with members of your club and other interested Hams. Don't forget to send your club news and any news of interest to <u>news@epa-arrl.org</u>. .

73 de George W3GWM EPA Section Manager

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### HUNTSVILLE (LYCOMING CO.) REPEATER

The 145.450 Huntersville (Lycoming County), repeater has been replaced. The frequency, offset and PL tone remain the same, but the repeater is now a narrow band repeater:

145.450 Huntersville – offset PL 167.9 Narrow Band FM

Also, Lycoming County Skywarn has returned to the 145.330 Williamsport repeater. That repeater is also narrow band:

145.330 Williamsport – offset PL 167.9 Narrow Band FM

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**4U1UN NEWS** 



## This was posted on the 4U1UN page on Facebook:

We are receiving a lot of messages regarding the lack of 4U1UN (United Nation Amateur Radio Club) activity on the bands. We will try to clear some things about the current Club's activities.

Many of you do not know that after the renovation of the UNHQ building in New York, the room dedicated to the recreation area, on the 41st floor, in which the 4U1UN radio equipment was located, was transferred to the special UN unit - Broadcast and Conference Support Section. That room now is allocated to professional communications equipment. This was the only room technically suitable to be used for installing our gear, with easy access to the roof but after renovation it became off-limits for any other services, except BCSS.

Please do not think that UNARC members gave up and are doing nothing - believe me, almost daily communication has not been interrupted for the past seven years. After the successful activity of 4U70UN back in 2015, with the support of the UN Administration, we were able to secure a tiny 20-square-feet room for the Club's needs on the ground floor of the building. For obvious reasons, no one will give us the opportunity to run a separate coaxial cable from the ground floor to the 41st floor.

Considering that the room, allocated for the Club, can be transferred to any other place at any time, we have developed a project for installing a remote station on the 41st floor.

The main difficulty in quick implementation of such project at the UNHQ is not political, but administrative and organizational. The BCSS is responsible for the security for all the UN communications equipment.

They provide the entire UN communication (including emergency etc.) to all UN field locations around the World. There are communication repeaters, satellite links and other equipment, access to which is strictly limited. Only security personnel, authorized by this service, have permission to be there. Coordination of access to this room for club members (UN staff) at such a high level, takes several months to be approved, and the time allowed for work is limited to only one or two hours per visit.

If it were not for BCSS support, nothing would have been possible at all, even the placement of the beacon station and antenna! Imagine that you want to put a remotely controlled and unsupervised amateur radio station in the server room of the White House special communications service, and you will get the picture. Every time we get access - we are accompanied by representatives of three different UN services, and only because none of us is giving up - the process of returning the UN amateur radio station to the air, although slowly, continues.

### Now, some good news!

This Saturday, several members of the UN radio club, representatives of UN services and guests, once again got the opportunity to continue the configuration of equipment and its connections. Unfortunately, the assembled 19-inch rack and part of the equipment were disconnected during delivery to the 41st floor, including disassembling of the power amplifier. This is mainly because

the BCSS personnel needed to hand carry all the equipment several flights of stairs to the top floor. The ACOM-2000A amplifier fully assembled is very heavy, so its disassembling was certainly needed.

After four hours of work, the connections of the SteppIR BigIR vertical antennas were restored, a new SDA-100 controller was installed and a RemoteRig 1216H was connected for easy remote access. The antenna was tested and configured. Remote access from the first-floor works (special thanks for the separately run Ethernet cable over the entire height of the building, for the use of the Radio Club). The operation of the ACOM-2000A amplifier with an antenna was tested.

While we were testing, we realized that our Elecraft K3 needed to be disconnected and sent for repair. Apparently, due to the lack of the ability to retract BigIR antenna earlier, static discharges damaged the K3 power control board. Updating/re-installing of the K3 firmware didn't helped. Let's hope for a speedy recovery of the transceiver after treatment at Elecraft!

We really hope that in the very near future, after debugging and setting up all the equipment, we will finally be able to proudly look at the work done and begin to appear steadily on the bands; and you will be able to get ATNO with the UNHQ!

Thanks to everyone involved, especially to:

James Sarte K2QI UNARC President

Philip Dale G6CBR UNARC

**UN Security Staff** 

**UN BCSS Staff** 

Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA

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# SECTION NEWS

### **CLUB NEWS**

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The link below provides the latest Individual and Community Preparedness Newsletter from FEMA. In this issue: Ready Tips, CERT & Communities, Children & Disasters. Financial Preparedness, and Important Dates.

