

July 2017 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



July Test Session

The July Test session had Two candidates, David Hanson, KEØNUE, of Salina passed his General Exam, and the other candidate did not. Congratulations to David! Says he will be back next month for his Extra!

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

Special points of interest:

- July Testing Session
- June Minutes
- "The Felony Question"
- Ham Radio Parity Act
- WSJT Beta Release
- 25 MHz back on WWV

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **August 7th**. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will try again on the 14th. August Test Sessions

are on August **9th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom, and at the Hamfest August 20th at 9:00 AM. Board Meet-

ing at 6:30 PM, on the 9th. The August CKARC meeting is scheduled for the 25th of August at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall in Room 211.

CKARC June 2017 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall on Friday, June 30 at 7:00 pm. President Dennis Kelly, KAØLTQ, called the meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as published in QSP.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat, KEØDZK, - \$4386.52 in account. Hamfest misc. and banner bills were paid.

Secretary: David, KEØDPU, - Renewed our nonprofit status with state at cost of \$40.

EC/VE: Sid, NØOBM, - Test session had two candidates pass. All but two of the new tornado sirens have been installed.

Hamfest: Tom, NØMOK, - Received 200 postcards to distribute, sent 270 emails. Programs we have are: Propagation after eclipse, Club Officers roundtable on increasing club membership, Digital contesting, ARRL may do skype presentation, and Highway Patrol and Westar may speak on something.

Old Business:

Riverfest went well, had only 8-10 lost kids. Usual collection of lost phones, car keys and chairs.

Field Day had some radio or antenna issues, but a good learning experience. Antenna and generator were provided by Sid, NØOBM, Radios were provided by Pat, KEØDZK, and Dennis, KAØLTQ, manned the night shift.

New Business:

Repeaters and Nets- have tone set on all repeaters now, 2m is backup. 10m net will no longer be run by Alvin, Robert will give it a try for a month and club will decide later if we will continue the net or discontinue.

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!

All of the New Sirens Have been Installed at this time.

Revised FCC Form 605 Will Ask Applicants “the Felony Question”

07/19/2017

A revised FCC Form 605 — *Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services* — going into effect in September will ask all applicants to indicate if they have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony. The Communications Act obliges the Commission to ask “the felony question,” as it did on the old Form 610 and still does on other applications. This action will correct its omission on Form 605, which has existed for years. Applicants’ responses and explanations will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee. The FCC told ARRL that it’s still deciding whether to issue a public notice on the change.

“The Commission is revising the basic qualifications section of the form to include a question regarding whether an application has been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court,” the Office of the FCC Secretary explained in a May filing with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which must okay the revision. “Applicants answering YES must provide an explanation regarding the conviction. This item enables the FCC to determine whether an applicant is eligible under sections 310(d) and 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to hold or have ownership interest in a station license.”

The revision also will apply to NCVEC Form 605 — the *unofficial* Amateur Radio-specific version of the application that is completed and filed at volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC) examination sessions. VECs will have to start using the revised form on September 7. Responding to VECs’ questions, the FCC offered some guidance, with a particular focus on NCVEC Form 605.

ARRL VEC Manager and NCVEC Vice-Chair Maria Somma, AB1FM, thanked the FCC for honoring a request to amend the effective date of the change, initially in early August. “At the urging of the NCVEC leadership, the FCC took into consideration the undertaking to change and distribute all affected forms and update software and agreed to push back the execution date by 1 month,” she said. The NCVEC will create a revised NCVEC Form 605 and release it to VE teams before September 7.

Once the Form 605 update has been implemented, assuming all other information is correct, negative felony question responses will result in a license grant, the FCC said. A YES will place the application in the “pending file for review” category. Applicants answering YES would have to, within 14 days, provide the FCC with a statement explaining the circumstances, and a statement “giving the reasons why the applicant believes that grant of the application would be in the public interest, notwithstanding the actual or alleged misconduct,” the revised Form 605 instructions state. The FCC said an applicant’s answer to the felony question and explanation will be public via ULS, unless a separate request is made to the FCC that the applicant’s explanation be kept confidential. The FCC will review applications on which the felony question has been answered in the affirmative and decide whether to grant them or designate them for hearing.

“The applicant must provide sufficient information for the FCC to determine whether there exists any material and substantial question of fact regarding whether the applicant has the character qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC said. There is no set checklist of items, but useful information would include such information as details regarding the conduct that resulted in the conviction or guilty plea, including time and place; the date of the conviction or guilty plea; the penalty

imposed and whether it has been satisfied, and “any efforts taken to remedy the wrongs committed and ensure that the applicant will not engage in such conduct in the future,” the FCC said.

The FCC said the only additional information that VECs will have to collect is the response to the felony question; any explanatory exhibits and confidentiality petitions will go directly to the FCC, and VECs will have no information as to the status of such applications.

