



# QSP



November 2008

## November VE Report

The **November 28, 2008**  
CKARC Meeting will be  
at  
**Kansas Wesleyan**  
**University's Peter's**  
**Science Hall Room 211**  
at **7:30 PM**

For the November 12th session, we had 6 Candidate take 8 Exams, and 5 VE's in attendance. 1 New Technician, 1 Upgraded to General, and 2 Upgraded to Extra Class.

Our new Technician is **Dean Speaks**, KDØFRP of Saline Co. Emergency Management. Dean did attempt the General exam, but did not pass.

The following upgraded to General:

**Bobby Porter**, NØUTK of Wellington, Ks. Bobby also attempted the Extra exam, but did not pass.

The following upgraded to Extra Class:

**Gilles Brault**, KA6NGD of Wichita, Ks and **John Cooley**, KCØCBA, of Wichita, Ks.

Stacie Stewart, KCØVBD and Bailey Wann of Clay Center attempted exams, but did not pass.

### Inside this issue:

November VE Report	1
October Meeting Minutes	2 & 3
Reminders	3
Testing Fee Changes	
ARRL-VEC New Fees	4—5
W5YI-VEC Fees for 2009	5
WorldRadio to cease Print Publication	6
Birthday List	7

Upgrades were posted on the 17th of November on the FCC ULS Site.

November 19th Exam Session:

We had 9 candidates and now have 2 new Technicians: Heidi Paul (XYL of Robert) and Jerry Dreyer—Calls not yet released.

Thanks to all the VE's who helped with the Exam Sessions. I appreciate the help, and so do those who took exams this month.

Next Exams are as follows:

**Wednesday December 10th**, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

## Minutes of the October Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Terry, KCØKCO, at 7:34 pm on October 31st with 21 members and guests present at KWU Peter's Science Hall Room 211. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Terry started off with a round of introductions.

An attendance sheet was passed around by Sid, NØOBM. Minutes of last meeting approved AFTER Mark, KBØMQX made motion to amend them by adding phrasing to include decision of approval up to \$250 for lettering CKARC trailer which is in the shop currently being painted.

Treasurer's report by Neal Cox, KBØNOV:

\$630.36 in checking

\$4154.08 in savings

Total Balance of \$4784.44 moved, seconded, and passed.

EC Report:

Sid, NØOBM.

There "may" be a Siren test on November 3, the ARES nets are now on the First Tuesday (instead of the First Thursday) November 4th, If the 146.730 Repeater is not on the air, the nets will be on Simplex on 146.730. The next VE Test session is November 12th, with a Special Test Session for the Venturing Crew's Technician Class on November the 19th. The November ARES meeting is November 20th, and the CKARC Club meeting is on November 28th—the day After Thanksgiving..

The Venturing Crew's Ham Class is currently in progress, with 1 last session on November 5, with their Test Session on the 19th

The CKARC's Generator Trailer is currently at Brian's Paint Shop being painted—at NO Cost to the Club.

Repeater Report Eric, NØYET: All are working fine. Eric asked if anyone has issues with any of the repeaters in town - Dirk's or CKARC's - please let him know.

Activities Report Mark, KBØMQX: No report

Hamfest Report Ron Tremblay, WAØPSF: Ron contacted guys about grounding demonstration at next Hamfest - same as who did the presentation previously - they agreed to do it again. Bicentennial Center is reserved for the next 8 years for Hamfest date in August

No old business

New business:

Elections:

Terry, KCØKCO declined the President position for 2009.

Robert Paul, WBØWTM, nominated himself and was accepted.

Virgil Yost, NØXRS, accepted nomination for Treasurer.

Ron Tremblay made the motion that nominations be closed and that the list of candidates be accepted, Motion seconded and carried. Other offices stayed the same:  
2009 offices are as follows:

President - Robert Paul, WBØWTM  
Vice President - Leon Grey, WAØJSC  
Secretary - Alvin Wiechman, WØME  
Treasurer - Virgil Yost, NØXRS  
Activities - Mark Boyle, KBØMQX  
Club Trustee - Eric Boyle, NØYET

Other new business - Virgil asked Mark if we have made a reservation yet for the 2009 Field Day site rather than waiting until the last minute. This was tabled until the next month's meeting.

Terry brought up a Reminder about the Installation of new Officers Thursday Dec. 18th 6pm at Western Sizzlin.

No hosts for the evening.

7:52 pm Motion made by Mark to adjourn meeting. Seconded and carried.

Program presented by Michael Draggette KCØUBM

Program was about a regenerative receiver he built from plans from QST and also a homebrew sleeve 2M antenna he built.

## Reminders

**Salina City Siren Test Net**, December 1th at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater or on 146.730 Simplex  
**ARES Net December 2th at 8:00 PM** on the NØKSC Repeater (or on 146.730 Simplex if it's not running).

**Note change of Date. ARES Nets now on the First Tuesday of the Month.**

**ARRL-VEC Test Sessions** on Wednesday **December 10th at 7:00 PM.**

**Board meeting** follows the exam session on the **10th of December** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

**NO ARES Meeting in December.**

**CKARC Meeting December 18th** at 6:00 PM at **Western Sizzlin Steak House** on West Crawford Street.

Full Calendar of events on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centralksarc.com>

Thursday **January 1, 2009** Open House at "The Hill" - a New Year's Tradition.

## Testing Fee Changes

FYI:

On the following 2 pages are the announced changes to Testing Fees for 2009. The ARRL-VEC is increasing the Testing Fee to \$15.00, and the W5YI-VEC is holding the line at \$14.00 for 2009. Most of the CKARC VE's are credentialed in both programs, so we can go with either VEC.

