

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

November 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting October 20th, 2020.

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

KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by KF4LDQ, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxxx in the checking and \$xxxxx in the savings. KF4LDQ made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: The amplifier was sent off to Henry, the manufacturer of the amp, and they ran

several tests and were unable to find any issues. KD4SS is going to use a spectrum analyzer to the repeater to test for spurious emissions.

KD4SS brought up the idea of paying for a load of dense grade rock/gravel and having it spread on the drive to the highway 63 repeater site. KE4AIE made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ, to approve spending up to \$400.00 for materials to repair the drive.

Hamfest Committee: KN4IV talked to staff at the Cave City Convention Center about the 2021 Hamfest. Current capacity is limited to around 400-500 people versus the 1200+ person capacity. We usually average 700

participants. The Convention Center has been either refunding the deposit or keeping the deposit for the facility in 2022. KN4IV recommended that we try to decide around the first of the year.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: KC4RGE forwarded the email for the ky4x.com web domain name renewal, forwarding and hosting. The price for 5 years for all three renewals is \$314.85. We currently use the ky4x.org domain. K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by K8RPG, to not renew the ky4x.com domain name.

Old Business: The fusion net is still being called by

KE4AIE on Thursday evenings at 7pm CST. K4UOJ presented a plaque to the club for our recent participation in the KY QSO party.

New Business: KK4OVW offered to let the club use a reflector he has for the fusion repeater. The piece of equipment will physically be located at KK4OVW's QTH. K4UOJ made a motion, seconded by KF4LDQ, to proceed with using KK4OVW's OpenSpot for testing purposes. If tests go well, the club will look into buying a hot spot to add to the Fusion repeater.

W4RRK talked about the upcoming NRA Gunsite Special Event Station to commemorate the NRA's 149th birthday. YARC out of Prescott, AZ will be managing the special event station. The callsign will be K7GST and the station will be on the air on November 17th, 2020 from 0900-1800 MST (1500-2400 UTC). Frequencies will be 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250, and 21.335 MHz. CW operation will be restricted from 1300 to 1800 MST. See

w7yrc.org/nrabbirthday for more information.

The club will be having a testing session on Sunday, October 25th, 2020 at 3pm.

K4UOJ gave a presentation on an introduction to Yaesu System Fusion, directories and resources available and general operating.

The annual Turkey Trot Race has been cancelled this year, but the club would like to still have the chili potluck like we've had in the past. It is currently scheduled for Sunday, November 1st, 2020 at 4pm.

No further business to come before the meeting, KC4RGE made a motion, seconded by K4UOJ, to adjourn. Motion passed. There were 13 members present for the meeting.



MCARC Testing Session, October 25th, 2020.

The Mammoth Cave ARC VE Team Larry KN4IV, Chuck KN4FDW, Chappy KD4SS and Herb KJ4CMG held a VE test session in the clubroom on October 25th at 3pm to administer the test to four individuals: KO4HPL, KO4HPE, KO4FCB, and KO4IAP.

KO4HPL upgraded to General Class, KO4IAP upgraded to General Class, KO4HPE upgraded to General Class, and our very own Paul Wells KO4FCB upgraded from General to Amateur Extra Class. Congratulations Paul!!

Oldest Known US Radio Amateur, Cliff Kayhart, W4KKP, SK at 109

Charles Clifford "Cliff" Kayhart, W4KKP, of White Rock, South Carolina, died on October 26, a few days past his 109th birthday. An ARRL member, he was the oldest known US radio amateur and possibly the oldest ham in the world.

Last November, Roanoke Division Director Bud Hippisley, W2RU; Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, and South Carolina Section Manager Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, jointly presented Kayhart with ARRL's Centurion Award, which honors centenarian members with at least 40 years of ARRL membership. On that occasion, Hippisley [interviewed](#) Kayhart.

First licensed in 1937 as W2LFE in New Jersey, he also held W9GNQ. According to his [obituary](#), Kayhart built his first radio at the age of nine. After working for New York Telephone Company as a young man, he became enamored with engineering, so he headed off to Tri-State University in Indiana, graduating with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Afterward, he went to work for RCA in New Jersey, becoming a quality control manager. Positions followed at Philco Radio and Bendix Aviation.

During World War II, Kayhart joined the US Army Signal Corps, which sent him off to school to study radar. He was assigned to the US Army Air Corps in Georgia and then sent to Hawaii to

become part of a Signal Service Battalion. He served at Iwo Jima, shortly after the US victory there, setting up equipment for long-range radio communication and broadcasting, with rhombic antennas in four directions.

In 1946, Kayhart left the Army with the rank of captain, joining Magnavox the following year as its first field engineer; at the time, Magnavox was about to launch a line of television sets. Eventually, he was transferred to the Customer Acceptance Department in Tennessee. Kayhart traveled to Japan in 1963 in search of Japanese television sets. He retired from Magnavox in 1976.

In the 1970s, while living in Tennessee, he spearheaded a project that installed a 2-meter FM repeater on the summit of Camp Creek Bald, still in operation on the Tennessee/North Carolina border.

After Kayhart moved into an assisted living facility in 2017, he had an HF station in his room, courtesy of the Dutch Fork Amateur Radio Group, to which he belonged, and the Columbia Amateur Radio Club. Kayhart remained

active on the air until shortly before he died.

According to his obituary, Kayhart was also the oldest surviving Iwo Jima veteran and eighth oldest living US male. He was also the oldest man on the South Carolina Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC. Kayhart was profiled in the June 2018 issue of *QST*.



ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal

ARRL will file comments in firm opposition to an FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees. With the November 16 comment deadline fast approaching, ARRL urges members to add their voices to ARRL's by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of *The Federal Register* and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed.

ARRL has prepared a [Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC](#) which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. File comments on MD Docket 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)).

Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain a printed copy of a license. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)." The Act requires that the FCC switch from a

fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees. The FCC proposal affects all FCC services and does not single out amateur radio.

ARRL is encouraging members to file comments that stress amateur radio's contributions to the country and communities. ARRL's [Guide to Filing Comments](#) includes "talking points" that may be helpful in preparing comments. These stress amateur radio's role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications.

As the FCC explained in its *NPRM*, Congress, through the Ray Baum's Act, is compelling regulatory agencies such as the FCC to recover from

applicants the costs involved in filing and handling applications.

In its *NPRM* the FCC encouraged licensees to update their own information online without charge. Many, if not most, Amateur Service applications may be handled via the largely automated Universal License Service (ULS). The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, and the FCC stopped assessing fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

See also "[FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees](#)," reported by ARRL in August, and a [summary page](#) of the proceeding.