

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

May 2021

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting April 20, 2021

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

KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxx.xx in the checking and \$xxxx.xx in the savings. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:
W4RRK has adjusted the TOT to 20 minutes on the

System Fusion Repeater. It was set to 10 minutes which most users agreed was too little of a time frame when switching rooms. No update on improvements to the Highway 63 repeater site. Need to schedule a time to repair the rotator on the clubroom roof tower.

Hamfest Committee: The contract for the Hamfest on July 10th has been finalized. KN4IV requested a check in the amount of \$xx.xx for the rental fee for the Pavilion at the Cave City Convention Center. If it rains on that date, we will move the Hamfest to the inside of the facility. Admission will be \$5.00, and tables will be \$10/ea. We will also charge a fee of \$5.00 to vendors that

bring their own tables. We will station people at the main driveway entrance to collect money and direct vendors and participants to the appropriate parking spaces.

KJ4CMG made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ setting the rates for the Hamfest. Motion passed.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: KY QSO Party is coming up in June and Field Day will be the last weekend in June.

Webpage Committee:
Nothing new to report.

Old Business: Vote on KO4MKK for membership. By the slimmest of margins, he was voted in. K4UOJ updated the club on possibly launching a

balloon for Field Day in June. Total cost would be around \$200.00. K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by KJ4CMG to proceed with the balloon launch. Motion passed.

New Business: KD4SS proposed to the club about buying a Kenwood 450 HF radio for the club to use. It is an older radio but is very user friendly and not menu driven like modern radios. KY4UE made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ to purchase the radio for \$400.00. Motion passed. Discussion ensued about the Kenwood 440 that the club currently owns. It has weak output but has a lot of valuable additions.

KY4CE gave a presentation on a CW transmitter that he is building. It is crystal controlled and has tube finals. He also presented a CW receiver kit he built 20 years ago.

No further business to come before the members, KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by W4RRK to adjourn. Motion passed.



April 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report Released

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

A General class renewal applicant withdrew his application after FCC notice that the renewal application would be held up pending review of Volunteer Monitor complaints. As a consequence, the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, applicant has no operating privileges.

Twenty-one operators in 14 states received *Advisories* because of their operation in the March CQ World Wide DX Contest. While making contacts with VC3T and VC2W, their LSB signals extended *below* 7.125 MHz, which is the lower limit of the 40-meter amateur phone band.

Volunteer Monitors participated in a nationwide training program on April 7 that

was conducted by ARRL and the FCC.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator had two meetings in April with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.

The totals for VM monitoring in March were 1,394 hours on HF frequencies and 2,515 hours on VHF and above frequencies. -- *Thanks to Volunteer Monitor Coordinator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*



First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain FCC Registration Number before Taking Exam

Beginning May 20, 2021, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number ([FRN](#)) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC

license, whether for amateur radio or in another service, already have an FRN and can use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN *before* the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application. An FCC [instructional video](#) provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's COMmission REGistration System (CORES).

The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), upgrade the license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

In addition, after June 29, all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence.

Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license

is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.



Amateur Radio Credited with Rescue of Back-Country Hiker in Tennessee

A back-country hiker was rescued from Great Smoky Mountains National Park with assistance from amateur radio after she became exhausted on the trail and possibly dehydrated. A member of the hiking group on the park's Little River Trail, Tim Luttrell, KA9EBJ, put out a call on the evening of April 11 via the W4KEV linked VHF repeater in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, requesting assistance in extricating the injured member. No cell phone service was available at the

location, and Luttrell's signal was spotty at times, owing to the mountainous terrain.

Responding was David Manuel, W5DJR, who obtained more information and called 911, which routed the call to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Emergency Medical Service (GSMNP EMS). The national park EMS relayed through Manuel a request for the group to continue down the trail as far as possible to shorten the rescue time. Parties were asked to stand by.

A medic with the Park Service search-and-rescue team subsequently reached Manuel by telephone, who served to relay questions to Luttrell. Manuel contacted members of the hiker's family after Luttrell provided contact numbers. Manuel was asked to relay information for the family to arrange to meet in Cherokee, North Carolina, and be prepared to transport the distressed hiker's vehicle to her home. By this time, a couple of hours had passed. Manuel maintained occasional contact with Luttrell, who indicated that all was well but his battery was low and that he would power down the radio in

between contact attempts to conserve power.

Manuel continued to monitor the repeater system and got a call from Luttrell indicating “all clear” shortly after 2 AM. Manuel later received a text indicating that the family members had connected with the distressed hiker and extended their thanks to all who had helped out.

Luttrell said afterward that Manuel “was calm, professional, and persistent but patient in obtaining information he needed through the challenges I was having with my radio.” He allowed that without his spare battery pack and high-gain antenna, the incident may not have gone so well. A newer radio had been damaged in an earlier rescue effort, he told ARRL Tennessee Section Manager Dave Thomas, KM4NYI.

The injured hiker was hospitalized and required surgery and rehabilitation. Thomas told ARRL that he’d learned another hiker in the same group was close to hypothermia by the time they were rescued.

Thomas will recognize each of the radio amateurs

involved in the rescue with a Certificate of Merit during the ARRL Tennessee State Convention in Knoxville on June 19.



Four-Ham SpaceX Crew-1 Mission Astronauts Return to Earth on Wednesday

NASA will provide live coverage of the upcoming return activities for the agency’s SpaceX Crew-1 mission with astronauts Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, from the International Space Station.

The Crew Dragon spacecraft, named *Resilience*, is scheduled to undock from the space station to begin its journey back to Earth at 1105 UTC on Wednesday, April 28. NASA and SpaceX are targeting 1640 UTC for [splashdown](#). The return to Earth will air live on NASA Television, the NASA app, and the agency’s website.

Crew-1 is the first of six crewed missions NASA and SpaceX will fly as part of the agency’s Commercial Crew Program, which worked with the US aerospace industry to

return rockets, spacecraft, and launches with astronauts to the US.

In advance of departure from the space station, Crew-1 astronaut and station Commander Walker will hand over command of the station to astronaut and Crew-2 member Hoshide during a change-of-command and farewell event.

The Crew Dragon will autonomously undock, depart the space station, and splashdown at one of seven targeted landing zones in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida. *Resilience* will also return to Earth, important and time-sensitive research. For normal crew rescue and recovery operations, the NASA and SpaceX teams select two primary splashdown locations from the seven possible locations about 2 weeks prior to return, with additional decision milestones taking place prior to crew boarding the spacecraft, during free flight, and before Crew Dragon performs a deorbit burn.

NASA and SpaceX closely coordinate with the US Coast Guard to establish a 10-nautical-mile safety zone around the expected splashdown location to ensure safety for the crew aboard the spacecraft, those involved in the recovery operations and the public.