

# March 2016 QSP

*Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club*



## Special points of interest:

- February Testing Session
- January Minutes
- New Extra Question Pool is Out!
- New AO-7 Distance Record

Change IS Constant!

## March Test Session

The March Test Session, went well. We had Ten Candidates, Nine of whom Passed something. Douglas Watson, KC5AOT, of Clay Center, KS. Tried for his General, and did not quite make it. Larry Woodman, NØXGL, of Belleville upgraded to Extra. Tim Garman, KEØHRA, of Courtland upgraded to General. Stacie Stewart, KCØVBD, of Clay Center, Passed her Extra!

Robert Brown KEØIFH, of Whitewater is a New General, Stede Underwood, KEØIFG, of Esbon, is a new Tech, as is William Conrad, KEØIFF, of Alton, Debra Jordan, KEØIFE, of Beloit, Tim Chapman, KEØIFD, of Beloit, and Michael Milligan, KEØIFC, of Garden City.

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

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 **April 4th**, provided the Weather cooperates! If not, then we will try again on the **11th**.

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

The April CKARC meet-

ing is scheduled for the **29th** of April at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall.

# CKARC January 2016 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall (Room 211) on Friday January 29th at 7:30 PM.

President Dennis Kelly, KAØLTQ, called the meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as printed in QSP.

## Reports:

The Treasurer, Pat Giron, reported that the Checking account balance was \$248.00, and no changes in the Savings Account. (Savings account only sends out reports on a Quarterly Basis)

Secretary had nothing further to report.

Testing update from Sid, NØOBM—1 Administrative upgrade in December, and 3 tested in January. Two new Technicians and one Upgraded to Extra!

## Announcements:

Sid: Feb 1 Siren Test (IF the Weather cooperates) (it did not)

Paul: We need more VE Team Members. It is an Open Book Test (FREE) anyone General Class of Above is welcome! **Club Dues are due by the end of the Month!**

Mitch: Putting together a QRP Builder's Group for the Club. A sign up sheet was passed around. Technician Classes will resume in Sept. through the City Library's "CLASS" Program.

Dennis: Be sure to check out the new club web site [www.w0cy.org](http://www.w0cy.org)

Ken: Be aware that "kids" are using the new inexpensive Baofung ht's as scanners, and sometimes show up on our repeater frequencies.

## New Business:

Salina Hamfest- August 21, 2016. Much discussion was had, a motion was made and seconded for Tom to reserve Webster Conference Center and too be in charge of organizing the hamfest. Button color was chosen during this discussion (Peach) and Justin Reed was asked to make a K-Link Presentation. Tom will attempt to minimize the number of rooms rented to maximize profitability and will double-check that Sunday IS the preferred Day with the Vendors.

Field Day—June 25-26, 2016 Discussion was had on possible radios to use and to possibly use the Emergency Management's Emcomm Trailer with the limits placed on it by the County's Insurance Company. National Guard may also be contacted about the possible use of a Tent. No Motions or final decisions have been made.

## Old Business:

Club Equipment: The Kenwood TS-450 that was damaged by lightning will be parted out. It has 3 (known) damaged chips in it.

## 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 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!

## ARRL Is Now On Instagram!

03/16/2016

ARRL is now on Instagram as @arrlhq. Instagram is a social networking app made for sharing photos and videos. Similar to Facebook or Twitter, everyone who creates an account has a profile and a news feed. When you post a photo or video on Instagram, it will be displayed on your profile. Other users who follow you will see your posts in their own feed. Likewise, you'll see posts from other users who you choose to follow. Instagram is available for free on iOS, Android and Windows Phone devices. It can also be accessed on the web from a computer, but users can only upload, share photos or videos, and create an account from their devices.

Before you can start using the app, Instagram will ask you to create a free account. You can sign up via your existing Facebook account or through the app itself. After you sign up, you may be asked if you want to follow some friends who are on Instagram in your Facebook network.

Instagram is all about visual sharing. Every user profile has a "Followers" and a "Following" count, representing how many people they follow and how many users are following them. Every user profile has a button you can tap to follow them. If a user has their profile set to private, they will need to approve your request first. Interacting within posts is fun and easy. You can double tap any post to "like" it or add a comment at the bottom. The @ sign represents a link to your user profile. For example, if you choose your username to be JaneDoe, other users can tag you in their posts by commenting @JaneDoe, which by clicking it, will bring them directly to your profile.

If you want to find more friends or interesting accounts to follow, use the search tab (marked by the magnifying glass icon) to browse through posts recommended to you. You can also use the search bar at the top to look for specific users or #hashtag.

