

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

February 2021

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting January 19th, 2021

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

K8RPG 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 \$xxxx.xx in the savings. K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by W4RRK to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:
KD4SS notified Marcus with Southern Kentucky

Communications to proceed with the gravel at the Hwy 63 repeater site. All the repeaters seem to be operating normally.

Hamfest Committee:
KN4IV talked to the people at the convention center. Current occupancy is limited to 450 people. Discussion ensued about proceeding with the hamfest given the current restrictions and the pandemic numbers. Consensus seems to point that there will not be an easing of the governor's restrictions and recommendations. KD4SS made a motion, seconded by W4RRK, to postpone the hamfest for the first Saturday in March to a later date to be determined in the future. KN4IV will

take care of notifying vendors.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: KD4SS reported that the Field Day site at American Legion Park has been reserved for the last weekend in June. K4UOJ talked about possibly having a balloon launch during Field Day. He will continue to gather all the relevant information.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: The testing session that the club held on December 29th, 2020 was a success. Two individuals got their Technician tickets!

New Business: KJ4CMG's daughter belongs to a girl scout troop and they have

expressed interest in having a learning session on Amateur Radio. KJ4CMG and his daughter have agreed to put on some type of session to introduce the girls to the wonder of Amateur Radio. KJ4CMG will post more information as it becomes available for anyone who would like to participate.

Discussion ensued about the recent leaks in the clubroom. The leaks have been repaired but several ceiling tiles were damaged and need to be replaced. KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by W4RRK, to purchase the necessary ceiling tiles. Motion passed. KJ4CMG will take care of buying the tiles.

KO4KRL and KO4KRM were nominated for membership. They will be voted on for membership at the next meeting they attend, per club rules.

KN4IV went over the latest committee assignments for the new year.

No further business to come before the meeting, K8RPG made a motion, seconded by KE4AIE to

adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. There 6 members and 3 guests present for the meeting.



ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio

For over 100 years amateur radio and [ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio’s long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that “Amateur Radio saves lives.”

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource “when all else fails.”

Amateur Radio is about development of

communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.



FCC Issues Enforcement Advisory: Radio Users Reminded Not to Use Radios in Crimes

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

DA 21-73

Released: January 17, 2021

**WARNING:
AMATEUR AND
PERSONAL RADIO
SERVICES LICENSEES
AND OPERATORS
MAY NOT USE RADIO
EQUIPMENT TO
COMMIT OR
FACILITATE
CRIMINAL ACTS**

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to

remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. **Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.**

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting “communications intended to facilitate a criminal act” or “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” 47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4).

Likewise, individuals

operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios “in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law.” 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution. 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to

fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

Issued by: Chief, Enforcement Bureau



ARRL to FCC: Additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators Not Needed

ARRL has told the FCC that no additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) are needed to oversee the administration of amateur radio exams by Volunteer Examiners (VEs). Examination opportunities have continued to be widely available throughout the US — except for a couple of months during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — and adding VECs to the 14 now in place would “have no effect” on the number of available exams, ARRL said. ARRL’s [comments](#) on February 4 were in response to a January 5 FCC [Public Notice](#) in WT Docket 21-2 seeking input

on possible expansion of the VEC pool.

“In response to the Commission’s *Notice*, ARRL reviewed the amateur examination numbers for the past 5 years, including the COVID-19 pandemic period,” ARRL said in its comments. “We found that even though 10 of the 12 months for calendar year 2020 were times of severe disruption throughout the nation, including for FCC and ARRL headquarters staff, amateur examination opportunities and numbers were strong.”

Multiple web-based exam opportunities are available across the US, even on short notice, and in-person examinations are available in many areas where local regulation and special safety requirements allow.

“It has never been easier,” ARRL asserted, noting that exam sessions often are available within 2 days but rarely more than 7, if taking advantage of a remote, web-based exam opportunity.

“Instead of increasing the number of VECs, we would encourage volunteers to become accredited as VEs and to volunteer to help the

current VECs wherever possible,” ARRL said. “Many of the VECs would welcome help.” ARRL said VEs, not VECs, are responsible for administering amateur radio exams.

ARRL VEC — the nation’s largest — has 30,000 accredited VEs, with 11,000 of them regularly participating in exam activities on a weekly or monthly basis.

The number of new and upgraded licenses has been in line with earlier years, “with noticeable increases in the 4 months following the lockdown that occurred in many areas in the early spring,” ARRL pointed out. New FCC licenses issued in January 2021 numbered 2,838, compared with 2,058 for a year earlier. Upgrades were also up significantly — 920 in January 2021 to 554 for the same month last year.

“The 14 separate and independent FCC-approved VECs readily accredit additional VEs whenever and wherever needed,” ARRL concluded. “Increasing the number of individual VECs would have no discernible benefit.”

Instead, ARRL said, increasing the number of VECs would expand the complexity of VEC coordination and management, increase demand on FCC resources to interface with additional organizations, and raise the potential for abuse and fraud.