## ARRL VEC Announces Exam Fee Increase

On November 6, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule §97.527)," she said. "These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

Saying that every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule, "Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged."

Collected exclusively to offset expenses that are directly incurred in administering the VE program, VE teams may elect to keep a prescribed portion of each exam fee. "All out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses shall be necessary and prudent, and must relate to the examination process in some way," Somma said. "VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts."

Somma pointed out that business expenses such as postal, utility, fuel and printing charges, are increasing: "Our VE teams are feeling the effects of the current economy, too! Teams are retaining reimbursement at amounts considerably larger than previous years. The amount of out-of-pocket costs that our VEs and the VEC are expending to provide authorized services in connection with Amateur Radio operator examinations continues to rise."

Recent ARRL VEC cost-cutting steps have included staff reduction, reduced printing charges of ARRL VE training material and exam software, renegotiating shipping and printing contracts and eliminating lesser-used services.

"Only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams, our customers and our program," Somma said. "As a result, an adjustment was needed in the 2009 exam reimbursement fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs, VE teams and candidates have come to expect."

Somma said that the ARRL VEC permits its VEs to retain a portion of the exam fees they collect to directly reimburse themselves for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in setting up and conducting their examination sessions. "As long as the expense is warranted and has been prudently incurred -- and the expense is specifically related to exam administration -- then the fee can be retained," she said. "The team should keep a complete record of the expenses paid (with receipts) in team records for two years. Records must be made available to ARRL VEC upon request. Costs not related to the exam session processes or paperwork are not reimbursable."

"We believe that the ARRL VECs level of assistance and services are outstanding," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "Exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. We maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses. We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. This is why we offer so many services free of charge. This is why we have that same level of duty and commitment here. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community."

## W5YI-VEC 2009 Fee Policy

The W5YI-VEC has announced that it will **hold the line** on \$14 exam fees charged applicants to take amateur examinations and **not increase license examination fees for 2009**. Larry Pollock, NB5X, President of the W5YI-VEC said "Every VEC across the country establishes its own fee schedule for providing examination services, and there are almost as many different rates now as there are VECs, ranging from \$15 to one that charges nothing to administer an exam. Our goal is to keep our fees as reasonable and affordable as possible."

"There will be no change in 2009 from the current fee of \$14 for applicants to take an amateur exam sponsored by the W5YI-VEC", Pollock said, and added that the W5YI-VEC would maintain the present maximum allowance of \$7 for out of pocket expense reimbursement for the Volunteer Examiners that provide the examinations in the field. "Volunteer Examiners that conduct and administer the examination sessions incur expenses for travel, paper, supplies, postage and other examination related expenses that may be reimbursed from the exam fees they collect." With the price of gasoline coming down in almost all parts of the country and with improved methods in software being used to generate and give examinations, we see that some expenses have leveled off compared to when every exam was given on paper years ago. The W5YI-VEC continues to maintain the highest possible level of customer service to the amateur community while keeping our operating expenses in check. "

While providing accreditations for volunteers to administer license examinations in almost every state across the country and several foreign countries, the W5YI-VEC also provides license renewal notification services by mail to every licensed amateur and other services like address changes and license modifications to both amateur clubs and individuals. Established in 1984, the W5YI-VEC, <http://www.w5yi-vec.org>, was the first Volunteer Examination Coordinator appointed by the FCC and is the second largest in the nation of the 14 VEC organizations that oversee the administration of amateur license examinations.

-End-

## WorldRadio to Cease Print Publication

### WorldRadio

(Nov 13, 2008) -- In a joint statement, *WorldRadio* Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and *CQ* Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced that *WorldRadio* magazine will no longer be published as a print magazine. According to the announcement, CQ Communications Inc has acquired *WorldRadio* and plans to continue it as an online publication on *CQ*'s Web site. *WorldRadio* subscribers will have their subscriptions transferred to *CQ* magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

*From the ARRL Web Site*

## Division Director Election Results Announced

On Friday, November 21, ARRL staff members started opening ballots for the Director and Vice Director races in the Delta Division and the Vice Director race in the Great Lakes Division. ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY; Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB; Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, and a representative from an independent auditor looked on; Sarratt is also a member of the League's Ethics and Elections Committee. After all the ballots were counted, the Delta Division gained a new Director and Vice Director, while hams in the Great Lakes Division voted to keep their Vice Director. The leadership team in the Atlantic, Dakota and **Midwest Divisions** will remain the same. Terms for Directors and Vice Directors begin at noon on January 1, 2009 and run for three years.

The following ran unopposed and were declared the winner of their elections by the League's Ethics and Elections Committee: Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, and Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW; **Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA**; and Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. The rules state that if a candidate is running unopposed, he or she shall be declared the winner without balloting.

*Congratulations to Bruce and Cliff! (Ed.)*

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*Your issue of QSP is Here!*

December Meeting is **Thursday**, December 18, 2008

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE  
DECEMBER QSP IS DECEMBER 10, 2008**

## **CKARC December Birthdays**

<b>NØYET</b>	<b>Eric</b>	<b>Boyle</b>	<b>12/7</b>
<b>KBØMQX</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Boyle</b>	<b>12/7</b>
	<b>Kelley</b>	<b>Bieberle</b>	<b>12/10</b>
<b>KØEDT</b>	<b>Ernest</b>	<b>Kelly</b>	<b>12/17</b>
<b>KCØVSF</b>	<b>Timothy</b>	<b>Pauls</b>	<b>12/21</b>
<b>KØDIX</b>	<b>Fred</b>	<b>Gamer</b>	<b>12/29</b>
<b>KDØBPH</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>Mitchell</b>	<b>12/31</b>