



St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society
MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)
November 1, 2022
at the St Augustine Airport Conference Facility

Attendees

1. John Albertson AK4N
2. Dennis Fernandez N4KPI
3. Rick Hatton KK4GGL
4. Ron Morgan KM4AC
5. Kevin Pellegrino KM4PHI
6. Larry Sapp WD8SEL
7. John Smith K3GO
8. Buddy Tison KK4RXC
9. Allen Wyatt W4YO
10. Franco Venturi K4VZ (new member)

Allen W4YO called the meeting to order at 6:35.

1. Acceptance of previous month's minutes was motioned to accept by Dennis N4KPI and seconded by John AK4N. Approval by all members present.
2. Financial report is that year to date dues collected for 2023 is \$80 according to Kevin KM4PHI, treasurer.
3. General discussion of finances and Christmas party.

The SAARS Christmas party is at Brisky's BBQ. Price will be \$20 for guests and \$15 for members, pay at the door. Starting time will be 6:00 PM, Tuesday December 6th. Allen will send a confirmation email out for attendance.

4. Winter Field Day (Jan 28-29, 2023).

We cannot get the fairgrounds this year as it's already booked. Suggestions follow:

- a. Book Anastasia State Park. (Rick)
- b. Faver-Dykes Park which has more space for antennas at the picnic pavilion. (Allen)
- c. Welaka State Forest with facilities (Doug set up last time at equestrian facility)
- d. The Equestrian Center has AC and power. Allen will check on it

Concluded general discussion with suggestion to reserve Anastasia and Favor-Dykes. Do both and we can cancel one as needed. Allen will call and make reservations.

5. Florida State parks occur on April 1-2, 2023. It is a Florida state local event. Next officers should make plans for reservations.
6. Field day is June 24-25 at the fairgrounds and is reserved. It will be in the same meeting room with facilities, electric and AC.
7. It was mentioned that VP5/NN2T wrapped up operations today and three members present had worked them.
8. Discussion of adding DXCC and Honor roll to SAARS website.

After clarification that DXCC honor roll stands at 331 confirmed entities out of 340 entities, the terms were changed to DXCC awarded (100 entities and ARRL certificate.) Question was raised if you had to have the DXCC paper and ARRL confirmation and it was generally agreed that you must have a certificate to be on the web page. (Buddy) I (John) asked Buddy to give him assistance on getting the ARRL paperwork submission in order. Other awards were discussed and dropped as too complex to add to website (Rick's guidance) so a motion was placed (Allen) to only do ARRL DXCC award (All modes, all bands, etc.) and seconded by Rick. Membership voted to approve the DXCC webpage creation and tracking.

9. Meeting site and meeting time topic.

This room at the Airport conference facility costs \$75 (as does the other places). We should go ahead and book the Airport facility for Jan-Feb-Mar 2023 so the incoming President and officers have a place to meet and start the year. (Allen will take care of

making the booking.) Rick mentioned that this does not mean we should stop looking for better priced places.

The December meeting is fixed which lead to talk about subsequent meeting times of 7PM vs 6:30PM. After review by membership, it was generally agreed to meeting times of 6:30PM for the January meeting and the new executive team can review and change as members desire.

10. Office nominations for 2023

The following slate of officers for December election are as follows;

Bob Sileo N2PE - President (Rick nominated, Larry closed)
John Albertsons AK4N - Vice President (Rick and Larry closed)
Kevin Pelligrino KM4PHI - Treasurer (John and Larry closed)
Allen Wyatt W4YO - Secretary (John and Larry)

11. Formal part of meeting is over and moved on to general discussions

Discussion on getting Frank Haas to come and speak to electrical noise and solutions for a future program.

Allen mentioned that Astronomy Club may be a good idea for a future program and would be interesting content.

Talk then moved to QSL bureau and outgoing and incoming cards. Not many were aware of the support for QSL card exchanges and accessing the system. Each call sign zone has an incoming card bureau for your cards and if you want to retrieve your incoming QSL cards you must post three or four envelopes with sufficient return postage to get you the QSLs you worked. For outbound you batch up your outgoing area and send to the outbound QSL bureau.

For example, the 4th call area bureau is:

The W4 call area incoming bureau is no longer divided into TWO SECTIONS.

Comments or questions on this bureau's operation may be directed to gormil@aol.com

Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Call Box 599
Sterling, VA 20167

Outgoing QSL Service is:

ARRL members — including foreign members, QSL Managers, or managers for DX-peditions — should enclose payment as follows:

Effective May 15, 2019, the rate structure is:

\$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.

\$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards.

[For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- will cost \$18.]

Under the new fee structure, there are no transaction service fees.

