

September 2016 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



Special points of interest:

- Hamfest & September Testing Sessions
- August Minutes

Change IS Constant!

Hamfest & September Test Sessions

The Hamfest session was a busy one! We had 10 candidates (8 Bodies) And the results are: Tim McPeek, KDØAND, of Canton tried twice for his Extra, but did not make it. Dave Miller, of Salina, tried for his Tech—No Joy. Gabriel Hamel, KEØJTF, of Wichita, tried two times for his General and did not make it. Cy Nightingale, KEØKEX, of Wamego, is a New Tech, Marc Scott, KEØKEW, of Clay Center, is a new Tech, Don Corrigan, KBØMQV, of Salina upgraded to General, as did Robert Bishop, KCØGOT, also from Salina, and Jack McDonald, NØMEK, of Wichita upgraded to Extra! Congratulations to all that passed.

VE's in attendance (at the Hamfest) were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Leon, WAØJFC, and Eric, NØYET.

At the **September** Session: Dave Miller, KEØKKZ, of Salina and Edward Malusky, KEØKKY, of Hays both passed their Technician Exams.

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

Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **Oct. 3rd**. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will try again on the 10th.

October Test Session is

on **October 12th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom. Board Meeting at 6:30 PM (NEW)

The October CKARC

meeting is scheduled for the 28th of October at **6:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall. (Fall "Picnic/Pot-Luck")

CKARC August 2016 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall on Friday August 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm. There were 17 members in attendance. President Denis Kelly called meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as printed in QSP.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat- Earned \$3346 from the Hamfest, not counting bills. Balance of \$5195.62 in checking.

Secretary: David- Renewed state nonprofit status at cost of \$40.00 per year.

EC/VE: Sid- County has purchased two new digital Yaesu FTM-400 radios, one for the EOC, other for the EMCOMM Trailer, more to follow next year.

Old Business:

Hamfest: Tom- More bills coming in from Webster and Shoppers guide. 297 tickets sold, 52 tables reserved with 4 not used. 18 more people than last year. We received several compliments on facility, and location.

New Business:

October 28th meeting is the election of officers.

November meeting is moved up one week to November 18th.

December meeting is the 16th at Coyote Canyon. Banquet starts 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!

Rules Released for New ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

09/27/2016

The official rules for the new **ARRL 222 MHz and Up Contest** have been released. The contest will debut in August 2017. Participants will attempt to work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands, "using any allowable mode." Competing stations will exchange six-character grid locators ("**sub-grid**"). Rovers report their grid locator at the time of each contact. Contact point values will be computed on the basis of both the center-to-center distance in kilometers between the sub-grid square of each station and an arbitrary "band factor," a multiplier ranging from 1 to 10. For example, contacts made on 222 MHz will have a band factor of 2, contacts on 432 MHz will have a band factor of 1, and QSOs made on 24 GHz and higher will have a band factor of 20.

To encourage participation, the new contest encourages the formation of operator teams. These may be made up of Single-Operator, Fixed; Multi-Operator, Fixed and / or Rover category participants operating within a single Contest Region as defined in the contest rules. Participants may only be on one team, and the scores of all team members are combined. This is similar to the approach used for years in the *NCJ*-sponsored North American QSO Party (**NAQP**) events. Teams must register in advance of the contest with the **ARRL Contest Branch Manager**.

The contribution of a Rover to a team score is limited to that portion of the Rover's score achieved from within the team's region. Team members' score also count toward a club total in the Club Competition.

The ARRL 222 MHz and Up Contest will kick off on the August 5-6, 2017, weekend.

ARRL Acting as Catalyst in College Radio Club Revitalization Campaign

09/27/2016

ARRL is serving as a catalyst in a nascent campaign — "Ivy + Amateur Radio" — to boost college and university Amateur Radio club interest, membership, and activity. The initiative sprang from a conversation earlier this year between ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and retired Yale University staffer Dr Martin Ewing, AA6E, about how to get colleges and universities to revitalize their ham clubs. Ewing relayed the message to the president of the Yale University Amateur Radio Club (W1YU), who, in turn, contacted the president of the Harvard University Amateur Radio Club (W1AF). The two schools subsequently sponsored what turned out to be a standing-room-only forum at the 2016 ARRL New England Division Convention in Massachusetts over the September 10-11 weekend, with representatives from Harvard, Yale, Penn, and MIT on hand. During the Convention and at the forum, ARRL gave copies of the 2016 *ARRL Handbook* to all college and university attendees.

"They all share common problems, which include finding suitable space, finding faculty or staff sponsors — preferably permanent — and providing for an orderly succession of student leadership," said Gallagher, who attended the forum and moderated the hour-long idea exchange that followed. Gallagher said a college club shouldn't fall into decline just because students graduate.

"Undergraduates are busy people, they're all competing for the top jobs and have busy social lives," Gallagher allowed. "Sometimes it's difficult for Amateur Radio to compete with those other interests."