The FCC said the felony question must be answered every time — even if previously answered — for New, Modification, Renewal/Modification, and Amendment applications. “Assuming that nothing has changed, the attachment to the subsequent applications can simply reference the file number of the application where the complete explanation was given, rather than having to set forth the complete explanation each time,” the FCC memo said. “Clubs are not exempt from the felony question. The question applies to the club as an entity and to the trustee, but not to any other individual officers.”

Individuals convicted of a felony and later pardoned or whose record has been sealed should answer YES, and include information regarding the pardon, “as that will be relevant to whether the conviction still presents any material and substantial question of fact regarding whether the applicant has the character qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC told VECs. “An overturned conviction need not be disclosed — but a conviction still on appeal must be disclosed.”

Amateur Radio Parity Act is Introduced in US Senate

07/13/2017

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's association (HOA) or subject to any private land use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes. The Senate bill, S. 1534, is identical to H.R. 555, which passed the US House of Representatives in January.

"Amateur Radio continues to be a critical part of our emergency communications operations," Wicker said. "Mississippians learned firsthand after Hurricane Katrina how Amateur Radio operators can provide a resilient, distributed network to first responders and disaster relief organizations when other communications tools fail."

"Amateur Radio operators provide an invaluable service to their communities by assisting local emergency communication efforts when disasters occur and main lines are down," Blumenthal said. "This bipartisan measure ensures that operators have access to the tools they need to support our first responders when lives are at stake."

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai applauded the bill in late January, saying that it would "help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, expressed the League's appreciation to the Senate sponsors. "ARRL is grateful for the support of Senators Wicker and Blumenthal for sponsoring this important piece of legislation, and for advocating this bill for the past 3 years," he said. "Their continuing support is critical to the success of our efforts." President Roderick also thanked Senator John Thune (R-SD), who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, for "championing the Parity Act in the Senate since the beginning of our effort."

The bill has enjoyed widespread, bipartisan support. In the 114th Congress, nearly 130 cosponsors signed onto the legislation in the House and the Senate. The legislation, which strikes a carefully crafted balance for all concerned parties, is the result of months of work culminating in the accord reached by ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI). The measure provides for the guarantee of an effective outdoor antenna while protecting the aesthetic concerns of HOAs. In a statement, ARRL said it looks forward to working with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate and the Commerce Committee to help move the Wicker-Blumenthal legislation through the Senate and to the President's desk.

New FT8 Mode Included in WSJT-X Beta Release

07/12/2017

A beta release of **WSJT-X**, version 1.8.0-rc1, includes a new FT8 mode, featuring a faster turnaround, and it's already showing up on the bands. According to the **notes** for the candidate release, FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel," and contacts 4 times faster than JT65 or JT9. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ. The beta WSJT-X also offers a new mode for accurate frequency calibration of your radio, improved CAT radio control, and enhanced JT65, QRA64, and MSK144 decoder performance. According to **The Daily DX**, on July 11, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, reported what he called "lots of semi-rare DX activity" using the new FT8 mode. He mentioned A92AA, OY1DZ, VR2XMT, and YE2IJ on 40 meters, and TR8CA and YI3WHR on 20. — *Thanks to **The ARRL Contest Update** and **The Daily DX***

WWV 25 MHz Signal Swapped to Circular Polarization, Reception Reports Invited

07/11/2017

The resurrected 25-MHz signal of time and frequency standard station **WWV** is now emanating from a circularly polarized turnstile antenna. WWV had used a vertically polarized antenna on 25 MHz in the 1970s. Silent since 1977, the 25-MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since — initially on a broadband discone until August 2015, when it switched back to a vertical, which it used until the July 7 switch to circular polarization.

"[W]e are broadcasting with 2 kW from a circularly polarized turnstile antenna," WWV lead electrical engineer Matt Deutch, NØRGT, told ARRL this week. "It is just your standard plain-vanilla turnstile — two horizontal orthogonal dipoles with a quarter-wave phase-shifting coax linking them."

Deutch has explained that when the 25-MHz transmitter was shut down in 1977, the antenna's radiating element was "tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna," Deutch recounted. When WWV first reintroduced the 25-MHz broadcast some 37 years later in response to requests, it used a broadband monopole. But, it was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5-MHz stand-by transmitter and to rebuild the 25-MHz antenna. The old radiating section was retrieved and the antenna rebuilt, so that it looked like what was being used in 1977.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (**NIST**). WWV has **invited** listeners' comments and reports on its 25-MHz signal.



QSP Editor: Sid Ashen-Brenner NØOBM
E-mail: sid.ashenbrenner@gmail.com

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Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 2493
Salina, Kansas 67402-2493

We are on the Web

www.w0cy.org

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Deutch said it's hoped that the latest antenna change to circular polarization might be helpful to anyone studying propagation during next month's total solar eclipse, which will be visible across the US. "My effort right now is focused on getting the word out, just to make people are aware that [the 25-MHz signal] is available, if it can be useful to them."

Before the change, Deutch said WWV had received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy.

July Meeting is July 28th at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall in Room 211