

September QSP



Business Name

September Test Sessions

The September 13th Test session had One candidate, Barth Crouch, KEØOME, of Salina passed his Technician Exam. Congratulations!

VE's in Attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, and Eric, NØYET.

Special points of interest:

- September Testing Session
- August Minutes
- Revised 605 In Use
- Emergency WX Net
- SATERN Needs Volunteers
- MCM Electronics
- Solar Flares
- More!

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **October 2nd**. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will try again the following Monday!

October Test Session is on October **11th** at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom. Board Meeting at 6:30 PM, on

the **11th**. The October CKARC meeting is scheduled for the 27th of October at **7:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall in Room 211.

CKARC August 2017 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall in Room 211, on Friday, August 25 at 7:30 pm. President Dennis Kelly, KAØLTQ, called the meeting to order. Watermelon was served. Last month's minutes were approved as published in QSP.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat- Deposited \$3318 from hamfest, balance is \$7183.

Secretary: David- Nothing to report.

EC/VE: Sid- Absent.

Old Business:

Hamfest: Tom- 254 individual buttons sold, 282 with tables. 41 tables sold for a profit of \$820.

New Business:

Need to have a officers committee to come up with a list of potential new officers.

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!

All of the New Sirens Have been Installed at this time.

Revised NCVEC Form 605 Now in use in Salina

09/13/2017

The NEW FCC Form 605 — *Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services* — now in effect, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (**NCVEC**) has updated its unofficial NCVEC Form 605 that's used at volunteer examination sessions. The revised NCVEC Form 605 has been in use (in Salina) since the Hamfest on August 20th. Both the new FCC and NCVEC forms ask applicants if they have been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court. This conforms with FCC requirements to evaluate an applicant's qualifications to hold any FCC-issued license. The FCC has been asking "the felony question" on other forms, and its omission on Form 605 was an apparent oversight.

An applicant's response and explanation to the felony question — now included on NCVEC Form 605 — will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee. If the answer to the felony question is "yes," the applicant must submit to FCC — separately from NCVEC Form 605 — a statement (the FCC calls it an "exhibit") explaining the circumstances. Such applications will be held for a basic qualification review, something the FCC already does for other licensed radio services. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has said that an affirmative answer to the felony question does not mean that an application will be denied automatically.

An applicant's answer to the felony question and their exhibit will be publically viewable via the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The applicant can request that all or part of the exhibit be kept confidential, and it will not be visible to the public.

VECs will not handle exhibits and confidentiality requests; these must be filed with the FCC by the applicant.

NCVEC Form 605 has not been revised since the Commission restructured Amateur Radio license classes 17 years ago.

CKARC's Initial use of the New Form 605 was **at the Hamfest** on August 20th.

Caribbean Emergency Weather Network Handling High Volume of Post-Storm Traffic

09/22/2017

The Caribbean Emergency Weather Network (**CEWN**) on 7.188 and 3.815 MHz continues actively handling emergency and priority traffic in the wake of Hurricane Maria — especially for Dominica and Puerto Rico but for any storm-affected area in the Caribbean where storm damage was severe. A **YouTube live stream** is available, compliments of ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Advisor Ben Kuo, AI6YR — who has no official connection with CEWN. Kuo said the net is handling “*real*/life-and-death traffic in Dominica,” including a situation involving someone with a broken leg and trapped in a house.

“Truly I think that the regional agencies were not ready for a calamity of this magnitude,” said Kumar Persaud, J85K, one of the CEWN net controllers. “The CEWN operators have ended up filling the communications gap for the agencies, without any prior briefing.”

The net is dealing with a tremendous volume of traffic for Dominica and Puerto Rico, he told ARRL, with a handful of stations handling emergency and priority communications for a million or more people. The CEWN said that at this time, its operators are unable to deal with health-and-welfare traffic. The CEWN is handling **health-and-welfare inquiries** via e-mail. Requesters should indicate your name and location and the name and location of the person(s) they’re trying to locate, plus an e-mail address or telephone number for a response.

