

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*January 2020*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY*

*Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG*



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## **December 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

The Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club met on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm in the basement of the City Hall Building located in Glasgow, KY.

Before the meeting, the members gathered at 6pm to enjoy a delicious meal a great fellowship for our annual holiday potluck meal.

A motion was made and seconded 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. The CDs have generated \$xxx.xx in

interest over the past 13 months.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: No report.

Hamfest Committee: 30 tables have been sold for the upcoming Cave City Hamfest. KN4IV received an inquiry from KM4PMF Sales, a vendor from Hixon, TN. He will likely be given Satellite Sam's tables who is in declining health and will be unlikely to attend the hamfest this year.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: Approved KN4WMK for membership into the

Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club.

New Business: December is the month for the annual election of officers. The following were elected to be the officers for 2020: President: KN4IV, Vice President: KG4KGY, Secretary/Treasurer: KJ4CMG, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer: KD4SS.

K4AUU has planned on presenting several different programs on ham radio and related topics for the upcoming year.

K4UOJ talked about the recent Christmas parades in the area and suggested that the club have a float in the 2020 Glasgow Christmas Parade.

A discussion ensued about needing Net Control Operators for the nightly nets. KE4AIE volunteered to take over the Tuesday night net with KC4RGE's upcoming retirement in January. K4AUU will be the alternate if needed.

KY Phone Net has been having issues with the frequency they have been using the past and will be trying to have their HF nets on 3.874 or 3.810

The Old Kentucky Hams winter meeting will be on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm at the Rafferty's in Bowling Green, KY.

KJ4CMG was named the 2019 Spirit of Amateur Radio award winner.

The Santa Net will be on 3.916 at 5pm nightly through December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

No further business to come before the club members, a motion was made a seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. There were 32 members and 4 guests present for the

December potluck and meeting.



### **Volunteer Monitor Program Coordinator Looking Forward to a Positive 2020**

In a holiday season message to ARRL leadership and to members of the new ARRL Volunteer Monitor program, its coordinator, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, expressed his gratitude to all involved for their contributions to getting the program off to a solid start in January.

“It will be a good year,” Hollingsworth said. “We will have fun, you will enjoy it more than you probably think, and — thanks to the talent and generosity of one of our VMs — a computer program will make your reporting *much* easier (there will be no need for bi-monthly reports!),” he wrote. “This is our opportunity to help amateur radio last another hundred years and to pay forward this wonderful avocation that joyfully occupies our lives. This could be our legacy if we do it with all the energy

and devotion that characterized the Official Observer (OO) program for decades.”

Hollingsworth said the success of the OO program convinced the FCC to trust ARRL with the responsibilities now to be taken up by the Volunteer Monitor program.

“Those of you who are former OOs have an extra reason to be proud, and amateur radio is grateful to you more than you will ever know,” Hollingsworth concluded. “Thank you. It will be a privilege to work with you this new year.”



### **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.



### **South Orkney Islands DXpedition will Use VP8PJ**

The Perseverance DX Group's **DXpedition to South Orkney**, set for February 20 until March 5, will use the call sign VP8PJ. The group initially announced that it would use VP8/VP8DXU.

“Alan Armstrong, VK6CQ, a recent addition to the team, holds the call sign VP8PJ that was issued to him for operation from the British Antarctic Territory,” the DXpedition has announced. “After submission of a copy of Alan’s license, ARRL has issued us a new LoTW certificate for the use of this call from South Orkney for the duration of our expedition.”

**Contact** the DXpedition via email.



### **W1AW to be on the Air for Winter Field Day**

Members of the Warren County (New York) Amateur Radio Club (**W2WCR**) will activate Maxim Memorial Station W1AW for **Winter Field Day** 2020 over the January 25 – 26 weekend. Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA), which believes that emergency communication is important throughout the year. Winter Field Day is open to radio amateurs worldwide.

The WFDA’s goal is to help enhance operating skills and to prepare participants for all environmental conditions. Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours. Station set-up may start no earlier than 1900 UTC on the day before the event and may not take any longer than 12 hours in total. Expect activity on all amateur bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. All modes that can handle the required exchange are welcome; this does not

include FT8. Entry categories include indoor, outdoor, and home.

**Full details** are on the Winter Field Day website.

### **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.