

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*August 2021*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY*

*Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG*



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## **MCARC Meeting July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

KY4BC made a motion, seconded by W4RRK, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$XXXX.XX in the checking and \$XXX.XX in the savings. KY4BC made a motion, seconded by N9FXU to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeater Committee:**  
W4RRK is working on setting up a YSF reflector

for the club's System Fusion Repeater. The webpage is [ky4xfusion.ddns.net](http://ky4xfusion.ddns.net). The reflector is YSF 37274 US-ky4xfusion

**Hamfest Committee:** The hamfest went off well considering it was held outside for the first time. The net profit was \$X.X. Estimated attendance was around 260-270 people.

Discussion ensued about pricing for the hamfest moving forward. KY4BC made a motion, seconded N4VDJ, to set admission price to \$5.00 and the tables at \$10/each. We will try it next year and see how the costs compare to other years. Motion passed.

**Field Day/Special Event Committee:** Field Day

went off well this year with a few hundred contacts made during the event. K4UOJ and his XYL spent the night.

**Webpage Committee:**  
Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** K4UOJ spoke about the balloon launch at the hamfest. The balloon traveled 74 miles to Kings Mountain, KY before the balloon burst. He and KY4DAD found the transmitter intact and were able to retrieve it. They used a directional antenna and "foxhunting techniques" to locate the transmitter. The club decided to relaunch the transmitter on a later date.

**New Business:** Nominated N1KY, KC6PNV, KN4KOP, KN4LZS for membership. We'll vote on

them at the next meeting they attend.

Discussion ensued about having a test session soon. Several individuals have reached out to various members about testing.

KJ4CMG brought up about forming a committee to investigate the feasibility of deploying the Fusion repeater on a permanent basis. KN4IV tasked the repeater committee with this project. They will report back with their findings.

Hamquest will be held at the Wilson County, TN Fairgrounds on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

No further business to come before the members, W4RRK made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ, to adjourn. Motion passed. There were 15 members, and 4 visitors present at the meeting.

### **June 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Activity Report Released**

The June 2021 activity report of the Volunteer Monitor ([VM](#)) Program has been released. The VM Program is a joint initiative

between the ARRL and FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

The FCC was requested to review a vanity call sign application filed by a Georgia licensee because of an apparently false answer to the question regarding a felony conviction.

A licensee in Massachusetts received an *Advisory Notice* concerning obscenity and harassment on 160 Meters. The FCC will hold for review any renewal application filed by this licensee.

A General Class licensee in San Antonio, Texas, received an *Advisory Notice* for operation in the Extra Class portion of the 20-meter band.

Licensees in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia received *Advisory Notices* concerning failure to identify and other possible violations as part of a general audit of complaints about licensee conduct on 1.938, 3.860, 3.895, and 3.927 MHz.

In May, Volunteer Monitors logged 1,514 hours on HF frequencies

and 2,072 hours on VHF frequencies and above.

The Volunteer Monitor coordinator had one meeting with the FCC, and two cases were referred to the FCC for further action. One case involves a taxi company in Alaska operating on 2 meters. — *Thanks to Volunteer Monitor Program Coordinator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*



### **Stations to Celebrate Fourth Anniversary of FT8**

Many stations will take to the airwaves August 2 – 15, to celebrate the [4th anniversary of FT8](#). All stations will use call signs with “FTDMC” or “FTDM” in the suffix. The activity also celebrates the 2nd anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. QSL cards will be available.

Stations planning to participate include: 4J8FTDM, OZ8FTDMC, RO3FTDM, 9K8FTDMC, A60FTDMC, DQ8FTDMC, GB0DMC,

HZ8FTDMC, and many others. A certificate will be available with bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels for working them. — Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)



## **Bouvet Island DXpedition Negotiating with New Charter Vessel, Planning Begins Anew**

The [Intrepid-DX Group](#)'s plans for a 2023 DXpedition to Bouvet Island are back on the front burner. In a brief announcement to the "global DX community," DXpedition co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said a new charter vessel contract is in the offing. The 3Y0J DXpedition has refunded all donations to its earlier announced plan, advanced before losing its contract with the charter vessel *Braveheart*, and Ewing conceded, "there was a high degree of uncertainty that we could move forward." *Braveheart* captain Nigel Jolly, K6NRJ, told the DXpedition in June that the *Braveheart* was being put up for sale, and he was

canceling its contract for the 3Y0J voyage.