I have attached the Outgoing QSL bureau PDF file and please note this is still a bargain if you are a card collector like I am.

Summary:

Incoming QSL

<http://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>

Outgoing QSL

<http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

12. At this point we held the raffle and John AK4N won and donated proceeds to the club.

13. Adjourned at 7:47 pm.

(Secretary's note: Many thanks to John, K3GO, for recording the minutes during the meeting.)



THE ARRL OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Exchanging paper QSL cards to confirm a two-way contact is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of Amateur Radio. Today, many amateurs prefer to confirm QSOs electronically with Logbook of The World (LoTW), however there are those who like to swap paper cards. Exchanging QSL cards directly with your QSO partner can be very expensive. If you calculate the cost of postage to send an envelope overseas, plus any money enclosed to cover the return postage, a single QSL card request can cost up to five dollars or more. Confirming QSOs electronically through LoTW is a rapid and cost-effective way to earn QSO credit for awards, but for the paper card collector, the QSL Bureau offers an alternative to the direct QSL method.

To use this service, you only need to provide proof of ARRL membership and pay the fee according to the schedule below. Cards sent via the Bureau are sorted by the Outgoing QSL Service staff, who handle approximately 300,000 each year. Cards are shipped from HQ on a quarterly basis.

The Service ships QSL cards to QSL Bureaus throughout the world, which are typically maintained by the national Amateur Radio Society of each country. (Please be advised that the ARRL QSL Service cannot be used to exchange QSL cards within the 48 contiguous states [US to US].) Sending QSL cards via the Bureau takes a little longer than mailing them directly, but keep in mind that what you might lose in speed is more than made up in the convenience and savings of not having to address and mail each QSL card separately.

You may also send QSLs via the bureau to any QSL manager who manages a non-US call sign. However, you must look up the QSL manager and clearly indicate the QSL manager's call sign on your outgoing card. For example:

Example 1: 8P8P via NN1N. Sort this card in with other cards going to US managers.

Example 2: 6Y1V via OH3RB. Sort this card in with cards to Finland.

There are many sources of QSL information, including [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com), logging programs, the GoList, www.qslinfo.de, and the *The Daily DX* website at <http://www.dailydx.com/routes.html>.

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

Sorting Cards

Presort your DX QSLs alphabetically by **parent call sign prefix** (AP, CE, DL, ES, EZ, F, G, JA, LY, PY, UN, YL, 5N, 9Y, and so on). Canadian and Australian cards should be sorted by numerical call sign (VE1, VE2, VE3 and VK1, VK2, VK3, etc). Note: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e. G (parent prefix) = M, 2E, 2I, 2M, 2W, etc. When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped with the parent prefix in your alphabetical stack. Addresses are not required.

Do not separate the country prefixes by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper, or envelopes. This only slows down processing.

Proof of Membership

Please enclose proof of your current ARRL membership. This can be in the form of a photocopy or cut-out of the address area from your current copy of *QST*. You can also write the information from the label on a slip of paper and use that as proof of membership. A copy of your current membership card is also acceptable.

Fees and Payment

ARRL members — including foreign members, QSL Managers, or managers for DXpeditions — should enclose payment as follows:

Effective May 15, 2019:

\$2.00 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.

\$3.00 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards.

(For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- will cost \$18. No transaction service fees.)

You should use an accurate scale to weigh your cards. Most post offices have scales that you may use.

Please pay by check (or money order) and write your call sign on the check. Send cash at your own risk. **DO NOT** send postage stamps or IRCs. Please make checks payable to: “The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.”

Packages received with insufficient payment will not be processed until the balance is paid in full. The outgoing QSL bureau does not keep money on account.

Packing and Mailing

Your package must include:

- Slip with your name, call sign, weight of cards enclosed, and proof of ARRL membership.
- Proof of ARRL membership — Copy of *QST* mailing label or membership card.
- Your payment in the form of check or money order. **DO NOT** send cash.
- Your QSL cards, sorted as instructed.

Include only the cards, proof of membership, and the appropriate fee in the package. Box the cards securely and address the package to:

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494.

It is strongly recommended that you use a traceable method to ship your cards.

Other Helpful Information

Who may use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

- Family members may also use the service by enclosing their QSLs with those of the primary member. Include the appropriate fee, and indicate “family membership” on the primary member’s proof of membership.
- Blind members who do not receive *QST* need only include the appropriate fee along with a note

indicating that the cards are from a blind member.

