

# August 2016 QSP

*Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club*



## August Test Session

For the Second Month in a row, we had no candidates for the “Regular” 2nd Wednesday of the Month session. The Hamfest (we hope) will be a different story.

Since this issue is being put “to bed” prior to the Hamfest, I have NO info on that test session—YET!

We DID have a Full Board in attendance for the Board Meeting!

VE’s in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Ron, WAØPSF, and Leon, WAØJFC.

### Special points of interest:

- July & August Testing Sessions
- July Minutes

Change IS Constant!

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## Reminders

NO Siren Test scheduled for **Sept. 5 (Labor Day)** We will try on the 12th.

September Test Session is on **September**

**14th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff’s Office Classroom.

The September CKARC meeting is scheduled for the **30th** of September

at **7:30 PM** at KWU’s Peters Science Hall. (“Regular” time)

## CKARC July 2016 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall on Friday July 29, 2016 at 7:30 pm. President Dennis Kelly called meeting to order.

### Reports:

Financials-Pat: Bennington Bank has cancelled the checking account due to inactivity, it will be Monday following club meeting before it can be reactivated.

Secretary-David: Equipment and liability insurance renewed.

Testing-Sid: No one at test session

Hamfest-Tom: 36 Tables are reserved. Embroidery company will have a preorder page at

[www.embroideredmemories.net](http://www.embroideredmemories.net)

RSVP if wanting to attend dinner at Martinelli's hosted by Ron Hogg the evening Prior to the Hamfest.

Setup is Aug. 20, 6 to 8 pm. Hamfest starts on Aug. 21, 7am to 2pm, must be cleared out by 3pm. Have 4 Baofung Radios for door prizes and may buy a inverter. Will try and do radio plug on KFRM and contact Salina Journal to see if interested in article.

Field day- Eric: Submitted log, had 107 contacts for 234 points.

### Announcements:

Mitch-Ham technician class will be offered through Salina Public Library's CLASS Program, Sept. 12 through Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business:

Motion was made and seconded to renew membership of Ten-Ten International for 3 more years, motion passed.

## Siren Test Nets



These are "routinely" held on the First Monday of every Month—**Except September** - provided that the Weather is in a cooperative mood. If there are too many clouds in the sky, or if it happens to be too Cold (Winter in Kansas can be Very cold) Less than +32 Degrees, the Test will usually be postponed until the following week.

In the event that the Weather still is not in a cooperative mood on the 2nd Monday, the test will be Cancelled for the Month.

Those folks that do check in, we would like the following information: Your Call Sign (obviously), your current location (street intersections are good enough) and if you heard

a Siren (or more than one). This helps cut down on the number of folks that the Emergency Management Office has to call to see if the Sirens went off or not.

Our help on this event **IS** Greatly appreciated!

## FCC Finds a Fix for Amateur Radio Application Batch Processing Problem

07/14/2016

It's taken a couple of weeks, but the FCC has resolved a computer programming problem that had affected its ability to accept and process batch-filed Amateur Radio applications, resulting in a backlog for the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (**VEC**) and others taking advantage of automated processing. The FCC information technology staff had been attempting to fix the glitch affecting the Universal Licensing System (**ULS**) Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system, since it first cropped up on June 28. At first, the problem affected the processing of all Amateur Radio and commercial license applications, said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who alerted the FCC IT Department.

By June 30, it appeared that the FCC had corrected the broader problem, but the EBF remained unable to process ARRL VEC's automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions. VECs that were manually logging in to upload their files were unaffected. ARRL and FCC IT staffers put their heads together to get to the bottom of the blockage.

"The FCC IT staff was astutely attentive to the problem every step of the way as they worked with our IT department to find a solution," Somma said. "We appreciate the specialized service we received."

ARRL's IT Department and the ARRL VEC confirmed on July 14 that the problem had been fixed, the backlog of more than 1200 applications and 300 exam sessions cleared, and the flow of automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions able to resume.

## Now Free of HAARP, US Air Force Still Wants to Tinker with the Ionosphere

08/11/2016

A lot of radio amateurs bemoaning the recent spate of poor HF conditions would love to have a way to improve propagation — perhaps without even having to rely on the whims of the Sun. The US Department of Defense is thinking along the same lines. An August 9 **article** in *New Scientist* reports that the US Air Force is exploring a plan to bombard Earth's upper atmosphere with ionized gas dispersed from CubeSats. According to the *New Scientist* article by David Hambling, the Air Force hopes to improve long-distance radio communication by "detonating plasma bombs" in the upper atmosphere, and the military branch has contracted with corporate and university researchers to figure out how to make this a reality.

The US Air Force is no stranger to ionospheric tinkering, having just last year transferred the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project (HAARP) facility to the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), which **hopes to restart it** next year. HAARP's super-power RF in the high-frequency spectrum has been used to stimulate the ionosphere and create a plasma cloud that could support HF radio propagation; it also has been used to study how the ionosphere functions.

