



## **July Newsletter** **2021**

KCARC Meeting  
Monday, July 12, 2020, 7:00 PM  
Public Library @ Abilene Mall

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

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

### **The Prez Sez ...CQ CQ CQ...**

Good morning everyone. I hope that everyone had a great Fourth of July. It's hard to believe that it is already July!

Another Field Day is in the record books. I would like to thank everyone for their participation in Field Day. I also hope those that chose to do Field Day from home also made several contacts and had a successful Field Day. I would like to thank everyone who helped setup and take down the antennas and set up the radios for Field Day. I would especially like to thank once again Randy and Christ Robertson for stepping up to the plate to make our Field Day such a success! We had a member of KTAB come and video our Field Day and a member of the City Council come to our Field Day site. That will boost our Field Day points for this year.

The closing of Field Day was a bit bitter sweet for me knowing that this will be the last Field Day that I will be able to participate in as a member of this club. I hope that I will be able to log you next year!

We had a large number of people attend the Field Day dinner the other night and the fellowship with one another was great. As always the food was also great.

As we round nearly half of the year this is a good time to assess where we are as a club. We have grown by several new hams. I would like to recommend that we also increase the number of Elmers as well. We have a lot of talent and experience that would greatly benefit new hams and help them grow as amateur radio operators. I would also recommend that an Ad-Hoc Program Committee be formed as well. These individuals would be responsible for putting together and scheduling monthly training sessions for the club. I will talk about this more at our next meeting which is coming up shortly. Please consider being a part of this important group.

“73's everyone!”.

Thanks!

Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

**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. You can mail to:

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, KCARC Treasurer  
1442 Lakeside Dr  
Abilene, TX 79602

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_

**Upcoming Hamfests:**

**07/10/2021** - [Swapmeet](#)

**Location:** Texas City, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.tidelands.org>

**10/02/2021** - [HamEXPO Fall 2021](#)

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://www.tarc.org/>

**10/22/2021** - **10/23/2021**

[Hamarama Holiday 2021](#)

**Location:** Ardmore, OK

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs (CORA) and Texoma Hamarama

**Website:** <https://hamholiday.com>

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

**CONTESTS:**

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

**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>

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

### Just Ahead in Radiosport

- July 10 - 11 -- [IARU HF World Championship](#) (CW, phone)
- July 10 - 11 -- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (CW)
- July 11 -- QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint (CW)
- July 12 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- July 14 -- VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest
- July 14 -- RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB
- July 15 -- NAQCC CW Sprint

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

### HAM EXAM SESSION

Berry Lane Baptist Church  
 1515 Lakeside Dr  
 Abilene, TX at 1 p.m.  
 Saturday, \*\*\*Pending\*\*\*

Ron Harden Jr., WT5X is the VE Liaison. His email is: [wt5x@wt5x.org](mailto:wt5x@wt5x.org)  
 Phone: 325-513-3184

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

### West Texas Section Manager's New Term

Hello Everyone,

As the subject to this blast email states this is my first email sent in this term of office by me. I am beginning my third and last

term as your Section Manager. I will be almost 80 years old when this term ends and as I become a senior, senior citizen I will focus on other things in my life. So far, I have enjoyed serving you and I look forward to getting a lot more accomplished during this term of office.

Thankfully, my "A" Team has agreed to stick with me for the next two years. Team members are: David KF5WDJ, who is our Section Emergency Coordinator; Kelly, KB2RN who helps with the website and does a myriad of other things for us; Ron Wt5X, is our webmaster; and a new member Marci, KA5IRA who is currently helping out as our Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Several of you have been contacted by one of my team members or myself regarding updating your club information, both for our Section records and for the ARRL HQ database. I have received a few emails inquiring as to why I am not contacting the club instead of "so and so". The answer is simple... As with any business or major operation managers have assistants who are responsible for managing segments of the overall operation. The same is true with Section management.

