

September 2015 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



September Test Session (9 September 2015)

The September Test Sessions went well. We had 2 Candidates a Husband & Wife team from Clay Center. Both upgraded! Jimmie Nichols, KEØEYH is now an Extra, and his Wife Janice Nichols, KEØFEQ upgraded to General.

She did try the Extra exam, but not having studied for it, did not pass.

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

Due to upgrades in the FCC Web site, the FCC System is Still Down on the morning of the 10th, and no one seems to know for sure when they will be back on line for sure! They did finally make it back on-line, but from time to time are rather "slow" to respond. I'm sure a "fix" is in the works.

Special points of interest:

- September Testing

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **October 4th**, provided the Weather cooperates! If not, then we will try again on the 12th.

October Test Session is on **October the 14th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

The October CKARC

meeting is scheduled for the **30th** of Oct. at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall.

CKARC August 2015 Minutes

The Meeting opened with Pledge Of Allegiance and Introductions. 23 members and guests were present.

No Secretary report, due to his not having attended the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Fred, KØDIX, reported

Checking account -	\$ 171.80
Savings account -	\$ 2017.12

HAMFEST Report – Tom, NØMOK - Reports we made approximately a \$200 profit after all expenses. Lots of discussion about why so much less this year than last year. It was determined that Fred, Eric and Tom will get together and audit last year's financials versus this year's for the hamfest.

Tom also reported there were no negative comments reported to him about the hamfest. Approximately 300 in attendance, which is 25 to 30 more than last year. There were about 175 people who signed the contact list. Several comments about the excellent job Kathy Kelley has been doing coordinating the Ladies activities for the Hamfest each year. All expenses have been paid by her.

Alvin, WØME, mentioned there had been requests for feedback on the evening meal and program at MARTINELLI's Little Italy the night before the Hamfest.

EM report – Sid, NØOBM – The FCC has been slow in processing license applications.

Roger, KEØBRV, reported that he has acquired several years back issues of QST if anyone is interested in them. He also volunteered to talk with the young lady who embroidered hats at the HamFest to see what it would cost to have shirts and jackets made. He will report back to the club.

Omlia Auction will have an auction on September 3 where Neal Cox's ham equipment will be sold.

Dennis apologized for there being no watermelon feed at tonight's meeting. He did not receive much feedback from members about having one. The September club meeting will be a POT Luck dinner and start at 6:30 pm – one hour earlier than usual. It will still be in the KWU Peters Science Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm. Paul, KS1P, continued a program he started at the last club meeting on Propagation and the Atmosphere.

Minutes submitted by Eric, NØYET

Siren Test Nets



These are "routinely" held on the First Monday of every Month—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!

Rockwell Collins to End Mechanical Filter Production

08/13/2015

As more and more communications equipment designs have adopted digital signal processing techniques, **Rockwell Collins** has announced that it will stop manufacturing its renowned mechanical filters. It did not provide a specific date.

“Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters,” the company **said** on its website. “Due to this and other economic reasons, [Rockwell Collins] Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future.”

Rockwell Collins makes two different types of mechanical filters, many of which have found their way into Amateur Radio products and applications. In a mechanical filter, input and output transducers convert the electrical signal to and from resonant mechanical vibrations, respectively.

“For frequencies between 100 kHz and 700 kHz, we create filters made from rods resonating in a torsion mode,” the company explained on its website. “For frequencies below 100 kHz, we use flexure mode bar resonators.”

Collins has made mechanical filters for more than 6 decades, and their initial application was in telephone circuits. The filters gained favor for Amateur Radio use because of their excellent selectivity, especially in IF applications. It is said to take about 12 weeks to manufacture a single unit.

Art Collins, W0CXX (SK), founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That same year Collins supplied the equipment to establish communication with the Byrd South Pole expedition. Over the years, Collins produced a line of Amateur Radio equipment, and its products remain popular among radio amateurs and collectors. Rockwell International purchased the company in 1973, and Rockwell Collins was spun off in 2001. Today, the company has focused its market on electronic communications, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems. — *Thanks to Mike Morris, WA6ILQ; Rockwell Collins*

RSGB Takes Over Responsibility for UK Amateur Radio Examinations

09/18/2015

The Radio Society of Great Britain (**RSGB**) will assume overall management of Amateur Radio examinations in the UK, starting on October 1. Radio examinations have been handled since 2007 by the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF), under agreements involving telecommunications regulator Ofcom, the RCF, and the RSGB. “The same people will be doing the same things; they will just be reporting to the RSGB Board instead of the RCF,” the RSGB said. “This will free the RCF Trustees to concentrate on their charitable work,” and, the RSGB added, “will further streamline the administration of the examinations, building on the foundation established over the last 8 years.”

The RSGB will set up a new Examinations Standards Committee, separate from the RSGB Training and Education Committee, which will have direct accountability to the RSGB Board “for the probity of the examinations and the examination administration.” The RSGB said Ofcom and the RSGB Board will jointly commission independent audits of the examination system to ensure that it is working as intended.

“Examinations will continue to be available to all, regardless of RSGB membership, and these changes will have minimal impact on the conduct of the examinations at local level,” the RSGB said. — *Thanks to Heather Parsons/RSGB*

ARRL VEC Reminds License Applicants: The FCC is Now Paperless!

09/18/2015

The ARRL VEC is reminding Amateur Radio license applicants that the **FCC no longer routinely prints or mails license documents**. In an effort to streamline its procedures and save money, the FCC went “paperless” in February 2015.

“Customer contact with the VEC has tripled since this change, as many amateurs have not heard of the change or do not understand the FCC procedures for obtaining a license copy,” said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

To help, she has created an **Obtain License Copy** web page devoted to explaining the various ways a license holder can get an official license document from the FCC. An official license displays the FCC logo and the watermark “Official Copy” across each page. As a money saver, the FCC no longer uses distinctive paper stock to print hard copy licenses, and instead uses standard, white recycled paper. **A printer friendly version of the instructions is available on the ARRL website.**

Somma said the *easiest* way for a license holder to obtain a license copy is to call the FCC at (877) 480-3201 and press menu choice 4.

Licensees also can download and print their own official license copy by logging into the Universal Licensing System (**ULS**) using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password, then clicking on “Download Electronic Authorizations.” The ULS has added a green informational banner that says, “Change your paper authorization preferences here, or download your official electronic authorizations now.”

Clicking the “**here**” hyperlink will take you to the Paper Authorization Preferences” page. **To continue receiving paper license documents click “Yes.”**

Clicking the “**now**” hyperlink will take you to the “Download Authorizations” page.

On the “Download Authorizations” scroll down to the “Filter by Radio Service” box (remember, the ULS is *not* just for the Amateur Service). First, **highlight your call sign** and then click “**ADD>**” to put your call sign into the “Authorizations to Download” column. Scroll down a little further and click “**DOWNLOAD>**” to create an official FCC license PDF document that can be saved or printed.

When modifying, renewing, or requesting a duplicate license copy, a licensee who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under “Applicant Information” while logged into the ULS system will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail.

All Amateur Radio exam applicants should include a valid e-mail address on their NCVCE 605 form, in order to receive a copy of their license electronically.



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