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/2574faa?reqfrom=share

Public site: <a href="https://www.ready.gov/september">https://www.ready.gov/september</a>

### EPA HAPPENINGS

**Sept. 14** - MCARES (Montgomery County ARES/RACES/ACS) will host a talk and demo by Mark Herson N3MH on Stanley: a Mesh go-kit, as well as a demo for VoIP phones Saturday morning at 10:00 am at the Montgomery County EOC in Eagleview, PA. See <u>http://www.aa3e.org</u> for more information. **Oct. 5** - Red Rose Repeater Assoc. (W3RRR) Hamfest at Brownstown Community Park in Talmadge, PA. <u>https://w3rrr.org/index.html</u>

**Oct.12-13** 2019 Pennsylvania QSO Party. The bonus station will be K3SMT, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Somerset Amateur Radio Club. See <u>http://paqso.org</u> for Party information.

**Oct. 19** - Philadelphia JOTA with EAAR and the 'Big Green' solar radio <u>https://www.facebook.com/KE3AAR/.</u>

**Nov. 19** - Limerick Drill. Focuses on municipal readiness for an emergency at the Limerick Generating Station nuclear power plants. It takes place on Tuesday, 11/19.

### CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Founded in 2016, the Education Alliance for Amateur Radio (aka EAAR, callsign: KE3AAR) is a non-profit focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). They work with community groups and other Amateur Radio Clubs to promote education of amateur radio including assisting Scouts in their pursuit of the Radio Merit Badge, offering Amateur Radio license classes, D-Star training classes, and promoting ARRL Kid's Day events and Field Day events for interested youth.

This fall they have two events to promote Amateur Radio:

On October 19, EAAR will have a solar power radio station set up (Big Green) for both the Jamboree on the Air and the radio merit badge. For more information on the Philadelphia Scouting Festival at Lighthouse Field, please visit https://colbsa.org/activities-2/phila/

On September 1st, Ursinus College will be kicking off a yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary. In recognition of this milestone EAAR will participate in the celebration by hosting a special event station. The callsign for the station will be W3Z. The "Z" acknowledges the founder of the college, Zacharias Ursinus. The station will be on the air from 10 a.m. EDT to approximately 7 p.m. EDT on 20 and 40 meters. A commemorative QSL card will be sent to the first 200 amateurs contacting this special event station.

For information about EAAR visit <u>https://www.radiostemalliance.org/</u> or visit their Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/KE3AAR/</u>.

### Amateur News



Oaks, PA operator Pete Kobak (KØBAK) drove to the Canadian Maritime provinces May 11 to 18 to activate parks in the Canadian National Parks On The Air program ("CNPOTA", https://cnpota.ca/). CNPOTA is RAC's year-long 2019 event closely modeled on the ARRL's highly popular NPOTA event from 3 years ago. After having been CNPOTA's first activator on New Year's Day in Ontario, Pete wanted to activate even more parks when winter weather abated. His 2,704-mile route took him through 10 states and provinces.

Operating from 26 locations in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, Pete exceeded the minimum number of confirmed contacts in 33 CNPOTA units. His 892 contacts

were made in fair to poor band conditions, preventing most contacts more than about 1000 miles to the west or south on most days ... although minor openings to the east helped to provide Pete with 17 unique DXCC counties. In addition to the CNPOTA program, these same parks are also defined in the ongoing Parks On The Air program ("POTA",

https://parksontheair.com), allowing Pete to claim activation credit in POTA and to provide home operators in the close-knit POTA community 32 never-before-activated park credits.



Although he has no definite plans for more Canadian roves, Pete is looking into possible routes in the Niagara Falls area and southern Quebec. Given his competitive nature, he is more likely to attempt more long roves if his current top position in the CNPOTA activators' leader board is threatened. Pete can be reached at qst@k0bak.com.

KØBAK has been active for 5 years, mostly as a mobile/rover/portable operator. His interests

include operating mobile in state QSO parties, VHF contests, and of course in parks. Pete is currently converting an old TV station news van into an HF and VHF mobile ham station. He is a grateful member of the Pottstown Area ARC and the Mt. Airy VHF RC.

