

January 2017 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



Special points of interest:

- December/January Testing Sessions
- December Minutes
- New Propagation Tool Released
- Nebraska QSO Party
- New FCC Chairman
- CIA Documents
- November SS
- Amateur Radio Parity Act
- WSJT Developments

Inside this issue:

Minutes of the December Meeting	2
Siren Test Nets	2
New Propagation Prediction Tool Released	3
Nebraska QSO Party	3
New FCC Chairman	4
CIA Documents	4
November SS	5
U S Naval Academy	5
Amateur Radio Parity Act	6
WSJT Development	6
Back Cover	7

December Test Sessions

The December 14th Test session had two candidates, Ron Bennett, KEØxxx, of Hays passed his Tech Exam and tried for General. Still a New Tech is a Good thing. Chris Clingman, KCØTNN, of Beloit is now an Extra! Congratulations to Both!

VE's in Attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Ron, WAØPSF, and Larry Woodman, NØXGL of Beloit.

The December 21st session had four candidates. Paul Tryon, KEØGPE, of Salina passed his General, as did Dean Klenda, KDØKIQ, of Salina, and Reginald Tryon, KEØGPC, of Salina. The fourth candidate did not pass.

VE's in Attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Leon, WAØJFC, and Ron, WAØPSF

January Test Session

For the January Session, we had 3 Candidates. Ed Ball, KEØLRQ, of Belleville passed his Tech, Ron Bennett, KEØLNC, of Hays upgraded to General, as did John Begler, KDØGHB, of Ellis.

VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Larry, NØXGL, Ron, WAØPSF, and Eric NØYET

Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **Feb. 6th**. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will try again on the 13th.

February Test Session

is on February **8th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom. Board Meeting at 6:30 PM (NEW)

The February CKARC

meeting is scheduled for the 24th of February at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall in Room 211.

CKARC December 2016 Minutes

The CKARC had a Christmas dinner meeting on December 16 at 6:30 pm. It was held at Coyote Canyon in Salina KS. Dennis Kelly, KAØLTQ, opened the meeting with an introduction of members and guests. The Joe Addison trophy was awarded to Tom Blackshire, NØMOK. The 2017 officers were sworn in by Ron Tremblay. No business was discussed.

The Refreshments at the January Meeting will be furnished by Ron Tremblay, WAØPSF, and his Wife—in honor of His Birthday.

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!

New Propagation Prediction Tool is Available

01/13/2017

ITURHProp, a new point-to-point propagation prediction tool based on an ITU engine and developed by Gwyn Williams, G4FKH, is now available via the **RSGB** website (click on "Start Application"). The new web-based prediction tool is said to be more accurate than previous engines.

ITURHProp calculates the path characteristics between two points on the globe to determine projected path maximum usable frequency (MUF) and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). Development on the project is ongoing.

Nebraska Sesquicentennial Celebration QSO Party Set for February, March

01/13/2017

Radio amateurs in Nebraska will celebrate the state's 150th anniversary during the **Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration Week QSO Party**, starting on Saturday, February 25, and continuing until Sunday, March 6. That time period includes the actual anniversary date, March 1. Nebraska amateurs may operate from their own stations or as part of Nebraska historical site activations, appending "/NE150" to their call signs. A **Facebook page** has been established.

Nebraska stations transmit name, signal report, and Nebraska county (plus historical site, if appropriate). Non-Nebraska stations transmit name, signal report, and state, Canadian province, or DXCC entity. A special QSL card will be available with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and QSL to the Nebraska station contacted.

Contact ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director **Art Zygielbaum**, K0AIZ, or ARRL Nebraska Section Manager **Matt Anderson**, KB0BOJ, for additional information. The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Amateur Radio Commemorative QSO Party is an official Nebraska Sesquicentennial event sanctioned by the **Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission**.

New FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Offers Praise for H.R. 555, Other Telecoms Bills

01/25/2017

Newly designated FCC Chairman Ajit Pai (see below) praised the House action on **H.R. 555** and other telecommunications-related legislation that cleared the chamber on Monday. "I want to commend the U.S. House of Representatives for passing a number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday," Pai said on January 24.

"These bills will help bring greater efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety," he continued, adding, "I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as Chairman of the FCC."

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney, — who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member — to succeed chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20. Pai is the FCC's 34th chairman.

Pai will chair his first open meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, January 31

CIA Declassified Documents about Amateur Radio Available in Searchable Online Database

01/25/2017

Central Intelligence Agency (**CIA**) reports about Amateur Radio in the former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States) and Warsaw Pact member countries have been declassified to a new searchable **online database**, the CIA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room.

