

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

October 2016

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President , David Robinson, N4AES

Sec/Treas, Chappy Rice, KD4SS



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of friend and fellow ham John B. Doyle K4KLM.

John Baptist Doyle 85 of Cave City passed away on Friday October 7th at T.J. Samson Hospital. Mr. Doyle was the owner- operator of the Doyle TV Shop in Cave city for more than 50 years. He was a U.S. Marine Veteran and longtime member of the Cave City Baptist Church, member of the Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club and longtime supporter of the Cave City Hamfest.

John could be seen each year at the fest in the first row selling vacuum tubes left over from his

days as a tv repairmen. Although John said he was trying to get rid of the tubes and get out of the business, like most of us he often left the fest with more than he came with.

The only Cave City hamfest that I recall John missing was in 2011, his wife Virginia passed away on March 2nd 2011 and was buried on Saturday March 5th the day of the 35th Annual Cave City Hamfest.

John will be missed by all who knew him and will certainly be missed by the local hams and by the Cave City Hamfest.

Funeral services will be held 1:00pm Thursday October 13th 2016 at the A.F. Crow Funreal Home with burial in the Cave City Cemetery

Rest In Peace John Baptist Doyle K4KLM / SK



LoTW Password Checking Change Causes Problems for Some Users

An upgrade to the password-checking mechanism that authenticates Logbook of The World (LoTW) users has caused log-in problems for some clients. Under the system in place prior to approximately 2300 UTC on September 19, the LoTW log-in system ignored the case of any characters in a password when checking for a match, storing them all as lower-case. The new system is case sensitive, however. While passwords once were randomly generated, the ARRL IT staff recently implemented a new LoTW

password mechanism that lets users choose their own passwords. Under this new system, when users first log in, their passwords are encrypted.

Some users with mixed-case passwords attempting to log in were rejected, however, because the system had stored their passwords as all lower case. A subsequent modification allows the system to accept a user's mixed-case password and changes the stored password to the user's mixed-case specification. The issue also can present problems for applications, such as logging programs, that employ a user's credentials to access a LoTW account.

Users who encounter trouble logging in to LoTW are being asked to enter their passwords in all lower case. If that doesn't work, **contact** the LoTW Help Desk or explore **other methods** available for LoTW.

Any LoTW users who logged in before this modification was made — at around 2300 UTC on September 19 — had their passwords stored in lower case, no matter which case they used in entering them. These passwords now must be entered as lower case. Users who changed to a password that includes mixed-case letters must continue to enter that password in mixed-case letters.

ARRL apologizes for underestimating the extent to which the lack of password case sensitivity in the previous

LoTW authentication mechanism was going to cause problems for so many users.



Bouvet Island DXpedition Team Secures Landing Permit

The **Bouvet Island DXpedition** team has announced that its permit to land on Bouvet Island for a DXpedition has been updated, revised, and approved by the Norsk Polar Institute. The 3Y0Z call sign will hit the airwaves in early 2018. Bouvet is the second most-wanted DXCC entity.

An international team of pilots has been selected to serve as an interface between the DXpedition team and the worldwide DX community.

The seasoned 20-member Bouvet Island 2018 DXpedition team will cover one-half of the venture's cost out of their own pockets and is encouraging support from the DX community for the rest.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007-2008.



ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to Raise Rates

Although ARRL believes it's important to maintain the long-standing tradition of the **ARRL Outgoing QSL Service** as a membership benefit, increased administration costs will require an increase in rates, in order to keep the Service available and viable.

“The Service has been a member benefit for decades,” an ARRL statement said. “Since its official formation in November 1976, tens of millions of QSL cards have been shipped from ARRL Headquarters to Amateur Radio QSL bureaus of other national societies worldwide. At one time, this benefit offered a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to exchange QSL cards for a fraction of the cost of the postal service. What Amateurs saved in financial cost, however, was made up for in time; it could take months, or even years, to send and receive a QSL through the bureau.”

Effective November 1, the rate for 1 ounce of outgoing QSLs via the Service will increase to match the 1 ounce USPS international postage rate. As of September 2016, this rate is \$1.15 per ounce — about 10 cards. An additional service fee of \$7

will be charged per individual transaction, to cover administrative costs.

ARRL said QSLing is very different now, and, while postal services are generally more reliable than in years past, international shipping costs have risen significantly. "With the advent of the Internet and online QSL confirmation services such as ARRL's Logbook of The World, fewer and fewer paper cards are being exchanged," the ARRL statement observed.

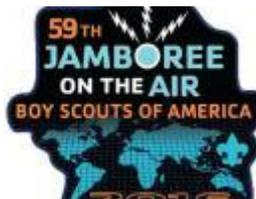
Calling the Outgoing QSL Service "a significant tradition in the world of Amateur Radio," the League said it's committed to keeping that tradition and service alive for members who enjoy using it. "We are committed to ensuring our members will be able to send their QSL cards through the Service for decades to come," the ARRL statement concluded.