On September 21, the net experienced what Kuo described as deliberate interference. Dominica suffered a direct hit by Hurricane Maria on September 18-19, resulting in a loss of all power and a total blackout of communication to the outside world, except for Amateur Radio. Kuo said stations in Puerto Rico also report having no power, telephone service, or water and “everything devastated.”

Kuo cited hams on St. Lucia and on Dominica, and others outside the region, for coordinating and collecting inbound health-and-welfare traffic as well as coordinating the landing of the emergency relief vessels from Barbuda and advising rescue groups on logistics. The net also has been an only communication path for government communication. “For the public, the only link to information on their families in Dominica was a Facebook broadcast of an *EchoLink* node to the island by Brian Machesny, K1LI/J75Y,” Kuo said. “That node — on St. Lucia — allowed hams to monitor traffic in Dominica on the local J73MAN repeater.” Because of poor HF band conditions, no propagation was available to the US, but the J69DS remote station provided direct access from St. Lucia to nets on 80 and 40 meters, he said.

The J69DS **RemoteHams** server is on listening to the CEWN on HF, and *EchoLink*(J62DX node) is on the UHF repeater in Dominica. Do *not* transmit unless you have valid traffic for the net. There’s **more information** on the Amateur Radio response on the Hurricane Maria – Dominica Amateur Radio Communications (DARCI) Facebook page.

National Public Radio (NPR) **highlighted the role of Amateur Radio** in the Dominica response in a September 21 story.

SATERN Seeks Volunteers to Serve as Net Control or Relay Stations

09/22/2017

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (**SATERN**) International SSB Net is seeking volunteers who can serve either as net control stations (NCS) or as relay stations. SATERN has been in daily operation (1400 UTC until at least 2300 UTC) since Tuesday, September 19 on 14.265 MHz (Note: SATERN shifted to 14.275 MHz on September 22 to avoid interference.) "SATERN had initially planned on terminating the net operations for Hurricane Maria by today," SATERN National Liaison Bill Feist, WB8BZH, said on Friday. "However, the amount of health-and-welfare messages flowing through the Net the last 2 days is expected to continue today and likely through at least Sunday or Monday."

The SATERN activation for Hurricane Maria is the net's fourth in a month. Feist said SATERN's "dedicated group of net control and net relay stations" now need some relief. Feist is asking ARRL, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) to reach out to their operators and ask them to assist as either net control stations or relay stations.

NCS volunteers would sign up for 1-hour slots Saturday, Sunday, and/or Monday. E-mail **Net Manager Ken Gilliland**, AG6SV, or **Assistant Net Manager Bob Rogers**, WA5EEZ, indicating availability between 1400 UTC and 2300 UTC on any of those days.

"We are looking for experienced, qualified Net Control Operators who have had some experience as both a net control operator and in handling messages by voice," Feist said. He said especially well equipped stations and/or bilingual operators would be valuable assets. Net relay stations simply check in and assist that hour's NCS. "With Net Control Stations operating from all over the country, they often may not hear a station with message traffic," Feist said, noting that stations able to put a strong signal into the Caribbean would be especially valuable, as would bilingual operators.

Contact Bill Feist, WB8BZH, for more information.

MCM Electronics Shuttters Two Plants, Announces Merger with Newark element 14

09/21/2017

MCM Electronics, in business for 40 years, will close two plants and its corporate headquarters in Ohio and lay off more than 90 workers, the *Dayton Daily News* reported earlier this summer. The company, which carries an electronics inventory of more than 300,000 items, including 3-D printers, tools, wire, cable, and other items, has been a Dayton Hamvention® vendor.

The layoffs will begin at month's end and continue through the end of the year.

On its Facebook page, MCM has **announced** that it is partnering with Newark element 14, and that MCM products will become available via the Newark website, which is not yet available.

Solar Flares Spark Radio Blackouts, Auroral Displays Possible

09/07/2017

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) has issued a strong (G3) geomagnetic storm watch for September 7 through September 9. The SWPC said the watch for September 7 remains in effect due to the arrival of a coronal mass ejection (CME) and the effects of a CME on September 4.