Documents include translations and assessments of Amateur Radio clubs, including Soviet DOSAAF (Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army, Aviation, and Fleet) groups; training; monitoring Sputniks; technology and equipment, and even QSL cards.

All documents have been declassified and occasionally "sanitized" and made available to the public for the first time in this archive. Some of these documents were only available previously in a closed system at the **US National Archives**. — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Andy Thomas, G0SF*

Time to Order ARRL November Sweepstakes Clean Sweep Mugs, Participation Pins!

01/23/2017

Anyone who managed to make a "Clean Sweep" by working all 83 ARRL/RAC sections during the 2016 **ARRL November Sweepstakes** may commemorate their accomplishment by purchasing a 2016 November Sweepstakes "Clean Sweep" mug. Awards are based on claimed scores. Keepsake mugs are \$15 each, (including postage and handling). In addition, participation pins are available to operators who completed at least 100 Sweepstakes contacts. Pins include the year and mode and have become a popular SS tradition. Pins also are based on claimed scores, and each is \$8, including postage and handling. When you order, indicate CW or SSB.

Order mugs and pins separately. In either case, if you submitted your log electronically, accompany your check for payment with a paper copy of the first page of your Cabrillo log, indicating how many mugs or pins you are ordering. If you logged on paper, accompany your check for payment with a note to the top of your summary sheet, indicating how many mugs or pins you are ordering.

Send orders to "Clean Sweep Mugs" or "Sweepstakes Pins" (whichever applies) to ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

Mugs and pins will be shipped after all entries have been processed and logs verified (approximately April 2017). This helps ARRL to keep costs down and avoid inventory issues. As a non-profit organization, we need to minimize expenses.

Supplies are limited. Orders for mugs and pins must be received by January 31, 2017.

US Naval Academy HFsat Coordinated for 15 Meter-to-10 Meter Transponder

01/24/2017

The US Naval Academy has received IARU satellite frequency coordination for **HFsat**, a 1.5 U CubeSat with a 15- to 10-meter linear transponder with a 30 kHz bandwidth (uplink 21.4 MHz, downlink 29.42 MHz). The Mode K configuration is reminiscent of the old "RS" series of Russian satellites.

The CubeSat will also carry an APRS digipeater on 145.825 MHz. HFsat is a project to demonstrate the viability of HF satellite communications as a back-up communications system, using HF radios found in a typical Amateur Radio installation or frequently used to support disaster and emergency response communication.

"HFsat will be gravity gradient-stabilized by its full-sized 10-meter half-wave HF dipole with tip masses," said Bob Bruninga, WB4APR.

A standardized CubeSat VHF communication card based on the popular Byonics MTT4B all-in-one APRS Tiny-Track4 module for telemetry, command, and control is under development at the US Naval Academy. US Naval Academy students are working with Bill Ress, N6GHZ, on the HF transponder card.

Amateur Radio Parity Act Speeds to U.S. House Passage, Heads to U.S. Senate

01/24/2017

Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, **H.R. 555**, passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the U.S. Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was introduced on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the U.S. Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with 110,000 e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

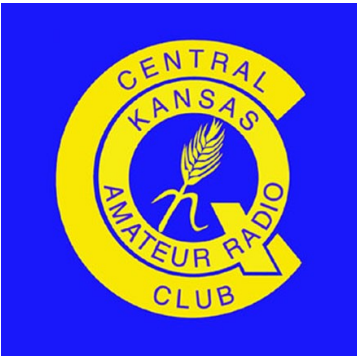
H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction.

WSJT Development Group Releases WSJT-X Version 1.7.0

12/20/2016

The WSJT Development Group has released **WSJT-X version 1.7.0**. The *WSJT-X* software suite is designed to facilitate basic Amateur Radio communication using very weak signals (WSJT stands for Weak Signal communication by K1JT).

Joe Taylor, K1JT, recommends reading the extensively updated *WSJT-X* version 1.7 **User Guide**, which describes **new features and capabilities** (relative to version 1.6). *WSJT-X* version 1.7.0 includes new modes *ISCAT*, *MSK144*, and *QRA64*; newly implemented sub-modes *JT65B-C* and *JT9B-H*; a new Franke-Taylor decoder to replace the Koetter-Vardy decoder previously used for *JT65*; improvements to the *JT4*, *JT9*, and *JT65* decoders; multi-pass decoding for *JT65* and *WSPR*, and improved convenience features for EME Doppler tracking.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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We are on the Web

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Changes!

Changes are “always” in the works—as time allows, and there has not been a whole lot of “free time” lately!

Dues are now due—No Later than 31 January to be considered to be ON-Time!
Still a bargain at \$20.00 per year!

Sid NØOBM