Antenna Project / Testing Session

On Saturday October 22nd members of MCARC will be working on the clubs antenna and tower on top of the city building. Work will begin around 10:00am and will go until whenever. Everyone is welcome to come and help, watch and/or supervise.

Also a testing session is scheduled for Saturday afternoon around 3:00pm. Anyone wishing to test for an

upgrade or new license can do so then. The test fee is \$15, bring a copy of your current license and a photo ID.



More than 200 US Stations Signed Up for Scouting's Jamboree on the Air

So far, 219 US stations have registered to take part in Scouting's 2016 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), which will take place October 14-16. Registration remains open for the 59th annual event. Last year, 400 US stations registered. JOTA officials are asking JOTA 2016 participants not only to register for this year's event, but to follow up with a post-JOTA report.

"We expect to have several thousand stations around the world signed up by JOTA weekend," JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said in a JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) update. "Make sure you register your station." Designated Scouting frequencies are on the "Guidelines for Amateur Radio Operators" page. "Twenty meters is probably the go-to band during the daytime. Try moving off the calling frequency and spreading out while making those QSOs." Wilson said that in addition to

the DX spotting websites, there's a Scout station spotting cluster.

He also suggested taking advantage of other communication modes, including the dedicated D-Star Scouting reflector 033A, as well as DMR, IRLP with topic channel 9091, and Echolink, with conference node JOTA-365. Doug Crompton, WA3DSP, and Elliott Liggett, W7QED, have set up Allstar node 41760 for JOTA/Scouting conversations, Wilson added. In addition to social media, ScoutLink is an excellent way to connect to Scouts around the world with only an Internet connection, he said.

"Dave Edwards, KD2E, and Andy O'Brien, K3UK, have developed a Scout scheduling page," Wilson said. "You can use this to post your frequency and to pick up on other stations as well."

More than 1 million Scouts in 150+ countries — at nearly 18,000 stations — are expected to take part in JOTA 2016, engaging with other Scouts to talk about Amateur Radio and their Scouting experiences. "JOTA is about conversations across town and around the world, rather than about contacts," Wilson said.

Minutes – September 20, 2016

The meeting came to order at 7:05 with 18 members and one guest, Ed Vannatta attending.

The minutes were approved as printed and the treasurer reported \$10428.25 in savings and \$8875.01 on hand.

It was announced that the Vette City Hamfest will be held Saturday Oct 1 at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, open to the public at 7:30am, Friday Night setup at 5pm. A table will be provided for the Cave Area club.

Also the Richmond KY Hamfest is this Saturday September 24.

Hamfest Committee – all is set for Saturday March 4, 2017. ARRL has called and is sending brochures and door prize certificates.

Repeater Committee – still waiting for the Bonnierville tower work. City Hall roof tower project is scheduled for Saturday Oct 22 at 10AM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Current Rules Holding Hams Back from Adopting State-of-the-Art Technology, ARRL Says

In comments (also attached below) filed on October 12

with the FCC, ARRL reiterated its case that the FCC should impose a 2.8 kHz limit on symbol rate for digital modes, arguing that its approach is both balanced and necessary. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a July *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's *Petition*, but it declined to propose a *bandwidth* limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

ARRL told the FCC in its comments that the current HF symbol rate "speed limit" reflects 1980s technology and has no place in an experimental radio service in which modern protocols could be efficiently deployed in crowded RTTY/data subbands.

"The symbol rate limit was created in order to maximize the efficient use and reuse of that crowded, shared spectrum, but the assumptions made at the time are no longer valid," ARRL said, "and the rules now prohibit radio amateurs from utilizing state-of-the-art technology, thus precluding or substantially inhibiting any meaningful contribution to the advancement of the radio art in

this area." ARRL said earlier assumptions are no longer valid mainly because there is no correlation between the data rate and the occupied bandwidth in the rules now.

The League said present rules in the HF data subbands promote inefficiency, allowing data transmissions of unlimited bandwidth as long as the symbol rate is sufficiently low, and it stressed that there must be *some* limit on occupied bandwidth for HF data emissions.

"Eliminating the symbol rate limitations for data emissions *and substituting a maximum authorized bandwidth* would permit the utilization of all HF data transmission protocols presently legal in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as state-of-the-art protocols that fall within the authorized bandwidth," the League said.

ARRL said it would be impossible to reduce the permitted maximum bandwidth for data emissions at HF much below 2.8 kHz without prohibiting data modes that are now legal. "At the same time, it would not be desirable to have a few data stations using large swaths of spectrum to the detriment of other modes," the League said. The deadline to file reply comments in the proceeding comments already filed — is November 10.