

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

December 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting November 17th, 2020

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

KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxxx.xx in the checking and \$xxxx.xx in the savings. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by W3JBG to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. The CDs that compromise the entirety of the savings account will mature in November of 2021.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: KD4SS checked with Marcus Thurman and got the go ahead for the club to pay for some gravel to try to improve the road to the Highway 63 tower site. Marcus also has a contact with a skid steer that will help with spreading the gravel. Marcus talked to KD4SS about putting our radio equipment into a rack to get rid of the table in the room where the equipment is located. Marcus will donate the rack.

Hamfest Committee: Discussion ensued about what to do about the Hamfest in Mach at the Cave City Convention Center. It was decided to make the call no later than the meeting in January about cancelling or proceeding with the

hamfest. If we decide to cancel the hamfest, we may investigate doing a tailgating type event in the parking lot of the Cave City Convention Center in May or June.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: None to bring up.

New Business: KO4IET was nominated for membership by KC4RGE. KE4AIE started a discussion about moving the Fusion net from Thursday to another night due to Thursday nights becoming crowded for radio nets. K4UOJ will be the new Net Control Station and the net will be

moved to 7pm local time on Tuesday evenings.

K4UOJ suggested that the club participate in a balloon launch like what W4HTB has done in the past. This might be a good activity to do if we are able to have the Hamfest in March. K4UOJ to compile a list of equipment needed to facilitate a balloon launch.

KE4AIE brought up that the ARRL Section manager has reached out about KE4AIE becoming assistant director for emergency communications for the area. Discussion ensued about who would be interested in participating and the direction that would be appropriate for this area.

Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, it was decided to not have the Annual Christmas Potluck at the December meeting. We will have the election of officers at the December meeting.

No further business to come before the club, KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KE4AIE to adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 were 10 members and 4 guests present at the meeting.

Transatlantic Tests Mark 99th Anniversary

On December 11, 1921, radio history was made when the signal from amateur station 1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, was heard in Ardrossan, Scotland, marking the first successful transatlantic radio transmission using shortwave frequencies. Between 1921 and 1924, radio amateurs experimented with transmitting across the Atlantic. Sponsored by ARRL, these Transatlantic Tests aimed to prove that shorter wavelength frequencies could propagate long distances using transmitters running less than 1 kW. The initial run of the Transatlantic Tests was a failure. For the second Transatlantic Tests, ARRL dispatched receiver designer Paul Godley, 2ZE, considered one of the best of operators the day, to Europe to listen for participating stations. His nine-tube receiver employed the latest superheterodyne technology, which he

modified for the frequencies used.

In one of those historical coincidences, during his voyage to England, Godley met Harold Beverage, who convinced him to use a specially designed, highly sensitive, and directional 1,300-foot antenna, referred to as the Beverage Antenna.

During a pre-event dinner arranged by his British hosts, Godley also met wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi, who asked him to remind US amateurs that “I, too, am but an amateur.”

Over the course of the test period, more than two dozen stations were heard between 230 and 235 meters, roughly 1.3 MHz in what is now the AM broadcast band. Some utilized spark-gap transmitters, others employed vacuum-tube CW transmitters. The one heard most consistently was a CW transmitter operated by six members of the Radio Club Of America — Ernest Amy, 2VK; Edwin Armstrong; George Burghard, 2SS; Minton Cronkhite, 1BCG; John Grinan, NJ2PZ, and Walker Inman, 2BGM. From 1BCG, they transmitted their message

at 2152 UTC (then GMT) on December 11, 1921:

“No.1 de IBCG. W-12 [Words 12], New York, Date 11/12-21, To Paul Godley, Ardrossan, Scotland, Hearty Congratulations, Burghard, Inman, Grinan, Armstrong, Amy, Cronkhite”

Reporting on the accomplishment, ARRL Secretary Kenneth B. Warner, 1EH, declared, “Excelsior!” The designation “test” evolved to “contest.” Inaugural contests include Field Day in 1934, the International Test in 1927, Sweepstakes in 1930, and the ARRL DX contest in 1932. — *Thanks to Clark Burgard, NIBCG, and Mike Marinaro, WNIM*

FCC to Require Email Addresses on Applications

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective sometime in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective.

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail.

A *Report and Order (R&O)* on “Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services” in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the *Federal Register*, which hasn’t happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” For a club or military recreation station license, the

application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence,” the amended rule will state. “Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

RadioShack Purchased by Online Retailer

[RadioShack®](#) is back as an online retailer of electronics, offering some parts in its inventory that largely consists of radios, batteries, telephone gear, drones, computer accessories, and even cameras. The iconic company was recently purchased from General Wireless by Retail

Ecommerce Ventures (REV).

No plans are in place to reopen RadioShack-owned stores, although some 400 brick-and-mortar outlets not affiliated with REV are operated by franchisees. REV, which specializes in online retail, has previously revamped the internet presence of such bankrupt businesses as Pier 1 Imports and Dressbarn, according to a news release.

During its heyday, RadioShack has some 8,000 retail outlets and once offered some amateur radio equipment, including some popular handheld transceivers and a 10-meter transceiver. RadioShack came out of its second bankruptcy in January 2018 with 400 dealers, an online retail presence, and a distribution center.

Coast Guard Proposes to Discontinue HF Voice Watchkeeping

The US Coast Guard has invited comments by January 21, 2021, on a proposal to discontinue HF voice watchkeeping. The [proposal](#) appeared on November 20 in the Federal Register. The

USCG proposes to cease monitoring 4125, 6215, 8291, and 12,290 kHz, in the contiguous US and Hawaii, due to a lack of activity.

“We believe this change would have a low impact on the maritime public, as commercial satellite radios and Digital Selective Calling (DSC) marine-SSB HF radios have become more prevalent onboard vessels,” the Coast Guard said. “However, we would like your comments on how you would be affected if we terminated monitoring HF voice-only distress frequencies within the contiguous US and Hawaii, particularly if you use HF, but do not currently have a commercial satellite radio or an HF DSC-capable radio aboard your vessel.”

The Coast Guard said it would continue to monitor HF DSC distress alerting for all existing regions and voice distress and hailing from Kodiak, Alaska, and Guam. The Maritime Mobile Service Net ([MMSN](#)) on 14.300 MHz remains available to less-equipped mariners who need assistance in emergencies.

Universal Radio Announces Closing

Ham Radio retailer Universal Radio, headquartered in Worthington, Ohio, is closing its store on November 30, although all existing orders will be filled, and the Universal Radio website will remain open to sell off “remaining stock, publications, and some select products.” Owners Fred Osterman, N8EKU, and Barbara Osterman, KC8VWI, are retiring.

“I am very fortunate to have been in the radio business for over 50 years, 13 at RadioShack and 37 at Universal Radio,” Fred Osterman said in a message of gratitude to its patrons. “We have met many wonderful people along the journey who have supported me personally as well as Universal Radio. It has been a privilege to have a continuous career in the fascinating field of radio since 1969.”

The new mailing address for Universal Radio is 752 N State St. Unit 222, Westerville, OH 43082, telephone (614) 866-4267. (This is not a storefront.)