



SQUELCH TALES



NEWSLETTER FROM THE MERRYMEETING AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION FOR MARCH 2019



Microsoft Windows 10 Upgrade Will Ease Access to Linux Files

Microsoft plans to make it easier for Windows 10 to access files stored by some Linux-based operating systems. The next major Windows 10 update, version 1903, due in March or April, will allow Windows 10 File Explorer to access, move, and copy files stored inside Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) distributions -- or "distros" in the Linux world.

"In the past, creating and changing Linux files from Windows resulted in [losing files or corrupting data](#)," Microsoft program manager Craig Loewen [said](#) in a blog post. The WSL allows Windows 10 to run various GNU/Linux distros inside Windows as Microsoft Store apps, providing access to Ubuntu, open SUSE, Debian, Fedora, Kali Linux, and others. Files can also be opened by Windows 10 applications by right clicking and using the "Open with..." option. The team behind WSL says it's working to make WSL files discoverable by File Explorer when the WSL distro is not running.



Editors Note:

By W1ZE

Sailing around the Caribbean and into the Panama canal for most of the month of February I didn't think I would be able to get out a March newsletter. Well this is a short attempt even if a bit skimpy.

The XYL and I had a great time and enjoyed the 80+ degree tropical weather in Jamaica, Colombia, Panama and Grand Cayman. However After leaving Cartagena, Columbia I started coming down with a bad cold/flu but still managed to enjoy the cruise. After going through the locks on the Panama Canal the XYL started coming down with the same bug. Our last port stop was in Grand Cayman but after that the flu bug had us doing a lot of sleeping in our stateroom all the way
back to Fort Everglades, FL.

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Technician Enhancement Proposal

The FCC has invited public comments on ARRL's 2018 [Petition for Rule Making](#), now designated as RM-11828, which asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Interested parties have 30 days to comment. The Technician enhancement proposals stemmed from the recommendations of the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee,

which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.



"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its

Petition. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technician licensees:

- Phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz
- RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills.

ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

The ARRL Board's ad hoc Entry-Level License Committee, which recommended the proposals, received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

Now numbering some 384,500 licensees, Technicians comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making

the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL said its proposal is critical to develop improved operating skills, increasing emergency preparedness participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year. Read [more](#).



"Tyro" License Proposal Open for Comment

The same day that the FCC put ARRL's Technician Enhancement petition on public notice, it also invited comments on another [proposal](#), designated RM-11829, asking the FCC to create a "Tyro" license class that would require a minimal

online examination and require mentoring by



an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. A "tyro" is a novice or a beginner. The petition was filed in August of 2017 by Gary A. Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado. Tyro licensees would earn operating privileges on 99 channels in a 70-centimeter "TyroSubBand." Applicants would have to be at least 11 years old. Hampton said in his petition that one goal would be "reliable, nationwide 70-centimeter interoperability" in the exclusive 430 - 440 MHz segment of the band.

"The Tyro license is exceptionally important to FEMA's CERT program," Hampton's petition asserts. "It allows ARES to solve CERT's communication problems. The TyroSubBand technical specifications easily double the capacity of typical 70-centimeter repeaters..."

Hampton maintained in his petition that Amateur Radio also "should be used to further scientific research that is published and quickly placed in the public domain."

Hampton expressed the belief that institution of the Tyro license would spawn growth within Amateur Radio, making entry into the hobby nearly as simple as obtaining a General Mobile Radio Service ([GMRS](#)) license.

The window for comments on the Tyro license petition is open for 30 days.



ARRL MAINE STATE CONVENTION & ANDY HAMFEST

**March 29th & 30th
at the
RAMADA INN in
Lewiston**

**2019 SEMINAR TALKS
(subject to change)**

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2109

7pm. Station Interconnections, N1BOK, Leo Langlier, Me. ARES ASEC Described as using *patch cords vs. coax.*

switches and microphone interconnects.
7pm, The Doctor Is In, W1ZR, Joel Hallas, this will be a SKYPE presentation.

Q and A, on anything Amateur Radio. So come with Questions and get Answers
7pm, ARRL FORUM: Fred Hopengarten, K1VR ARRL New England Director

Fred will talk about the latest news in the Amateur Radio and ARRL and will have a Questions and Answers Section.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

9am, Digital Emergency Comms in Maine - Status and Directions, KB1TCE, Steve Hansen: his presentation will present an overview of a number of items with the goal to stimulate discussion. Topics will include some of the tools and methods for data mode communications, the use of NBEMS in the HARP net, the use of fldmsg for submission of storm reports to Gray NWS, the nascent packet & HF BBS network, the Winlink system, the Digital Traffic Network and finally, ham interoperability with SHARES Winlink and the SHARES Alerting project using fldigi/flamp.

9 am, ARES / AUX. COMM. Leadership Meeting: Steve, KB1TCE will conduct a discussion of where ARES / AUX. COMM. is in the state,
9 am, Maine Amateur Radio Foundation - BOARD MEETING, Open to Public

10am, Maine Amateur Radio Foundation - BOARD MEETING, Open to Public

10am, QCWA MEETING: W1ZE, BRUCE RANDALL

11am, ARRL FORUM: Fred Hopengarten, K1VR ARRL New England Director.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



**NEW
ENGLAND
QSO
PARTY**



May 4-5, 2019

2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT
Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday)
1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT
Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday)

**Come join the fun and help put
Maine in play especially
Cumberland, Sagadahoc &
Lincoln counties.**

**For more info on this fun contest
and event, go to:**

<https://neqp.org/>

