

## Have you heard? (ex-President's Message) By Ron Adcock/KK4YCW

### "Ramblings about This & That"

February 1, 2018

Pray for me! Within the next month or two (I haven't decided which yet) I expect to take the Amateur Extra license exam. A substantial part of January was spent reading the *ARRL Extra Class License Manual* and watching Dave Casler's (KE0OG) video introduction to each of the ARRL manual chapters (see <http://dcasler.com/ham-radio/extra>). I have also been attending the club sponsored Amateur Extra classes organized by Cal Fuhrman (WA3CTZ; TVARC's Educational Coordinator for Amateur Extra classes).

If I remember correctly, there are about 17 of us in the class. Some of the class members have been active hams for years or decades. The rest of us are relative newbies. I'd like to say that I am confident that I will be able to pass the exam at the end of the class. But I can't. I've been taking some practice exams and, to be honest, have not passed one yet. But, eventually **I will get that license!**

On another, but not unrelated front, I'm still working toward getting an HF station set up at my home. With the help of George Briggs (K2DM) and John Ellis (NP2B) things are moving ahead. I purchased a used Yaesu FT-897. I'll pick up some of the needed accessories at Hamcation® later this month. My XYL and I have been negotiating the station's location. And, with some expert advice from NP2B, we are looking forward to having a "flagpole" put up in the back yard. Before too long I hope to be calling CQ on the HF bands.

You may not have noticed, but something important happened this past month. Don Crosby (W1EJM) volunteered to get in touch with those in the area of the Villages who have shown an interest in ham radio. Last month he contacted a group of folks who have shown that interest. He contacted them by phone or email. He planned to invite, meet and greet them at the January meeting. I think they slipped past them, but they showed up. Great work Don!

Our current officers are coming to the end of their terms. If you haven't been a club officer or worked closely with them on club projects, you have no idea how much time and effort goes into making the club the success it is. Please join me in congratulating them for a job well done.

Well, I know this column is short, but I have studying to do. Pray for me! That's it for this month.

73,

Ron KK4YCW

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