

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*August 2019*



*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE*

*Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG*

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## **MCARC Meeting, July 16, 2019**

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

KC4QNZ made a motion, seconded by N9FXU, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxx.xx in the checking and \$xxxxx.xx in the savings. KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by N4VDJ to accept the financial report. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeater Committee:**  
Having issues with the new repeater controller. KD4SS wants to set up a test fixture

in the radio room to test the repeater controllers and work out any bugs that may be found. While out at the Hwy 63 repeater site, KD4SS made some measurements with a Bird Wattmeter and the readings are out of range. KY4EDC brought up the qualifications needed for tower climbers.

**Field Day/Special Event Committee:** Field Day went well this year. We need to look at buying less food for next year as some of it was wasted. K4AAu asked about the Winter Field Day event. The club has never participated in the winter field day event

**Webpage Committee:**  
KC4RGE reported that he has been uploading the

Smokehouse newsletter to the website.

### **Hamfest Committee:**

**Old Business:** The club had a testing session on June 30<sup>th</sup>. KN4WLS and K4UOG successfully upgrade to General Class. KD4SS mentioned that the price of the website has went up from \$5 a month to \$6 a month.

**Hamquest in Lebanon, TN** is coming up on July 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Wilson

County Fairgrounds again this year.

**New Business:** KC4RGE brought up that the FAA has released new regulations that all towers between 50' and 200' shall be marked and logged with the FAA. Towers above

200' still need to be illuminated with a light.

Our annual August potluck is coming up next month. Discussion ensued about what to have for the meal. Motion by N4NRC, seconded by KJ4DBM to have Hamburgers and Hotdogs. Motion passed. KJ4CMG will pick up the meat and KD4SS will take care of drinks and any other items we may need. The date of the potluck will be August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We will gather at 6pm, eat at 6:30pm and the meeting will follow at 7pm.

K4AAU gave a demonstration on a QRP Labs 5w CW kit he recently bought and assembled. It is a full featured kit and even includes a display that can decode and display CW. The cost of the kit is \$55.00.

No further business to come before the meeting, KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KJ4OR to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. There were 20 members present at the meeting.

## **One Dead, One Injured in New Hampshire Ham Radio Tower Mishap**

A tower dismantling turned tragic on Saturday, July 27, in Deerfield, New

Hampshire, when two radio amateurs working some 40 feet up on the tower were carried to the ground when the structure collapsed. Joseph

Areyzaga, K1JGA, 52, of Goffstown, New Hampshire, did not survive his injuries sustained in the fall, while the tower's owner, Michael Rancourt, K1EEE, 65, was seriously injured and remains hospitalized. Rancourt was taking down the tower in preparation for selling his house, and the pair had nearly completed their work. They were tied into the tower and went down with it as it collapsed.

The tower, a tilt-over model said to be 40 to 50 feet, had been bolted to prevent it from tilting as it was being dismantled.

A law enforcement source said a number of people were at the site at the time for a social gathering as the tower was being taken

down, and they witnessed the tragedy.

No official determination has been made regarding the cause of the structural failure, but a radio amateur who visited the scene afterward observed that two of the tower's three legs were clearly compromised and split cleanly and the third leg bent, just above the fully intact tilt base.

The New Hampshire Amateur Radio tower-related fatality is the second such deadly incident in a little more than 6 weeks. In mid-June, a Pennsylvania radio amateur died when the tower he was installing collapsed as he was

attempting to attach a guy line to the structure's bottom section. <http://www.arrl.org/news/one-dead-one-injured-in-new-hampshire-ham-radiotower-mishap>

73, W4WTN

Ham radio history: 1984 License terms extended to 10 years



## Free HPM 150th Birthday Event Logging Software Now Available

Scott Davis, N3FJP, perhaps best known for the ARRL Field Day software that bears his call sign, has developed a free logging program for ARRL's **Happy 150! Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration** on-the-air event that gets under way on August 31 and runs for 9 days. Davis calls his software **Hiram Percy Maxim Contest Log 1.0**. Maxim, 1AW, who cofounded ARRL, was born on September 2, 1869.

