



# QSP



**October 2011**

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

The October Meeting is  
Friday, Oct. 28, 2011  
@ 7:30 PM, at KWU  
Peters Science Hall  
Room 211

## October VE Report

**Host: Harvey, KØRY**

**For the October 12th Session:**

**CKARC  
ELECTION NIGHT**

We had Three Candidates. Donald Mashburn, KDØPTY of Marion, Passed his Technician Exam, and is re-applying for an old call KB5BBG, Charles Harbin, KCØIQR, of Hays, Passed his General, and Dale Shinault, KDØOXB, of Junction City is now an Extra Class!

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VE's for this session were: Sid, NØOBM, Leon, WAØJFC, Don, KAØEIC, and Mike, KBØLZQ.

Next Exam session is:  
**Wednesday November 9th, 2011, at 7:00 PM**, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

## Minutes of the September Meeting

September meeting and picnic held in Kansas Wesleyan University Peter Science Hall on September 30th with 19 members and guests starting at 6:00 PM.

Meeting called to order by Mark, KBØMQX, at 7:05 PM with a round of introductions by name and call.

Minutes approved as printed in QSP, approved and seconded.

Treasurer's report by Mitch, KAØIFW, with \$1344.99 in checking and 1045.98 in saving, Moved and seconded as read. Had a quote from Hays Insurance Group, and looks like it would be better to stay with the present insurance provider (less expensive).

Letters received from the ARRL — remember to vote for the Midwest Division Director and the WØERA, Johnson Co. News Letter.

Repeater report 440 Antenna up and both are working. Dirk, NØKSC is working on the 147.27 Repeater and would like it to be used to check it out for range etc.

Hamfest report from Ron WAØPSF: There were 349 tickets sold this year, and that he would like to thank all who helped out with the HamFest!

No activities report

NØOBM, Sid, VE Report: At the hamfest, there were 7 candidates who tested and 5 who went home with something passed, and thanks to all that helped with the HamFest Test Session. At the September 14th Session, there was 1 upgrade.

October Events: Oct. 3rd Siren Test (IF the Weather cooperates), Oct. 12th is the next VE Test Session with the CKARC Board Meeting to follow, and Oct. 20th is the next ARES meeting. Long range plans at Emergency Management to replace "Red" (the current tow vehicle for the EMCOMM Trailer).

No old business was presented.

KØRY will be the host for the Oct. 28th meeting

The November meeting has been moved up one week (to the Friday BEFORE Thanksgiving).

Moved and seconded to accept the proposed changes to bylaws as were printed in QSP for the last 2 months.

The December meeting will be on Dec. 22nd at 6:30 PM at Western Sizzlin Steak House.

The 440 net on Monday Nights needs more check-ins. The net is at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

WØME, Sect.

## Reminders

**City of Salina Siren Test Net, November 7th** at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (147.270+) **if the Weather cooperates!**

**ARRL-VEC Test Session** on Wednesday **November 9th at 7:00 PM.**

**Board meeting** follows the exam session on **November 9th** at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

**ARES Meeting** is **November 17th** at **8:00 PM** in **Emergency Management.**

**CKARC Meeting** is **November 18th** at 7:30 PM at KWU (**Note Change of Date!**)

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

## Postage Rates Increase

The USPS has just announced yet another Rate Increase! Seems like they really want to do less business!

Effective January 22, 2012, the First Class Mail rate (for the 1st ounce) goes up to \$0.45. First increase since May of 09—doesn't seem all that long ago to me. Also going up, is the Post Card Rate—going up 3 cents to 32 Cents Each.

Want to send a letter to Canada (or Mexico)? New rate is \$0.85  
New International rate is up 7 cents to \$1.05. Both for the First Ounce.

More info on the ARRL Web site.

So, in 2012, it's going to cost \$5.40 to mail out 12 issues of QSP - up from \$5.28 per year in 2010. Either one is slightly more than 1/3 of the yearly CKARC Dues! And that's just the cost of the Postage! The electrons in the on-line edition are still FREE!

## After Action Reports

No communication effort is complete until an After Action Review has been conducted and the After Action Report drafted. The AAR is the best way for us to conduct a candid self-assessment of our performance during an event. The U.S. Agency for International Development has published an excellent guide on after action reviews. That guide offers this definition of an AAR: "An after-action review (AAR) is a professional discussion of an event, that focuses on performance standards and enables development professionals and colleagues with similar or shared interests to discover for themselves what happened, why it happened, and how to sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. The AAR tool affords leaders, staff, and partners an opportunity to gain maximum benefit from every program, activity, or task."

It goes on to say that an AAR provides:

- Candid insights into specific strengths and weaknesses from various perspectives
- Feedback and insight critical to improved performance
- Details often lacking in evaluation reports alone

The guide also describes the AAR as "...the basis for learning from our successes and failures. A good manager or leader does not learn in a vacuum: the people involved in an activity--those closest to it--are the ones best poised to identify the learning it offers. No one, regardless of how skilled or experienced they are, will see as much as those who actually carry out the events, program, or activity. The AAR is the keystone of the process of learning from successes and failures.

Feedback compares the actual output of a process with the intended outcome. By focusing on the desired outcome and by describing specific observations, teams can identify strengths and weaknesses and together decide how to improve performance. This shared learning improves team proficiency and promotes bonding, collegiality, and group cohesion.

