

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

December 2019

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC November Minutes

The Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club met on Tuesday November 19th, 2019 at 7pm in the basement of the City Hall Building located in Glasgow, KY

At 6pm, before the club meeting, the club held a testing session. One successfully upgraded from Novice to Technician.

KG4ABA 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 \$xxxxxx in the savings. KE4AIE made a motion,

seconded by KC4RGE to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: The tower climber is scheduled to be at the repeater site on November 21st, 2019. The antennas have been installed on the roof tower. All that is left is tying in the rotator control cables and some miscellaneous items. The 40m loop at the American Legion Tower Site is still down and needs to be repaired. All of the other antennas are functioning as expected. Some trees need to be trimmed around the tower at the American Legion park.

Hamfest Committee: Tom Case from Debco Electronics passed away

recently. Debco is a long time vendor of our hamfest.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: The Turkey Trot Race on October 27th was a success. Club members were able to man 9 stations along the race route. After the race, approximately 20 members and family went to the clubroom and enjoyed a nice chili and soup potluck meal. Many thanks to all who participated.

Starting in January, K4AUU will have some presentations on FT8 and other related topics.

New Business: Christmas Potluck will be coming up at the meeting on

December 17th, 2019. KJ4CMG offered to make a ham and K8RPG's wife will prepare a turkey. We will meet at 6pm, eat at 6:30pm with the meeting to follow at 7pm. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KC4QNZ to accept the suggestions. Motion passed. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes.

K4AUU did a presentation on an Arduino controlled satellite rotator. It is equipped with a gyroscope and compass and does not need to be calibrated to the site from where you are operating. It is able to be controlled wirelessly on the 2.4 GHz band.

KK4RJV requested a presentation on DMR and D-Star radios and operations. KJ4CMG will speak to his contact at VEI and see if he would be interested in giving a presentation.

No further business to come before the meeting, KY4BC made a motion, seconded by KE4AIE to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

There were 23 members present for the meeting



FCC Amending Amateur Radio RF Exposure Safety Rules

The FCC is amending its Part 97 Amateur Service rules relating to RF exposure safety. In a lengthy document in ET Docket 19-226 released on December 4 that addresses a broad range of RF safety issues, the FCC said current amateur radio RF exposure safety limits will remain unchanged, but that the amateur-specific exemption from having to conduct an RF exposure evaluation will be replaced by the FCC's general exemption criteria. Radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, but certain stations have been exempt from having to conduct evaluations based only upon power and frequency. The Commission indicated that by and large, if an RF source was "categorically excluded" from routine evaluation under the old rules, it will most likely still be exempt under the new rules, which are

expected to take effect in the next couple of months.

"For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in Section 97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate," the FCC said.

"The sky is not falling here," ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented. "The major aspects of the rules will not impose major new burdens on the Amateur Radio Service. As in all regulatory matters, though, the devil may be in the details, so the ARRL technical staff, legal staff, and the experts on the ARRL RF Safety Committee are carefully evaluating this FCC document."

Under the revised Section 97.13(c)(1), "In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section

1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household,” the amended rule says.

“RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee’s household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) **Bulletin 65, Supplement B,**” the revised rule concludes.

The FCC said it was not persuaded by ARRL’s argument in its comments that the routine evaluation exemption for amateur radio stations operating below a certain power threshold should be maintained. “Amateur radio licensees operate a variety of installations of different size, power, and frequency, which can be located in close proximity to people, giving rise to various RF exposure concerns,” the FCC noted.

In a meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require. ARRL said that would be preferable to unofficial third-party calculators, the results from which might not be accorded the same degree of deference in local disputes. Several software programs were suggested as models.

The FCC did not single out amateur radio in drafting its latest RF exposure rules. The rules affect multiple services, and exemptions for many other services were also deleted as part of a broader policy driven by a proliferation of RF devices, some resulting in situations where gain antennas are sited much closer to people than was expected in 1996 when the rules were last revised.



Dayton Hamvention Admission, Fees to Increase in 2020

Dayton Hamvention® is increasing the cost of admission and its booth fees. Hamvention General

Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, announced this week that general admission would rise by \$4 per ticket to \$26 in advance or \$31 at the gate for all 3 days. The cost of flea market spots will go up by \$5 per space, and inside exhibitors will pay \$30 more.

“Hamvention has always strived to produce a very high-quality event for amateur radio enthusiasts from around the globe,” Gerbs said. “We have always felt it is imperative that we give back to amateur radio at many levels. We have been very generous in our support over the years.” Gerbs cited “the economic pressures to present a show like Hamvention” as the reason for the price increases.

“The Hamvention Executive Team is asking for your support and understanding as we move forward together,” he said.



YOTA Month Expanding into the Americas

December is Youth on the Air (YOTA) Month, when

stations operated by young radio amateurs around the world will get on the air to celebrate youth in amateur radio. **YOTA Month** began a few years ago in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1, and the concept has now taken root in the Americas as **YOTA Month in the Americas**.

During YOTA Month, radio amateurs aged 25 and younger will be on the air as special event stations during December on various bands and modes. In the US, look for K8Y, K8O, K8T, and K8A. Elsewhere in the Americas, VE7YOTA will be on the air from Canada. XR2YOTA in Chile has been added to the list of youth stations in the Americas for YOTA Month. Young hams in other countries may also join in. Listen for other YOTA Month stations with “YOTA” suffixes.

For more information about YOTA in the Americas, contact YOTA Month in the Americas Coordinator **Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO**, or YOTA in the Americas Camp Director **Neil Rapp, WB9VPG**.

Participants earn certificates by working the

various YOTA-suffix stations on the air throughout December. Not a contest, the event is aimed at getting as many youngsters on air from as many countries as possible. The event takes place from 0000 UTC on December 1 until 2359 UTC on December 31.

Other special call signs planning to be on the air include 5B19YOTA, 7X2YOTA, 7X3YOTA, 9A19YOTA, DH0YOTA, E71YOTA, EF4YOTA, EG2YOTA, EI0YOTA, EM5YOTA, EM6YOTA, ET3YOTA, GB19YOTA, HA6YOTA, HB9YOTA, HG0YOTA, II4YOTA, II8YOTA, LY5YOTA, OH2YOTA, OL19YOTA, ON4YOTA, PA6YOTA, PD6YOTA, SH9YOTA, TC19YOTA, TC3YOTA, TM19YOTA, YO0YOTA, YT19YOTA, ZL6YOTA and ZS9YOTA.

Most stations will put their logs on LoTW with paper cards available through Club Log OQRS. QSL direct via M0SDV.—*Thanks to YOTA and YOTA in the Americas*

UN Headquarters? 4U1UN has been Back on the Air

The United Nations Amateur Radio Club,

4U1UN, at UN Headquarters in New York has been on the air recently. Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, recently was on site to replace and test a serial cable, and, while there, made some 100 contacts.

“Now that all works, we should hear the 4U1UN more often on the air,” he commented. QSL via HB9BOU.

4U1UN is a separate DXCC entity. The 4U1UN Facebook page reported that the beacon transmitter is operating again, “although the antenna is literally being held together with tape and chewing gum at this point. Not sure how much longer it’ll survive,” the entry said. The station’s Elecraft K3 transceiver has been repaired and returned. The remote setup is reported to be working properly.

4U1UN was on the air on December 4, starting just before 0200 UTC on 7.023.7 MHz (listening up) and finishing at around 0500 UTC. The station was back on the air on the same frequency from about 1030 UTC until 1300 UTC. 4U1UN also has been reported on 40-meter SSB. *information*