

# *The Smokehouse*

*Where Country Hams Hang Out*

*January 2019*

*President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV*

*Vice President, Clayton Francis, KC4RGE*

*Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG*



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## **MCARC Meeting, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

The meeting came to order at 7pm in the basement of the City Hall Building located in Glasgow, KY. Before the meeting, around 32 people gathered at 6pm to partake in the annual Christmas Potluck. A delicious meal and great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by N9FXU, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$6135.36 in the checking account. Savings is \$15691.55. KC4RGE made a motion, seconded

by AJ4KR to accept the report. Motion passed.

### Committee Reports:

**Repeater Committee:**  
Climber showed up at the Hwy 63 site and replaced a connector at the bottom of the tower where the new hardline terminates. Signal strength has improved but still not as good as it used to be. KD4SS will go ahead and pay the climber for the work he has done so far. W4RRK asked about installing the power amplifier back in-line with the repeater. KD4SS to check on the stock of power amplifiers the club has.

**Hamfest Committee:**  
Hamfest is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. 56 tables have already been sold. KD4SS has been dealing

with Jobe Publishing in the past with our hamfest tickets. 700 tickets cost around \$100.00. KD4SS has contacted the individual that the KCARC club uses for their hamfest tickets. We may be able to get them for free with a small advertisement on the back. Motion by KD4SS, seconded by KC4QNZ to proceed with working with new vendor.

**Webpage Committee:**  
KC4RGE has confirmed that KN4WLS has administrator privileges with the ky4x.org. KC4RGE reported he had received for renewing the domain registration on ky4x.org. domain name.

**Field Day and Special Event Station Committee:**  
No report

## The Golden Age Of Radio

Old Business:

KD4SS showed off the new TV that was recently purchased.

KC4RGE gave a presentation on the new badges. He was able to successfully find a vendor out of Washington named Capital Engraving. He sent the vector file that KN4WLS made. The badges will be engraved with the new logo. Badges will run \$15.50 with a pin base. For an extra \$0.75, he can apply a military style or alligator clip. For \$3.00 extra he can install a magnetic clasp bringing the price to \$18.00.

New Business:

Election of officers, KN4IV was re-elected as President, KC4RGE as Vice-President, KJ4CMG as Secretary and KD4SS as Treasurer.

KN4WLS was presented with the 2018 Spirit of Amateur Radio award.

No further business to come before the meeting, KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by WA4KRM to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Imagine a world where electronics are pervasive, a transceiver can be purchased for the price of two Big Macs, kits are designed and built using simple tools at home, software makes it possible to invent new methods of communication on an almost daily basis, where long distance contacts are made throughout the day using milliwatts while ionospheric propagation is at an all-time low, where national parks and peaks are being activated at an increasing rate, where new people join in every day, where it's easier and easier to obtain a license and where the word geek is held as a badge of honour.

That world is here, it's now and when Rex, KE6MT writes that we're in the midst of a golden age of amateur radio, he hits the nail on the head, or should that be fist on the key?

It's easy to notice that amateur radio is difficult, that it's big, that it's messy, that it's full of know-it-alls, but it's hard to remember that it's fun, that it's rewarding and that every day more and more people join in and enjoy this hobby.

The ideals of investigation and exploration are alive and well and the urge to participate in activities, just to get out of the house and see some daylight is strong.

While you're in the midst of a revolution, it's hard to see the wood for the trees, but make no mistake, the revolution is here, today, now, and you're smack bang in the middle of it.

Today you can go online and find any number of different amateurs who share their skills and knowledge, you can find manufacturers and suppliers at the tap of a screen, find and draw schematics, order custom circuit boards at the click of a check-out button, print an enclosure in your bedroom using plans that you downloaded or designed minutes before.

With the digitisation of amateur radio comes the promise of new adventures, with adaptive modes, with encoding and decoding in new and interesting ways, with the ability to hear what your station is producing by logging into a remote receiver anywhere on the planet, by sending messages to satellites overhead and talking to people in another country

using a hand-held VHF radio.

For some the loss of the valve radio is the loss of history, for others it's a sign of progress and improvement. The inventors of spark-gap transmitters were no doubt put out by the arrival of the valve when that became commonplace. Similarly, the transistor has essentially gone the way of the Dodo in the arrival of cheaply programmable integrated circuits.

