

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

July 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting June 16th, 2020

The meeting came to order at 7pm on the 146.940 repeater. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions, we were unable to meet in the clubroom.

KG4KGY made a motion, seconded by KN4WLS, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported no change in the checking and savings accounts. KG4KGY made a motion, seconded by KC4QNZ to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: Everything seems to be working fine. No word from the tower climber.

Hamfest: Committee: No report

Field Day/Special Event Committee: Field Day is coming up on June 27th and 28th, 2020. KY4BC and KD4SS will get together sometime soon and fly a drone at the tower located at American Legion Park to check out the Tri-Band Antenna. Discussion ensued about who was going to participate, what equipment was going to be brought to the site, and how to keep in line with government regulations during the pandemic.

Webpage Committee: KN4WLS posted the

information from the recent KY QSO party on the website.

Old Business: KY4BC has contacted the Parks and Rec Department and finalized the details for the upcoming ARRL Field Day.

New Business: K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by KD4SS to move forward with the creation of the new MCARC Facebook Page. Discussion ensued about whether to make the group private, requiring and admin to approve membership and if the members need to be licensed operators or not. KC4RGE brought up that the club has another Facebook page, but it hasn't had any activity in over a year. KJ4ARF set

up the first Facebook page and we will need to contact him to see if he has the password information. KG4ABA made an amendment to the motion, seconded by KD4SS, to combine all the information across Facebook and move forward with the Facebook Page that K4UOJ created. The first motion passed, and discussion ensued about how to shut down the other page and a timeline for shutting it down. The amended motion passed. The name of the new Facebook Page is Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club.

K8RPG suggested that the website be updated to reflect the new Facebook page and its purpose and scope. K4UOJ will work with the webpage committee to come up with an announcement for the website.



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MARS Announces HF Skills Exercise

Members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will conduct an HF skills exercise July 20 – 24 to hone their operating skills and messaging-handling capabilities.

MARS members will be reaching out to the amateur radio community via the

60-meters Channel 1 Net (5330.5 kHz dial) twice a day, the SATERN HF net (14.265 MHz), and by contacting various stations via HFLink throughout the exercise. MARS members will be requesting assistance with collecting county status information as well as airport weather information, called METARs. MARS members will also be passing ICS 213 messages to numerous Department of Defense (DoD), federal, and amateur radio addressees.

This exercise will be announced via WWV at 00:10 and via WWVH at 00:50 starting on or about July 13. WWV and WWVH listeners will be asked to take an online listener survey. This HF radio training event will not impact regular communications. — *Thanks to Paul English, Chief, Army MARS*



Virginia Air & Space Center Ends Relationship with Ham Radio

Virginia Air & Space Center ([VASC](#)) Executive Director and CEO Robert

Griesmer has advised that the Center's amateur radio station exhibit will be discontinued, effective July 1, when the Center, in Hampton, Virginia, reopens. VASC is the official visitor center for NASA's Langley, Virginia, facility. The KE4ZXW display station was shut down on March 13. It was to be out of the VASC by June 30. A main feature of the exhibit was the ability to communicate with amateur radio satellites and with the International Space Station.

Randy Grigg, WB4KZI, of the VASC Amateur Radio Group said the station's equipment would be relocated. "Thanks to all who have supported KE4ZXW during the last 25 years, especially the volunteer operators who manned the station during that time," Grigg said. "To the many visitors we have met and school groups that have stopped by and talked with us about ham radio, communications, satellites, and STEM Program related subjects, thank you!"

On June 30, it was announced that the Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association (K4KDJ) in Blacksburg

will be the new host for the KE4ZXW Amateur Radio Demonstration. — *Thanks to Randy Grigg, WB4KZI, and Ed Gibbs, KW4GF*



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Rescued Radio Amateur Says, “Ham Radio Saved My Life”

ARRL member Alden Sumner Jones IV, KC1JWR, of Bennington, Vermont, is thankful for amateur radio, after he suffered a medical incident and lost consciousness on June 15 while hiking with others along a remote section of the Long Trail, not far from his home. An EMT from Appalachian Mountain Rescue (AMR), who was hiking nearby, saw Jones pass out but was unable to connect with 911 via his cell phone. Jones, 41, regained consciousness and was successful in contacting Ron Wonderlick, AG1W, via the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club’s

K1FFK repeater on Mount Greylock, and Wonderlick initiated what turned into an 8-hour effort to get Jones off the trail and to a medical facility, acting as a relay among Jones, emergency crews, and other agencies involved. As the *Bennington Post reported*, “The Vermont State Police also received assistance from several licensed amateur radio operators who helped facilitate communications, greatly assisting in the rescue.”

Matthew Sacco, KC1JPU, headed to a staging area where rescue crews were gathering. When he could not make it into the repeater, he employed some ham radio ingenuity to fashion a J-pole antenna from some window line he had on hand, casting it into a tree using a fishing pole. That did the trick. An individual on site was able to obtain an accurate location for Jones using the GPS on his cell phone.

After it was determined that rescuers could not reach Jones using an all-terrain vehicle, arrangements were made to have a search-and-rescue crew from New York retrieve Jones by helicopter. Amateur radio participants were able to

relay critical information, including an accurate location, as preparations continued.

Jones, meanwhile, took advantage of his time with the EMT and other rescuers to talk up amateur radio and explaining how to get licensed. According to one account, rescuers were having trouble making contact with the helicopter, so Jones loaned them a better antenna he happened to have.

Jones was eventually flown to a hospital in Albany, New York, again taking advantage of the occasion to promote amateur radio to the helicopter pilot and crew. Jones is said to be recovering.

“Ham radio saved my life last night, and I am very thankful for how everyone helped me,” Jones said afterward.