Besides being a contributor to QST, Pete is featured in a two-part article on his CNPOTA trip to the Maritimes in the latest (Sept-Oct) issue of the Canadian ham magazine "The Canadian Amateur".



If there's a Ham in your club doing something noteworthy, send an email to  $\underline{news@epa-arrl.com}$  so we can feature them in a future issue of the *The Communicator*.

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### ARES



W.T. Jones (WN3LIF) EPA SEC

There are a lot of sayings like "What's old is new again" and "the good die young". So, with the coming of September 1<sup>st</sup> I will be the EPA Section Emergency Coordinator again. The OLD SEC is now the NEW SEC after a bit of a

rest for which I thank N3OMA. Andy stepped in when I did need out for a while to get my bearings.

And as far as "The Good Die Young" part. I am already convinced that I am going to live to be a very tired old man.

Sorry ECs and DECs. I am still here.

A quick summary of the high points...

ARES Connect is going stronger than I had ever hoped. We get 1 or 2 new registrations per day and we are filling in some of incomplete registrations. That is more progress than I had hoped for all along.

The end of the month reporting will remain the same, manual. ARRL HQ has not stated how they are going to collect the time from ARES CONNECT yet. However, if you are using the event calendar then continue to use it and I will extract your report from ARES CONNECT. There is no sense in any EC or DEC doing double work.

One reminder to ECs. Approve those hours. If the hours for the reporting month are not by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month then they will not appear in the reports. Not reporting those hours just negates the hard work of the volunteers for the month.

If you want help with ARES Connect, you must let me know. I will come to you if needed. I can also do *Teamview* or *Zoom* video conferencing. You can open that up to your ARES membership to watch as well.

During recent audits of EPA Section members registered in ARES Connect a strange condition was noticed. Members who are volunteers in two counties. I like that kind of dedication to the cause, but it does create some problems.

1. Registering in two counties inflates the number of volunteers that EPA can theoretically field during a disaster. Its an accounting thing.

2. Second is the principle of Chain of Command. The Volunteer cannot serve two masters.

If you are thinking that being listed in only one county inhibits you from participating in events of counties, then perish the thought. Unless it is a communications emergency please participate in other counties nets, public service events, meetings (if they are open to others), and exercises.

If it is a communications emergency, then you must get your county EC's permission to work with another county.

It has been discovered that EPA Volunteers are going to the ARRL ARES Connect team for assistance. The ARRL HQ ARES Connect Team should respond only to Section Level requests. If you have a problem with ARES Connect please contact your EC, your DEC, or the Section Emergency Coordinator for assistance.

If the EPA Section does not know what problems you are having, we cannot work to fix them. If you have questions, the Section Staff should be able to answer them.

Coming to the Section Staff results in the rest of the Section knowing the problem and the solution. Please contact us and let us work the problem

October 5<sup>th</sup> Simulated Emergency Test is in the works and by the time you read this you should have the exercise plan in your inbox. I am giving the ECs considerable latitude inside their counties to do what they want. Suggestions were supplied so don't tell me you have no ideas. Try to make it a fun event for your members.

As a section, I want to put some HF operations into effect for testing. This is to test the EPA Section Net on 3917KHz. It will only take 3 messages from your county to push the envelope so we can see how well this will work. At the end of the local SET I am asking for a Winlink message to me sent on RF to an RMS station so I can download it. I would like to push VARA a bit and have 30 some messages waiting for me. But more details on the SET will be sent out. Again, try something fun this year.

73 de WT WN3LIF

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### NTS

During disasters or other emergencies, radiograms are used to communicate information critical to saving lives or property, or to inquire about the health or welfare of a disaster victim.

This is the function of the National Traffic System. Every day Hams meet on assigned frequencies to send messages around the country and around the world.

To learn more about the National Traffic System, refer to the <u>NTS Manual</u>.

#### The Section Traffic Nets Could Use Your Help



The purpose of this message is to remind all amateurs in EPA that these nets exist and to encourage you to give the nets a try.

The traffic nets in our Section have been operating for decades as an integral part of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS). Daily, dedicated traffic handlers in EPA have manned the HF nets, acting as net control stations and/or passing formal message traffic into and out of Eastern Pennsylvania, and liaising with nets in the higher levels of the NTS hierarchy to facilitate traffic flow across the country.