- ARRL Affiliated Club stations may use the service to submit club QSLs for its members in bulk (“pooling” their members’ cards together in one package) by indicating the club’s name inside the package. Club secretaries should check their club’s affiliation on the ARRL website to ensure it is current. In a “pooled” package, each club member using this service must also be an ARRL member. Cards should be sorted “en masse” by prefix, and proof of membership should be enclosed for each ARRL member. QSLs for unaffiliated club calls may also be sent via the outgoing bureau to foreign destinations if the trustee of the club call is a member in good standing. The trustee’s proof of membership must be included with the club call-QSLs.

Recommended QSL card dimensions

The efficient operation of the worldwide system of QSL Bureaus requires that cards be easy to handle and sort. Cards of unusual dimensions — either much larger or much smaller than normal, or printed on thin paper (i.e. copier paper) — slow the work of the Bureaus, most of which is done by unpaid volunteers.

A review of the cards received by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service indicates that most fall in the following range:

Height: 2-3/4 to 4-1/4 in. (70 to 110 mm)
Width: 4-3/4 to 6-1/4 in. (120 to 160 mm)

IARU Region 2, which includes the United States, has suggested the following dimensions as optimum:

Height 3-1/2 in. (90 mm)
Width 5-1/2 in. (140 mm)

Cards in this range can be easily sorted, stacked, and packaged. Cards outside this range create problems.

In particular, the larger cards often cannot be handled without folding or otherwise damaging them. In the interest of efficient operation of the worldwide QSL Bureau system, it is recommended that cards entering the system be limited to the range of dimensions given.

Countries Not Served By the Outgoing QSL Service

Approximately 225 DXCC entities are served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, as detailed in the ARRL DXCC List. This includes nearly every active country. As noted previously, cards are forwarded from the ARRL Outgoing Service to a counterpart bureau in each of these countries. In some cases, there is no Incoming Bureau in a particular country and cards, therefore, cannot be forwarded. However, QSL cards can be forwarded to a QSL manager, e.g., ZB2FX via G3RFX. Most operations from places without a QSL bureau have a QSL manager.

Countries that currently deliver QSL cards only to members of that country’s national radio society include the following:

Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Zambia.

3B	Agalega, Mauritius, Rodrigues	D2	Angola	TJ	Cameroon
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3C	Equatorial Guinea	D4	Cape Verde	TL	Central African Rep
3C0	Pagalu Island	E3	Eritrea	TN	Congo
3DA	Kingdom of Eswatini	E4	Palestine	TT	Chad
3W	Vietnam	E5	North & South Cook Is.	TU	Cote d'Ivoire
3X	Guinea	ET	Ethiopia	TY	Benin
4J, 4K	Azerbaijan	H4	Solomon	V3	Belize
4W	Timor-Leste	HH	Haiti	V4	St. Kitts & Nevis
5A	Libya	HV	Vatican	V6	Micronesia
5R	Madagascar	J5	Guinea-Bissau	V7	Marshall
5T	Mauritania	J8	St. Vincent	VP2E	Anguilla
5U	Niger	KG4	Guantanamo Bay	VP2M	Montserrat
5V	Togo	KH0	Mariana Is.	VQ9	Chagos Diego Garcia
7O	Yemen	KH1	Baker & Howland Is.	XU	Cambodia
7P	Lesotho	KH4	Midway Island	XW	Laos
7Q	Malawi	KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Is.	XZ	Myanmar
8Q	Maldives	KH7K	Kure Island	YA	Afghanistan
9L	Sierra Leone	KH9	Wake island	Z2	Zimbabwe
9N	Nepal	KP1	Navassa Island	ZA	Albania
9U	Burundi	KP5	Desecheo Island	ZK3	Tokelau
9X	Rwanda	P2	Papua New Guinea		
A3	Tonga	P5	North Korea		
A5	Bhutan	PZ	Suriname		
A6	United Arab Emirates	S0	Western Sahara		
A9	Bahrain	S7	Seychelles		
C2	Nauru	T2	Tuvalu		
C5	Gambia	T3	Kiribati		
C6	Bahamas	T5	Somalia		
CN	Morocco	T8	Palau		

Additional Information

We do not hold cards for countries with no Incoming Bureau. Only cards indicating a QSL Manager for a station in these particular countries will be forwarded. Undeliverable cards will normally not be returned.

When sending cards to *foreign QSL managers*, you must sort these cards using the manager's call sign, rather than the station's call sign. SWL cards can be forwarded through the QSL Service.

The Outgoing QSL Service **CANNOT** forward stamps, cards inside envelopes, IRCs or "green stamps" (cash) to the foreign QSL bureaus.

Please direct any questions or comments to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington CT, 06111-1494. The Outgoing QSL Service can be reached at 860-594-0274. Inquires via e-mail may be sent to buro@arrl.org

Information regarding the Incoming QSL bureaus can be located at: <http://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>.

Revised – January 2022