"I've never created a program for a nonrecurring event before, because the coding time required is too large," Davis said in a post to the N3FJP software user group. "I've made this exception because this is a really nice, simple rule set

with the very popular field day-style exchange that has the added bonus in schedule flexibility of running for 9 days. The Hiram Percy Maxim celebration sure looks like a well-designed event that will be a lot of fun for us all."

The Happy 150! event will begin at 0000 UTC on August 31 and continue until 2359 UTC on September 8. It is open to all radio amateurs. The goal is straightforward:

Contact as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and all ARRL members will append "/150" to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may operate as *<call sign>/150*, if permitted by their country of license.)

Participating stations will exchange a signal report and **ARRL/RAC Section**. DX stations will send a signal report and "DX." All Amateur Radio bands but 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters are available. Permitted modes are CW, any voice mode, and digital.

Davis said *Hiram Percy Maxim Contest Log 1.0* is full featured and "very easy and intuitive to use."

"If the Hiram Percy Maxim celebration is received as strongly as it appears, my hope is that ARRL will decide to make this an annual event," Davis allowed. "After all, birthdays come once a year, and we now have the infrastructure to continue in place."

A New Jersey radio amateur, David S. Larsen Sr., WS2L, of Highland Park, will surrender his Amateur Extra-class license and pay a \$7,500 civil penalty as part of a Consent Decree with the FCC to settle an enforcement action. An FCC Enforcement Bureau Order released June 18 said Larsen violated the Communications Act of 1934 and Part 90 rules by operating on frequencies licensed to the Borough of Highland Park for public safety communication.

As part of the settlement, Larsen agrees that he will admit making the unauthorized transmissions, not engage in unauthorized use of a radio station, and surrender radios in his possession capable of transmitting on the town's public safety frequencies. If

the Commission finds that Larsen has made unauthorized radio transmissions or otherwise violates the terms of the Consent Decree, he'll be subject to an additional \$32,500 civil penalty.

The agreement stipulates that Larsen may not apply for a new Amateur Radio license for 3 years.

The case stems from a May 2018 complaint of unauthorized transmissions on the Highland Park municipal radio system. FCC agents followed up with several visits to the town.

“Based on information provided by the complainant and direct observations by the Bureau’s agents, the unauthorized transmissions consisted of brief, prerecorded sounds (such as the sad trombone sound),” the FCC said in the Consent Decree. The FCC said individuals the agents interviewed identified Larsen — a former rescue squad volunteer — as the person who was likely responsible.

Responding to an FCC Letter of Inquiry, Larsen subsequently contacted the Enforcement Bureau and

related that the unauthorized transmissions had ceased. Last fall, Larsen, responded to the inquiry through counsel to deny making the unauthorized transmissions. A short time after that, the unauthorized transmissions resumed, and the FCC resumed its investigation, attempting to trace the source of the transmissions. Last March, agents used directionfinding equipment at a fixed location near the complainant’s residence, while other agents conducted mobile direction finding of Larsen’s vehicle in transit.

“The four agents observed Mr. Larsen pull over to the side of the road on the way to his home,” the Consent Decree recounts. “The four Bureau agents observed (a) that during the brief stop, Mr. Larsen remained in his vehicle, (b) while stopped, a brief transmission consisting of the sad trombone sound emanated from the direction of Mr. Larsen’s vehicle on a frequency licensed for use by the Highland Park Radio System, and (c) following the transmission of the sad trombone sound, Mr.

Larsen resumed his drive to his residence.”

The FCC said agents returned in April to observe Larsen repeat the earlier behavior, including a similar transmission emanating from Mr. Larsen’s vehicle, according to the Decree. <http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-amateur-to-lose-license-as-part-of-enforcement-case-settlement>

73,  
W4WTN

Ham radio history: 1987 Novice/Tech 10 meter SSB privileges from 28.3 to 28.5

## **August 20<sup>th</sup> Potluck and Club Meeting**

Tuesday August 20th will be our annual potluck meeting held in the clubroom located in the basement of city hall.

MCARC will furnish hamburgers and hotdogs while asking the membership to bring side dishes such as baked beans, potato salad, cold slaw and desserts. We will begin to meet at about

6:00pm and eat at 6:30pm  
with the business portion of  
the meeting following the  
pot luck.