



# QSP



May 2015

QSP On-Line at: <http://www.centalksarc.com/qsppage.htm>

The Next Meeting is  
 Friday **May 29th** at  
 KWU's Peters Science  
 Hall Room 211

7:30 PM

## May VE Report

### May Test Session:

For the May 13th session, we had **one** Candidate, Keith Birdwell, KEØEEO, of Hutchinson, passed his Technician License. Congratulations!

### Inside this issue:

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

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

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*Unfortunately, the new version of MS Publisher is still giving me a hard time. This month, it has locked me out of being able to edit the last page. Sorry!*  
 The look of this publication may change in the near future—as I have some free time to re-build it from the Ground up.

**In case you missed it, the Club has gone back to meeting Monthly. Generally on the Last Friday of the month.**

## Minutes of the April Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting will be read at the meeting.

I did not get a chance to email a request for the minutes this month.

For me right now, May is and has been an Extremely busy month.

I hope to be able to do better in the future.

Sid Ashen-Brenner, NØOBM

QSP Editor

## Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, **June 1st** at 4:30 PM if the Weather cooperates! Otherwise June 8th.

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **June 10th** at 7:00 PM.

**CKARC Meeting Friday June 26th** at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall Room 211  
**Field Day** Follows! Saturday & Sunday, **June 27th & 28th**

**CKARC Hamfest:** Sunday, August 16th 2015 Webster Conference Center

## Updated Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual Now Online

05/21/2015

The latest edition (March 2015) of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) Manual* now is online. This edition includes various Incident Command System (ICS) forms for ARES use, clarifies the role of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), contains an improved chapter on ARES training, and includes all current ARRL memoranda of understanding/agreement.

ARES consists of Amateur Radio licensees who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service, when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of ARRL membership, is eligible to apply for ARES membership.

## FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

05/22/2015

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92* and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent *Report and Order (R&O)* last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

*From the ARRL Web Site*

## ARRL to Change Administrator for Insurance Plans

05/22/2015

Effective **May 26, 2015**, the ARRL will be changing the program administrator for its sponsored Equipment and Club Liability insurance plans. Beginning on that date, all program administration including policy application, issuance and claims administration will be handled by **Risk Strategies**, a privately held, national insurance brokerage firm. The ARRL programs will be administered from their offices in Chicago, Illinois.

This move is being made based on the results of numerous comments from the ARRL membership relative to the former administrator, **Hays Affinity Group** which is based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The transaction, unlike previous changes, will involve a transfer of the total program business from Hays Affinity to Risk Strategies. Participants in the programs will retain their current insurance policies and the details of the coverage and the cost of coverage will remain unchanged, as will the insurance company, Hanover Insurance Company. An e-mail will be sent to all the current participants in the programs describing the changes and what, if anything, they need to do to access their on-line information.

The web address for the programs will be the same, **www.arrlinsurance.com**, but will take on a new look with improved functionality. The 800 numbers will also remain unchanged for contacting the new administrator. There will be a short delay in bringing up the new site once the programs have been transferred and we appreciate your patience while Risk Strategies makes the programs operational.

As a leading US insurance broker, Risk Strategies offers sophisticated risk management advice and insurance placement for property & casualty and employee benefits risks. Risk Strategies serves middle market commercial companies, non-profits, public entities, and individuals, and has access to all major insurance markets. Ranked in the top 30 insurance brokers in the country, the company is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

*From the ARRL Web Site*

## Alberta ARES Requests Priority Access to 14.135, 7.135, and 3.675 MHz Due to Fires

05/26/2015

Alberta, Canada, ARES volunteers are responding to assist with communication during a wildfire emergency that has caused the evacuation of thousands of residents. Radio Amateurs of Canada is requesting that Canadian and US amateurs avoid 14.135, 7.135, and 3.675 MHz and give priority access to Alberta ARES as it supports the Alberta government during the emergency.

According to Alberta Wildfire Info, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have safely evacuated all residents “immediately impacted” by the fires in the Lesser Slave River area. “Firefighters and aircraft are aggressively fighting this wildfire,” the agency said. Eleven fires were ignited by lightning strikes on May 25, and four are still considered out of control.

“There is a wildfire burning out of control at approximately km 33 Old Smith Highway,” Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development has **reported**. “The wildfire is 25 km east of the town of Slave and at this time it is not threatening the town of Slave Lake. The airtankers have laid retardant lines around the entire wildfire. — Thanks to RAC and Bill Boskwick, VE4BOZ, RAC Chief Field Services Officer

*From the ARRL Web Site*

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Your copy of QSP is Here!

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL QSP IS APR. 15, 2015**

**CKARC February Birthdays**