

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*August 2016*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, David Robinson, KK4PWE*

*Sec/Treas, Chappy Rice, KD4SS*



## **Ham Radio Outlet to Acquire Some AES Employees, Re-Open Milwaukee Location as HRO Branch**

Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) has announced plans to hire an unspecified number of Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) employees, when AES shuts down its four locations in late July. In addition, the current AES Headquarters store in Milwaukee will become HRO's newest location later this summer, following renovation. On July 1, AES announced that it was going out of business and ending retail operations at its Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Orlando locations. With the approval of AES management, HRO senior managers visited each AES

location to interview staffers in hopes of "acquiring some of the Amateur Radio retail employee talent in each of the current AES locations," an HRO news release said.

"Together with this interview process, HRO examined what it would take to perhaps acquire one or more of the AES store locations. At the time of these interviews, many opportunities were explored with current AES senior management," the release continued. "We are very excited to announce that HRO was successful in providing offers of employment to a number of soon-to-be-former AES employees, and that to some, we have offered positions that involve HRO-sponsored and funded relocation.

HRO announced that once AES shuts its Milwaukee location at 5710 W Good Hope Road on July 28, Ham Radio Outlet will

undertake an extensive remodeling project to create a new HRO Milwaukee store at the same site, which will open at the end of August.

"It is with great pleasure that we are able to continue Terry Serman and Phil Majerus' legacy of providing a fantastic Amateur Radio store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin," HRO President Robert Ferrero, W6KR. "It is our immediate goal to have the largest, most well-stocked Amateur Radio retail store in North America and perhaps even the world." HRO National Sales Manager Steve Gilmore, W4SHG, said the Milwaukee location will be "a showplace that all must come see!"

After AES closes on July 28, all former AES locations' direct and toll-free telephone numbers will be redirected to the closest HRO location, and

the AES website will be directed to HRO's website.

A family-owned business, HRO is the world's largest Amateur Radio dealership, with locations from New England to the West Coast. It opened a new outlet in Plano, Texas, in February 2015 and is relocating and expanding its Portland, Oregon, store, which will open on July 25 at 14405 SW Pacific Highway.



## **FAA Rules Could Affect Some Amateur Radio Antenna Support Structures**

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of H.R. 636, the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws — sometimes called “crop

duster” statutes — requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

“The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process,” Imlay said. “We’ll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation. Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are “self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;” are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground

base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed area occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions. He said “undeveloped” land refers to a defined geographical area where the FAA determines that low-flying aircraft routinely operate, such as forested areas with predominant tree cover below 200 feet, and pasture and range land.

The FAA will develop a database containing the location and height of each covered tower, but Imlay noted that the database contents may only be disclosed for purposes involving aviation safety.

“We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules,” Imlay said, “but we need to

monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.”



## **Good-Bye, Hara Arena! Hamvention to Relocate in 2017!**

Hamvention® has announced that Hara Arena, the home of Hamvention since 1964, is closing, but Hamvention will continue. Hamvention 2016, the event’s 65th running, was also the last held in the six-building Hara complex. Hamvention 2017 will be held at a new, yet-to-be-disclosed location in the Dayton area.

“The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) regrets to inform our many vendors, visitors and stakeholders that, unfortunately, Hara has announced the closing of their facility,” a news release from Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said today (July 29). “We have begun execution of our contingency plan to move Hamvention® 2017 to a new home. DARA and Hamvention have enjoyed many successful years working together with Hara Arena and we wish the Wampler family the best.”

The news has struck the Amateur Radio community like a lightning bolt — albeit tempered only by DARA’s assurances that Hamvention will not be going away as well.

“We are painfully aware of the loss this announcement will generate, which is why we have fought so long and hard to prevent it,” Hara Arena Marketing Director Karen Wampler said in a news release.

According to Cramer, DARA and Hamvention have been working on a contingency plan in the event that the deteriorating Hara Arena ever should become unavailable. “We have spent many hours over the last few years evaluating possible locations and have found one in the area we believe will be a great new home!” The announcement said that DARA and Hamvention expect to make a formal announcement soon “introducing our new partner.”

