



Pray for our
Troops



God Bless America!

Q
U
A

HAMnews

March
2017

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MARS Station AAV4CAB



Glenn E. Welman/KF4NB
Memorial BBS
145.010 and 145.090

Web Page: <http://www.bluegrassars.org>
E-mail: k4kjq@bluegrassars.org

K4KJQ
146.160/.760

ATV Repeater: KY4ATV
Input: 439.250 // Output: 923.250

WA4HBM
147.765/.165

"Ham News" was first published by **Bobby Foster, WA4ZSQ**, in
August, 1972; the parent newsletter, "QUA," was first published in
March, 1947

QUICKY NOTES

Accessing the Club's web page: <<http://www.BluegrassARS.org>>.

Telephone Number for the Shack (basement of the Red Cross Building): (859) 231-0974.

Subscribe to ListServ: Send an eMail to: bars-request@lsv.uky.edu; in Subject line type Subscribe plus <your call sign>

Post notes to the Club List Serv: <bars@lsv.uky.edu>.

-- THE PROGRAM FOR THE MARCH MEETING . . .

. . . will be a training session for spotting, identifying, and reporting severe weather. . . (see "Meeting Notice" below).

-- GARRARD COUNTY WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING --

Also, there will be a SKYWARN training session 10:00 AM, March 4, 2017 at the Garrard County EOC, 278 Precision Court, Lancaster, KY. **Joe Sullivan** from NWS Louisville will be the instructor. Contact person is **Rev. Jim Boyd/KM4KGN**, ARES Emergency Coordinator, Garrard County, KY (859) 339-6591 or jboyd@gcskywarn.com.

-- CORRECTION TO MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, JANUARY 16, 2017 --

It reported that a Get-Well Card was sent to the Dawsons. The Get-Well card was sent to the Colvins. It was the Dawsons who reported during the January general meeting that the Colvins were ill.

-- LICENSE EXAMINATION SESSION IN LAWRENCEBURG KENTUCKY --

There will be an Amateur Radio license examination session Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 6:00 PM (Laurel VEC) K4TG Laurel VE Team, Anderson County Health Department, 1180 Glensboro Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Further information - contact **Brian Carter/KI4TLW** 502.545.0376. 73, KY4GPD Matt

QUA/HAMnews

March 2017

Meeting Notice

Bill DeVore/N4DIT,
Chair, Newsletter Committee
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky

The general meeting of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., will be held Monday, March 6, 2017, at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room B, second floor of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington.

The program, sponsored by Bluegrass Chapter American Red Cross, LFUCG EOC, National Weather Service, Louisville, and Bluegrass ARS, will be presented by **Joe Sullivan/KC7ITG**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Louisville Kentucky.

This will be an advanced training session for spotting, identifying, and reporting severe weather . . . training specifically developed both for those who have attended training sessions previously, and by those persons with little meteorological experience. This training session will be open for any Amateur Radio operator with an interest in learning about providing public service communications during times of severe weather. The general public is also welcome to attend because much of the details will be useful for everyone to prepare for and understand what to do during times of severe weather.

The weather service has asked that prior to the course, attendees visit <<http://www.weather.gov/lmk/spottertraining>> and review Modules 1 and 2 of their on-line Skywarn training. Much of the content in those modules is basic information which will be recognized by those persons who have taken Skywarn classes before, but for first-timers there is important material that will not be covered in the in-person class.

Location of the program will be Meeting Room "B," second floor of the American Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky (take exit 115 off I-64/I-75 and travel toward downtown Lexington. The building is less than one mile from the exit, on the left). Time will be 7:00 PM (we are

expecting an attendance of 70-80 persons so it is recommended you carpool and arrive early).

We welcome your suggestions of how we can make a difference in the Club in 2017, and Amateur Radio in central Kentucky, and thank you for your participation and support.

If you have a program you would like to hear or a topic you would like to present, contact **Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK** at 859/402-8208, or e-mail to <ke6ivk@arrl.net> (see the schedule on page 2). ♦

Board of Directors' Meeting

Bill DeVore/N4DIT, Chair,
Newsletter Committee
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky

The Board of Directors of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., will meet Monday, March 20, 2017, at 7:30 PM in the Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington.

Board meetings offer you the members, or anyone having an interest in amateur radio or public service, a forum to present your ideas, requests, congratulations or complaints to the officers and committee chairs of the Club. We always are in need of persons to share their expertise in a special area or to share an experience or activity by presenting a program at the Club's regular monthly meeting, or to make suggestions for program topics. Anyone wishing to present a program or who has suggestions for programs, should talk to **Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK**, during a Club meeting, or contact him at 859/402-8208, or e-mail to <ke6ivk@arrl.net>.

