

July 2015 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



July Test Session (8 July 2015)

The July Test Session went well. We had 3 Candidates, Jim Nichols II, KEØEYH, of Clay Center upgraded to General, His wife Janice Nichols, KEØFEQ, also of Clay Center passed her Technician, and Gary Getten, KEØFEP, of Salina passed his Technician.

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

Special points of interest:

- July Test Session a Success—Everybody PASSED!
- The Dayton Report
- QRZ Facelift
- ARRL Fee Hike !
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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **August 3rd**, provided the Weather cooperates! If not, then we will try again on **August 10th**.

August Test Session is on **August the 12th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

The August CKARC

meeting is scheduled for the **28th** of August at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall.

Ohio ARES “NVIS Antenna Day” Concludes That the Truth is Up There

06/25/2015

Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna Day on April 25 attracted participation from some 100 Buckeye State stations in an effort to determine which configurations of near-vertical incidence skywave (**NVIS**) antenna offer the best results. ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, said that while the results of the unscientific test were inconclusive, some configurations *did* seem superior.

“The goal was simple: Try different antennas, see which work,” Broadway explained. “Each station was responsible with providing accurate signal reports, so performance could be evaluated. Results would be tallied and digested in hopes of creating a short list of winners that ARES teams could keep in their toolboxes.”

Most operation was Field Day-style on 40 meters. “This was not a contest,” Broadway pointed out, “so, groups gathered not only to test antennas, but to cook out and enjoy each other’s company.” He said one group had so much fun making contacts on their first dipole that they abandoned any further antenna work and just had fun.

Groups most frequently deployed simple dipoles. End-fed and longwires were popular too, as well as a handful of loops. A half-dozen antennas were based on the military **AS-2259** design — crossed inverted Vs with about 10 feet of elevation in the middle. Other designs included antennas erected above ponds, inverted Ls, and even a Moxon aimed straight up.

“For our operation, there just wasn’t that much difference between the more specialized NVIS designs and any good antenna,” Broadway concluded. The longwire was among those at the bottom of the list, with signal reports uniformly 2 or 3 S-units below other choices, according to Broadway. “But contacts *were* made, and communication took place,” he added. It’s a very portable antenna too.

Determining the “best” antenna turned out to be harder. Dipoles — flattops or inverted Vs — installed at lower heights in keeping with NVIS concepts, provided reasonable reports, but erecting them at a low height didn’t seem to make much difference. If any antenna topped the list, it was those fashioned after the AS-2259 configuration.

“These all performed very satisfactorily for their owners, and were uniformly given good signal reports,” Broadway said. “They weren’t 40 dB above the competition, but they were solid.”

While the NVIS antenna experiment had inconclusive results, “we did prove that our hobby can be a lot of fun, even for the old heads, when we get back to some basics — experimenting, equipment and team building, and trying our stuff out,” Broadway said. Concluded Jefferson County participant Gregory Day, N8GD, “After 34 years, ham radio is still fun!”

Ohio ARES is planning an even bigger NVIS event next April, and will extend an invitation to neighboring ARRL sections to join in.

Siren Test Nets



These are “routinely” held on the First Monday of every Month—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!

Minutes of the June Meeting

7:29 pm. – President, Dennis, KAØLTQ – Opened with Pledge Of Allegiance

There were 23 members and guests present. Dennis had everyone introduce themselves and give the year they were licensed.

Secretary report – Minutes from last month’s meeting approved as printed. Eric mentioned anyone is able to tour and use the KWU Hamshack.

Treasurers Report – checking - \$169.19

Savings - \$2759.12

VE / EC Report – River Festival went well. Only 7 lost kids this year. 73 lost and found items. Down from last year of about 120 items.

Upcoming Events:

Field Day tomorrow at Dr. Brian Smith’s house. Woodward Road.

July 6 – Siren test net

July 8 – Testing Session
QSP has changed its format.

Hamfest Report – Tom, NØMOK, reports we need ideas for programs and presenters at the HamFest. Currently ARRL is the only forum scheduled.

Mitch requested approval of a quote from Ritter Tile for \$48 for use in the KWU Hamshack. John Burchill,

KCØJNK wrote a check to cover this so no cost to the club.

Paul, KS1P, requested that the club purchase an HF radio for the club to use when needed for Field Day and other events. Mitch and Eric will address this and look at specifications then report back.

8:20 Meeting adjourned
NØYET

Dayton Hamvention Reports 2015 Attendance Rose Slightly Over 2014

07/15/2015

The official attendance at the 2015 **Dayton Hamvention**® was 25,621. That’s an increase from the official count of 24,873 visitors last year — or an additional 748 attendees. The 2013 attendance was 24,542. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May.

While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Dayton Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring.

The sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (**DARA**) already has begun counting down the days to the next Hamvention on May 20-22, 2016. — *Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR*

QRZ.com Website Undergoing Major Upgrade

07/20/2015

The popular **QRZ.com** website has been undergoing a major upgrade since last Friday, and things are going a bit more slowly than initially anticipated.

“The QRZ forums are still down as we work on the software known as *vBulletin 5*,” owner Fred Lloyd, AB7Q, announced on the site. “We’re devoting maximum effort to this and, in the meantime, feel free to browse the rest of the site. We hope to have things up soon. How long will it take? About as long as it takes to catch a fish. We’re hopeful.”

The outage does not affect call sign lookups and other site features. Lloyd told ARRL that he hoped to have the QRZ.com forums running today. He said the site will have a fresh, new look, once the upgrade is complete.

ARRL Board Approves Dues Hike, HF Band Plan, 2016 National Parks Centennial Event

07/20/2015

Meeting over the weekend in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a **\$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016**. In doing so, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001. In addition, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan — with some tweaks, okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial, began the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire next May, and named several ARRL award recipients. Sumner said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option.

"One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just 19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period. We have implemented operating efficiencies that allowed reducing the staff by 15 percent while expanding the range of services to members and to Amateur Radio as a whole. We created a development program, offering to those members who have greater financial capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level."

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (**LoTW**), a digital edition of *QST* at no additional cost, expanded *QST* and video product reviews, ARRL publications for Kindle, **Online Exam Review**, and free license renewal assistance. The League also has upgraded its public service support with additional staff, the **Ham Aid** program, **Emergency Communications Training**, and the **ARES® E-Letter**. Also new since 2001 are the **Education & Technology** program, the Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) program. Advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio has included relentless defense of Amateur Radio spectrum, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and an increased awareness of the value of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill. The League also mounted a centennial celebration in 2014 that included a national and six regional conventions, the Centennial QSO Party, and W1AW portable operations.

Details of ARRL's revenues and expenditures are available in its **Annual Report** archive for 2002 to 2014. "ARRL manages its resources judiciously and keeps costs as low as possible while maintaining a consistently high level of service for all members," Sumner concluded. "Raising dues will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes *all* of Amateur Radio."

ARRL HF Band Plan

In other business, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan recommended by the HF Band Planning Committee in its July 2015 report, with one major change from the proposals as outlined in the April 2015 issue of *QST* and **summarized** on the ARRL website. That change was to set the upper RTTY/data limit for 20 meters at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.

Rule Making Petition to FCC

The Board also authorized the preparation of a rule making petition to the FCC, seeking changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands that are consistent with majority opinion among more than 1000 responses to an online membership survey. The petition would seek to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz. It also would restore privileges in the 3600-3650 kHz segment to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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We are on the Web

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August Birthdays

F/Member Barbara Anderson 8/15