All Section Managers have a staff/team/cabinet of folks with specific areas of responsibility. We meet frequently to discuss the overall operation and make joint decisions on how we can best serve the Section membership. When you are contacted by one of our team members they are working in concert with me and other team members in carrying on Section

business.

As most of you know, our West Texas Section is huge! It covers almost 500,000 square miles and has 89 counties in it. That is a lot of distance to cover.

The ARRL HQ is making staffing and operational changes to better serve the membership. We are excited that in the coming months you will learn of several initiatives that we are undertaking to better serve you.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff with any concerns or suggestions that you may have.

73,

Dale  
W5WI

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

## **\*First X-Class Major Solar Flare of Solar Cycle 25 Blacks Out HF on July 3**

07/07/2021

A lot of radio amateurs may have been wondering, “Where did the bands go?” as the first X-class solar flare in 4 years blacked out HF propagation for a time on July 3.

“Many American radio amateurs reported sudden HF propagation blackouts on Saturday morning, July 3, when solar active region 12838 produced an X1.5 major solar flare that reached maximum intensity at 1429 UTC, the first X-class solar flare of Solar Cycle 25 and the first since 2017,” Frank Donovan, W3LPL,

said. “HF propagation blackouts are caused when x-ray and extreme ultraviolet radiation from X-class solar flares strongly ionizes the absorbing D-region in the Earth’s sun-facing dense lower ionosphere,” he explained. Such a radio blackout occurs when a pulse of x-rays ionize the top layer of the atmosphere, the exosphere.

In this instance, it caused what NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)) calls an R3-level or “strong” radio blackout (on a [scale](#) of R1 – R5). An R3 incident can cause a “wide-area blackout of HF radio communication [and] loss of radio contact for about an hour on sunlit side of Earth. Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for about an hour.”

Donovan said that X-class major solar flares are necessary consequences of steadily increasing Solar Cycle 25 activity. “95% of all X-class solar flares occur when the solar flux index is 90 or greater. The remaining 5% can occur any time during the solar cycle,” he points out. “X1-class major solar flares typically degrade HF propagation for only an hour or two at mid and high latitudes, only on Earth’s sunlit side.”

X-class major flares are measured on an open-ended scale. The strongest one ever recorded was an X28 flare in 2003, hundreds of times more powerful than the July 3 X1.5 solar flare. X10-class and stronger solar flares typically have effects that last for most of a day and affect the entire sunlit side of the Earth. Fortunately, X10-class solar flares occur only about once every 20 years or more.

“Much more severe and long-lasting HF propagation degradations are often caused by the coronal mass ejections (CMEs) often associated with — but not caused by — major solar flares,” Donovan explained. “HF propagation degradation caused by CMEs typically begins about 2 days after the effects

of the associated solar flare, the duration of the delay depending on interactions between the CME and the solar wind.”

The CME associated with the July 3 X1.5 solar flare is likely to have little to no effect on HF propagation going forward, because the active region was very close to the western edge of the visible solar disk when the CME erupted. Region 12838 rotated off the visible disk on Sunday, July 4.

Solar flares have no significant effect on VHF ionospheric propagation but can degrade satellite communications passing through the ionosphere. More frequent, less powerful M-class medium solar flares produce short-duration degradation at high latitudes. Very frequent, much weaker A-, B-, and C-class solar flares do not degrade HF propagation. —  
*Thanks to Frank Donovan, W3LPL*

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

## **\*FCC Reaffirms Nearly \$3 Million Fine for Marketing Unauthorized Drone Transmitters**

06/30/2021

In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* ([MO&O](#)) released June 17, the FCC denied a *Petition for Reconsideration* filed by HobbyKing of a \$2,861,128 fine for marketing noncompliant RF equipment and for failing to respond to FCC orders in its investigation of the company’s practices. In the same step, the FCC enforced its equipment marketing rules. The fine resulted from an FCC investigation initiated by ARRL’s January [2017 complaint](#) that the HobbyKing equipment was “blatantly

illegal at multiple levels.”

