

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

June 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting May 19th, 2020

The meeting came to order at 7pm on the 146.940 repeater. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and government recommendations, we were unable to meet in the club room.

KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by W4RRK, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$XXX in the checking and \$XXXX in the savings.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:
KD4SS has conducted testing at the .940 repeater site and has determined

there is an issue with the feedline. He will be contacting the tower climber to report his findings. He has also ordered some high-quality connectors to make jumpers for the repeaters at the site. He has also found a possible mechanical issue with the duplexer on the VHF repeater and will continue to investigate.

The G5RV has been repaired on the tower on top of the roof at the City Hall Building. It was discovered that there is an issue with the rotator on the tower, possibly a loose wire. A time of 9am on Saturday, May 23rd was set to investigate repairing the rotator. It is hoped that club members can use the radios in the club room for

the upcoming Kentucky QSO party in June.

Hamfest Committee: No report.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: Still no official word from the ARRL concerning the 2020 Field Day Event; for now, it is still on schedule. K4UOJ asked about the antennas at American Legion Park. The 40m loop needs to be repaired and one of the driven elements on the tri-bander has come loose and is askew compared to the rest of the elements.

KY4BC has been in contact with officials in Frankfort about the schedule of the phased re-opening of the state and social distancing restrictions the government

has in place. As of now, we should be able to have our field day radio operating activities at the American Legion Park, but we may have to cancel the potluck portion of the field day activities.

Webpage Committee: Nothing to report. KC4RGE reminded everyone that he has been posting the Smokehouse Newsletter to the website. K4UOJ asked if there was a way to add the dates of the Kentucky QSO party to the webpage and remind everyone that KY4X will be participating in that event. KN4WLS spoke up and said he would take care of adding the details to the webpage.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: KD4SS brought up that KD4JPK became a silent key recently.

K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by KY4BC, for the MCARC Club (KY4X) to participate in the upcoming Kentucky QSO Party on 1400 UTC June 6th. Discussion ensued about logging programs,

and participation and modes of operation. Motion passed.

KY4BC has been in contact with the Glasgow Parks and Recreation Director about access to American Legion Park and to assure the director that we will follow government and local regulations.

No further business to come before the meeting. KY4BC made a motion, seconded by WD8RQI, to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm. There were 16 members and 1 guest that checked in for the meeting.



Huntsville Hamfest Canceled

The 2020 [Huntsville Hamfest](#) has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event's Board of Directors has announced. The Huntsville Hamfest was sanctioned as the 2020 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. Full

refunds to prepaid commercial and flea market vendors will be processed via the mode in which payment was made. Online ticket purchases will be credited to PayPal accounts. Embassy Hotel reservations will be automatically canceled. — *Thanks to Hamfest Chairman Mark Brown, N4BCD*



Social Distancing Exam Sessions Demonstrate Pent-Up Demand for Testing

A recent in-person “social-distancing” amateur radio exam session in Indiana and a “drive-in” session in California are representative of those that are relieving some of the pent-up demand for testing. As the COVID-19 pandemic lumbers on, in-person exam sessions have begun to resume across the US and elsewhere in the world.

“With in-person sessions starting up again around the country, we are hearing the same story from volunteer examiner (VE) teams everywhere,” said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

(VEC) Maria Somma, AB1FM. “Large numbers of candidates who have been waiting to test are contacting teams and are thankful for the opportunity to sit for an exam. So far, we’ve heard mostly positive results; candidates are very prepared as they’ve had extra time to study. VE teams and candidates are following CDC and state guidelines for social distancing.”

Anderson (IN) Repeater Club

VE Team Liaison Steve Riley, WA9CWE, told ARRL earlier this month that his club has been conducting test sessions every month since 2011, typically serving four or five candidates each session, but the May 19 session attracted 14 individuals.

“We were unable to test in April, but were able to get back in for the May session,” Riley said. “Several candidates were from Central Indiana, and we had a fellow drive down from Chicago, a couple from the Dayton, Ohio, area, and also from Fort Wayne, Indiana.” The team limited participation until it could conduct the trial run.

VEs and examinees alike wore face masks, and the test room was configured to accommodate the necessary spacing between individuals. “We questioned everyone entering with the usual health questions,” he added.

“Our VE paperwork became a serial flow for grading instead of our prior ‘huddle’ of the three VEs over the answer sheet,” Riley recounted. “As a result, things were a bit slower than in the past. The tables, pencils, and pens were disinfected.”

The result for the session was 11 new radio amateurs and three upgrades. “All went well, although we identified a couple improvements in paperwork flow for next month’s test,” Riley added.

“There is quite a pent-up demand for new amateur licenses and upgrades as a result of the number of test sessions that have been canceled,” he continued. “I hope that as sessions resume, they have the success that we had.” Riley said he’s already been contacted by six people who plan to sit for the exam in June.

In California, VE Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, told ARRL VEC that his team conducted a successful drive-in license testing session on May 16 the Concord Bay Area Rapid Transit station, “and we are encouraged to try it again, especially since we have 17 candidates to test on June 6,” he said.

Loomer explains that candidates fill out their paperwork in their cars. “I have circled in pencil all of the boxes on [Form] 605, the answer sheet and the CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam) that the candidates need to fill in, to minimize the face-to-face time.” Once paperwork is completed, candidates take a test booklet and answer sheet on a clipboard and sit in a chair in front of their cars, taking the test in front of the VEs.

Completed tests go into a box on the VE table, and candidates back their cars into a holding area, to let other cars park by the testing chairs. Once a test is scored and signed, the CSCE goes to the waiting candidate, who then may drive away.

“I’m seeing videos of remote test taking sessions, and they still look labor

intensive to me,” Loomer said. “We are sticking with the drive-in format for the present time.”

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said, “Our VE teams are doing a great job! I’m impressed with their attention to safety, their professionalism, and their innovative tactics.”

Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

With one month to go before 2020 [ARRL Field Day](#), June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

[Field Day rule 4.6](#) defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from [any Class](#) to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station — both can include the radio club’s name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and

emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class.

ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend. Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the [web applet](#). The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for [submitting entries](#) after the event. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day [web page](#) includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year.