

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*September 2021*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY*

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## **FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022**

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting with Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) that the agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures that must be in

place before it starts collecting fees from amateur applicants. Earlier this year, the FCC said it would not start collecting fees from amateur applicants before this summer. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year.

Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application. Administrative update applications, such as those to change a licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees. ARRL VEC manager Maria Somma, AB1FM,

said Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not face the burden of collecting the \$35 fee.

“Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the exam session fee to the VE team as usual, but they'll pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC using the **FCC Pay Fees** system,” she explained. When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 days from the date of the email to pay.

After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to

their official license. The link will be good for 30 days. Licensees also will be able to view, download, and print official license copies by logging into their FCC ULS account. The FCC no longer provides printed licenses.

Licensees can log into the **ULS** with their 10-digit FRN (FCC Registration Number) and password at any time to view and manage their license and application, **print their license**, and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address.

## **FEE SCHEDULE**

### **INDIVIDUALS**

**\$35 FEE:** New, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application.

**NO FEE:** Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, or license cancellation.

### **AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS**

**\$35 FEE:** New, renewal, trustee change, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application.

**NO FEE:** Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, or license cancellation.



## **August 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report** 09/09/2021

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service. This is the VM Program Report for August 2021.

Licensees in Pawcatuck, Connecticut; Wamego, Kansas; Valley Cottage, New York; Long Valley, New Jersey; Columbia, South Carolina, and Maryville, Tennessee, were sent Advisory Notices concerning operation on frequencies that were set

aside for Haiti earthquake emergency communications by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Emergency Coordinator. Licensees in Prineville, Winston, Silver Lake, and Roseburg, Oregon; Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Houston, Texas, were sent Advisory Notices concerning failure to identify, as required by Section 97.119(a) of the FCC Amateur Radio Service, pursuant to a nationwide rule compliance review of operations on 3.819 MHz and 3.953 MHz.

A former licensee in Seabrook, Texas, was sent an Advisory Notice concerning operation with an expired license.

An FT8 operator in Orion, Michigan, was sent to an Advisory Notice reminding him of the 200 W power limit on 30 meters.

A licensee in New Caney, Texas, was sent a final notice that his case was being referred to the FCC for license revocation or deletion of voice privileges from his license.

A Good Operator commendation was sent to an operator in Roseville, California, for Exemplary Amateur Procedure on May 21, 2021, during the 40-meter California Rescue Communications Net.

The revised total for VM monitoring in July was 5,746 hours — the highest number of hours monitored since the inception of the VM Program.

The IT staff at ARRL Headquarters completed work on an automated system for Volunteer Monitors to report monthly monitoring hours and Incident Reports. —  
*Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator*



### **ARRL Board Establishes Program to Cover Initial FCC License Fee for Young Applicants**

The ARRL Board of Directors has formally endorsed a proposed

program calling on ARRL to cover the \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old. The FCC is not expected to implement the \$35 application fee schedule until sometime in 2022. The Board approved the “Youth Licensing Grant Program” at its July meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. The program concept, first raised at the Board’s annual meeting in January, was reviewed by an ad-hoc committee, which expanded the scope of the original motion by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.

Goals of the Program include expanding the reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts within the amateur radio community, and removing a financial obstacle to young people who wish to acquire an amateur radio license, as a means of encouraging potential careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Under the program, ARRL would cover a one-time \$35 application fee for each qualified candidate who passes one or more amateur radio exams taken on the same day at a single examination session. Tests would have to be administered by a Volunteer Examiner (VE) team working under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC.

The new program also would “enhance ARRL’s position as the leader in volunteer testing,” the Board motion said. “The Board believes that the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL, and that subsidization of the \$35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that otherwise would be lost from these groups,” the Board said.

The Board said ARRL Headquarters staff would

determine the method of qualifying applicants and instruct VE teams, giving the teams flexibility to determine that a candidate is eligible for reimbursement in the absence of documented proof. The Board envisioned that the VEC would pay the FCC directly. The new program initially would serve up to 1,000 new license applicants younger than 18 years old.

The motion gave ARRL staff “complete latitude” to determine how payment is delivered to the FCC or to reimburse eligible applicants. This program length is indefinite; it may be renewed or terminated by the Administration and Finance Committee or by the Board of Directors. The motion carried with applause from Board members.

## **MINUTES – Aug 17, 2021**

This was our annual AUGUST POTLUCK meeting, located in the clubroom. At about 6:30pm, around 35 members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal, consisting of

pulled pork and shoulder from BigMan’s Barbecue, supplemented by many sides, salads & deserts.

There was very little business conducted. Daryl Wilkerson KO4SNY was proposed for membership.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

## **2021 Vette City Hamfest**

Due to the alarming rise in the covid-19 pandemic in Kentucky the Vette City Hamfest /ARRL Great Lakes Division convention scheduled October 2nd at the WKU Knicely Conference Center in Bowling Green KY. has been cancelled.

**Frank KI4HEJ**

## **The Radio Amateur is:**

### **Considerate**

He never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

### **Loyal**

He offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his

country, through which Amateur Radio in his country is represented nationally and internationally.

### **Progressive**

He keeps his station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

### **Friendly**

He operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

### **Balanced**

Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

### **Patriotic**

His station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

The rest of the document is too long to reproduce here, but it is worth highlighting a few of the other guidelines:

During your on-the-air contacts, use the Q code correctly. Avoid overkill by using the Q code all the time when using phone. Use

standard expressions that  
everybody understands.