Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club

QSP

March 2012

QSP On-Line at: http://www.centralksarc.com/qsppage.htm

The **March Meeting is Friday Mar. 30th at KWU's Peters Science Hall Room 211**

February/March VE Report

For the February 27th Special Session:

Kurt Reed, KDØRDL, of Glen Elder, passed hit Technician Exam .

For the March 14th session Kurt Reed, KDØRDL, of Glen Elder was back and Passed his General, Jeanne Groves KDØHTE, of Hillsboro, upgraded to Extra Class! We had 3 other folks that attempted 3 Tech Exams and 1 Extra Exam that did not pass. Not quite as successful as I like to see a session, but not bad overall!

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

The next scheduled session is **Wednesday April 11th, 2012**, at **7:00 PM**, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

Minutes of the February Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by Paul, KS1P, the President at 7:30. with Pledge of Allegiance followed by a round of introductions with 13 members and guests present.

Ve & EC report by Sid, NØOBM no one showed for the "regular" test session, but that there would be a W5YI test session next week.

There will be a Siren test on March 5 if weather cooperates, otherwise we will try again on March 12th. The next scheduled VE Test Session is on March 14th with the CKARC board meeting to follow.   The next CKARC Club meeting is March 30th.

Mitch, KAØIFW gave treasurers report with $918.84 in the checking account, and $1048.64 in the savings account.

Ron and John working with hamfest

BIG THANKS TO PAUL FOR BEING HOST

Program by Mark, KBØMQX on Lighthouses on the Air

WØME, Sect.

A note from the Editor:

I have been serving as the Emergency Coordinator for the local area since 2000, and as the District Emergency Coordinator almost as long. It is now time for me to let someone else have the jobs. Effective 31 December 2012, I will be resigning both positions.

At this point in time, I intend to continue as QSP Editor and VE Team leader—IF you folks want me to do so.

Sid Ashen-Brenner NØOBM

Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, April 2nd at 4:30 PM **if the Weather cooperates!**

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **April 11th at 7:00 PM**.
Board meeting follows the exam session on **April 11th** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

ARES Meeting is **April 19th** at **8:00 PM** in **Emergency Management.**

CKARC Meeting is **April 27th** at 7:30 PM at KWU Peter's Science Hall Room 211

There is a full **Calendar of Events** on the CKARC Web site http://www.centralksarc.com

ARRL Announces New DXCC Fee Structure

03/15/2012
The DX Century Club (**DXCC**) is the premier Amateur Radio operating award. Available to hams around the world, tens of thousands of awards have been issued since 1945 under the modern award program. In 2012, the DXCC program is not only still thriving, but it is growing, both in participation and in numbers of award options. The addition of Logbook of the World (**LoTW**) and soon, the addition of an Online DXCC Application utility, will continue to help the program grow. **Effective Monday, April 2,** the way DXCC fees are assessed will change. These changes will include both rate increases and rate decreases.

The ARRL continues to add new and exciting twists to the DXCC platform, including a special 75th anniversary **Diamond DXCC Challenge** award for 2012. The DXCC Challenge -- which counts total entities confirmed on 160-6 meters -- has proven to be extremely popular as a competitive supplement for everyone, complementing the lifetime achievement of the DXCC Honor Roll. The ARRL website continues to add to the fun with many pages of award statistics and information, including DXCC standings for each award that are updated daily. Inside Logbook of The World, each user can see which records are stored in the DXCC system for all of his or her entities on each band and mode. In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed more than 11,450 DXCC applications and endorsements.

As a direct result of the terrific popularity of the DXCC program, our customer service has lagged a bit. DXCC participants know that when the end-of-year deadline is reached, the load on the staff is quite heavy and the turnaround time increases to more than 10 weeks. Our staff want to provide better service and will continue to try to do so. The old fee structure is one of the culprits that increased the workload. Most participants submitted one or two applications each year, with each of those applications loaded with at least 120 QSOs and included a Logbook application component, as well.

One of the reasons these applications have been so large is that for many years, DXCC charged extra fees for second and subsequent applications each year. Additionally, application fees were waived for LoTW applications if they were tied to a paper application, adding a large amount of work for the staff as they matched applications. Frequently, there were hundreds of applications on both the paper application side and on the LoTW side, waiting for their "hybrid match" to arrive, delaying processing and setting the whole operation back.

For applications received on April 2, 2012 and after, we are changing the fee structure for several reasons:

· Promoting more frequent applications

· Removing the "hybrid application" problem

· Simplifying the price structure for DXCC

· Raising the rates slightly to help offset ARRL's increased costs

· Improving customer service

The rates for DXCC have not changed since 2003. While the rates are going up for some single applications, **for those who continue to submit multiple applications each year, the costs will be less**. Accompanying the end of the "hybrid application" is a lower per-QSO fee for using credits in LoTW and the addition of a small application fee. "We want participants to use LoTW as often as they can and like" explained Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "LoTW applications are easier for everyone to process and remain the 'way of the future' to participate in awards programs. The costs of using LoTW are far less than traditional QSLing, when one considers the costs of obtaining QSLs which then need to be stored, recorded and carried to a card checker or sent to HQ." As in the past, US participants must be ARRL members to receive a DXCC award. See the link below for an explanation of the new fees.

As indicated earlier, ARRL HQ will very soon launch an Online DXCC Application. This new tool will allow the client to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form, so that DXCC staff will not have to perform the data entry.