Ewing said this week that the team has found a suitable and affordable vessel whose skipper is willing to take a group of a dozen DXers to Bouvet, and they are negotiating the terms of that charter contract at present.

"We have submitted a new application to the Norwegian Polar Institute," Ewing said. The team leadership has been revised. David Jorgensen, WD5COV, will be a co-leader, responsible for operations and antennas, while Kevin Rowett, K6TD, will be a co-leader, responsible for systems/networks, procurement, and logistics, and Ewing as a third co-leader, will oversee planning, public relations, tents, and logistics.

"Together, this leadership team will assemble 12 operators to make this vision a reality," Ewing said. "We are revising our website and soon, we will begin fundraising for this renewed effort." He expressed gratitude for all past sponsors of the Bouvet Island DXpedition initiative and said he hopes they can support the renewed effort as well. A

new website is under construction.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic volcanic island in the South Atlantic.



## **FCC Investigating Alleged "Jamming" on 40 Meters**

Reports suggest that jamming stations have been deployed on the lower portion of 40 meters. The jamming appears to be coming from Cuba. The signals, spaced at regular intervals, exhibit a squishy, popping noise. The apparent jamming showed up after anti-government protesters took to the streets in Cuba, followed by a government crackdown. So far, there's no proven connection between the jamming and the protests, as evidence has been circumstantial. DX spots suggest that Cuban hams are on the air on SSB but do appear rare on 40 meters. A lot of Cuban spots point to FT8 activity. The jamming issue has drawn the attention of the FCC, which is looking into the

matter, according to one tech publication.

“Too many people around the world are fighting uphill battles to be able to use technology to expand economic opportunity, express themselves, and organize without fear of reprisal,” an FCC spokesperson [told Motherboard](#). “The FCC is committed to supporting the free flow of information and ensuring that the internet remains open for everyone. We are assessing these reports in conjunction with our field agents and communicating with the Department of State as this issue develops.”

Outside of ham radio, the ability to connect with some social media sites and even with the internet inside Cuba has been reportedly tricky. Connecting to the Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba ([FRC](#)) website (Cuba’s IARU member-society) from outside of Cuba has been unreliable. This week, users attempting to do so — at least those in the US — got a shrugging cartoon character and the legend, “Acceso Denagado” — access denied. The FRC Facebook page is accessible, but

links to the FRC website are blocked. FRC had warned of “possible outages” a week ago, attributing the problem to maintenance being done in the data center where FRC is housed.

Well-known amateur radio contester and DXer Fred Laun, K3ZO, pointed out in a July 17 post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club reflector that typical ham radio contacts with Cuba “are not normally about politics, though I suppose in the wake of recent events they may have become so.” Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, of the YouTube channel, *Ham Radio Crash Course* (HRCC), is calling the interference “The Cuban Rum Runner,” an oblique reference to the “Russian Woodpecker” of yesteryear. And Matthew Kaskavitch, K0LWC, recorded an [“emergency broadcast message”](#) on his YouTube channel, to advise viewers of the purported jamming.

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 (the Americas) President Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, said no complaints had been received by July 20.

## **SSTV Transmissions Scheduled from ISS**

Friday and Saturday, August 6 – 7, Russian cosmonauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) will transmit slow-scan television (SSTV) images from the station on 145.800 MHz FM. They will use SSTV mode PD-120. The transmissions are part of the Moscow Aviation Institute SSTV experiment (MAI-75) and will be sent via RSOISS, the ham station in the Russian Zvezda (Service) module using a Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver.

The announced schedule is August 6, 1050 – 1910 UTC and August 7, 0950 – 1555 UTC. Dates and times are subject to change. For stations in the ISS footprint, the RSOISS signal should be easy to copy on a handheld transceiver and a quarter-wave whip. Use 25-kHz channel spacing, if available. Free ISS software is available to download.

[Pass predictions](#) are available from AMSAT. Representative images from prior ISS SSTV events are available in the [ARISS SSTV Gallery](#).