



# QSP



April 2015

QSP On-Line at: <http://www.centalksarc.com/qspage.htm>

The Next Meeting is  
**Friday April 24th** at  
 KWU's Peters Science  
 Hall Room 211

**7:30 PM**

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## April VE Report

### April Test Session:

For the April 8th session, we had **eight** Candidates, Susan Blackshere, KEØDZN, of Salina, Heather Grillot, KEØDZL, of Hoisington, Pat Giron, KEØDZK, of Salina, and Kade Peterson, KEØDZM, of Lenora, Ks. all passed their Technician License. Tom Blackshere, NØMOK, of Salina, David Grillot, KEØDBF, of Hoisington, Jonathan Patterson, KEØDPI, of Miltonvale, Ks. all passed their General Class Exams. Ralph Roberts, KEØDZU of Lindsborg passed both the Technician and the General Class Exams.

Congratulations to all!

Some of these names may be a bit familiar! Like the Blackshere's, Pat Giron is the owner of Pat's Electronics

VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Leon, WAØJFC, Michael, KBØLZQ, Don, KAØEIC, Eric, NØYET, and Alvin, WØME.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

*Unfortunately, the new version of MS Publisher is still giving me a hard time. This month, it has locked me out of being able to edit the last page. Sorry!*

**In case you missed it, the Club has gone back to meeting Monthly. Generally on the Last Friday of the month.**

## Minutes of the March Meeting

7:30 pm – Dennis, KAØLTQ, President, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. 27 members and guests present.

Eric, NØYET moved the minutes of the meetings be approved as printed in QSP. Motion seconded.

Fred, KØDIX – gave treasurer report. \$2954.26 in savings, \$383.64 in checking. Several bills tonight for the hamfest buttons and postage. \$311.58 to Tom Blackshere, NØMOK.

Sid, NØOBM, gave VE / EC report. There were 14 attendees at the March test session. 2 candidates walked in with nothing and walked out with Extra class licenses. The EOC trailer is still housed at the airport at this time.

Mitch, KAØIFW, gave a report on the Intro to HAM class. The first week in April is the last week for the class. Three students already jumped ahead and passed their tests at the March test session. Expect 3 more students to take the test in April. The HAM class will again be offered in the fall through the CLASS program at the Public library. Several of the students got on the radios and checked into the nets and talked on 20 Meters.

Roger, KEØBRV, gave a Field Day report. Of 4 possible locations it was voted on to have Field Day this year at the Church of the Cross UMC. 1600 Rush Street. This is close to the corner of Broadway and Cloud. The club will be using the EOC trailer and generators.

Tom, NØMOK gave a hamfest update. He mailed 63 postcards to Kansas clubs and emailed several more. Tom is checking on the cost of the RV park at Webster and maybe motel discounts around. He also purchased a credit card reader for a cell phone so the club could take credit and debit cards. Tailgating was discussed but decided to only allow it after all the tables have been filled. If anyone has ideas for speakers or programs for the hamfest please get with Tom.

Old business – The revised ByLaws were approved.

New Business – Justin, NV8Q, passed around a small Raspberry Pi computer to look at. An example of the setup used for IRLP access on the K-link repeaters. It was also mentioned the club may wish to purchase one of these setups for the 443.900 Repeater. It would link it to K-LINK though not all the time, and allow Echo-link access to the repeater. Further discussion will be needed on this matter.

3 new members were voted in. Dr. Brian Smith, ADØNY, Isaac Smith, KEØDPK, and David Wood, KEØD-PU.

Reminders – Field Day will be June 27/28

Ed, KCØPHH, handed off net control of the 70cm net on Monday evenings after 3 years. Ken, KC9XI will be the new net control. Thank You Ed for 3 years of a job well done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Several people stayed for the program Paul, KS1P put together on SWR.

Minutes submitted by Eric. NØYET

## Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, **May 4th** at 4:30 PM if the Weather cooperates! Otherwise April 13th.

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **May 13th** at 7:00 PM.

**CKARC Meeting Friday May 29th** at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall Room 211

**CKARC Hamfest:** Sunday, August 16th 2015 Webster Conference Center

## Standard General Affiliate Acquires 1743 RadioShack

04/02/2015

The 1743 retail outlets that survived **RadioShack's** February bankruptcy have been acquired by General Wireless Inc, an affiliate of Standard General LP. General Wireless this week received US Bankruptcy Court approval to acquire the inventory and assume the leases of the RadioShack stores. The acquisition followed an auction, conducted under the US Bankruptcy Code. The current plan calls for "co-branding" about 1440 of the surviving stores with cellular phone provider Sprint Corp.

