

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

February 2020



President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG

MCARC Meeting January 21st, 2020

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

KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KA4UZO, 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. KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by KN4WLS to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: 2020 Repeater Committee: KG4KGY (chairman),

KJ4CMG, K4AUU, KY4BC.

W4RRK reported that the Bonnieville Repeater is still working and keeping accurate time. The tower climber is recommending that we reinstall the amplifier on the repeater to see if that helps. Access to the repeater site is tenuous at best with the condition of the road to the site. We will investigate adding the amplifier, weather permitting.

Hamfest Committee: 2020

Hamfest Committee: KN4IV (chairman), N9FXU K8RPG KG4ABA

Cave City Hamfest is 47 days away. We currently have 86 out of 118 tables sold. Forums will be the

same as in the past with the addition of a D-Star Forum. We will be able to set up on Friday evening before the Hamfest. As of now, we will be meeting at the Cave City Convention Center at 5pm on the Friday before to allow vendors to set up.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: 2020 Field Day Committee: KK4OVW (chairman), K4UOJ KK4RJV. No committee report.

Webpage Committee: 2020 Webpage Committee: KN4WLS (chairman), W3JBG KC4RGE No committee report.

Old Business: Old Kentucky Hams will be meeting on Saturday January 25th, 2020 at 6pm at Rafferty's in Bowling Green, KY.

New Business: KCARC is going to be setting up a Winter Field Day Station out at the National Corvette Museum Motorsports Park on Saturday January 25th, 2020.

K4AUU has been going to Barren River State Park to activate the park for the POTA event. While he was out there, he was approached by some people associated with the Glasgow Highland Games about setting up a station for the Glasgow Highland Games in May. The club was active in the past with setting up a station in the past, but it fell out of favor over the years. Discussion ensued about the logistics of setting up a special event station and who would want to participate. KY4BC participates with the Highland Games and we might be able to operate out of the Emergency Management Communications Trailer.

K4AUU gave a presentation on FT8. He used a Kenwood TS-480 and the G5RV antenna located on the roof of the City Hall Building. FT8 is a weak signal mode that

works in noisy band conditions. K4AUU went over how to setup the macros, the band scope, and the automatic features built into the software. Signal transmission last 15 seconds each time. He also demonstrated another free program called Grid Tracker that can be used to log contacts and show stations that are calling CQ. The program in WSJT-X suite of programs.

No further business to come before the meeting, KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.



President Signs PIRATE Act to Combat Illegal Broadcasting

On January 24, President Donald Trump signed into

law the “Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act” or the “PIRATE Act.” The measure, which amends the Communications Act of 1934, authorizes enhanced penalties for violators. Under the new law, pirate radio broadcasters would be subject to a fine of not more than \$2 million, and violators could be fined up to \$100,000 for each day during which an offense occurs. The new law stipulates that the FCC “shall not decrease or diminish the regular enforcement efforts targeted to pirate radio broadcast stations for other times of the year.”

The FCC is to submit to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report summarizing the implementation of this section and associated enforcement activities for the previous fiscal year. The new law also requires “annual sweeps,” during which FCC personnel will be assigned to “focus specific and sustained attention on the elimination of pirate radio broadcasting within the top five radio markets identified as prevalent for such broadcasts.” The

Commission also “shall conduct monitoring sweeps to ascertain whether the pirate radio broadcasting identified by enforcement sweeps is continuing and whether additional pirate radio broadcasting is occurring.”

Under the new law, the FCC, in pirate broadcasting cases, will change its rules so that it proceeds directly to issuance of a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* without first issuing a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NOUO)*.

The FCC will develop and publish a database of all licensed AM and FM broadcasters, accessible directly from the FCC home page. The FCC is also required to publish a list of “all entities that have received a *Notice of Unlicensed Operation, Notice of Apparent Liability, or forfeiture order,*” as well as “each entity...operating without a Commission license or authorization.”

The law defines pirate radio broadcasting as transmitting within the AM and FM bands without an FCC license, but excluding unlicensed operations in compliance with Part 15.



New Amateur Extra Question Pool Released

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) website.

The [2020 – 2024 Extra-class pool](#) incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

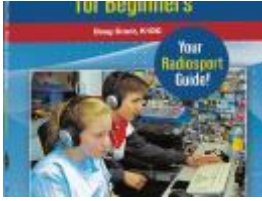


Swains Island DXpedition Team is Ready to Roll

The [W8S](#) DXpedition team heading to Swains Island in the Pacific in March reports, “All lights are green.” Team members will leave from home in early March, and all will convene in Pago Pago, American Samoa, to board the vessel *Manu Atele*, which will transport everyone to the atoll. The voyage will take 24 hours.

Smaller vessels will ferry the operators and equipment to the island at high tide, which the update called “a serious challenge.” The ship will not remain offshore while the DXpedition is under way, “hopefully picking the team up again after 14 days.” An international team of 10 operators will be active from March 10 to March 25 on all HF bands on CW, SSB, FT8, and RTTY. Operation will be 24/7 from two separate camps on the island, each with two stations.

Visit the Swains Island 2020 DXpedition [website](#) for more information.



New Book from ARRL: Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners

Contesting is one of the most exciting aspects of amateur radio — and for some, it’s their primary ham radio activity. *Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners* by contesting veteran Doug Grant, K1DG, offers practical information and ideas that will help you to get started in contesting — “radiosport” — or to build your skills, if you’re already active.

Contesting tests station capability and operator skill, and it really *is* a sport, with a typical objective of contacting as many stations and multipliers — ARRL Sections, states, grids, or DXCC entities, for example — within the contest period.

“Doug Grant has written the ideal guide for anyone interested in contesting,” said *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

Grant’s book explains what equipment you need, typical contest formats, details of some more popular events, operating techniques, how to submit an entry, and how to improve your scores. No matter how modest your station or experience, you can compete, too!

A couple of events over the January 18 – 19 weekend to get you started include the **ARRL January VHF Contest** (CW, phone, and digital) and the **North American QSO Party, SSB**. See the **ARRL Contest Calendar** for information on other events.

Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners is available from the **ARRL Store** or your **ARRL Dealer**. (ARRL Item no. 1243, ISBN: 978-1-62595-124-3, \$27.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price \$24.95). Call 860-594-0355 or, toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289. It’s also available as an **e-book** for the Amazon Kindle.

For more information about ARRL-sponsored contests, including rules and results, and to view the contest photo gallery **visit** the ARRL Contests page.



ARRL Events App is Available for Apple iOS and Android Devices

The ARRL Events app is available to use with **Apple iOS** and **Android** devices. A **web-browser version**, optimized for most browsers and other types of mobile devices, is also available. ARRL Events will be featured at **Orlando HamCation 2020**, February 7 – 9, which has been sanctioned as the 2020 ARRL Northern Florida Section Convention.