“We all believe this new venue will be a spectacular place to hold our beloved event,” Cramer said. “Please rest assured we will have the event on the same weekend and, since it will be in the region, the current accommodations and outside events already planned for Hamvention 2017 should not be affected.”

“We look forward to your continued support as we move to a new future with The Dayton Hamvention.”

A hockey team’s cancellation of its upcoming season earlier this month had raised questions about the future availability of Hara Arena for Hamvention®. Hara Arena has been facing long-standing financial problems — including unpaid property taxes. Renovations promised for the 2016 Hamvention never materialized.

Hamvention attracted more than 25,000 visitors this spring and is worth millions of dollars to the Dayton area economy.

The Wampler family has owned and operated Hara Arena since its humble origins in the 1950s, when Wampler Ballarena — then a dance hall and now an exhibit hall familiar to Hamvention visitors — was built in what had been a family-owned orchard.

### **JULY 2016 MINUTES**

The meeting came to order at 7 pm with the following members present: KN4IV, KJ4CMG, KD4SS, KK4RJV, K1EG, K4BKY, K4AMR, KC4RGE, KY4BC, N4VDJ, KC4OHX, KJ4OR, WA4KRM, KG4ZYF, K4KGS, KM4QGM, WA4UIF, N4IYX, N4JIL, KJ4PKN, KY3B. James Gledhill was also present and he also passed his Technician test at an exam session that preceded the meeting!

A motion was made by KJ4OR and seconded by KC4RGE to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KJ4CMG gave an abbreviated financial report. It was reported there was approximately \$8900 in the checking account. Savings account balance was unchanged from the previous month. Motion made by KY4BC, seconded by KC4RGE to accept the treasurers report. Motion passed.

A card was passed around for Stan Hill. His mother passed away on July 18th. She was 99 years old and absolute joy to be around. She will be missed.

KN4IV asked for committee reports.

Repeater committee: Work is ongoing at the Bonnierville repeater site but a climber has not been needed yet. Marcus Thurman or Bill Kidd will call KJ4CMG when a climber has been scheduled. It was decided to amend the previous motion for the work based on new information that was presented by KD4SS. It was decided to have only one new feed line installed and to use a dual band antenna instead of separate UHF and VHF antennas. It was also discussed to move the mount to an even higher location on the tower.

Field Day committee: K4AMR gave a report on Field Day 2016. Everything was deemed to be a success! Band conditions were poor but the operators persevered and made the most of it.

Website committee: No new news, still searching for a person to help us with designing a website. Clayton was asked to update the website to reflect the date for the 2017 MCARC Hamfest.

KN4IV asked if there was any old business. None was discussed.

KN4IV asked for new business.

KJ4CMG brought up the August potluck. It will take place on August 16th. We will gather and eat around 6:30 pm with the regular meeting to follow. It was decided to try something different instead of the hamburgers/hot dogs/bratwursts we've had in the past. KJ4CMG suggested grilled pork shoulder. KY4BC suggested Phillips IGA in Hiseville as a source for the meat. He recommended that KJ4CMG ask for "Cuzz" when he goes.

The tower work that needs to be completed on the roof of city hall was brought up. It was discussed and decided to wait until late September to

schedule the work due to how hot it has been this summer.

A motion was made by KN4IV, seconded by KY4BC to nominate James Gledhill for membership. When James comes back to another meeting, a vote will be held for membership.

KY4BC gave a demonstration on a commercially made dual band J-pole antenna. It is manufactured by N9TAX and is made out of twin lead and appears to be of solid construction. He also demonstrated a means of carrying and storing this J-pole. It is made out of a plastic fluorescent "food service" tube.

KY3B presented two homemade copper pipe 2m J-pole antenna to the club for the club to sell.. A price of \$25.00 was set for the asking price. James Gledhill bought one and KK4OVW bought the seconded one. KY3B was reimbursed for the material expense.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm