

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

October 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting September 15th, 2020

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 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. KC4QNZ made a motion, seconded by KF4LDQ to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. Expenses were pizzas and snacks for the August potluck

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: Had some noise on the repeater last night. Sounds like the same noise we've been experiencing for years. KN4IV brought up that in the past, the noise was narrowed down to the amplifier. KD4SS to investigate.

W4RRK brought up that the Yaesu Fusion repeater is online on 146.850. Several members have been experimenting with it and results seem positive so far given the limited, temporary installation in the club room.

Hamfest Committee: No report.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Media Committee: No report.

Old Business: Voted on KO4FCB for membership. He was voted in as the newest member of MCARC.

KE4AIE brought up possibly setting aside an alternate date for the 2021 Hamfest in case we must postpone the date in March.

New Business: K4UOJ brought up the idea of having a net once a week on the Fusion repeater. Discussion ensued about how to do the net. KE4AIE offered to be the net control station on the Fusion repeater on Thursday night at 7pm. We will monitor progress and adjust the digital net schedule as needed. If it takes off, more net control stations will be needed.

W4RRK gave a presentation on Yaesu WiresX. The KY4X Node ID is 58675 and the Room ID is 68675. W4RRK offered to any member needing assistance, to email him at rkindred77@gmail.com.

No further business to come before the members, KN4IV made a motion, seconded by KJ4CMG to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. There were 16 members present for the meeting.



FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to “Sunset”

Despite vigorous and continuing opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC has ordered the “sunsetting” of the 3.3 – 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation. The decision allows current amateur activity on the band to continue, “grandfathering” the amateur operations subject to a later decision. The FCC proposed two deadlines for amateur operations to cease on the

band. The first would apply to the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz segment, the second to 3.3 – 3.4 GHz. The FCC will establish the dates once it reviews additional comments.

“We adopt our proposal from the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to remove the amateur allocation from the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band,” the FCC said in its *R&O*. “[W]e adopt changes to our rules today that provide for the sunset of the secondary amateur allocation in the band, but allow continued use of the band for amateur operations, pending resolution of the issues raised in the *Further Notice*.”

The *Report and Order (R&O)* and *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in WT Docket No. 19-348 adopted on September 30 followed a 2019 FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in which the FCC proposed re-allocating 3.45 – 3.55 GHz for “flexible-use service” and auctioning the desirable “mid-band” spectrum (generally defined as between 1 GHz and 6 GHz) to 5G providers. These and other recent spectrum-repurposing actions stem from the MOBILE NOW Act, enacted in 2018, in which Congress directed

the Commission to make additional spectrum available to auction for mobile and fixed wireless broadband. The FCC action is consistent with worldwide allocations adopted by the ITU for these frequencies.

In the run-up to the Commission’s decision, ARRL met with the FCC’s professional staff to explain its concerns and to answer questions. Subsequently, ARRL met with the wireless advisors to the FCC Chairman and two Commissioners. In those meetings, ARRL reiterated that continued secondary status for amateurs will not impair or devalue use of this spectrum by the primary licensees intending to provide 5G or other service. ARRL noted amateur radio’s long history of successful coexistence with primary users of the 9 cm band, sharing this spectrum with the federal government users and secondary, non-federal occupants.

ARRL pointed out that vital links in amateur television and amateur radio high-speed mesh networks using the band have been especially valuable during such emergency situations as the [wildfires](#) currently raging on the west coast.

Deleting the amateur secondary allocation will result in lost opportunities for experimentation and public service with no public interest benefit to make up for that.

ARRL argued that deleting the secondary allocation would waste the scarce spectrum resource, particularly in areas where commercial services often do not construct full facilities due to small populations. The FCC action means that amateur radio will lose access to the 3.5-GHz secondary allocation even where commercial operations do not exist. ARRL told the Commission that it should not intentionally allow this spectrum to be vacant and unused, wasting the public resource, when amateurs can use some portion of it in many geographic areas with no detriment to any other licensee, just as it has in the past. ARRL argues that amateur operations should be permitted until and unless an actual potential for interference exists.

Deletion of the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz secondary amateur allocation will become effective on the effective date of the FCC’s order, but amateur radio operation as of that date may continue while the FCC finalizes rules to

license spectrum in the 3.45 – 3.55 GHz band and establishes deadlines for amateur operations to cease. The FCC proposed allowing amateur operation in the 3.3 – 3.4 GHz portion of the band to continue “pending further decisions about the future of this portion of the spectrum,” the timing for which is unknown. The Commission proposed to mandate that operations cease in the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz portion when commercial licensing commences for the new 3.45 – 3.55 GHz “5G” band, which is predicted to begin in the first half of 2022.

“[W]e seek comment on whether it is in the public interest to sunset amateur use in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band in two separate phases, e.g., first above 3.4 GHz, which is the focus of [the *R&O*] and later in that portion of the band below 3.4 GHz,” the FCC said.

ARRL expressed gratitude to the many members and organizations that joined ARRL in challenging the FCC throughout this nearly year-long proceeding. They included multiple radio clubs, weak signal enthusiasts, moonbounce participants, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN), the Amateur Television Network (ATN), AMSAT,

and Open Research Institute (ORI).

ARRL will continue its efforts to preserve secondary amateur radio access to 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. Members are invited to share comments by visiting www.arrl.org/3-GHz-Band.

“We recognize that any loss of our privileges will most directly impact radio amateurs who use the frequencies to operate and innovate,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. “Such instances only embolden ARRL’s role to protect and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service and Amateur Satellite Service. There will be continued threats to our spectrum. So I urge all amateurs, now more than ever, to strengthen our hold by being ceaseless in our public service, experimenting, and discovery throughout the radio spectrum.”



Two More Astronauts Earn Amateur Radio Licenses

Although the lockdown of Johnson Space Center

(JSC) postponed amateur radio training and licensing over the past 7 months, NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, was able to work with all of the new astronaut-class graduates, as well as offer some refresher courses with already-licensed astronauts. Licensed astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) may operate the on-station ham radio equipment without restrictions.

Astronauts often participate in Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) contacts with schools and groups on Earth.

NASA Astronaut Kayla Barron, who completed her introductory course in June and received basic ham radio operations training in late September, recently tested and received the call sign KI5LAL.

European Space Agency astronaut Matthias Maurer passed his amateur radio exam on July 30, and he got his basic ham radio operations training in July. He now is KI5KFH.

Astronauts Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD, and Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, completed the refresher course earlier this

year. Two other new astronauts are in the queue to take the Technician license exam. — *Thanks to Rosalie White, K1STO*

Wilson County, Tn Tailgate Fest

The Wilson ARC is excited to announce that we will be having a TAILGATE PARTY on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM Central at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center located at 935 E. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087. Please follow the signs once you turn into the main gate of the Ag Center as we will be located in the back of the center's grounds behind Fiddler's Grove.

Admission is \$5.00 per person at the gate - NO advance ticket sales/space reservations and NO tables or chairs will be provided. For more information, please Contact Bill Uthoff, KK4WU at KK4WU@BELLSOUTH.NET.

COVID-19 Statement: While we do not require participants to wear facial coverings (masks) at this event we do strongly encourage everyone to take precautions for their own protection as well as the protection of others they come in contact with. We

also encourage participants to "social distance." Participants assume any and all risks associated with participating in this event.

