

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

June 2019

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting, May 21st, 2019

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

K1EG made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$XXXX.XX in the checking account and the savings remains unchanged. K1EG made a motion, seconded by W4RRK to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:
Repeater has been working

really well. The .895 machine at the Bonnieville site is working too but not used often. KD4SS will begin testing the Yaesu System Fusion repeater for possible deployment.

Hamfest Committee: No report.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: Field Day is June 22nd-23rd, 2019. We will discuss the meal at the June meeting. Discussion ensued about testing the antennas and making repairs as needed.

Webpage Committee: KC4RGE reminded the members that the Smokehouse is published on the website when it is sent out to the members in case anyone wants to read past issues. Anyone that wants to submit station

pictures needs to send them to KC4RGE. W4RRK suggested adding the Echolink node information on the homepage of the website. KC4RGE will edit the homepage to add this information.

Old Business: All badges have been distributed

New Business: KD4SS reported that he has submitted the Club's annual report to the Secretary of State.

William KN4UOJ and Anthony KN4UOH are new hams who came to the club meeting. KC4RGE nominated them for membership. They will be voted on at the next meeting they attend.

KN4IV presented the club with a climbing harness he

picked up at a yard sale recently.

KD4SS brought up a YouTube video about an Amateur Radio themed country music video. Search “hamband” on YouTube to find the video. KD4SS gave a report on the IC-7300 HF radio that he purchased recently.

KJ4CMG talked about the upcoming 13 Colonies Special Event Station that will start on July 1st and run through July 7th. Visit www.13colonies.net.

Discussion ensued about recent interference issues that members have heard. Some theories about intermod or perhaps another repeater that uses the same frequency.

N4XJX brought up about the club having a foxhunt event like the club has had in the past.

No further business to come before KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KJ4DBM to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm. There were 16 member and 2 guests present.



The FCC is Not Reinstating a Vanity Call Sign Fee

An erroneous report this week suggested that the FCC planned to again impose an Amateur Radio vanity call sign application (regulatory) fee of \$70 for the 10-year term. This incorrect conclusion resulted from an incomplete reading of the May 7 FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in the matter of the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal year 2019.

Although the Schedule of Regulatory Fees does show a \$7 annual fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs, a boldface heading in that section of the *NPRM* states, **“REGULATORY FEES. This section is no longer in effect as it has been amended by RAY BAUM’S Act of 2018...”** Section 9(e)(2) of RAY BAUM’S Act gives the Commission discretion to exempt a party from paying regulatory fees when the FCC determines that the cost of collection

exceeds the amount collected. A new section 9(e)(1) incorporated the Amateur Radio vanity fee exemption from FCC rules into the statute.

The *NPRM* makes clear in several other places that regulatory fees no longer apply to Amateur Radio licenses. The FCC eliminated the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs in 2015.



ARRL Field Day Site Locator is Live, Promotional Material Available

ARRL Field Day is June 22 – 23. See the May issue of *QST*, page 85, for the Field Day announcement. The **Field Day site locator** is now up and running, and so far more than 430 sites already are in the database. To find a Field Day site near you, enter your town and state in the “Location or Call Sign” box at the upper left. Listings also are available by state or Canadian province.

To add a site, visit the **Add Field Day Station** page.

Information on promoting Field Day is available. Also, **visit** the Field Day social media page for information on promoting your Field Day operation via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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. Read the full story at

<https://www.newsweek.com/morse-code-175-years-old-useful-1432418>

Amateur Radio - More Than A Hobby

WKTV news reports ham radios can be used to communicate across town, around the world, or even into space

The Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association held a training and information session Monday for anyone interested in Ham Radio which was reported on a TV news broadcast.

Ham radios operate on specific frequencies that are designated by the FCC. These frequencies are known as amateur bands.

With the advancement of technology, these radios are becoming more portable, and affordable.

Being a Ham Radio operator though comes with a responsibility.

“In the event of an emergency, amateur operators would come to the aid of those in need and help government officials and other organizations with emergency

communications,” said Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association member Alan Nicolette KD2ELJ.

“But it is a hobby and it is enjoyable and we do many different things.”

You do not need a license to own a Ham Radio, but you do need an FCC license to transmit on one.

Watch the video of the TV News report at <https://www.wktv.com/content/news/Local-Ham-Radio-club-holds-informational-meeting-507981421.html>

A new digital mode for radio amateurs

There used to be a time when amateur radio was a fairly static pursuit. There was a lot of fascination to be had with building radios, but what you did with them remained constant year on year. Morse code was sent by hand with a key, voice was on FM or SSB with a few old-timers using AM, and you’d hear the warbling tones of RTTY traffic generated by mechanical teletypes.

By contrast the radio amateur of today lives in a fast-paced world of ever-

evolving digital modes, in which much of the excitement comes in pushing the boundaries of what is possible when a radio is connected to a computer. A new contender in one part of the hobby has come our way from [Guillaume, F4HDK], in the form of his NPR, or New Packet Radio mode.

NPR is intended to bring high bandwidth IP networking to radio amateurs in the 70 cm band, and it does this rather cleverly with a modem that contains a single-chip FSK transceiver intended for use in licence-free ISM band applications. There is an Ethernet module and an Mbed microcontroller board on a custom PCB, which when assembled produces a few hundred milliwatts of RF that can be fed to an off-the-shelf DMR power amplifier.

Each network is configured around a master node intended to use an omnidirectional antenna, to which individual nodes connect. Time-division multiplexing is enforced by the master so there should be no collisions, and this coupled with the relatively wide radio

bandwidth of the ISM transceiver gives the system a high usable data bandwidth.

Whether or not the mode is taken up and becomes a success depends upon the will of individual radio amateurs. But it does hold the interesting feature of relying upon relatively inexpensive parts, so the barrier to entry is lower than it might be otherwise. If you are wondering where you might have seen [F4HDK] before, we’ve previously brought you his FPGA computer..

Read the full Hackaday article: <https://hackaday.com/2019/03/31/a-new-digital-mode-for-radio-amateurs/>