

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

April 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting March 17th, 2020.

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 KD4SS, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$XXX in the checking and \$XXX in the savings. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KY3B to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: Nothing new to report. Will be contacting the tower climber again now

that the hamfest is over and the weather is clearing up. There is a 3:1 SWR at the amplifier and the problem is at the antenna, we believe. KD4SS to do some more troubleshooting before the climber arrives.

Hamfest Committee: KD4SS gave the hamfest report. He reported that 606 tickets were sold and KN4IV reported that 115 tables were sold. There was \$XX in the coffee donation jar and \$XX in misc. income (mostly donations). That total came to \$XX. Expenses were \$XX for a profit of \$XX. Consensus was that it was another success and heard many positive reviews.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: Nothing to report

New Business: Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, recent hamfests have been cancelled. Notably Dayton Hamvention and the Elizabethtown Hamfest.

N2RCA was a guest for the meeting. He recently moved here from upstate New York. KN4IV nominated N2RCA for membership.

K4AUU gave a presentation on portable antennas systems. He had a wide selection of the portable antennas available on the market.

No further business to come before the members,

KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KD4SS, to adjourn. Motion passed. There were seven members and one guest present at the meeting.



FCC Levies \$18,000 Fine on Louisiana Amateur Radio Licensee

In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed an \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the *NAL*, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12 *Forfeiture Order (FO)*.

As the FCC recounted in the *FO*, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing

that the *NAL* should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the *NO*. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be cancelled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the *NAL*. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the *NAL*.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned

over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement.



Errata to 2020 – 2024 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released

The NCVEC Question Pool Committee has issued [errata](#) to the new (2020 – 2024) Amateur Extra-class question pool that goes into effect on July 1. Most changes are minor, involving typographical or style errors.

In the syllabus at the top of the pool:

E1C — Changed "bandwith" to "bandwidth"

E3B — In sub-element heading, deleted "grayline"

E9D — Changed "feedpoint" to "feed point"

In sub-element 3, changed "41 questions" to "40 questions."

In the question pool:

E1C13 — In answer C, changed "Utilities Telecom Council" to "Utilities Technology Council (UTC)"

E1C14 — In question, changed "Utilities Telecom Commission" to "Utilities

Technology Council
(UTC)”

E1D03 — In answer, choices C and D, changed “earth” to “Earth”

E2A02 — In question, changed “inverted” to “inverting”

E3B — In sub-element heading, deleted “grayline”

E3B08 — Question withdrawn from pool and marked as deleted. The remaining questions in E3B were not renumbered, leaving 11 questions.

E5B04 — In question, changed “220 microfarad” and “1 megohm” to “220-microfarad” and “1-megohm”

E7C09 — In answer B, added a space between “1” and “kHz”

E8C10 — In question, changed “symbol” to “data”

E9C02 — In question, changed “1/4 wavelength” to “1/4-wavelength”

E9C03 — In question, changed “1/2 wavelength” to “1/2-wavelength”

E9D — in sub-element heading, changed “feedpoint” to “feed point”

E9E09 — Removed brackets after answer (C).

The Amateur Extra-class question pool will be updated to reflect these changes. [Submit](#) feedback or questions to the Question Pool Committee.



Dayton Hamvention Announces Cancellation of 2020 Show

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

“The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year,” Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs,

WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. “This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis.”

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year’s show. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention’s announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner.



Use of Special Call Sign Suffixes in the US During COVID-19 Pandemic

Some countries have authorized selected radio amateurs or organizations to identify with longer-than-normal suffixes that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as “STAYHOME.” FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules do not provide for amateur call sign suffixes longer than three characters, but a potential workaround exists.

As §97.119(c) of the FCC’s Amateur Radio Service rules states: “One or more indicators may be included with the call sign. Each indicator must be separated from the call sign by the slant mark (/) or by any suitable word that denotes the slant mark. If an indicator is self-assigned, it must be included before, after, or both before and after, the call sign. No self-assigned indicator may conflict with any other indicator specified by the FCC Rules or with any prefix assigned to another country.”

While ARRL has no plans to sponsor or support an effort as an ARRL contest-based activity, licensees desiring to do this as a one-off stay-at-home event are welcome to do so.



Hamvention QSO Party Set for Saturday, May 16

The [Hamvention QSO Party](#), a sort of virtual Dayton Hamvention®, will take place on the HF bands on May 16, which would be the Saturday of the now-canceled event. “Let’s celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention,” said an announcement over the signatures of Tim Duffy, K3LR, and Michael Kalter, W8CI.

“We also want to remember Ron Moorefield, W8ILC, who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to our club until his recent death. Let’s light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamventions of the past! See you on the air!”

The Hamvention QSO Party will be a 12-hour event, 1200 UTC until 2400 UTC on May 16. Operate CW or SSB on

160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, exchanging signal report and the first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention, send “2020.”

Designated members of Hamvention’s host, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), will activate DARA’s W8BI. Participants can add 10 points for each band/mode contact with W8BI (12 available). Post scores (number of contacts) to [3830scores.com](#) within 5 days of the event. An online certificate will be available to print. No logs will be collected. [N1MM Logger+](#) has provided a User Defined Contest module for the event. More information is on the N1MM Logger+ website.