The way the Online Application works is that the participant can select the cards that he or she would like to have checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC. When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ. The card checker's job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the participant has worked that out with the card checker), as the client can pay online. At ARRL HQ, DXCC staff will be able to access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

On and after April 2, 2012, here is how the DXCC fee system will change:
No more hybrid applications. Each DXCC application -- be it paper QSLs, LoTW or Online DXCC -- will be considered separate applications with separate application fees.

There are no limits on the number of applications that can be submitted. **There will be no more surcharges added to the second or subsequent applications.**

A traditional, paper QSL application will have an application fee of **$15 for ARRL members, and $25 for non-members**. These applications will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs in this sort of application will continue to cost **15 cents each**.

A DXCC application submitted using LoTW will have an application fee of **$5 for ARRL members and $10 for non-members**. There are no limits on the number of QSOs that can be included as part of a LoTW application. **Each QSO used in LoTW for an award will cost 12 cents**, down from a minimum of 15 cents in 2011. We will no longer sell LoTW "credits" in bulk. If you have credits stored, you will still be able to use them.

DXCC staff will not mail any paperwork for LoTW applications (credit matrix or application summary), as all application information will be available online in the LoTW User account.

An **Online** DXCC Application will have an application fee of **$7.50 for ARRL members and $12.50 for non-members and will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs will cost 8 cents**. This application is primarily intended to be used in conjunction with field checkers, but can be used by applicants who do not have access to a card checker and are willing to ship cards to ARRL HQ.

Certificates will still cost **$14 delivered in the USA**, and $16.50 delivered outside the USA. **Pins will continue to cost $7 delivered anywhere**.

The fee for an initial DXCC award will now be the same as for any DXCC application. The free *DXCC Yearbook* that was sent to ARRL members will now be made available electronically, and it will appear in an edition of Digital *QST*. For those who want a League-printed *Yearbook*, it will still be available at a modest cost.

Questions? Please send an e-mail to **dxccadmin@arrl.org**.

Coming Soon: New ARRL Membership Benefits

03/20/2012

The ARRL is excited to announce two new membership benefits that will be introduced in June 2012.

In addition to the print copy of QST, all members will have access to an **online digital edition of QST -- at no extra cost.** You will be able to access QST from anywhere -- on nearly any computer, laptop, mobile device, smartphone and tablet (including Apple iPad, iPhone, iTouch and devices using the Android operating system).

Members will also gain access to **archived issues** of QST from December 1915 to the present; previously, only issues through 2007 have been available to members. If you are familiar with the current periodicals archive, that platform will be expanded to include all of QST from December 1915 through December 2011. A second, new archive will be introduced for issues beginning January 2012, featuring enhanced functionality including full-text search.

Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access the current digital edition of QST and the archived editions. Please follow these step-by-step directions to log in to the ARRL website:

Go to www.arrl.org

At the top center of the page in "Site Login," enter your username and the password you selected during registration.

If you have forgotten your password, here are some steps to help you obtain a temporary password that you can use to log in. We recommend writing this temporary password down prior to logging in, then log in using your username and the temporary password.

Select "**Forgot Password**" on the log in page
  To reset your password by e-mail:
    Select "**By E-mail**" from the dropdown menu.
    Enter your username and e-mail address. You must use the e-mail address that you used to originally register for a website login account.
    Click "**Submit**."
  To reset your password by member credentials:
    Select "**By Member Credentials**" from the dropdown menu.
    Enter your username.
    Enter your call sign or last name
    Enter your Member ID (found on your QST mailing label).
    Click "**Submit**."

Once you are logged in to the website, select "Edit your Profile" to change your password to something you can more easily remember.

Questions? Contact Member Services via e-mail or by telephone at 860-594-0200 or 888-277-5289 (US only).

April 2012 Contest Calendar

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html

UBA Spring Contest, **SSB**	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, **CW**	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 3
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 5
LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest	0400Z-0800Z, Apr 7
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 7 to 2359Z, Apr 8
PODXS 070 Club **PSK 31** Flavors Contest	1200-1800 local, Apr 7
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 11
CWops Mini-**CW**T Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 12
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Apr 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, **SSB**	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 11
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 14 to 2400Z, Apr 15
JIDX **CW** Contest	0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 14 to 0200Z, Apr 15
EU Spring Sprint, **CW**	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 14
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 1800Z, Apr 15
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z, Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 14 to 2100Z, Apr 15
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 19
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 21
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 21
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 21
CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 21 to 2359Z, Apr 22
EU Spring Sprint, **SSB**	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 21
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
South Dakota QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 21 to 1700Z, Apr 22
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Apr 21
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 1700Z, Apr 22
CWops Mini-**CW**T Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 26
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 28 to 2359Z, Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party	1100Z, Apr 28 to 1700Z, Apr 29
SP DX **RTTY** Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 28 to 0300Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 29

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Your copy of QSP is Here!

http://www.centralksarc.com

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@ 7:30 PM, at KWU Peters Science Hall Room 211**

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL QSP IS APR. 18, 2011

CKARC April Birthdays

F/Member	Merlene	Cornwell	4/1
KCØTKA	Larry	Coates	4/6
KCØHHU	Sharon	House	4/7
F/Member	Diana	Gray	4/13
KDØOXA	Bernard	Botson	4/24
KBØNOT	Geraldine	Eitel	4/28
WØME	Alvin	Wiechman	4/30