“The *Forfeiture Order* is the final chapter of a story that started with a report to the ARRL Board by the EMC Committee in 2017, as a result of the discovery that aerial drone TV transmitting equipment was being imported and marketed without proper FCC authorization under FCC Part 15 rules,” said ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee Chair Kermit Carlson, W9XA.

As spelled out in ARRL’s 2017 complaint, the ARRL Laboratory had documented that the operating frequencies of these drone TV transmitters near the 1.3 GHz amateur band were dip-switch selectable for frequencies internationally assigned for use by Aeronautical Navigation, GPS, GLONASS L1, ATC Mode “S,” as well as to both the interrogation and reply frequencies used for Air Traffic Control Air-Route Surveillance “transponder” radar systems. “Transmissions from these drone TV transmitters would have caused harmful interference to these essential Navigation and ATC Radar systems, presenting a real and dangerous threat to the safety of flight,” Carlson said.

ARRL’s complaint noted that given the channel configuration, these units would not have a legitimate amateur radio use, and that the marketing was directed at drone enthusiasts and not to licensed radio amateurs. “ARRL Laboratory tests did prove that only one of the seven available channels was within the 1.3 GHz amateur band,” Carlson said.

“This is another example of ARRL not only affirmatively acting to protect our Members’ interests, but also acting to protect the safety and security of vital services and the general public,” Carlson said.

HobbyKing had denied that it was marketing its drone transmitters to US customers, but as the ARRL January 2017 complaint pointed

out, ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was able to purchase two drone transmitters from HobbyKing and have them shipped to a US address for testing in the Lab.

Hare and ARRL Lab staffers Mike Gruber, W1MG, and Bob Allison, WB1GCM, tested the units. Carlson, as well as the Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee he chairs, were credited in the complaint for calling attention to the issue and prompting ARRL's action.

"The FCC noted that Amateur Radio equipment used to telecommand model craft are limited to 1 W (1,000 mW), but three transmitters included in the FCC investigation operated at significantly higher power levels of 1,500 mW and 2,000 mW," ARRL said.

HobbyKing had told the FCC that it had no notice of the Commission's authorization requirements; that the Fifth Amendment relieved HobbyKing of its duty to respond; that the forfeiture amount was inappropriate because its parent company, Indubitably, Inc., lacked the ability to pay to the *Forfeiture Order*; and that the Commission was time-barred from taking action against ABC Fulfillment Services LLC because it was not part of HobbyKing's business.

"Upon review of HobbyKing's *Petition for Reconsideration* and the entire record, we find no basis for reconsideration because the petition fails to present new information warranting reconsideration," the FCC said in the *MO&O*. "Rather, HobbyKing again raises the very same arguments already considered and rejected in the *Forfeiture Order*."

The fine reaffirms the monetary penalty sought in a June 2018 FCC *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*. The FCC said it found that dozens of devices marketed by the company transmitted in unauthorized radio frequency bands and, in some cases, operated at

excessive power levels.

HobbyKing is the trade name of two US-based companies that include ABC Fulfillment Services LLC and Indubitably, Inc. HobbyKing has a New York office and customer service operations in the US, the FCC noted.

In its earlier *Forfeiture Order*, the FCC said it had made clear that "[d]evices used in the Amateur Radio Service do not require authorization prior to being imported into the United States, but "if such equipment can operate in amateur and non-amateur frequencies, it must be certified prior to marketing and operation." The FCC investigation found that 65 models of devices marketed by HobbyKing did not have the required FCC certification.

Responding to the FCC, HobbyKing claimed to have ceased marketing the 65 models the FCC identified, but promised only to make "best efforts" not to market other noncompliant RF devices.

"HobbyKing has a continuing obligation to market only radio frequency equipment that is properly authorized," the FCC said. "We therefore remind HobbyKing that continuing to market noncompliant radio frequency devices could result in further significant forfeitures."

...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_ ...\_...\_...

\* **From ARRL.ORG**





