

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

May 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting April 21st, 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

KN4IV made a motion, seconded by KJ4CMG, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

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

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: No new issues to report. Repeater seems to be working well. No set time for the tower climber for the .940 site. KJ4CMG

reported that the feedline for G5RV antenna on top of the City Hall Building is broken and flapping in the wind. He will organize a repair effort to secure and re-attach the feedline. K4UOJ asked about the possibility of linking the Glasgow and Bonnieville repeaters. KD4SS responded that it had been discussed in the past and some equipment has been purchased but nothing has been done to date.

Hamfest Committee: KD4SS has paid the bill from the convention center and the that venue has been reserved for next year. KN4IV will register the hamfest with the ARRL later. KE4AIE brought up about looking over the contract to see if there is language about any penalties there may be for the club if the event is cancelled due to an outbreak or pandemic.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: Field Day is still scheduled for June 27th-28th, 2020. If the CDC still recommends social distancing, the League has recommended that amateur radio operators operate from their home stations. Discussion ensued about the members using the KY4X club call for field day. It was decided to continue to monitor the situation as it develops and decide closer to Field Day.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: KD4SS reported about the VEC program and online testing sessions. He talked about how some VE Teams are conducting remote testing sessions. KN4IV reported about an individual from Canmer, KY had contacted

him about setting up a testing session.

All upcoming hamfests in the state and across the country have been cancelled. No word on the Louisville Hamfest or the Vette City Hamfest yet.

No further business to come before the meeting, KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. There were 16 club members and one guest present for the meeting.



2020 ARRL Field Day is June 27-28

With 2020 ARRL Field Day – one of the biggest events on the Amateur Radio calendar – just about 12 weeks away, ARRL officials are monitoring this situation with the coronavirus very closely and paying close attention to all of the information and guidance being offered by the CDC's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

At its core, Field Day is a local event and an opportunity for local amateur radio clubs to showcase the skills, science and technologies that make radio communication such a wonderful hobby and a valuable public service. Since the impact of the coronavirus outbreak has been very different in different parts of the country, we recommend that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day be in regular contact with their local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities. This also offers an opportunity for amateur radio clubs to bolster or re-establish their relationships with local and state public health and emergency management officials.

Because of the unique circumstances presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club and/or group to try something new. Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year - use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with our current circumstances.

Local club officials are the most appropriate people to

be making decisions about their specific Field Day programs. We are all concerned about protecting the health and safety of those participating in or attending Field Day activities, and so we trust local club officials to take the appropriate steps to monitor local conditions and make decisions in the best interest of their communities.

ARRL officials strongly believe that following the guidelines of local, state and national health care professionals will help ensure everyone's safety in the coming weeks and months.



FCC Providing Flexibility to Volunteer Examiners in Developing Remote Testing Methods

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

“The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and

coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place,” the FCC said in an April 30 [news release](#). “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots.”

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said she’s gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. “Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary” she said. “Some ARRL VE teams have [shown great promise](#) in administering exams remotely.” Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities.

“We urge our VE teams to keep up to date so they can make informed decisions based on local community guidelines, as each community is unique,” she said. “Our volunteers should use their best judgement when deciding whether or not to begin conducting in-person exam sessions. It is important to us that you feel confident when choosing your course of action, because the health and safety of our VEs and the examinees is the top priority. VE teams that choose to conduct in-person sessions should restart consistent with local restrictions and guidelines.”

To find amateur radio license exam sessions in your area, [visit](#) the ARRL website. Candidates should verify with their VE teams that the exam session *is* being held and if any special procedures are required to attend.



FCC Adopts a New Official Seal in Anticipation of Relocation

In anticipation of its upcoming move, the FCC has adopted a new FCC seal. The redesigned seal is

the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The winning design, submitted by Umasankar Arumugam, was selected by a vote of the agency’s employees and contractors.

The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies currently transforming our world; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission seal; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency.

Over the next few months, the FCC will incorporate the new seal on official stationery, business cards, publications, and other materials, including on its website and throughout its new Headquarters. Official use of the new seal will begin following completion of the agency’s move from the Portals to its new Headquarters. The date of the move is to be determined and has been delayed due to COVID-19. — *FCC news release*



Socially Distanced In-Person Exam Sessions Held in US and Norway

With some states starting to relax restrictions on events and activities, the Grant County, Oregon, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) held an in-person exam session on April 26 in the town of John Day that adhered to social distancing recommendations. Exam organizers held the gathering to within Oregon's 10-person limit for gatherings, keeping everyone 6 feet apart and requiring all participants to wear face masks. The exam session was held outdoors under a car port.

“We had an exceptionally successful test session, with candidates passing exams at every amateur radio level,” said Ed Elleson, AF7YX, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Liaison for the Grant County Amateur Radio Club. Grant County Emergency Coordinator Steve Fletcher, K7AA, noted that many clubs had canceled their planned sessions due to the

coronavirus pandemic. “Grant County decided to approach the problem by obeying all the restrictions but still holding the exam,” he said. “As a result, we had people come here from all over the state.”

In Oklahoma, the Mid-Del Amateur Radio Club, W5MWC, administered an open-air exam session on April 25 that held to social distancing guidelines. Over the course of the 3-hour session, 16 candidates tested and all were successful. One candidate passed all three exam elements to come away with his Amateur Extra-class license.

Another open-air amateur exam session took place recently in Norway. The LA3F radio amateur club south of Oslo had just completed its annual course for prospective radio amateurs, and three candidates were ready to take their exam when Norway began shutting down activities and gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Not to be deterred, International Amateur Radio Union Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, arranged with Norwegian regulatory authorities to hold an

outdoor exam session compatible with the social distancing and other safety guidelines in place. Garpestad met with the three candidates in the forest outside a local scout cottage, and, with candidates seated at tables at least 5 meters (about 16 feet) apart, he administered the exam. With the temperature at around 10 °C (about 50 °F), everyone dressed warmly. Garpestad reported that all three candidates passed, and LA5EUA, LB8QI, and LB8RI were welcomed to the world of amateur radio. — *Thanks to Steve Fletcher, K7AA, and Don Beattie, G3BJ, via IARU Region 1*