These operators also bring traffic to the local VHF traffic nets and take traffic from the local areas to higher NTS nets. This entire system has worked like a well-oiled machine for many years thanks to the hard work of these amateurs.

In the recent past several key operators have become Silent Keys, and the impact of their loss is being felt on the nets.

Participation is down across the board, and this results in more of a burden on those who continue to handle traffic in EPA.

The purpose of this message is to remind all the amateurs in EPA that these nets exist and to encourage anyone with an interest in the NTS to give the nets a try.

If you have never checked into a traffic net, don't worry, you will be welcome. The best way to learn traffic handling skills is by doing. I recommend that you listen to a net for a few days, then start checking in once you understand the basic net routine.

When you are ready to try handling messages, you will find that the operators on the nets are willing and able to guide you. The <u>ARRL Operating Manual</u> contains an excellent chapter on Traffic Handling, which is highly recommended background reading.

The Section traffic nets meet as follows:

Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net (EPAEPTN) meets daily at 6:00pm Eastern Time on 3.917 MHz LSB.

Pennsylvania Traffic Net (PTN) meets twice daily at 7:00pm AND 10:00pm on 3.585 MHz CW.

Please consider giving these nets a try. I predict that you will enjoy this facet of ham radio and the opportunity to work with the first-class operators who man the EPA Section NTS nets.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I have lots of resources and materials available to share with you.

73 de Scott Walker N3SW

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### NWS SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER PROGRAM



In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Click here for more information.

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# **ARRL News**



# ARRL CONTEST AND DXCC RULES NOW PROHIBIT AUTOMATED CONTACTS

ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple

Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to "growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed" for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require



that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote.

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## WWV CENTENNIAL SPECIAL EVENT STATION

The WWV Centennial special event is set to run from September 28 through October 2, and round-the-clock operation will take place on CW, SSB, and digital modes. Operations will shift among HF bands following typical propagation and will include 160 meters as well as satellites (SO-50, AO-91, and AO-92) and 6-meter meteor scatter.

Up to four stations will be on the air for routine operations. A fifth station will schedule contacts with schools, universities, and museums, as well as conducting unscheduled contacts. The additional station will periodically broadcast an AM carrier from a radio locked with WWV's 10 MHz signal.

"At this point we have filled our operator's slots and met equipment goals, but we need more financial resources to cover basic operating expenses, return shipping, and site logistics," Swartz said. Members of the Amateur Radio industry have contributed equipment, including radios, amplifiers, and antennas.

NIST has announced that it will not be able to open the doors of WWV to the public for the event. "Due to a number of reasons, the scope of the formal celebration will be limited to only 100 invited participants," the WWV Centennial Committee announced. "WW0WWV will be the main public event for the centennial celebration."

Visit the WWV Centennial Committee website at http://wwv100.com/ to see how you can get involved.

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# <u>144 – 146 MHZ REMOVED FROM FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL</u> <u>AERONAUTICAL APPLICATIONS</u>

The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications.

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# ARRL HF BAND PLANNING COMMITTEE REACTIVATED TO ADDRESS SPECTRUM



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee

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# ARRL SPECIAL EVENT



Reminder: The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration gets under way on Saturday, August 31, and wraps up on Monday, September 8. The 9-day operating event commemorates the 150th anniversary of the birth of ARRL cofounder and first president Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW (HPM) -- born on September 2, 1869 -- and is open to all radio amateurs. The objective is to work as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and *all* ARRL members will append "/150" to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may operate as <*call sign*>/150, if permitted by their country

of license.) Stations will exchange a signal report and ARRL/RAC Section. A total of 84 multipliers are available. DX stations will send a signal report and "DX." All Amateur Radio bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters are available. Contacts may be made on CW, phone, and digital modes. Incentives are available for using different modes, operating portable, and using social media, among others. Logs will be scored, and downloadable certificates will be available. An announcement and complete rules appear in the September issue of *QST*, p. 86.

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# **EPA Section Nets**

EPAEPTN	Daily	3917 KHz	6 PM
PTN	Daily	3585 KHz	7 PM and 10 PM*

\* PTN at 7 PM is a slow speed training net. The 10 PM Net is faster for more experienced operators.

