

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

January 2021

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting December 15, 2020

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

W4RRK made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxxxx in the checking and \$xxxxxx in the savings. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by K8RPG to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:
Talked with Marcus Thurman about repairing the access road to the

Highway 63 repeater site. He is going to coordinate the repairs and bill us for the amount that we have agreed to contribute.

Hamfest Committee: We will decide at the club meeting in January concerning the Cave City Hamfest.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: KCARC is preparing to participate in Winter Field Day on January 30-31, 2021. Discussion ensued about the club participating in this event. It was decided to make a decision sometime in January or at the January club meeting.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business: The club has set up a testing session for Tuesday, December 29th, 2020 at 6pm. There is a young man wishing to take his technician exam.

KJ4OR reported that the Old Kentucky Hams meeting in January is cancelled till further notice due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Election of 2021 officers. KG4ABA made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE, to keep the officers the same as they are for the upcoming year. Motion passed. KN4IV, President; KG4KGY, Vice-President; KJ4CMG, Secretary; KD4SS, Treasurer.

KN4IV presented the 2020 Spirit of Amateur Radio Award to K4UOJ for his efforts in Amateur Radio

this year. He has played a major role in implementing the Yaesu System Fusion Repeater, has taken up Tuesday as a Net Control Station and has made several presentations at club meetings.

No further business to come before the club, KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KN4WLS, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. There were 11 members and two guests present at the meeting.



FCC to Require Email Address on Applications Starting on June 29, 2021

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as “defective.”

On September 16, the FCC adopted a *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) in WT Docket 19-212 on

“Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services.” The *R&O* was [published](#) on December 29 in the *Federal Register*. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at any time by accessing the licensee’s password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

Licensees can log into the ULS [License Manager System](#) with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday – Friday, 1300 – 2300 UTC) or [reset the password](#) on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC

would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio 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 must 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.”



ARRL Member Designs New Ham Radio License Plate for Kentucky

A ham radio license plate designed by ARRL member Matt Makaveli, KY4GPD, of Georgetown, Kentucky, has received the approval of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). His design was one of four options, which included retaining the current license plate design. The ham radio community in the Bluegrass State picked Makaveli's design with a 41% plurality.

"It just hasn't sunk in," Makaveli [told](#) the Georgetown *News-Graphic*. "I'm just amazed that it actually went. Somebody in the state government must've liked the idea."

The lengthy approval process involved some footwork on the part of the ARRL Field Organization in Kentucky. After the polling ended, ARRL Kentucky Section State Government Liaison Jack Hedges, KY4TPR, met with the KYTC for final approval on Makaveli's design.

"If there's ever an example of what the ARRL

organization can do for the ham radio community, this would be it," Hedges told the newspaper.

The new license plate will not be available until the current stock of plates is depleted, which is anticipated to be next summer.

ARRL Kentucky Section Manager Steve Morgan, W4NHO, told the newspaper that a ham radio license plate is important to build awareness of amateur radio. "The amateur radio license plate is sort of like a billboard saying you're from Kentucky and you're a ham radio operator," Morgan said. Makaveli agreed, saying he thought the current design had become stale and did not stand out.

A ham for 6 years, Makaveli is a certified SKYWARN storm spotter and an assistant Emergency Coordinator for Scott County, Kentucky. "I heard some people already said they like the new design and are going to switch when it comes out," Makaveli told the newspaper.

A ham radio license plate in Kentucky costs \$46 with a \$25 "personalization"

charge. Renewals will cost \$21.



FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a *Report and Order (R&O)*, released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and [urged its members](#) to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its *R&O*, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual

commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “[Ray Baum’s Act](#).”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the *R&O*. “We adopt the proposal from the *NPRM* to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

We are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “As we have noted previously, while the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a

Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual *regulatory* fees, but not from *application* fees.

“While the Ray Baum’s Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act,” the FCC *R&O* explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the *Federal Register* announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.”