

KC ARC



KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

June 2002

Meeting Highlights

Kent West, KC5ENO

June's meeting was called to order by President John Dyer, AE5B, at 1905hrs on Monday, 10th June.

Club Secretary Randy Robinson, N5JZH, then read the minutes from the May meeting.

Club Treasurer Peg Richard, KA4PA, then read the Treasurer's Report, which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. She also gave us a VE Session report. Some of the results from the session on June 1, 2002:

Technician: Johnny Ussery, Jr.

Technician W/HF: Alton Williams - KD5SMP

General: Ted Olsen - N5IJE

Extra: Michael Maynor - KD50KY

The next VE Test Session is July 2, 2002, Tuesday night, 7:00pm, Berry Lane Baptist Church.

There was some discussion about HamCom and Field Day.

Randy mentioned that Larry Sanders owns an Atlas Missile site near Lawn, and has been asked to come to the club meeting to give a presentation about the site. He said he'd be tickled to do it, but needs help from area hams to identify/re-create/etc some of the communications gear that would have been used at the site when it was in operation.

Peg motioned to adjourn the club meeting. Several of us then met at McDonald's for coffee/snacks/supper/fellowship.

Club Meeting!

Kent West, KC5ENO

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday, 8 July, at the city library.

Hail Reports

Kent West, KC5ENO

In the Skywarn Training session back in February, spotters were specifically asked to not give hail reports using terms such as 'marble-sized hail', because marbles come in all different sizes.

Yet in a recent Skywarn activation, some hail reports were heard to just that effect. So as a reminder, here's what Buddy McEntyre from the National Weather Service in San Angelo suggests:

Dime (0.75 in. diameter)

Nickel (0.88)

Quarter (1.00)

Half Dollar (1.25)

Walnut/Ping Pong Ball (1.50)

Golfball (1.75)

Hen Egg (2.00)

Tennis Ball (2.50)

Baseball (2.75)

Grapefruit (4.00)

Softball (4.50)

FCC Proposes Two New Amateur Bands

Submitted by Nesa Love, KC5ENL

QST de W1AW , May 10, 2002

ARRL Bulletin 28ARLB028

From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT

Good news for ham radio this week! FCC has proposed going along with ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL

request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 Mhz.

"I'm just as tickled as I can be," ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said upon hearing the news. "This is a classic example of our ARRL at work."

The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available.

The FCC said the new 5-MHz band would help amateurs "better match their choice of frequency to existing propagation conditions." The band, if approved, would be the first new amateur HF allocation since World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 gave amateurs 30, 17 and 12 meters--the so-called "WARC Bands." Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available.

The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments demonstrated that amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and 40 meters, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60-meter band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40.

If allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with--and accept interference from--current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998--135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. The FCC said its action on one part of that LF request proposes changes that would enhance the ability of amateur radio operators to conduct technical experiments, including propagation and antenna design experiments, in the 'low frequency' (LF) range of the radio spectrum."

Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 136-kHz amateur allocations. The first amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate without causing problems to

power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary "seeks to protect current amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users.

Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz. The ARRL has said primary status in the intervening spectrum slice was needed "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites."

The ARRL has expressed its belief that hams can continue to accommodate Part 15 and Part 18 devices at 2.4 GHz.

Key City Amateur Radio Club Income & Expense Report, 13 May 2002

Regular Account:

Balance Forward.....	\$ 903.11
Income.....	164.00
Expenses.....	100.96
Balance on Hand.....	966.15

Hamfest Account:

Balance Forward.....	1,097.28
Income.....	3,019.27
Expense.....	1906.99
Balance On Hand.....	2,209.56

Amount Needed to Balance:..... 3,175.71

Total Amount on Hand:

Checking.....	3,119.83
Currency.....	54.00
Coins.....	1.88
TOTAL.....	\$ 3,175.71

** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)

Checking Service Fee (April).....	15.00
Stamps.....	27.20
Southwestern Bell (May).....	18.64
Labels.....	12.17
Reciept Book.....	8.95
ARRL (Rucker).....	19.00
TOTAL.....	100.96

** Itemized Expenses (Hamfest Account)

Major Prizes.....	790.24
Concession Supplies.....	290.00
Foxhunt Prize.....	30.00

Civic Center Balance Due.....	549.50
Concession Fees.....	142.72
Labels.....	12.17
Tickets.....	83.41
Envelopes.....	8.95
 TOTAL.....	 1906.99

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, Treasurer, KCARC

Although I can accept talking scarecrows, lions and great wizards in emerald cities, I find it hard to believe there is no paperwork involved when your house lands on a witch. --Dave James

Field Day

Kent West, KC5ENO

The 2002 Field Day is fast approaching. Being as it's always conducted on the fourth full weekend in June, this year's dates are June 22-23. More details will be forthcoming. Be sure to attend the June KCARC meeting to be in on any related discussion.

Landmark Bill Could Provide Amateurs Relief from Restrictive Covenants

Submitted by NesaLove, KC5ENL

QST de W1AW, May 14, 2002
ARRL Bulletin 29 ARLB029
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT

A bill introduced in Congress May 14 could provide relief to amateurs prevented by private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--from installing outdoor antennas. Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) has introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act." The measure is aimed at preventing private land-use rules from "unreasonably interfering with" the installation and use of "appropriate antenna structures" for amateurs. Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--the only Amateur Radio operator in Congress--and Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) have signed on as original cosponsors.

The measure contains but one sentence: "For purposes of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation relating to station antenna

structures in the Amateur Radio Service (47 CFR 97.15), any private land use rules applicable to such structures shall be treated as a state or local regulation and shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as a state or local regulation."

The bill, which does not yet have a number, is expected to be assigned to the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. After the ARRL ran into a brick wall trying to convince the FCC to include CC&Rs under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, the League's Board of Directors agreed to pursue a congressional remedy. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and other League officials met with Israel, Walden, Sessions and others on Capitol Hill earlier this year to discuss the prospect of such a bill and how it should be worded. With the proposal now in the legislative hopper, Haynie says the "really hard work" is up to the amateur community, League members or not.

"It becomes important for all of us to write your congressman, call your congressman and voice your support," Haynie said. "This will have to be a grassroots effort, and we're going to pull out all the stops."

Israel, whose father, Howard, is K2JCC, said in a statement read into the Congressional Record that his bill seeks to ensure the continued viability of a volunteer public service resource. "My bill would provide Amateur Radio licensees with the ability to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with homeowners' associations," Israel said, "just as they do now with governmental land-use regulators, to ensure that our nation is not left with areas devoid of the public safety services amateurs can provide."

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Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page (<http://www.house.gov/writerep>) for information on how to contact your representative.

ARRL requests those contacting members of Congress to copy ARRL on their correspondence-- via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name and address on all correspondence.

Antenna Work Completed!

Randy Robinson, N5JZH

HOORAY! The long awaited antenna work has been completed and with much success. Saturday, KJ5DX (Bill Shaw), N5OGD (Gerald Dugan), and N5JZH (Randy Robinson) watched as our tower company changed out our repeater antenna. The results have been quite exciting. Stations checked in from all directions with good reports regarding the improvements. KC5TAK checked in from Buffalo Gap on his HT with a good signal. AE5B has been able to talk into the repeater from his home QTH which he could not do before. Activity has sure increased with the gained coverage. Thanks to all who contributed towards this project financially. We will all enjoy the increased performance.