



QSP



April 2007

International Marconi Day event is April 28

- The April CKARC Meeting is on April 27, 2007 at 7:30 PM in Room 211, Peters Science Hall at KWU.

(Apr 18, 2007) -- Special event stations will be on the air Saturday, April 28 (UTC), to mark International Marconi Day (IMD), a 24-hour Amateur Radio event commemorating the birth of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi on April 25, 1874. Participants can qualify for awards by making contacts on 160 through 10 meters (CW, SSB and digital) with designated IMD stations operating on or near a site where Marconi carried out experiments or where Marconi equipment was used prior to his death in 1937. The sponsoring Cornish Radio Amateur Club (CRAC) will operate GB4IMD from Pendenis Castle, Falmouth, Cornwall, overlooking Falmouth Harbor where Marconi spent some 10 days aboard his yacht *Elettra* in April 1923. Additional IMD stations will be on the air from the UK, the US, Canada, South America, Australia and Europe. The IMD Web site has a list of IMD 2007 award stations. If you would like to operate an IMD 2007 award station, register your station prior to the event, providing full details.

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Eisenhower Marathon

The 2007 running of the Eisenhower Marathon in Abilene, Kansas is now "History". I'd like to say **THANK YOU** to all the Volunteers who helped provide Communications for this event.

We had the Communications Trailer in Abilene for this event again this year, and operated on both 2 meters and 440 MHz. Barton County once again provided their portable repeater for us to use for this event thanks to Carl, NØORS. It's amazing how much better it worked with Good coax between the repeater and the Antenna!

VE Report

DeWite, WØOK, reported that there were two candidates for testing this month.

1 person passed the Technician Exam.

1 person passed the General Class Exam.

Both candidates attempted the next higher level exam without passing.

2 Testers Total.

1 new license (Technician)

1 upgrade to General

Reported by Sid and DeWite.

Minutes of the March Meeting

Meeting for March 30th 2007 was called to order by Mark, KBØMQX at 7:30 PM the flag salute

Followed by a round of introductions with first and last name.

Mark gave several announcements,

April 21, McPherson, Ks. tail gate party Lakeside Park 8:00 AM. to 12:00 PM.

Mark read an e-mail from Pete, NØOY, who was due back from Nigeria on Sunday.

Have some 2007 ARRL Kansas State Convention flyers for anyone who would like some.

Minutes for Feb. meeting approved as printed on QSP.

Marty KGØMT gave out an updated Roster and the Treasurer's report, total Bal. \$4,260.19 and Approved as presented.

EC report from Sid NØOBM

Up coming events: siren test April 2, ARES net April 5, Abilene Marathon April 7, VE testing April 11 also Board meeting after testing, ARES Meeting April 19, and next club meeting will Be on April 27th.

W5YI VE testing on April 28th.

VE report WØOK

7 tests 4 up grades and one new license.

Repeater report by NØYET

The repeater is not up to par but Eric has called for a service technician, and is waiting for a call back.

Ron WAØPSF says to put August 19th on your calendar. (Kansas State Convention / **Salina Ham Fest**)

Old business

Anyone wanting to help with field day get with anyone on the committee: Sid, NØOBM, Mark, KBØMQX, Marty, KGØMT, Dan, AAØTT or Mike, KBØLZQ and let them know where or what or why...

New business

Don, KAØEIC brought up that the club has been having a net for 19 years on 28.450 MHz and next year will be 20 yrs. And do we want to do a special event or something. WBØWSG John was net control. 6 QNI on Mar. 28, 1988.

Question brought up does any one want to work or help run a Kansas QSO Party and / or a Worked All Kansas Counties award.

Vance KCØYH, from Lindsborg brought greetings to the club from Al, WØBBO.

New member Robert Paul KCØZFN moved and seconded, **WELCOME**.

Program NCDX, Inc. Foundation

Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM

Sec/WØME

CKARC Treasurer's Report

April 16, 2007 CKARC Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 29, 2007

Savings	\$3,630.97
March Credits	\$ <u>24.44</u>
Balance	\$ 3,655.41

Checking

March Debits	\$ 68.22
March Credits	\$ <u>58.00</u>
<u>Balance</u>	\$ <u>645.30</u>

Combined Balance: \$4,300.71

Expenses:

- ARRL VEC (2 examinees) fees
- Fuel for generator used at Abilene Marathon

Credits:

- 2 2007 member dues
- ARRL VEC (2 examinees) testing fees allowed to offset incurred expenses.

