

October 2016 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



Special points of interest:

- October Testing Session
- September Minutes
- ARRL Issues with AOL
- Antenna Fire at SAQ
- MARS Exercise
- ARISS Equipment Failure

October Test Session

For the October session we only had one candidate, Ricardo Martinez, KG5P-WI, of Albuquerque, New Mexico (a K-State Polytech UAV Student). Ricardo Passed his Tech (and tried the General). He will be back again!

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

This was the First Month where we had the CKARC Board Meeting FIRST, and it seemed to work well.

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **Nov. 7th**. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will try again on the 14th.

November Test Session

is on **November 9th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom. Board Meeting at 6:30 PM (NEW)

The November CKARC

meeting is scheduled for the 18th of November at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall. (Avoiding "Black Friday")

CKARC September 2016 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall on Friday September 30, 2016 at 7:30 pm. There were 17 members in attendance. Vice President Paul Collins called meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as printed in QSP.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat- \$4604 in account.

Secretary: David- Nothing to report.

EC/VE: Sid- Two candidates passed Technician.

Old Business:

Nothing

New Business:

Paul suggested we put a yearly calendar on the club website.

Mitch says the general class will begin November 7 at 7 pm in room 211 of Peters Science Hall.

Slate of Officers were picked for voting. Election of officers will be at October 28 meeting. We will have a potluck preceding the meeting at 6:30 pm.

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 location (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 Members with AOL Accounts Report Problems Receiving ARRL E-Mailings

10/19/2016

Since late September, ARRL has experienced intermittent problems delivering bulk e-mail products, such as *The ARRL Letter* and Section News, to member subscribers with AOL e-mail addresses. The problem is that AOL is not accepting all messages ARRL is sending; some make it through to subscribers, and some do not.

The League has open trouble tickets with AOL regarding this issue but has not yet received any substantive responses. As a result, there is no estimated time frame to resolve this problem. Delivery to all other major Internet Service Providers continues normally.

If you have an AOL.com e-mail address and have been affected by this problem, ARRL suggests that you set up a *new* e-mail account with another provider and change the e-mail address in your ARRL member profile to the new account (click on "Edit your Profile" on the ARRL home page, after logging in). **This problem is *not* specific to ARRL**, as many other organizations are reporting the same issues with their AOL subscribers.

Antenna Fire Puts SAQ Alexanderson Alternator Station Off the Air

10/18/2016

An early October **fire** in the SAQ **Alexanderson alternator** long-wave antenna is under investigation by the Grimeton World Heritage Foundation, which owns and manages the station in Grimeton, Sweden. The fire, attributed to arcing, was quickly extinguished, and no injuries occurred. The Foundation said that determining the extent of damage and completing repairs could take a while.

"There is a risk that the incident will affect the planned transmissions with the long-wave transmitter SAQ for some time to come," a Foundation announcement said. The fire will keep SAQ off the air for a scheduled **UN Day** transmission on October 24. SAQ, which operates on 17.2 kHz, also typically schedules transmissions on Christmas Eve and other occasions.

Dating from the 1900s, the Alexanderson alternator — essentially an ac generator run at extremely high speed — can put out 200 kW but typically is operated at less than one-half that power level. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions. It was built in the 1920s.

MARS-Amateur Radio Interoperability Exercise to Test “Very Bad Day” Scenario

10/19/2016

From October 30 through November 1, members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will conduct a quarterly US Department of Defense (DOD) Contingency Communications Exercise (COMMEX). The quarterly exercise will offer training on the ability to provide communications following a “very bad day” scenario, when traditional forms of communications will likely be unavailable. The exercise will involve interoperability between MARS and Amateur Radio participants and is open to all members of the amateur community.

“While the simultaneous loss of all communications nationwide is not likely, we are assuming there has been a massive nationwide outage, for training purposes,” Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, said. “One objective of the exercise is to continue the partnership with the Amateur Radio community to help provide information about local conditions.” Information gathered will be forwarded to the DOD to provide a better picture of what is happening around the country, he said.

“During this exercise, we will use 60 meters, local VHF and UHF repeaters, and HF NVIS [near-vertical incidence skywave] Amateur Radio bands,” English explained. “Our goal is to have a conversation about the local conditions in and around your county. During the conversation, our operators will be asking basic questions, such as the status of commercial power, public water systems, and road conditions. These will be person-to-person conversations; you don’t need to use any digital modes or know any special messaging formats.”

To kick off this exercise, MARS is encouraging the Amateur Radio community to monitor 5,330.5 kHz from 0300-0400 UTC on October 31, when MARS will conduct a high-power voice broadcasts, alternating between military stations on the East Coast and West Coast. MARS wants Amateur Radio operators to submit reception reports, as indicated in the 60 meter voice broadcast.

For the remainder of the exercise, MARS personnel will be calling for Amateur Radio operators on the five 60 meter channels as well as on established Amateur Radio nets on HF and on VHF/UHF repeaters.

Contact MARS with questions about this exercise.

During an October 25 webinar, English will discuss the quarterly DOD contingency communication exercises, which promote interoperability between the Amateur Radio community and the DOD. He also will talk about initiatives for promoting the use of 60 meters between Amateur Radio and the federal government as well as the types of information MARS operators will be requesting from the Amateur Radio community during October 31-November 1 exercise.

Registration for the webinar, “**Overview of Army and Air Force MARS**,” remains open. Also during the webinar, US Air Force MARS Chief Dave Stapchuk, KD9DXM, will discuss the history of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program and membership requirements for Amateur Radio operators. Webinar registrants will receive a confirming e-mail that contains information about joining the webinar.

Apparent ARISS Radio Failure Prompts Shift to Russian Service Module Ham Gear

10/20/2016

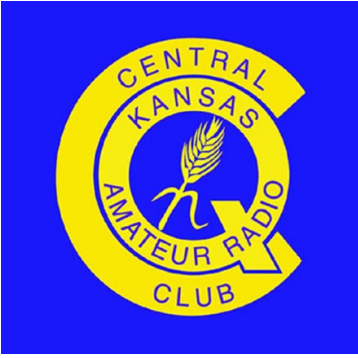
The VHF handheld transceiver that the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) program has used to connect students worldwide with astronauts on board the International Space Station (ISS) for more than 16 years has begun to display an error message and is unusable at this time.

While the ARISS technical team evaluates the best path to restore operation from the ISS *Columbus* module, ARISS contacts will be supported using the Kenwood radio in the Russian Service Module.

During this period, the packet digipeater will be unavailable. Switching to the 70 centimeter capability on board the *Columbus* module for some operations is being coordinated. ARISS said to expect further updates as it works to resolve the problem.

A reminder: The deadline is **November 1** for formal and informal education institutions and organizations to **submit proposals** to host an Amateur Radio contact with an ISS crew member. ARISS anticipates that contacts will take place between July 1 and December 31, 2017. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits determine contact dates.

To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the ham radio contact into a well-developed education plan. — *ARISS Bulletin*



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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Changes!

Changes are “always” in the works—as time allows, and there has not been a whole lot of “free time” lately!

Sid NØOBM