Representatives of the Ivy League clubs are planning to meet — possibly in New York — in December. "There's a lot of work to do before that next meeting," Gallagher said. "We want to create a reflector, we want to create a mailing list, we want to reach out to all the clubs that did not show up. And of course we welcome college club to join us." He said a senior member of the Yale team offered a "generous contribution" to ARRL to support the Ivy + Amateur Radio initiative. Initial efforts will include a newsletter and a Facebook page.

The Yale-Harvard forum related — in tag-team fashion — a timeline history of Amateur Radio in general and of the Yale and Harvard Amateur Radio clubs in particular. "One of the things we learned was that several years ago, Harvard's radio club lost its student activities sponsorship, and they got it back — which is very difficult to do in this day and age," Gallagher recounted.

He stressed that the outreach initiative is not limited to Ivy League schools, although that has been the initial focus. "We welcome the participation of everyone," Gallagher said, "but the Ivies and MIT stepped up in a leadership role. The Ivy schools are very competitive with each other, and college students are very competitive with each other, and what we want to do is to put that competitive energy to work to fashion wider college Amateur Radio club participation in the process." Gallagher noted that many state colleges and universities already have active Amateur Radio clubs. "We hope they'll join us in what will become an ever-widening circle," he said.

Contact Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, for more information.

ARRL to Host CHIRP Radio Programming Webinar

09/26/2016

ARRL will host a **CHIRP** Radio Programming **webinar** on Wednesday, October 19, at 8 PM ET (0000 UTC on Thursday, October 20, in US time zones). This presentation will offer a brief overview of the free, open-source *CHIRP* software, which can be used to program most radios.

Attendees will learn: What *CHIRP* is, which radios are supported, how to get *CHIRP*, and how to troubleshoot *CHIRP*. Presenter James Lee, N1DDK, became active in *CHIRP* development for the initial TYT9800 driver. He is a hardware development engineer for Qualcomm.

Register now! After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar

Amateur Radio Volunteers on Call during Major Puerto Rico Power Outage

09/23/2016

Amateur Radio volunteers went on alert following an afternoon explosion on September 21 at the Aguirre Central Power Generator in Salinas that left some 1.5 million residents of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico without power. ARRL Public Information Coordinator Angel Santana, WP3GW, said that as Wednesday evening wore on, the most sought-after item was ice, followed by potable water — which depends on electricity to power the pumps that deliver it. The outage also resulted in traffic jams from non-functioning signal lights. The governor of Puerto Rico has declared a State of Emergency.

“On the Amateur Radio side, the VHF/UHF linked repeater system of the Federación de Radio Aficionados de Puerto Rico (FRA), an ARRL-affiliated club, was the main source of information,” Santana told ARRL. “As soon as the situation began, lots of mobile and portable stations got on the air from east to west to report on the power loss, and ham radio was among the first to report the explosion, as smoke was observed soaring toward the sky.”

According to FEMA, the fire at the Salinas switching station caused the island-wide power generation plant to shut down as a safety precaution. FEMA reported on September 23 that power had been restored to nearly 950,000 customers, with complete power restoration expected late in the day. FEMA said 305,000 customers were left without drinking water due to the loss of power to pumping stations.

FEMA said that all critical facilities were operating on back-up generators, and airports, police stations, and water plants were “expected to receive first priority as power is restored.” The agency said telecommunications were operating normally.

Santana said the eastern side of the island was covered by the 145.110 MHz repeater in Cayey, the western by a machine on 145.290 MHz, and in the center by the 146.830 MHz from the FRA. Repeaters on 70 centimeters became the main network for any emergency or health care traffic, Santana said.

A routine Wednesday VHF net made it on the air as scheduled, and most comments and messages involved local situations as well as information about an October 9 FRA event. “Other repeater systems were on the air as part of a regular monitoring schedule, and some were active with normal conversations,” Santana said.

On HF, Antonio Santiago, KP4IA, in Toa Alta was on the air from his energy-efficient home. Santana said KP4IA was “the main source of what was happening even before the situation got to the mainland news services,” checking into nets on 20, 40, and 75 meters and relaying information about the situation to other amateur stations on the mainland.

Santana said local schools remained closed on September 23 and public services were to resume at 10 AM, as power and water service is returning gradually.

“There are still Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica (AEE) customers who are without electricity,” Santana said. “Two cellular companies had problems. There was at least one death because of generator emissions and a few vehicle accidents. Kudos to the police personnel directing traffic.”

FEMA said untreated wastewater and sewage were being discharged into spillways, hospitals were running on back-up generators and cisterns, and buses are being used to move passengers as the light-rail system is down.

NASA provided a **view from space**, showing how Puerto Rico appears at night with full power as well as how it looked during the outage.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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We are on the Web

www.w0cy.org

Changes!

Please bear with us as we work out some "New" Bugs!

Sid NØOBM