"This has admittedly been a difficult time for all RadioShack supporters," **said** Soo Kim, Managing Partner of Standard General, the majority shareholder of General Wireless. "[T]his transaction is an important milestone in this storied company's history. It has allowed the company to shed stifling debts and unprofitable business lines."

RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components — including transistors, resistors, and capacitors — and, for a time, a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver and two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers.

Kim said Standard General looks forward to partnering with RadioShack's 7500 employees, its landlords, and with Sprint "to rebuild a great American company."

He said Standard General would be introducing "our talented management team" in the coming weeks. The new team would consist of both new and continuing RadioShack executives.

RadioShack said its partnership with Sprint would help reposition the retailer "as the premier community destination for consumer electronics" and that stores would feature "emerging technologies that enhance the traditional accessories, DIY electronics and innovation for which the company is known."

In the near term, RadioShack has said that it expects to continue to maintain day-to-day operations at its open stores and on its website at RadioShack.com.

## TEN-TEC and Alpha Purchased from RF Concepts

*04/03/2015*

Less than a year after TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers merged under the **RF Concepts** banner, the companies have changed hands. RKR Designs LLC of Longmont, Colorado, announced on April 2 that it has acquired the two brands' assets RF Concepts. RKR said it plans to expand the product line while "continuing to service their customers." RKR Designs principals are Ken Long, NØOO, Richard Gall, and Rich Danielson. Long, with more than 20 years in the electronics and Amateur Radio industries, will be president and CEO of the new company. Gall and Danielson of QSC Systems in Longmont have been a successful contract manufacturer, for over 20 years. QSC has been building Alpha amplifiers for more than 5 years and boards for TEN-TEC since RF Concepts bought the company last year.

"QSC has always been a fantastic contract manufacturer and has the expertise and knowledge that will allow us to bring down costs, while increasing quality and reducing manufacturing times," Long said in a media release. He has headed the Alpha Group, while Jim Wharton, NO4A, was president of the TEN-TEC Group.

RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers has been in business since the early 1970s. TEN-TEC, founded in 1968 as a maker of transceivers for the QRP community, has expanded its line over the years to include a range of transceivers — from basic to top-tier — receivers, tuners, amplifiers, and accessories.

RF Concepts Chairman Michael Seedman, AA6DY, commented, "I can't think of a more capable group of people to take over the 45-year Alpha Amplifier/TEN-TEC legacy. Ken Long has been involved with the industry for years, and has a great feeling for products and operations. He has the manufacturing and engineering resources available to deliver quality products that our customers demand".

A media release said that Long, Gall, and Danielson have worked closely together over the past several years and feel that the "closer relationship to the contract manufacturer will allow a more consistent process and delivery of quality products along with significant cost benefits."

RKR Designs LLC is privately held, and the terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

## New iOS App Available for The ARRL Repeater Directory®

04/10/2015

*The ARRL Repeater Directory*® — introduced this week for 2015-2016 — has a newly launched companion app for Apple® iOS® devices. iPhone®, iPad® and iPod touch® users can download the app at no cost from Apple's **App Store**™, which requires a unique code found in each printed edition of the 2015-2016 directory to activate. Once activated, the app provides details for thousands of Amateur Radio repeaters found in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* database.

"Use the app to quickly locate nearby repeaters based on your current location, or search the entire directory by city/state or coordinates," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "The app also places nearby repeaters on integrated terrain-viewing maps. Touch a repeater and view detailed information including output and input frequency, and other operating notes. Users of the Android version app, introduced a year ago, will find the new iOS version easily familiar."

The app includes many user-defined filters, allowing users to narrow repeater results by frequency bands, or by other attributes such as "open repeaters only," repeaters with weather information, linked repeaters, and ARES/RACES repeaters.

The app's database includes the current directory of frequencies included with the new 2015-2016 print editions of *The ARRL Repeater Directory* and in the *TravelPlus for Repeaters*™ software. ARRL assembles this database each year from frequency coordinators recognized by the National Frequency Coordinator's Council and from carefully vetted submissions submitted by individual repeater owners. The database covers repeaters from 28 MHz to 1240 MHz, and includes ATV, D-Star, APCO-25, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), *EchoLink*, and IRLP machines.

The activation code permits single users to activate the app for 12 months. The 2015-2016 *ARRL Repeater Directory* is available now from **ARRL** and **ARRL publication dealers**. The **pocket-sized edition** is \$12.95 for ARRL members (retail \$14.95), and the **desktop edition** is \$17.95 (retail \$19.95), plus shipping. The activation codes support the iOS and Android apps found in the Apple **App Store** and in **Google Play**™.

