

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*July 2019*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE*

*Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG*



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## **MCARC Meeting, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

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

KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by KF4WZR, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

### Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: KD4SS gave an update on the repeater controllers that were recently sent out for repairs. Now that the controllers are back, they need to be reprogrammed but there are some bugs with the Windows software. KC4RGE and KD4SS will meet this Friday to work through reprogramming the new

controllers. An end goal is to incorporate one of the Yaesu Fusion repeaters into the setup which these newly updated controllers will be able to handle.

The guy wire has been replaced at the Hwy 63 site and the repeater has been working really well recently. Output at the site is 25 watts.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: Field Day is this Saturday and Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meet at the clubroom at 9am to load up equipment and go out to the Field Day site around 10am to setup the stations. The event starts at 1pm local time. Potluck meal will be at 6pm. Hamburgers and hotdogs are one the menu. KJ4CMG will take care of

purchasing the food. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes and/or desserts.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Hamfest Committee: No report.

Old Business: Vote on KN4UOJ and K4AUU for membership. Motion passed and they were elected the newest members of the Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club.

New Business: The club watched a short YouTube video about FT8, a popular digital mode that was developed by Joe Taylor.

The General Class Test Pool questions will change on July 1, 2019.

W4HTB announced the next KCARC testing session will be on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

There is a simplex net every Tuesday at 7:30pm out of the Bowling Green Area on 146.430 MHz.

No further business to come before the group, KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by KF4WZR to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8pm. There were 19 members present at the meeting.

### **Locals keep ham radio alive and well**

In a time when social media platforms are often criticized more for their divisiveness than praised for their ability to bring people together, a number of Seacoast residents are tapping into a different network to forge connections worldwide

Kyle Stucker of Edge Radio writes:

Local interest in ham radios has been growing at an accelerated rate in recent years thanks to lower entry hurdles, according to clubs and operators. They say it's put

new generations one twist of a dial or tap of a touchscreen away from the rush that comes from a meaningful chat with people on the other side of the globe.

"It crosses all barriers of careers, of families, of different social environments, of different cultures," said Rochester resident Mark Pride.

Pride is a longtime ham and retired communications engineer who like other operators goes by his unique alphanumeric radio call sign, K1RX.

"You have just a tremendous bond with these people," he said. "You run into these people years later — I mean 40 years later — and you just pick right up from where you were. It's just fabulous."

And they say it's not hard to strike up a conversation for the first time.

"There's not a night that goes by that you can't hop onto one of the bands and guys are talking to the same guys every night," said Neil Collesidis (AA1SB), an Exeter resident who has been a licensed operator since

1966. "After a while, you can't stop us from talking. We all have that same disease."

Local hams say the hobby is more accessible than ever thanks to lower-priced handheld radios, computer and smartphone radio apps that route signals through the internet, and portable antenna systems. Those things also expand overall communication capabilities for the diehards who have extensive professional equipment in their homes, like Pride's elaborate multi-radio and multi-antenna rig.

Read the full story at <https://www.fosters.com/news/20190406/locals-keep-ham-radio-alive-and-well>

Ham Radio History: 1995 Vanity call signs became available

### **Next sunspot cycle may be 50% lower**

NASA report research now underway may have found a reliable new method to predict this solar activity

The Sun's activity rises and falls in an 11-year cycle. The forecast for the next solar cycle says it will be

the weakest of the last 200 years.

The maximum of this next cycle – measured in terms of sunspot number, a standard measure of solar activity level – could be 30 to 50% lower than the most recent one.

The results show that the next cycle will start in 2020 and reach its maximum in 2025.

The new research was led by Irina Kitiashvili, a researcher with the Bay Area Environmental Research Institute at NASA's Ames Research Center, in California's Silicon Valley. It combined observations from two NASA space missions – the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory and the Solar Dynamics Observatory – with data collected since 1976 from the ground-based National Solar Observatory.