The trick with using CubeSats to disperse ionizing gas above Earth is coming up with a plasma generator small enough to fit within a CubeSat and controlling how the plasma will disperse. *New Scientist* said General Sciences of Souderton, Pennsylvania, and Enig Associates of Bethesda, Maryland, are working with scientists at Drexel University and at the University of Maryland, respectively, on separate methods to produce plasma.

An August 9 **article** in *Philly Voice* by Michael Tannenbaum said the nearly \$150,000 contract with General Sciences and Drexel University proposes to develop a plasma gas generation device “based on the use of highly exothermic condensed phase reactions yielding temperatures considerably higher than the boiling points of candidate metal elements with residual energy to maximize their vapor yield and, with high probability to enter associative ionization (chemi-ionization) reactions with atmospheric oxygen,” the research *Abstract* explains. The *Abstract* says researchers also will explore hardware development for controlled-release options. The benefit, according to the *Abstract*? “New ways of communication will become available to [the Department of Defense] with significant benefits to the defense of the country.”

For its part, Enig Associates **has announced** that its collaboration with the University of Maryland will lead to “an innovative and novel electrical approach, using in-house designed explosive-driven flux compression generators to convert explosive chemical energy into electromagnetic energy with very high current output and superb energy conversion efficiency.” The researchers will aim to design “an integrated generator device whose form factor fits inside an air-launched vehicle or sounding rocket.” The *New Scientist* article said the better approach will be selected for a second phase, which will involve testing plasma generators in vacuum chambers and exploratory space flights.

## Comments in FCC “Symbol Rate” Rule Making Proposal Due by October 11

08/12/2016

The FCC will accept public comments in response to a July FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 16-239 — the “Symbol Rate” proceeding — are due by October 11. Reply comments — ie, comments on comments already filed — are due by November 11. The *NPRM* now has been published in *The Federal Register*, thus opening the respective 60-day and 30-day comment/reply comment windows.

In response to a 2013 ARRL *Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708)*, the FCC proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL’s *Petition*, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

Interested parties may comment on the *NPRM* in WT Docket 16-239 via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing Service (**EFCS**), as well as by mail.

## California RACES and CERT Volunteers Team Up to Assist Seniors during Blackout

08/18/2016

When the power went out on June 4 at both the Huntington Gardens and Five Points senior residences in Huntington Beach, California, Huntington Beach RACES (**HBRACES**) and Community Emergency Response Team (**CERT**) volunteers promptly activated to help. Each residential structure stands 14 stories tall. At Huntington Gardens, a generator supplied power to the hallways and elevators, but not to individual living units or telephones; residents had no way of calling 911 if an emergency occurred. At Five Points, which has no back-up generator, the facility was left in complete darkness.

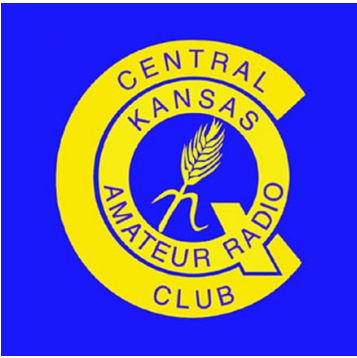
RACES Radio Officer Dr Steve Graboff, W6GOS, and his assistant, Steve Albert, KE6OCE, started a 2 meter net and logged in available communicators. Operators checked into the net were advised to proceed to the staging at Huntington Beach City Hall.

"[T]he response to the call to activation by HBRACES was impressive," Graboff said. "The professional communications skills displayed by the operators were outstanding. The quality of HBRACES training was clearly evident in all of our responders, including those deployed in the field and others who were assigned to the incident command post."

HBRACES communicators paired with a Huntington Beach CERT responder, and each team assigned to a floor of the two facilities to cover communication and emergency calls. This marked the first time Huntington Beach RACES and CERT members were deployed in pairs.

The volunteers patrolled the floors of the buildings in the dark, looking and listening for people in need of help, or for anyone who might take advantage of the situation. Residents thus had direct communication with the Huntington Beach Fire and Police departments. Graboff said that having both organizations working together created a safer environment for the volunteers, since they were not alone. The Red Cross dispatched a canteen vehicle to support the volunteers with snacks and coffee.

"RACES and CERT worked well together, and I believe this is a response model we will use again in the future," Graboff said. Some 60 volunteers turned out, and several residents of the affected facilities thanked the RACES and CERT volunteers for being there. One resident said afterward that knowing the volunteers were in the hallway was the only thing that allowed her to sleep that night. The cause of the power failure was traced to a chain reaction fire/explosion in area underground utility vaults. — *Thanks to Bob Zamalin, WA6VIP, via the [ARRL ARES E-Letter](#)*



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**Your issue of QSP is Here!**

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We are on the Web

[www.w0cy.org](http://www.w0cy.org)

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## **Changes!**

Please bear with us as we work out some "New" Bugs!

We are also (as usual) running into "Time" issues—there never seems to be enough of it in a month!

*Sid NØOBM*

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