Here at ARRL, we use Instagram to promote current events, happenings at HQ, or news articles that are floating around! Our username is @arrlhq. Follow us and you'll have instant access to all photos and videos that we post. It's an interesting and entertaining collection that will only grow over time! -- *Erin Day*

## Russian "Inventors of Telecommunications" Stations on the Air

03/17/2016

Special event stations in Russia will be on the air until June 16 as part of the international scientific-educational radio marathon called "**Inventors of Telecommunications**," established by the Russian Geographical Society and supported by radio clubs and Amateur Radio operators. There will be awards and certificates.

Each RT73-prefix station represents a historical figure in the area of telecommunications or electronics. For example, RT73BA represents Alexander Graham Bell, RT73EA represents Edwin Howard Armstrong, RT73VZ represents Vladimir Kosmich Zworykin, and RT73NT represents Nikola Tesla. — *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)*

## Boston Marathon Communications Committee Seeks Additional Amateur Radio Volunteers

03/16/2016

**Registration for Boston Marathon** Amateur Radio volunteers remains open with assignments available for new volunteers who have a passion for public service as well as for experienced hands. The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) sponsors the marathon, and preparations are in high gear for the April 18 Patriots' Day event.

Each spring, some 300 trained Amateur Radio volunteers staff the event, providing vital communication services over the entire 26-mile course. Amateur Radio volunteers are recruited, selected, and managed by the BAA's Communications Committee.

The marathon attracts approximately 30,000 runners and 10,000 volunteers. Registration is easy and one-stop.

Visit the Boston Marathon — Amateur Radio Communications website for **more information**. — *Thanks to Brett Smith, AB1RL, BAA Communications Committee Volunteer Coordinator*

## RFinder Now Includes Coverage Maps

03/15/2016

In February, ARRL announced it had established an agreement with RFinder, the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, to be its preferred online resource of repeater frequencies. RFinder has now announced that through a new strategic alliance with CloudRF.com, users will now have coverage maps for all repeaters on earth. "Our systems are busy rendering and indexing coverage maps based on ground path loss using the Longley-Rice irregular terrain model," said Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder — The Worldwide Repeater Directory. "We have worked with Alex Farrant, M6ZUJ, creator of CloudRF.com, to render coverage maps for nearly the entire collection of repeaters in RFinder's database."

*"CloudRF is honored to have been chosen to support the world's premier repeater database with coverage maps. We look forward to working with RFinder to improve RF coverage maps for the world. RFinder is by far the largest collection of transmitters we have seen and we are excited to be part of this ground breaking project." says Farrant. "Bob contacted me in late February about our API. Several days later he had his own client script and had rendered most of his substantial database of repeaters at 100 mile radius each using CloudRF's powerful servers. Bob was able to efficiently outsource the substantial horse power and reference data required for this mammoth task and download each site afterwards as a KMZ overlay for Google earth and host them himself. Best of all, most of the hard work was done whilst we were sleeping!"*

The resulting KMZ files are viewable in Google Earth on Windows and Mac (through [web.rfinder.net](http://web.rfinder.net) and [routes.rfinder.net](http://routes.rfinder.net)), on Android and iOS versions of RFinder. The Windows and Mac versions allow multiple coverage maps viewable simultaneously, a great aid to repeater coordinators worldwide.

As part of this project, RFinder will be providing complimentary access to repeater coordinators worldwide. As coordinators update repeaters with HAAT, Power and Gain and updated Lat/Lon, maps will be automatically re-rendered within a few minutes and made available to all subscribed users. The procedure to sign up for the repeater coordinator program will be announced later this

month (March 2016). This new capability will make repeater coordinators more efficient, as they will easily be able to see repeater coverage maps side by side for both coordinated and uncoordinated machines. This information is critical as simplex nodes for internet linking, crossband repeaters and homebrew repeaters crop up worldwide using various new out of the box and homebrew technologies.

For a limited time, users of the trial version of RFinder on Android will have access to coverage maps. After that only subscribers will have access. An **annual \$9.99 subscription** to RFinder provides access to repeater data, worldwide, through its collection of apps for Android and Apple devices, and from nearly any web browser. A single subscription provides access through [web.rfinder.net](http://web.rfinder.net), [routes.rfinder.net](http://routes.rfinder.net), Android, iOS, RT Systems and CHIRP, as well as POI files for popular GPS systems.

Subscribe to RFinder by visiting <http://subscribe.rfinder.net> from your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or from your Android smartphone or tablet. Those without an Apple or Android device can subscribe using the link at the bottom of <http://subscribe.rfinder.net/>. RFinder will have an exhibit in the ARRL EXPO at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention®, **May 20-22, 2016** in Dayton, Ohio.



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**Your issue of QSP is Here!**

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We are on the Web

[www.w0cy.org](http://www.w0cy.org)

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## **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*

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