



January Newsletter **2021**

KCARC Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2020, 7:00 PM

ZOOM – Meeting
(Watch your email for ZOOM Link)

WEEKLY NET TIME
Thursday, 8 PM on 146.76 repeater
(146.2 Hz tone)
Club Website:
<https://keycityarc.org/>

2021 Officers:

Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ, President,
Ron Harden , WT5X, Vice President,
Jacob Bachmeyer, KE5WHG, Secretary,
Peg Richard, KA4UPA Treasurer

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The Prez Sez ...CQ CQ CQ...

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and is having a good start to the new year. With the end of a year and the beginning of another there are opportunities for “Do Overs” or new beginnings.

As we begin a new year there will be opportunities to participate in various events from DX, supporting various local agencies with communications needs, etc. In fact, the annual “Steamin’ Wheels” bicycle race will soon be here. I will check with the Parks and Recreation office next week for any updated information concerning the bicycle race and how we can best support them during the race.

Hopefully by the time of our next meeting I will have some update information that I can share with everyone and then everyone will have an opportunity to sign up for a particular location. I will email everyone copies of any and all maps and locations when I have that information.

During the upcoming year I would like everyone to consider how we can encourage people to come be a part of the amateur radio community. That means perhaps doing things differently than we have in the past. Think about what or who encouraged you to become an amateur radio enthusiast. My thoughts at the moment are that we try to do things like have a “make it / take it” project of some kind quarterly in addition to having a monthly program. Also having training classes for people get their Technicians license, as well as classes for General and Extra Class license. Also, having “Train the Trainer” classes to have additional instructors that could conduct additional classes during the year.

I realize these are ambitious ideas but I believe that we have the talent and ability within this wonderful club! I would like to know what your thoughts and ideas are. You can email me at: um_circuitrider@yahoo.com.

Until our next meeting continue to be safe and great DXing!

“73’s everyone!”

Thanks

Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ

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Pegged by Peg ...

Reminder that 2021 dues are payable at \$20.00 per family, all living at one address, or \$15.00 per individual for the year.

Peg Richard, KA4UPA

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UpcomingHamfests:

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID19

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CONTESTS:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

January 2021

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 2 [Kids Day](#)
- 2-3 [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 16-18 [January VHF](#)

February 2021

- 8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

March 2021

- 6-7 [International DX– Phone](#)

April 2021

- 18 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

June 2021

- 12-14 [June VHF](#)

19 [Kids Day](#)

26-27 [Field Day](#)

July 2021

10-11 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2021

7-8 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)

21-22 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)

22 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

September 2021

11-13 [September VHF](#)

18-19 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

October 2021

18-22 [School Club Roundup](#)

23-24 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

November 2021

6-8 [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)

20-22 [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)

20-21 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

December 2021

3-5 [160 Meter](#)

11-12 [10 Meter](#)

19 [Rookie Roundup–CW](#)

18-19 [EME - 50 to 1296 Mhz](#)

For a more extensive Ham Radio Contest Calendar, check this website:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

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EXAM SESSION

Sponsor: West Texas Section Manager

I am holding a VE Test Session at the Library in the Mall on Saturday January 9th at 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact me at: cell 830-719-9000 or email w5wi@arrl.org for details.

73,

Dale, W5WI

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QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returning in March

(from ARRL.org)

01/05/2021

The [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. [ARRL](#) is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

“At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or

local events,” Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

[Registration](#) is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the “door”) and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period. At the Expo, visitors can:

Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on “My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;” Michael Foerster, W0IH, on “Using the Arduino in Your Shack,” and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on “3D Printer Basics.”

Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)

Walk through the virtual exhibit hall to visit an array of amateur radio vendors and see live demonstrations of the latest equipment. This show will leverage newer video technology to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar.

Registrants may return over the 30 days following the live event to catch speakers and presentations missed during the live period, as well as to explore and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

“The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn,” ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. “Expect to bump into friends and well-known experts and

personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!” He explained that attendees visiting an exhibit or virtual lounge will be able to interact with other attendees in those settings.

FlexRadio is the Expo’s Platinum Sponsor. Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and CSI.

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FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a *Report and Order (R&O)*, released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and [urged its members](#) to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its *R&O*, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee

proposal was contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “[Ray Baum’s Act](#).”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the *NPRM* for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the *R&O*. “We adopt the proposal from the *NPRM* to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e we are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray

Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC noted. "As we have noted previously, '[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.'"

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual *regulatory* fees, but not from *application* fees.

"While the Ray Baum's Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act," the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the *Federal Register* announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."



Collins KWM-1 (1957 early SSB Xcvr)

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And a Big Thank You from KD5IL:

I would like to thank the club members who were able to attend the annual Christmas dinner for your generous donations to the Furry Friends fundraiser which I am running. Your donations of \$55.00 were enough to push the bank over the threshold I had set for the purchase of a used washer that has been offered to us by Ingram Cleaners.

Now we have to continue on and try to get enough for a commercial dryer and to expand the laundry room at the shelter to house the machines. On behalf of the volunteers and staff at the Abilene Animal Shelter, thank you for your support. Please tell your friends about this effort and urge them to contribute. Jim, KD5IL