Paid 2007 Club members:	46 members
Life members:	<u>9 members</u>
Total 2007 members:	55 members

ARRL Update on Red Cross Background Investigations

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 16, 2007 -- In March, the ARRL posted its position statement regarding the American Red Cross background check policy for volunteers. This updates information the League has obtained about that program.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met March 20 at American Red Cross offices in Washington, DC, with two attorneys from the Red Cross General Counsel's office and two management-level staff members from Red Cross Disaster Services.

ARRL asked the Red Cross staff if ARRL ARES volunteers would be subject to the American Red Cross background check if they are providing communications for more than seven days. The position of the Red Cross is that ARES volunteers would not be permitted to provide communications at a disaster site for more than seven days without submitting to the Red Cross background check procedure.

Discussion was then held regarding the Red Cross announcement that credit checks and mode-of-living checks would not be conducted. ARRL's stated concern was that the ARC background investigation consent form states that a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report -- which includes certain credit checks and includes mode of living checks -- *will be obtained* on the volunteer signing the form.

The ARRL team asked if the Red Cross would be willing to modify the consent form so that it limits the authority granted by the person signing the form to criminal background checks only. The Red Cross representatives did not indicate a willingness to modify the consent form.

The ARRL team also suggested alternatives to the Red Cross investigation firm, MyBackgroundCheck.com. ARRL was given an indication that the Red Cross is also unwilling to accept background checks conducted by other entities, because the Red Cross would be required to compare the methodologies of its selected entity with those of the alternative background-check provider.

ARRL reiterates its recommendation that members carefully review any consent document permitting a private organization to conduct a background investigation on that person. The current Red Cross background check consent form does include permission, *without further consent from the volunteer*, to conduct a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report. The Federal Trade Commission and Federal statutes define investigative consumer reports as including a mode-of-living check as well as certain credit checks.

ARRL will not suggest what organizations or agencies should or should not be supported by volunteer Amateur Radio communications. ARRL does wish to facilitate the provision of volunteer services, however.

Kansas QSO Party- Is anyone interested ? In either participating or Sponsoring?

WAKC Any club want to sponsor a Worked All Kansas Counties ?

If anyone Is interested, contact our SM, Ron, KBØDTI

ARRL Aiding Effort to Mitigate Repeater Interference to Military Radars

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 17, 2007 -- The ARRL has been working with the US Department of Defense to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to military radar systems on both coasts. Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz and must not interfere with primary users. Citing an increasing number of interference complaints, the US Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the "PAVE PAWS" radars or shut down. The Commission has not yet responded. The situation affects 15 repeaters within less than 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, stresses that the Defense Department acknowledges Amateur Radio's value in disasters and emergencies and is being extremely cooperative -- and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is *not* in the offing.

"The ARRL Lab is working up calculations on each repeater system the Air Force has identified to determine where interference-mitigation techniques offer a reasonable chance of keeping the repeater on the air," Henderson says. "In order for the amateur community as a whole to succeed in this venture, it is going to require the cooperation of all affected repeater owners."

A US Air Force contractor identified the problematic repeater systems last summer, but the situation didn't become critical until the Air Force contacted the FCC a month ago. ARRL officials met with Defense Department representatives in late March to discuss alleged interference to the PAVE PAWS radar sites, and this week Henderson contacted Amateur Radio frequency coordinating organizations in both affected areas -- the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC).

PAVE PAWS is a missile and satellite detection and tracking system, and its name is a half-acronym. "PAVE" is simply an Air Force program name. "PAWS" stands for "Phased Array Warning System." Although PAVE PAWS has been in existence since the late 1970s, the Cape Cod and Sacramento sites are the only remaining operational facilities in the US.

PAVE PAWS facilities occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band -- one factor that makes mitigation difficult. Feeding upward of 1800 active antenna elements, the broadband radar transmitters emit an average power output of more than 145 kW.

As a "first step" to mitigate the interference, the ARRL is recommending that all affected repeater owners reduce power -- possibly to as little as 5 W effective radiated power (ERP). "We understand the difficulty this may cause to owners and users," Henderson said, "but the alternative to operating with a smaller coverage area may be not operating at all." Amateur Radio stations already must abide by a maximum 50 W PEP power limitation in the areas around both Air Force facilities.

