

Here are some odds and ends for you as we approach the end of 2018:

- 1) There is now an official contest group within The Villages Amateur Radio Club. If you have an interest in participating in ham radio contests I suggest you contact Frank Molloy KA1AF. You might be surprised at the variety of contests available. And you don't need the fanciest radios, a powerful amplifier or antennas that wouldn't be allowed in The Villages. Those who do participate in contests seem to have a lot of fun and enjoy each other's company.
- 2) Its only eight more days (from when this is written) until the annual Holiday Party. So far I think we have about 38 members and significant others signed up. Come and join with friends in enjoying the food and entertainment. December 20, 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the Eisenhower Recreation Center. Details and a sign-up form can be found on our web site: <https://www.k4vrc.com/>. If your plans for that evening change at the last minute, come even if you haven't signed-up.
- 3) At the January general membership meeting the Board of Directors will be proposing for your consideration the addition of a 5th member of the Board. With only 4 members, as is now the case, if two are absent from a Board meeting no business can be done. That happened a couple of times this year. And, a fifth member would also reduce the chances of a tie vote on any of the issues that come before us. Adding a 5th member will require a change in our by-laws. Only you can make those changes. You can read the Constitution and By-Laws on our web site. They are not very long or complicated.
- 4) The nominating committee will be presenting this January a slate of officers for 2019. Remember that what the committee presents are suggestions. These are hams who reside in The Villages and have agreed to serve for the coming year. Any member can also nominate the person they think best suited to serve in a particular office. You can also nominate yourself for an office if you live in The Villages and are a club member. The election will take place at the February membership meeting, and the new officers will begin their term at the end of that meeting.
- 5) Don't forget HamCation! February 8th, 9th and 10th in Orlando there will the largest amateur radio and electronics show in the Southeast. You get to see the latest and greatest in ham equipment as well as used equipment and parts. It's well worth the time. Get a few other hams together and really enjoy yourself. For more information go to your computer and bring up WWW.hamcation.com. You can save time by ordering your admission tickets too.
- 6) Last, but not least, I read that our own Don Crosby W1EJM received an Honorable Mention in the 2018 QST Antenna Design Competition for his Multiband Flagpole with Dual Top Hat Wires. Congratulations Don!

That's it for now.

73

Ron K4YCW