Our hobby keeps getting bigger, all the time.

We didn't abandon valves or transistors, or the spark-gap for that matter, we improved on them. You can still build a spark-gap transmitter if you feel the urge, or ferret out a valve or two and build them into something wonderful, nobody is stopping you.

Today we learn Morse Code because we want to, not because we have to.

We introduce new people with new technology, new ideas, new innovations and hope that they pick up the cape to become the next superhero.

You can bemoan the death of the hobby with the solar cycle at an all time low, the entry of stupid

amateurs who need to learn from their betters, the passing of the valve and the abolition of Morse Code requirements, or you can celebrate the appearance of all the new and shiny toys that arrive in our hobby every day.

The Golden Age of Amateur Radio is Now.



### **New General Class Question Pool Released, Effective July 1**

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee has released the 2019 – 2023 FCC Element 3 General Class Question Pool into the public domain. The 2019 – 2023 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool is available in [Word](#), [ASCII text](#), and [PDF](#) versions. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams administered on or after July 1, 2019.

The Question Pool Committee also released on January 6 a revised diagram Figure G7-1 ([PDF](#)) ([JPG](#)), as part of the new Element 3 Question Pool. — *Thanks*

to *NCVEC Question Pool Committee*



### **Winter Field Day 2019 is January 26 – 27**

The Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) sponsors the 2019 running of [Winter Field Day](#), January 26 – 27. WFDA says that the ability to conduct emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparation and practice that take place each summer, but with some additional unique operational concerns.

“We believe that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios,” WFDA said in announcing this year’s event. “The addition of Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations.

Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event, and this is what local and state authorities are

expecting when they reach out to emergency service groups that offer their services.”

Members of the Warren County (NY) Radio Club ([WCARC](#)) will activate Maxim Memorial Station W1AW during 2019 Winter Field Day. Club members will work a rotating 24-hour operating schedule to ensure the most band/mode coverage.

The event is open to all radio amateurs.



### **US Senate Confirms Geoffrey Starks and Brendan Carr to Full FCC Terms**

The US Senate has confirmed Geoffrey Starks and Brendan Carr to full 5-year terms as FCC commissioners. Starks, who most recently had served as assistant chief of the FCC Enforcement Bureau, fills the seat vacated last spring by Mignon Clyburn. Both are Democrats. Republican nominees have a 3 – 2 advantage on the Commission. Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel is the other Democrat on the FCC.

“I congratulate Geoffrey on his Senate confirmation,” FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. “During his confirmation hearing, I was excited to hear him highlight the need to expand rural broadband and the power of telemedicine. I look forward to working with him and having a fellow Kansan on the Commission.”

Carr, a Republican originally nominated by President Donald Trump to fill the seat left vacant by the departure of former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, was confirmed last August. He now has been confirmed for a full 5-year term. Carr previously served as FCC general counsel.

“I also congratulate Brendan on his confirmation to a full term,” Pai said in a statement. “Brendan has done tremendous work on a number of issues, including his leadership on wireless infrastructure modernization. He has also been a staunch advocate for rural broadband deployment, particularly for precision agriculture and advancements in telemedicine.”

In addition to Pai and Carr, the other Republican on

the FCC is Michael O’Rielly.



### **Third Wednesday Monthly Communications Exercises Set**

FEMA Region 10 will conduct monthly communications exercises (COMMEX) on the third Wednesday of each month, starting on January 16, 1730 – 1900 UTC. Amateur Radio operators are invited to take part. The intent of these exercises is to test and exercise interoperable communication (federal/state/local/tribal/Amateur Radio) during a major disaster in which the communication infrastructure is significantly damaged or destroyed.

FEMA Region 10 will use the call sign WGY910. Other stations associated with agencies and organizations that provide response support in accordance with the National Response Framework are encouraged to participate.

The COMMEX will use these “dial” or “window” frequencies on 60 meters — including 5,330.5 kHz, 5,346.5 kHz, 5,357.0 kHz, 5,371.5 kHz, and 5,403.5 kHz — as part of the exercise. The area of operation is the continental US.