

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

June 2024

First Bluetooth to Satellite Link

(ARnewsline 5/10/24) Using a software patch upgrade for some off-the-shelf Bluetooth chips, the Hubble Network in Seattle has achieved what it calls the first low-power Bluetooth connection with a satellite orbiting the Earth. The signals traveled a distance of more than 600km - or 370 miles - prompting Hubble's CEO and cofounder Alex Haro to say in a recent press release that the Seattle company had clearly debunked skeptics' belief that such a feat was impossible. A press release from the company this month heralded the achievement as "critical validation for the company, potentially opening the door to connecting millions more devices anywhere in the world."

Hubble Network said it began receiving the signals shortly after the satellites' launch in March. Hubble hopes it will be able to present an option for communications with global coverage creating less battery drain and lower operating costs.

The Hubble Network's website claims to be "Connecting off-the-shelf bluetooth chips to space". They promise such things as "dime-sized units that can send temperature alerts from trees to indicate fires" to "container tracking using a chip in a weatherized sticker." They launched their first two satellites from Vandenberg on March 4. According to an IEEE website they plan to have 32 satellites in orbit by early 2026. The communications are one-way, ground to space only.

<https://hubblenetwork.com/blog/>

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/bluetooth-satellite>

Pico Balloon is 1-Year Old

(ARnewsline 5/10/24) A Kingman, Arizona radio club launched a Pico Balloon one year ago and it was feared to be lost for good. Instead, it is marking a full year in orbit this month.

In late April the weak signals from the WB6RER pico balloon were picked up by VK5ARG and VK7JJ. Both Australian stations copied the telemetry being transmitted by its 20-meter WSPR beacon. The Hualapai Amateur Radio Club launched the balloon from Arizona on May



19th, 2023. Traveling at an altitude of about 50,000 feet, the balloon has orbited the earth at least a dozen times since.

Reaching that important first birthday hasn't been without some struggles. The beacon's transmissions became compromised after the lower

half of the balloon's 20m dipole sustained some damage a few months into the journey. The number of spots from WSPR stations dropped off. The club wrote on one of the forums on QRZ.com that the absence of spotting in the Southern Hemisphere over a two-month period had convinced the club that the balloon's journey had ended - at least until the stations in Australia received reports on the 20th of April.

Now as its journey takes the balloon east toward South America again, there may be some more radio silence -- but at least this time the club knows the balloon will have completed its first year in flight. It may yet have other hydrogen-filled adventures ahead.

<https://www.arnewsline.org/>

ARRL Reports "Service Disruption"

(ARRL 5/22/24) On May 16 the ARRL posted:

"We are in the process of responding to a serious incident involving access to our network and headquarters-based systems. Several services, such as Logbook of The World® and the ARRL Learning Center, are affected. Please know that restoring access is our highest priority, and we are expeditiously working with outside industry experts to address the issue. We appreciate your patience."

The following day they assured members that they do not store credit card numbers or social security numbers in their database.

As of a posting on May 22 they still do not have those systems up but state that the LoTW data is secure. They also have not said exactly what has happened but that they, and others are working "tirelessly to restore affected systems".

2024 PAID MEMBERSHIP

AGØL Steve Loyd [E]
 AIØN Chuck Engberg* [E]
 KBØFSI Pat McCollum [T]
 KBØLF Fred Eriksen [E]
 KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
 KCØHYD John Titsworth [G]
 KCØHYE Shirley Titsworth [T]
 KEØTR Paul Stanek [A]
 KEØXQ Bill McCollum [E]
 KGØKR Beth Engberg* [E]
 KIØPY Kevin Faris [E]
 N5SEZ Ray McNally [E]
 NØPEU Shawn Djernes [E]
 N8VCL Scott Schreiber [E]
 WØDBW Derek Winterstien [G]
 WBØWTF Mitch Green [G]
 WØJRN Jim Nelson [E]
 WJØZ Del Keene [E]

*Charter Members #New Ham

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and those who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.



Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 6 PM or so.

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**
KBØSMX
P.A.R.C. Officers
President

KBØOGO Roger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net

Vice President

KCØHYD John Titsworth

Secretary

WØDBW Derek Winterstien

Treasurer

KIØPY Kevin Faris

Newsletter Editor

KBØOGO Roger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net

513 Vine St.

Louisville, NE 68037

(402) 234-6775

Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
 443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
 147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site

www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

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**MINUTES of
the
MEETING**

The April Meeting was held at Mom's Café on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Roger Behrns at 8:34 am.

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Ray (N5SEZ), John (KCØHYD), Shirley (KCØHYE), Chuck (AIØN), Jim (WØJRN), Derek (WØDBW), Gary (WDØCFC), Del (KJØZ), Mitch (WBØWTF) and Shawn (NØPEU).

The Minutes of the March meeting were approved on a motion by John and seconded by Chuck.

The Treasurer's report was not available. There is \$812.55 in the General Fund and \$315 in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$1127.55. The Non-Report was approved on a motion by John and seconded by Ray.

Roger noted that since our liability insurance carrier was discontinuing club insurance, we went with the ARRL liability insurance which saved \$20.

Initial planning for Field Day at Murray is beginning.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 on a motion by John and seconded by Gary.


PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City		State	Zip
E-Mail		Phone #			
Spouse Name		Call Sign		Class	
Membership Type ☐ Primary (\$15) ☐ Spouse (\$5) ☐ Student (\$5) ☐ New Ham		• Additional donations are gratefully accepted. • New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. • Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer.		Donation for: ☐ Repeater fund ☐ Insurance ☐ Other _____ ☐ General	
Amount: ☐ I prefer my donation to be anonymous.					
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Meeting Calendar

8am, Sat May 25
at Mom's Café.

Field Day is June 22 & 23