"Additionally, a G3 watch is now in effect for the 8 and 9 September UTC days in anticipation of the arrival of another CME associated with the X9.3 flare (R3 — strong radio blackout) on 6 September at 1202 UTC (0802 ET)," the SWPC said early on September 7. "Analysis indicates likely CME arrival late on 8 September into early 9 September." The September 6 flare is being called the strongest in more than a decade.

Its effect on HF radio propagation has adversely affected the Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**), currently operating on 20 and 40 meters as Hurricane Irma sweeps through the Caribbean. As of September 7 at 1400 UTC, the solar flux index stood at 127, the sunspot number at 27, the A index at 11, and the K index at 4. All HF conditions are being deemed as no better than fair. The possibility of extended auroral displays could work to the benefit of VHF and UHF operators who aim their antennas north to take advantage of "buzz" mode. SWPC posts a **30-minute forecast** of visible aurora.

The SWPC said the September 4 CME arrived at the *DSCOVR* spacecraft on September 6 at 2308 UTC, and "a sudden impulse was observed at several of Earth's magnetometers" at 2348 UTC due to the effects from the shock arrival at Earth.

"While solar wind speed initially reached speeds of around 600 km/s and total interplanetary magnetic field strength (IMF) increased to around 14 nT, the Bz component [of the Sun's magnetic field] was directed northward in the early stages of the event — an unfavorable orientation for escalating geomagnetic responses," the center said. "However, the potential for geomagnetic storming still exists as the CME continues passing over Earth.

An S1 (minor) radiation storm warning has been extended to September 8 at 0600 UTC. This could have a minor impact on polar HF propagation. The SWPC has observed S2 conditions over the past day or two.

The September 6 X9.3 flare followed an X2.2 flare (also R3) at 0910 UTC. The source region for both flares was Region 2673 on the Sun.

QCWA Honors William Orr, W8NPU, with its 80th Anniversary Award

09/21/2017

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (**QCWA**) has honored centenarian and ARRL member William (Bill) Orr, W8NPU, of Columbus, Ohio, with its 80th Anniversary Award. QCWA member Don Fuhr, K8KSM, presented Orr with the framed award certificate. Orr has been licensed for 82 years. While he is no relation to *the* Bill Orr, W6SAI, his **story** nonetheless is an interesting one. According to the QCWA, Orr earned his commercial 2nd class radiotelephone license at age 18 in 1935 and began a lengthy career in radio and television broadcast engineering. On the basis of his success in obtaining the 2nd class commercial ticket, he also was granted a Class A Amateur Radio license. Orr previously held WA6NKM. The QCWA award presentation took place at Orr's home, which he shares with his wife, Mary. — *Thanks to Ken Oelke, VE6AFO/QCWA*

Space Weather Prediction Center Says Solar Phenomena May Continue

09/08/2017

The Space Weather Prediction Center (**SWPC**) said today that G4 (Severe) geomagnetic storm levels were observed at 2350 UTC on September 7 and again at 0151 UTC and 1304 UTC on September 8, due to the effects of a coronal mass ejection (CME). A G3 (Strong) or greater warning was in effect until 1500 UTC today.

Solar flares have adversely affected HF nets attempting to gather information on the three current active hurricanes.

A G4 storm can cause widespread voltage-control problems, and some protective systems may mistakenly trip out key assets from the power grid. HF radio propagation will be sporadic, satellite navigation degraded for hours, low-frequency radio navigation disrupted, and aurora may be seen at lower-than-typical latitudes.

A S1-S2 (Minor-Moderate) solar radiation storm warning for 10 MeV protons was extended and is now in effect until September 8 at 2359 UTC. An S1 or S2 solar radiation storm can have minor effects on HF propagation over polar paths.

An X-class flare (R3-strong radio blackout) occurred on September 7 at 1436 UTC. The source region for this flare was Region 2673. A narrow, slow-moving CME was observed with this event, but was determined not to have an Earth-directed component. "This region continues to produce significant flare activity," the SWPC said.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

Business Name

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We are on the Web

www.w0cy.org

**September Meeting is September 29th at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science
Hall in Room 211**