Individuals who already have a 2014-2015 directory can use the code included with their book to activate the iOS and Android apps, as long as they have a portion of the 12 months remaining since first using the code to activate a device. Codes included with 2014-2015 edition books will expire on December 31, 2015. Codes included with the 2015-2016 books will expire December 31, 2016. ARRL produced the app with DHF Systems, LLC, the developer of ARRL's *TravelPlus for Repeaters* software. There are plans to introduce a pay-and-go version of *The ARRL Repeater Directory* iOS app in the future.

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**FCC Proposes to Make Past Amateur Radio Address Information Private**

04/16/2015

[UPDATED 2015-04-17 1400 UTC] The FCC is seeking comments on a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 15-81 that would restrict routine public inspection of an Amateur Radio licensee's address history. The Commission said it was taking the action in an effort to enhance the privacy of individual licensees. The change would not affect public access to a licensee's current address information.

"To implement this change, we propose to remove from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Amateur Radio licensee address information that is not associated with a current license or pending application..." the FCC said in the *NPRM*, released on March 31. "We believe that these steps will enhance Amateur Radio operators' privacy without undermining the public interest in knowing who is authorized to operate on amateur spectrum."

The Wireless Bureau also solicited public input on whether it should extend the same approach to individual licensees in any other radio services, such as the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), commercial radio operator licensees, and individuals who hold ship station and/or aircraft station licenses.

Current licensee address information would remain public, the Commission said.

"We believe that publicly available licensee address information facilitates the Amateur Radio community's self-regulation and maintains the distinction between the Amateur Service and other radio services," the FCC said in the *NPRM*. "In recent years, the Commission has received occasional requests from amateur licensees to remove their address information from public view in ULS. These requests are not granted, because Section 0.453(d)(4) requires that the information be available for public inspection in ULS."

The FCC noted in the *NPRM* that the ULS includes not only current authorizations and pending applications, but expired, canceled, or terminated licenses; archived versions of active licenses, and applications that have not been processed. "Information available on ULS includes a licensee's name and address, and technical information about the authorization requested or granted," the *NPRM* explained.

The FCC pointed out that an Amateur Radio licensee is not required to provide a home address, just a valid mailing address. "Those who are concerned about their residential address appearing in ULS may use, among other alternatives, a post office box, a business address, the address of another property the licensee owns, or the address of a friend or relative as their mailing address," the *NPRM* suggested.

The FCC acknowledged that for a licensee whose residential address may already appear in ULS, this approach "offers only a partial solution," the *NPRM* said, "because replacing the address on a current license does not remove the old address information from archived licenses and processed applications, and it remains publicly viewable even if the license expires or is canceled or otherwise terminated."

Comments are due in the proceeding by June 16. Reply comments -- ie, comments on comments filed -- are due by July 16.

## From the WA8BNM Contest Calendar

NCCC <b>RTTY</b> Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 1
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 1
<b>AGCW QRP/QRP Party</b>	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, <b>CW</b>	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest & Club Challenge	0600 local, May 2 to 2359 local, May 3
Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1300 local, May 2
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3
<b>7th Call Area QSO Party</b>	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3
<b>Indiana QSO Party</b>	1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3
<b>Delaware QSO Party</b>	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
<b>New England QSO Party</b>	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 5
CWops Mini- <b>CWT</b> Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 6 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 6 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 7
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, May 7 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, May 7 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, May 7 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 7 (Dig)
NCCC <b>RTTY</b> Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 8
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 8
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
VOLTA WW <b>RTTY</b> Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
F9AA Cup, PSK	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 9 to 2400Z, May 10
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 9
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 9 to 0300Z, May 10
CWops Mini- <b>CWT</b> Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 14
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
NCCC <b>RTTY</b> Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, <b>CW</b>	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
<b>Feld Hell</b> Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, May 16 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16
WAB 7 MHz Phone	1000Z-1400Z, May 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 18
CWops Mini- <b>CWT</b> Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 21
NAQCC <b>CW</b> Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, <b>CW</b>	1900Z-2030Z, May 21
NCCC <b>RTTY</b> Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 23 to 1200Z, May 24
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
CWops Mini- <b>CWT</b> Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 28
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, May 27
NCCC <b>RTTY</b> Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 29
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 29
CQ WW WPX Contest, <b>CW</b>	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31
SARL <b>Digital</b> Contest	1300Z-1600Z, May 31

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL QSP IS APR. 15, 2015**

**CKARC February Birthdays**