Please check in to the nets when you can. Neither net lasts long and you'll be excused quickly to enjoy the rest of your evening.

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# August Net Reports

	EPAEPTN	PTN	RF HILL
QNI	157	170	83
QTC	56	19	9
SESSIONS	29	54	8

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# September Contests

- **14-15** WAE SSB DX Contest
- 14-16 September VHF
- **21-22** 10 GHz & Up Round 2
- **21-22** EME 2.3 GHz & Up

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# The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Cycle 24 sunspots returned this week, but only for 2 days --Sunday and Monday -- for a sunspot number of 12. Average daily solar flux increased from 66 last week to 67.4 this week. Radiation from a coronal hole increased the average planetary A index from 5.7 last week to 19.9 this week, with the level on Saturday and Sunday at 38 and 45. The Fairbanks, Alaska, College A index reached 59 and 86, and at one point on Sunday the K index was 8. Measured every 3 hours, and used to calculate the daily A index, the K index had not previously reached 8 since August and September in 2018.

Predicted solar flux is 69 on September 5 - 11; 67 on September 12 - 22; 68 on September 23 - October 6, and 67 on October 7 - 19.



Predicted planetary A index is 8 on September 5 - 8; 5 on September 9 - 22; 8 on September 23; 5 on September 24 - 25; 10, 35, 44, 24, and 8 on September 25 - 30; 5 on October 1 - 3; 8 on October 4 - 5, and 5 on October 6 - 19.

I will be giving a talk at the <u>Western Washington DX Club</u> in Seattle on Tuesday, September 10.

Sunspot numbers for August 29 - September 4 were 0, 0, 0, 12, 12, 0, and 0, with a mean of 3.4. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 65.9, 66.5, 66.4, 67.1, 68.8, 68.6, and 68.6, with a mean of 67.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 10, 38, 45, 21, 10, and 12, with a mean of 19.9. The middle latitude A index was 4, 10, 29, 33, 19, 11, and 11, with a mean of 16.7.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, <u>visit</u> the ARRL Technical Information Service, <u>read</u> "What the Numbers Mean...," and <u>check out</u> K9LA's Propagation Page.

A propagation bulletin <u>archive</u> is available. <u>Monthly charts</u> offer propagation projections between the US and a dozen DX locations.

Share your reports and observations.

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# **Closing Remarks**

Send your news and comments to <u>news@epa-arrl.org</u>.

Be sure to visit and bookmark the EPA Webpage (<u>https://epa-arrl.org</u>) Melody (KB3SJR) has developed and maintains for us. It's getting attention everywhere! While you are there, subscribe to the webpage to receive Section News Bulletins.

Visit the <u>EPA-ARRL Webpage</u> often and read our EPA Blog. We update the Blog with news of interest to EPA Hams regularly.

This has been an eventful month and I expect we'll get busier during September as we prepare for the Annual SET (Simulated Emergency Test). Contact your county EC for information on how you can participate.

# RADIOGRAMS

The volume of radiograms has been low everywhere. We'll never see the volume of traffic we had during the Glory Days of Ham Radio. However, we can each do our part to increase traffic flow.

After an especially good QSO, send the other person a radiogram thanking them for the QSO. I've been suggesting this for a while on EPAEPTN, but now I'm going to make it easy for you.

Fill in the blanks in the message form below and send it by one of the NTS Nets. If you have questions, contact me for help. I'll be glad to work with you.

MSG #\_\_\_\_ R HXC (YOUR CALL) (YOUR QTH) 19 (DATE) (ADDRESSE) (CALLSIGN) (STREET ADDRESS) (CITY) (STATE)(ZIPCODE) (TELEPHONE NUMBER IF KNOWN OTHERWISE ENTER "NO PHONE") BT HI (NAME) X THANKS FOR QSO (MONTH) (DAY) X YOUR RST (RST) X ENJOYED TALKING WITH YOU X 73 BT (YOUR NAME) (YOUR CALL)

Radiograms may only be sent within the US and to countries with which we have a Third Party Agreement. Check for Third Party Agreements <u>here</u>.

Sending radiograms is easy. Join us on EPAEPTN and we'll help you.

Join me on EPAEPTN 3917 KHz at 6 PM just about any evening. Hope to see you soon.

George W3GWM EPA Section Manager

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