Kitiashvili's method differs from other prediction tools in terms of the raw material for its forecast. Previously, researchers used the number of sunspots to represent indirectly the activity of the solar magnetic field. The new

approach takes advantage of direct observations of magnetic fields emerging on the surface of the Sun – data which has only existed for the last four solar cycles.

Read the full story at <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/ames/solar-activity-forecast-for-next-decade-favorable-for-exploration>  
Ham radio history: 1987 Novice/Tech 10 meter SSB privileges from 28.3 to 28.5

### **175th Anniversary of Morse Code**

Newsweek reports Morse Code is 175 years old and still as useful as ever.

The first message sent by Morse code's dots and dashes across a long distance traveled from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore on Friday, May 24, 1844 - 175 years ago. It signaled the first time in human history that complex thoughts could be communicated at long distances almost instantaneously.. Until then, people had to have face-to-face conversations; send coded messages through drums, smoke signals and semaphore systems; or read printed words.

Thanks to Samuel F.B. Morse, communication

changed rapidly, and has been changing ever faster since. He invented the electric telegraph in 1832. It took six more years for him to standardize a code for communicating over telegraph wires. In 1843, Congress gave him \$30,000 to string wires between the nation's capital and nearby Baltimore. When the line was completed, he conducted a public demonstration of long-distance communication.

There is a thriving community of amateur radio operators who treasure Morse code, too. Among amateur radio operators, Morse code is a cherished tradition tracing back to the earliest days of radio. Some of them may have begun in the Boy Scouts, which has made learning Morse variably optional or required over the years. The Federal Communications Commission used to require all licensed amateur radio operators to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code, but that ended in 2007. The FCC does still issue commercial licenses that require Morse proficiency, but no jobs require it anymore.

## Mammoth Cave ARC Net Preamble

**CQ, CQ, CQ, for the Cave Area Two Meter Repeater Net.** This is a directed net, tonight directed by \_\_\_\_\_ call sign. Are there any stations with traffic, if so please call now. Wait for 10-15 seconds. Copy down call signs of stations.

If the traffic is **Emergency** or **Priority**, let the station list it immediately. If it is **Routine** traffic ask the station if he or she wishes to go ahead or hold until time for comments.

If the traffic is an **Announcement**, ask the station if he or she wants to go ahead or wait until more have checked in.

If you happen to get traffic for another area, ask if any station can handle traffic and, if no someone responds, ask the station with the traffic to call the station that agreed. When they are finished with their traffic passing continue with the net.

Are there any mobiles or short-time stations, please call. Wait for 10-15 seconds. Copy down call signs, acknowledge call signs and let them give comments and secure.

Any station anywhere for the **Cave Area Two Meter Repeater Net** please call now. Wait 10-15 seconds Copy down call signs in the order heard.

Declare the net **INFORMAL** and go to the top of the list for comments. Some stations may ask for permission to secure from the net in order to do other things. Grant permission to secure unless you know someone or traffic is waiting for that station, if such occurs, remind the station wishing to that someone is waiting for him or her. Try **NOT** to lose control of the net. You are the presiding officer for your night. It can be lots of fun and, at times very confusing.

Being able to organize a net and handle traffic and such is indispensable training for new and seasoned hams.

**Identify your station and the “Cave Area Net” at 10 minutes or less intervals as in (Part 97).**

Nets last anywhere from 5 minutes to over an hour normally, but in an emergency could go for days as a need requires. Those who are NCS (Net Control Stations) can step in for each other as needed in such circumstances. You can begin to see why nets and net controls are very important. Try to bring something of interest to your net so there will be more to talk about than the weather.

### **CLOSING THE NET:**

After one last call for **COMMENTS, QUERIES, LATE CHECK-INS OR ANYTHING ELSE**, This concludes this \_\_\_\_\_ (date) session of the Cave Area Two Meter Repeater Net. Thanks to all who checked in and please do so tomorrow night. It is \_\_\_\_\_ zulu time, \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock local time. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (call sign), the net is secure and this frequency is returned to normal amateur use.

**Joe Taylor, N4NAS**