

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out
April 2019



President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG

MCARC Meeting, March 19th, 2019

The meeting came to order at 7pm in the basement of the City Hall Building located in Glasgow, KY

KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KC4QNZ, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxxx.xx in the checking and savings is unchanged. Upcoming bills will be \$xxx.xx for remainder of the convention center rent and \$xxx.xx for a deposit for next year's hamfest. N4XJX made a motion, seconded by KN4WLS, to accept the financial report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: No update on whether the guy wires on the tower have been replaced or not.

Hamfest Committee: Hamfest Report: 108 paid tables, 569 paid tickets, only collected \$x.xx from the outside vendors. Total receipts were \$xxxx.xx with expenses of \$xxxx.xx with a profit of \$xxxx.xx. Numbers were down 6% from last year. KN4IV has sent the paperwork to the ARRL for sanctioning next year's hamfest and we should have a contract for the convention center soon.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: KC4RGE made a few changes on the webpage

with next year's hamfest and updated flyer. The

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Smokehouse has also been uploaded to the webpage.

Old Business: None to report

New Business: KN4IV introduced the guests: Anthony Ford, prospective ham; KA4UZO, and KN4FDW. KC4RGE nominated KA4UZO and KN4FDW for membership. They'll need to attend one more meeting to be voted in.

Elizabethtown Hamfest will be April 6th, 2019 at the fire training center by the WKU Elizabethtown

Campus. Dayton Hamfest is May

17th-19th, 2019. Huntsville Hamfest will be August

17th-18th, 2019.

Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest will be August 24th or 25th, 2019.

Vette City Hamfest is scheduled for October 5th, 2019 at the Knically Conference Center in Bowling Green, KY.

No further business to come before the club, N4NRC made a motion, seconded by K8RPG, to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. There were 16 members and three guests at the meeting.



The Tube That Changed Everything

From today's perspective, vacuum tubes are pretty low tech. But for a while they were the pinnacle of high tech, and heavy research followed the promise shown by early vacuum tubes in transmission and computing. Indeed, as time progressed, tubes became very sophisticated and difficult to manufacture. After all, they were as ubiquitous as ICs are today,

so it is hardly surprising that they got a lot of R&D.

Prior to 1938, for example, tubes were built as if they were light bulbs. As the demands on them grew more sophisticated, the traditional light bulb design wasn't sufficient. For one, the wire leads' parasitic inductance and capacitance would limit the use of the tube in high-frequency applications. Even the time it took electrons to get from one part of the tube to another was a bottleneck.

There were several attempts to speed tubes up, including RCA's acorn tubes, lighthouse tubes, and Telefunken's Stahlröhre designs.. These generally tried to keep leads short and tubes small. The Philips company started attacking the problem in 1934 because they were anticipating demand for television receivers that would operate at higher frequencies.

Dr. Hans Jonker was the primary developer of the proposed solution and published his design in an internal technical note describing an all-glass tube that was easier to

manufacture than other solutions. Now all they needed was an actual application.

While they initially thought the killer app would be television, the E50 would end up helping the Allies win the war.

<https://hackaday.com/2019/02/12/ef50-the-tubethatchanged-everything/>

73,W4WTN



Petition for Rule Making Calls for "Amateur Digital Mode Transparency"

The FCC is accepting comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11831](#)) seeking to amend FCC Part 97 rules that require all ham radio digital transmissions to use techniques "whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly." The *Petition*, filed by Ron Kolarik, K0IDT, of Lincoln, Nebraska, expresses concerns that some currently used digital modes are not readily and freely able to be decoded, and it asks the FCC to require all digital codes to use protocols that "can be monitored in [their] entirety

by third parties with freely available, opensource software,” per §97.113(a)(4).

Kolarik said his petition also aims to reduce levels of amateur-to-amateur interference from Automated Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS) on HF operating under §97.221(c)(2). Kolarik wants the FCC to delete §97.221(c), which permits automatic control of digital emissions provided the station “is responding to interrogation by a station under local or remote control, and [n]o transmission from the automatically controlled station occupies a bandwidth of more than 500 Hz.” The petition does not call for eliminating ACDS, however. Under current rules, ACDS are allowed in specific subbands.

In his *Petition*, Kolarik maintains that interference from ACDS continues to be “a major problem on the amateur bands.” He suggested that an absence of formal complaints may be due to the fact that such stations are “difficult to identify.”

The *Petition* also proposes to amend §97.309(a)(4) to ease monitoring of certain digital transmissions. “Without open, over-the-air

interception capability for all transmissions in the Amateur Radio spectrum, there is no way to determine if there is commercial or other prohibited, inappropriate content in ongoing communications...”

Kolarik’s *Petition* asserts. He said problems arise when “protocols and devices used in commercial, government, and marine services are used in the Amateur

Service with no adequate means to fully decode transmissions,” thwarting any efforts at self-policing of such transmissions. He said simplifying the language “would remove ambiguity about what constitutes ‘publicly documented technical characteristics’ by requiring any protocol to be freely decodable,” and lead to

“amateur digital mode transparency, present and future.”

Kolarik contended in his petition that FCC action stemming from ARRL’s 2013 “symbol rate” *Petition for Rule Making* could increase congestion (i.e., interference) problems. In July 2016, the FCC in WT Docket 16-239 [proposed](#) to revise the Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL’s *Petition*, but

declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for MF and HF digital to replace current baud rate limitations. ARRL had asked the FCC to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.



Additional Amateur Radio-Related Petitions Now Open for Comment

The FCC has placed three Amateur Radio-related *Petitions for Rule Making (PRMs)* on public notice and has invited comments.

Jerry Oxendine, K4KWH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, wants the FCC to clarify that state and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting “distracted driving” statutes. In his *Petition for Rule Making*, now designated as [RM-11833](#), Oxendine contends that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur

Radio's role in disasters, and hinders emergency operations using mobile equipment.

"There is *no* evidence that the operation of two-way radio has but an insignificant impact on 'distracted driving,'" Oxendine stated.

Such distracted driving statutes usurp the authority of the FCC to regulate Amateur Radio, as well as Citizens Band and Part 90 Land Mobile Service users, Oxendine said in his *Petition*.

Edward C. Borghi, KB2E, of Farmington, New York, has submitted a *Petition*, now designated as [RM-11834](#), that would prohibit applicants from requesting a vanity call sign outside their call sign district. Exceptions would be made for call signs applied for under rules governing call signs previously held by family members.

"In some more populous areas, there are few of the most desirable vanity call signs available — the 2 and 6 regions for example," Borghi said. "I see no reason for a licensee to have

to compete with out-of-area people for the few 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 or catchy 2 × 3 call signs available in their area of residence," Borghi told the FCC.

Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, has submitted a very similar *Petition*, now designated as [RM-11835](#), asking that the FCC give residential preference in competing applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cites limited availability and increased demand for 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs.

"There are many times a call sign has been awarded to an individual/club who resides outside of the call sign district when there are other people who applied for the same call sign that reside within the district," he said in his brief petition.

UPCOMING FEST

04/27/2019 | [RCARA Tailgate Hamfest](#)

Location: Ashland, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: River Cities Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://www.rcara.net>

06/01/2019 [Princeton KY Hamfest](#)

Location: Princeton, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Princeton Ham Radio Club, Tri-County ARES Group
Website: <http://w4kbl.org>

07/20/2019 [Big Sandy Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Louisa, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Big Sandy Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://bsarc.org/>

08/10/2019 | [Central Kentucky Hamfest](#)

Location: Lexington, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society

Website:

<http://bluegrassars.org>