Henderson says the League is still seeking further information on the problem. "Until the Defense Department accepts a mitigation plan, repeater owners should exercise patience," he cautioned. "Once the ARRL Lab has completed its propagation calculations, we will be in a better position to provide advice for specific repeaters on a case-by-case basis."

Contact Dan Henderson, N1ND (860-594-0236), with specific questions or issues associated with this situation.

10 Meter Opportunities for Technician Class Licenses

By KGØMT

Now that the FCC has dropped the continuous wave (cw) requirement and expanded the band privileges for Technician Class amateur radio operators, there are inexpensive ways to get on the 10 meter band (28.100 to 28.500 megahertz [MHz]). The new 11 year cycle is just beginning, and this band will let you speak to others around the world on as little as 10 watts; though most radios on the market can operate with maximum power of 50 or 100 watts power. There is one radio that operates 10m-6m-2m-70cm on the market (about \$450), but it only operates fm (frequency modulated) mode for the four bands; and the fm portion of the 10m band is outside of the permissible portion of Technician Class license privileges. Therefore one will have to purchase a multiband HF (for 10 m+) radio, HF (10m+)-VHF (6m & 2m, or HF (for 10m)-VHF (6m & 2m)-UHF (70 cm). There are mobile radios that will meet this requirement, starting about \$750 new. With a power supply it can also be used for a base station.

The easy part of operating 10 meters is the inexpensive antennas that one can construct. You can purchase one; but for less than \$15 you can build one, and there are many Elmer's in the area willing to assist you. There are many articles in past QST providing designs for 10 meter antennas. I built one using two pieces of ½ inch diameter copper tubing cut to about 99 inches long (8'3") with an end cap that I soldered the center of a piece of coax and the other side to the outside braiding. Number 14 solid or braided wire could also be used in place of the copper tubing. With the help of an antenna analyzer the antenna can be trimmed to the proper length to get the resonant frequency set well within the allowable frequency range (28.300 to 28.500 megahertz - MHz) for voice (upper side band) or 28.000 to 28.000 MHz for digital and cw operation.

One can also use a mobile antenna. 11 meter (citizen band) antennas can be trimmed for 10 meter operation with the use of the antenna analyzer.

If you have questions or want to discuss this opportunity to expand your radio operation feel free to come to the next CKARC meeting on Friday, April 27th at KWU Peters Science Hall room 211

FCC Poised to Cut Vanity Call Sign Fee by More Than 40 Percent

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 19, 2007 -- The FCC has proposed reducing the regulatory fee to obtain or retain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting later this year. *In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* released April 18, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission is proposing to cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, that would mark the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program.

"In this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, we propose to collect \$290,295,160 in regulatory fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, pursuant to Section 9 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended," the FCC said.

"These fees are mandated by Congress and are collected to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities."

Regulatory fees are collected in advance to cover the term of the license and are submitted at the time of application, the FCC points out. Comments on the proposals outlined in MD Docket 07-81 are due May 3. Reply comments are due May 11.

The Commission is obligated to collect nearly \$290.3 million in regulatory fees during FY 2007 to fund its operations. "Consistent with our established practice, we intend to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2007 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC said.

Regulatory Fee Roller Coaster

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the years, but even the current fee is far lower than the \$70 the FCC first announced in its 1994 *Report and Order*. The fee subsequently was reduced to \$30 for the initial rounds of vanity call sign filers in 1996. Over the 11 years of the program, the fee has varied from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50.

The FCC indicates in the *NPRM* that it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year.

Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign but upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the ULS Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There's additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms.

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«First Name» «Last Name»
«Club Name»
«Address Line 1»
«Address Line 2»
«City», «State» «ZIP Code»

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE MAY
QSP IS MAY 16, 2007**

Swains Island N8S operation tops 100,000 contacts!

(Apr 17, 2007) -- The Swains Island N8S DXpedition team made 117,205 QSOs, *The Daily DX* reports. That's the fourth highest all-time DXpedition contact total. After shutting down April 15, the crew made it back to American Samoa late the following day and soon will begin operation from Samoa as 5W8AA. The N8S online logs will be updated today, and the DXpedition is expected to upload its log data to Logbook of the World (LoTW). The first N8S QSL cards will be available in about a month. YT1AD will handle cards for N8S. Meanwhile, reports *The Daily DX*, the third DXpedition to the Spratly Islands is expected to begin April 19 using the call sign 9M2/PG5M. Operation will be 40 through 10 meters, CW only. QSL via PG5M. -- *The Daily DX*