Note that we need volunteers to chair various committees (Contest, Program, Public Relations and Membership), due to those chairpersons having retired or relocating from the Lexington/Fayette County Area. Contact **Smokey Wallace/KE6IVK** at <ke6ivk@arrl.net> or (859) 402-8208.



"The future doesn't belong to the light-hearted. It belongs to the brave."

~ Ronald Reagan

To attend the board meeting, enter the Red Cross building through the basement entrance on the left end of the building as you stand facing the front of the building. Follow the stairway down into the basement and into the Education Center adjacent to the shack. ♦

The Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest Has Moved, Changed Date

*Hamfest Committee,
Bluegrass ARS,
Lexington, Kentucky*

The Hamfest Committee members, and Board of Directors, have located a new site for our hamfest. It will be held in the lower level of Eastland Shopping Center, Winchester Road, Lexington. The site is a bingo hall and is a lot larger than the site we have been using in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, the past few years.

The committee/board of directors have decided to charge the same for entry tickets (advance :\$5.00 or \$6.00 at the gate), but the cost for tables will be reduced to \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the gate.

The date is the second weekend of August (as always), but on the Saturday rather than Sunday.

February Club Meeting

David Richardson/W9KHZ on Personal Emergency Preparedness

The February program included details, discussion, and visual displays of Emergency Preparedness Go-Bags, Bug-Out-Bags, and Get-Home-Bags, supplies, and equipment recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). This excellent program was presented by Director-at-Large and Emergency Preparedness Committee chair **David Richardson, W9KHZ**. (Sorry, no picture, I was too into David's program and forgot to take pictures.)

More details will be sent out during the coming weeks/months so watch your e-mail inbox. Questions/comments may be sent to **David Richardson/W9KHZ**, chair Hamfest Committee, via <daveinlex3@gmail.com>. ♦

Basic Search and Rescue

Cecil Dennis

<Cecil@dlsafety.com>

February 14, 2017

I'd like to extend an invitation to you to attend our Basic Search and Rescue (BSAR) course offered here in Campbell County, Kentucky, May 5-7, 2017.

This course is designed to provide guidance to SAR field responders on best prac-

tices and techniques. Information about the duties and tasks of SAR field responders, current information on SAR field responder clothing and equipment, as well as details on the latest search techniques, information on SAR specialties such as hasty search, grid search, utilizing specialty teams, subject packaging and transport will be presented. There will be a night search (Saturday night) and all students must have water, two flashlights, sturdy shoes (no tennis shoes), and appropriate dress for a night exercise. If you have a SAR pack, please bring it for the exercise. Pencil and paper required. The class will begin at 6:00 pm EDST on Friday, 8:00 am EDST on Saturday and Sunday, and will end at 5:00 pm EDST.

Student Criteria

This course is open to all Emergency Management, Rescue, Fire, Emergency

Program Schedule for 2017

James Schlessor/WA9MED, Chair, Program Committee
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky

The following programs are scheduled for 2017. Your input and suggestions for programs for 2017 are needed. Call **James Schlessor/WA9MED**, at (757) 402-8208, or e-mail to <wa9med@jschlessor.com>.

Month	Topic	Presenter(s)	Comments
✓ January	Open		
✓ February	"BOB"	David Richardson/W9KHZ	Personal Emergency Preparedness
March			Severe Weather Identification and Reporting tentatively by Joe Sullivan/KC7ITG of the NWS, Louisville
April		Stephen Bishop and Tim Brandewie	Lexington/Fayette Emergency Management
May			Chemical Weapons Removal – Bluegrass Ordinance Depot, Madison County, Kentucky.
June	"Field Day"	Smokey Wallace/KE6IVK	Site location, preparation, operating stations, etc.
July	Open		
August	Hamfest	David Richardson/W9KHZ and Fest Committee	Location, preparation, tickets, tables, work crews, etc.
September	Annual Family Picnic	Fun, Food, Conversation	Picnic Shelter #2, Shillito Park, Lexington
October	Open		
November	Open		
December	Auction	J.B. Young	will serve as auctioneer to see if he can get you some cash – Bring your items

Medical, and Law Enforcement personnel or any organization having responsibility for searching for missing or lost persons. You **MUST** be at least 18 years old to register for this class.

