

June 2016 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



June Test Session

The June Test Session, went Very well. We had Four Candidates, All of whom Passed something. Chris Jamison, KEØJPD, of Salina Passed his Technician, as did Robert Keach, KEØJPE, of Barnard, Ks. Gordon Stuart, KEØHOO, of Goddard, Ks passed his General, and Eric Poe, NØPOE, of Salina, Ks. Passed his Extra.

Special points of interest:

- June Testing Session
- May Minutes

Change IS Constant!

VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, and Leon, WAØJFC. The FCC since going "paperless" has slowed down somewhat, and now takes almost 2 weeks to process applications. We hope they get back to the former 1 week turnaround soon.

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **July 11th**, provided the Weather cooperates! If not, then we will try again next month. **No Siren Test**

on July 4th!

July Test Session is on **July the 13th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

The July CKARC meeting is scheduled for the **29th** of July at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall. ("Regular" time)

CKARC May 2016 Minutes

Minutes were Not Received by me for the Month of May.



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.

Siren Test Nets

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.

NO Siren Test on July 4th!

Those folks that do check in, we would like the following information: Your Call Sign (obviously), your current loca-

tion (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 Says "No" to Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

06/22/2016

The FCC has denied the petition of an Arizona radio amateur, who had petitioned for lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, had filed his *Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760)* with the FCC last November, and the FCC invited public comments in February. Krotz wanted the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Hundreds of radio amateurs commented on the petition, but the FCC was not swayed by those favoring the idea.

"Based on our review of the record, we are not persuaded that the petition discloses sufficient grounds for the requested rule change," the FCC said in a June 21 *Order*. "Krotz's primary argument is that extending the term of amateur licenses to the lifetime of the holder would reduce the Commission's administrative and personnel costs, but it is not clear to us that the proposal actually would enhance administrative efficiency." That's because the vast majority of license renewals are submitted online and processed automatically by the Universal Licensing System (ULS), "with minimal staff involvement," the *Order* said.

The FCC said it had further reduced its overhead by no longer routinely mailing out paper licenses. "[I]f license terms were extended to the holder's lifetime, we likely would receive more cancellations on account of the licensee's death, which are labor-intensive, because staff must carefully verify the deceased's identity and licenses in order to guard against erroneous cancellations," the FCC said in its *Order*, signed by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Mobility Division Chief Scot Stone. Krotz argued that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, but the FCC said that's not a comparable situation, because an Amateur Radio license is both an operator's license and a station license, "and there is no Commission precedent for issuing a lifetime station license."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2. The FCC pointed out in its *Order* that this was done to address the concerns of commenters that a licensee who had not renewed also may not have maintained or expanded his or her knowledge and skills.

ARRL Executive Committee Removes NTS Eastern Area Chair, Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager

06/21/2016

The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors has relieved ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Joe Ames, W3JY, of his appointments in the ARRL Field Organization, including his position as Chairman of the ARRL National Traffic System™ (NTS™) Eastern Area. The vote came as a result of a June 16 recommendation from the ARRL Programs and Services Committee, which oversees NTS. In addition, the Executive Committee voted to declare the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager position vacant, effective immediately.

The decision by the Executive Committee results from a determination that Ames unilaterally and repeatedly communicated with officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on behalf of NTS, making commitments on behalf of ARRL without authority and in violation of the rules and regulations of the ARRL Field Organization. Those actions were contrary to the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding* between FEMA and ARRL, which states clearly that ARRL Headquarters staff will be the single point of contact between FEMA and ARRL. There is no independent relationship between NTS and FEMA; the ARRL/FEMA *Memorandum of Understanding* is the operative document.

In August 2015, then-ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote to Ames and instructed him that, unless otherwise authorized by ARRL, any communication with FEMA with respect to NTS is to be conducted through ARRL authorized representatives. ARRL learned that Ames repeatedly acted contrary to Sumner's directive, which led to the decision to cancel Ames's Field Organization appointments and to declare the office of the Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania vacant.

In accordance with ARRL bylaws, and after consulting with ARRL Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, the appointment of a new Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager will be made by ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. The NTS Eastern Area Chair vacancy will be filled by appointment made by the ARRL Programs and Services Committee, the committee that oversees NTS.

NTS was formally created by ARRL in 1949. It continues the long-standing tradition of formal message handling via Amateur Radio, an integral component of the Amateur Radio Service. NTS would not be possible without the thousands of volunteers who keep the distribution network running.

Confirmed Tornado in Maryland Downs Tower at W3LPL Contest Station

06/22/2016

A confirmed Fujita scale EF-0 tornado touched down for up to 20 minutes in Howard County, Maryland, on the first full day of summer, taking down a tall AB-105 tower at the contest superstation of Frank Donovan, W3LPL. The tornado was just part of a spate of strong storms to hit the region, dumping heavy rain that caused flooding, and high winds that toppled trees and utility poles. Donovan's station is one of the premier multi-multi contest sites in the US.

"The storm was extreme," Donovan said in a post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) reflector. "I've never experienced anything like it before. Essentially all of the trees in the front of the house and along the driveway are gone. Several power poles on Hobbs Road snapped. The 200 foot tower adjacent to the house collapsed, everything on it was destroyed."

Donovan said he will have to do "a tremendous amount of testing and inspection" to determine what other damage may have occurred. Big Gun contester John Crovelli, W2GD, reported that he had spoken with Donovan, who told him that his other antennas were intact but "beat up."

Crovelli said the huge National Press Radio Club W3AO Field Day operation was still on.

News media accounts said the tornado, which hit at approximately 1:30 PM in western Howard County, had top winds of 80 MPH — at the high end of the EF-0 range. The tornado was some 1500 feet across and traveled nearly 13 miles, according to the National Weather Service. No injuries were reported.

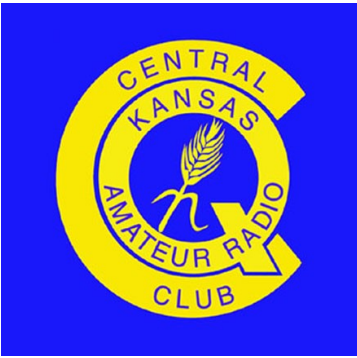
The NWS said that properties in the vicinity of the tornado's touchdown "sustained tree damage with multiple trees snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions." Along its path, the twister "caused nearly continuous tree damage, with large trees and tree branches snapped, uprooted, and topped in multiple directions. The trees downed many power lines and blocked multiple roads. Some trees and large branches fell on homes and garages," the NWS said.

Mike Lonneke, W4AAW, in Middleburg, Virginia, reported "tremendous tree damage" and roofs ripped from barns about a mile from his location. "Two 70 MPH storms in close succession hit Middleburg at 4 PM yesterday," Lonneke said this morning. Thousands were left without power as a result of the tornado, severe storms, and heavy rainfall that hit the region west of Baltimore.

John Pescatore, K3TN, who is some 15 miles south of Donovan's location, reported being "just clipped by the big storm." He said 3 inches of rain fell in a 90-minute period. Some areas received hail.

QST "How's DX?" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who lives next door to Donovan, reported that power was out at his location and "it could be several days" before it was restored. McClenny said the downed W3LPL tower collapsed away from Donovan's house, and that a lot of trees and utility poles were down in his area. "Got the generator out and running," he said. The felled tower at W3LPL supported three stacked 8 element 10 meter K3LR OWA Yagis on 48-foot booms and a 7-element 6 meter Yagi on a 24-foot boom.

Thousands of residents in the affected region remain without power.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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We are on the Web

www.w0cy.org

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
