

December Section Manager's Message:

Good Day to You! I hope this message finds you enjoying the Greatest Hobby and Service in the World!

Last week, most of us (I hope!) celebrated the Thanksgiving Holiday. We have much to be thankful for. Our hobby is growing; we discover, adapt, and use new technologies; we provide a valuable service to our communities with no cost to them. We share our diverse Amateur Radio Service in Morse Code, public service messaging, phone, digital, contesting, QRP, (whatever!) not only with our fellow citizens, but with folks around the world.

Which brings me to my next thoughts....remember what is MOST IMPORTANT in this holiday season (and the rest of the year too!!) – PEOPLE! While listening on the radio over the years I often hear what I consider careless or inconsiderate operating. Not FCC rule violations, but sometimes just failing to ask if the frequency is in use; the “tuning up” (carrier only) on the DX, net, or contest operations oblivious to those operating; running our mic gain wide open; and RF getting into the mic or the key clicks/60 Hz buzz on the CW signal. I am always (still) surprised on PSK31 looking at a signal so bright, thick, and wide it tells me the op never bothered to “set” his/her equipment correctly. All of these impact our fellow operators by interfering with another’s communication, taking up valuable bandwidth, and making for “difficult copy”. Ditto in our personal and face-to-face “communications” with others, particularly non-hams. Patience, a little thought, and realizing “who” we are talking with might keep us from hurting someone’s feelings, alienating outsiders (the non-hams) or give all of us a “bad reputation”.

I guess what I am trying to say is we should “remember the reason for the season” and take a good look at ourselves before we cast those stones! Know your equipment (and how to PROPERLY make the correct adjustments) and think before you “do”. Be the best operator, the most courteous, and have the best engineering practices you can. It all makes a difference. Be part of the solution or part of the problem. Your choice!

There are no changes in our listings or ARES positions this month. I am also aware of the many holiday “shindigs” that are planned, and thanks to the many who have extended me an invitation....it is much appreciated!

I will be out of state working for the Feds the second week of the month, so my “holiday party attendance” is really restricted this time around. I will make what I can – and to the rest of you – enjoy the fellowship! I wish I could make them all!

Stay safe, get on the air, and have fun!!

My sincere best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season for the end of 2015; and my fervent hope all will have a prosperous New Year!

Be sure to read this month's spectacular QST NFL Newsletter. [December 2015 QST NFL Newsletter](#)

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Szabo".

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™

386-566-2085

wb4omm@arrl.org