Though not a cure-all for all issues or problems, the AAR provides a starting point for improvements to future activities. Because AAR participants actively discover what happened and why, they can learn and remember more than they would from a critique or formal evaluation. A critique only gives one viewpoint and frequently provides little opportunity for discussion of events by participants. Other observations and comments may not be encouraged. The climate of a critique, focusing on what is wrong, often prevents candid discussion and stifles opportunities for learning and team building."

In short, every participant should have input into the AAR since everyone's experience was different during the event. One very useful format for an AAR is to ask and answer the following questions:

- What did we expect to happen?

- What actually happened?
- What went well and why?
- What can be improved?

With these simple questions we can quickly focus on what our communications plan anticipated (our expectations) versus the reality of what happened during the event and then identify the pluses and minuses of both our plan and performance. This can all be done in a way that focuses on facts and not on personalities. If possible, a debriefing held immediately after the event can be a convenient way to get all participants' impressions while still fresh in their minds. Even if a debriefing is used it can still be beneficial to allow for written comments within a few days after team members have had a chance to reflect on the event. It can be helpful to circulate the draft AAR for comments and suggestion before the final version is released.

The AAR is useful for both the communications team as well as the event planners. Those "lessons learned" are invaluable for the planners and the future communication unit leaders. Remember, we can never be sure who is going to be filling those roles for future events so we cannot simply rely on someone's recollection of what was done and how well things went in past years. A written communications plan and an AAR are the best tools for providing both continuity and improvement from year to year. Although the communications team's AAR is intended to specifically address its plans and performance, most event organizers will also appreciate constructive comments and suggestions regarding the overall event. --

Jim Aylward, KC8PD, EC, Portage County ARES, Ohio

*From the ARES eLetter*

## Why The FEMA Courses?

For many years, Amateur Radio has longed to be taken seriously by governmental authorities as a professional-quality resource in disaster response. Although there are areas of the country where achieving and maintaining emergency management agencies' respect is still a struggle, Amateur Radio's service during 9/11 and the major hurricane disasters has brought us a new level of respect and new opportunities at the national level.

Being taken seriously as a resource comes with a price, however, that must be paid by individual volunteers, not in dollars but in precious personal time. When the federal government instituted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it imposed a set of requirements on state and local emergency management agencies and their personnel. Affected personnel include not only paid employees of emergency management and related agencies but also volunteers such as those in volunteer fire companies, ARES, and RACES. If the emergency management agencies are to continue receiving federal funds, personnel must complete a number of FEMA training courses having to do with the Incident Command System (ICS) and NIMS. Individuals who do not complete the training will not be allowed to participate, even as volunteers.

These FEMA courses are free of charge, available on line or sometimes in person at emergency management offices, and not particularly difficult. The courses are useful in familiarizing volunteers with the principles of the Incident Command System and showing where communications fits into the ICS structure. These formal requirements are here to stay and more may follow. At the national level, Amateur Radio has earned the respect we always wanted, bringing us closer to the emergency management establishment. - excerpted from the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee Report (2007)

### Recommended Courses

- ◆ ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communication-Course #: EC-001. This is a revision of the former Emergency Communications Basic/Level 1 course. This on-line course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. Prerequisites: ICS-100 (IS-100.b) (Introduction to the Incident Command System); and IS -700 (National Incident Management System). Also recommended, but not required, are: IS-250, Emergency Support Function 15 (ESF15), External Affairs; and IS-288, The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management. The course covers: The Framework: How You Fit In; The Networks for Messages; Message Handling; What Happens When Called; Operations & Logistics; Safety & Survival; and What to Expect in Large Disasters.
- ◆ Red Cross or AHA combined course in Adult CPR/First Aid/AED Basics
- ◆ FEMA IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System)
- ◆ FEMA IS-700 (National Incident Management System)

## November 2011 Contest Calendar

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

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

Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 5 to 1200Z, Nov 6
<b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW</b>	2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7
High Speed Club <b>CW</b> Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Nov 6
DARC 10-Meter <b>Digital</b> Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 6
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 9 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 9 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 10
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 9
WAE DX Contest, <b>RTTY</b>	0000Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, <b>Digital</b>	0001Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 12 to 1300Z, Nov 13
OK/OM DX Contest, <b>CW</b>	1200Z, Nov 12 to 1200Z, Nov 13
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 13
<b>Kentucky QSO Party</b>	1400Z, Nov 12 to 0200Z, Nov 13
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z, Nov 12 to 0500Z, Nov 14
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 13
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Nov 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 17
YO International <b>PSK31</b> Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 18
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 19 to 2359Z, Nov 20
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 19 to 1000Z, Nov 20
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 19 to 1200Z, Nov 20
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 19 to 0700Z, Nov 20
<b>Feld Hell</b> Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Nov 19
<b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB</b>	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, <b>CW</b>	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0100Z, Nov 20
EPC <b>PSK63</b> QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 23
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 23 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 23 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 24
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, <b>CW</b>	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, <b>CW</b>	0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27
SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, Nov 27

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<http://www.centralksarc.com>

Your copy of QSP is Here!

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**@ 7:30 PM, at KWU**

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER QSP IS NOV. 10, 2011**

## **CKARC November Birthdays**

F/Member	Lola Belle	Stephens	11/1
WØOK	Dewite	Constable	11/6
F/Member	Helen	Tewes	11/12
NØBKD	Milton	Eitel	11/26
KØHIN	Pauline	Eaton	11/28