Note

This course starts at 6:00 PM on Friday night May 5th, continues on Saturday morning the 6th at 8:00 AM and includes a night search exercise Saturday night. The final day starts Sunday morning the 7th at 8:00 AM. If you register for this training you are expected to attend the course in its entirety.

Register on-line at: <http://forms.logiforms.com/formdata/user_forms/25701_7726379/94172/page1.html?cachebust=314>. ♦

Nova: Search for the Super Battery

Gregory A. Cross/WA8FJK

<gacross@TWC.COM>

Published on February 2, 2017

From PBS.org (Nova science program) -- fascinating advances in battery technology. Promising technologies for clean and efficient sources of electrical energy to homes, cars, and electronic devices.

Excellent! I learned a lot about relatively new battery technology. It doesn't go into deep technicalities and uses layman's terms, but I still found it very interesting.

<https://youtu.be/pCDuM_aplg8>

Nets in Central Kentucky

Compiled by

Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK

Bluegrass ARS,

Lexington, Kentucky

All times Eastern

Monday:

Madison County ARES net, 7:00 PM (1900 hrs), 146.865(-) PL 192.8.

Kentucky Emergency net, 7:30 PM (1930 hrs), 3.972.5 MHz LSB.

Kentucky Digital Net, 8:30 PM (2030 hrs), 3.587 MHz, PSK31.

Tuesday:

SCARES Net, 7:00 PM (1900 hrs), 146.685(-) PL 141.3.

Traders Net 8:00 PM (2000 hrs), 145.37(-) PL192.8

Have you been wanting to get on the air but don't have a rig? How about operating in a HF DX or VHF/UHF contest? The shack is open most Saturday mornings, 9:00 AM until Noon, so come on out! Arrangements can be made for other times. Telephone the shack at 231-0974.

Wednesday:

Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM (2100 hrs), 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5.

Fayette County ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100 hrs), 146.760(-) no PL.

Thursday:

Jaws Ragchew Net, 7:30 PM (1930 hrs), 145.490(-) no PL.

Woodford County ARES Net, 8:00 PM (2000 hrs), 145.330(-) PL 107.2.

Anderson County ARES Net, 8:30 PM (2030 hrs), 146.885(-) PL 107.2.

Pioneer Amateur Radio Net, 8:45 PM (2045 hrs), 145.430(-) PL 203.5.

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

Amateur Television and specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (2100 hrs), 146.760(-) no PL. ♦

Heard on KY-HAM

Air Travel Carry-On

Question: Does anyone know what type of electronics are allowed and which are restricted by the TSA in carry-on luggage?

Basically, are HTs allowed? Portable shortwave receiver (Tecsun 606)? Wall-wart Chargers? Charging blocks (Anker Power Core), etc.?

Joe Takacs/KK4AJB

kk4ajb@gmail.com

Chuck Milam/N9KY

N9KY@arrl.net

TSA is particularly sensitive about batteries lately, so read up on the TSA.gov web site. Basically, they prefer you carry on spare batteries.

"The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits loose lithium batteries from being transported in checked baggage."

You should have no issues carrying a HT on. I always travel with at least one HT, they hardly ever give them a second look. The security screeners are used to

most folks carrying on multiple electronic devices these days.

Tom Sorrell/KD4TUJ

itsorrell@hotmail.com

My Yaesu VX-7's magnesium alloy case got me called back down a few years ago for checked baggage. I guess they didn't like how it looked on the scanner.

Roy Herman/W8QAS

w8qas@outlook.com

travel all the time with my Icom 92AD through the airports and they don't even have me turn it on. It is connected to my Go-Bag and I carry it on with me. I travel all the time with my Icom 92AD through the airports and they don't even have me turn it on. It is connected to my Go-Bag and I carry it on with me. ♦

An Introductory Project for Software Defined Radio

"All About Circuits,"

by **Christi Durham**

February 02, 2017

<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/projects/an-introductory-project-for-software-defined-radio/?utm_source=All+About+Circuits+Members&utm_campaign=874fd38d86EMAIL_CAMP_AIGN_2017_02_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2565529c4b-874fd38d86-271226125/>

(Editor's Note: this is a summary of one of the many articles about Software Defined Radio; there are many on the Internet. I only present part of the article as it is originally published; graphics, tables, charts are not included here. The entire article may be viewed at the url provided above – N4DIT)

There are two parts to this project. First, an audio of FM radio stations: stations that you can get from tuning your car radio, for example. This will allow you to get acquainted with the software and get through the setup of the software-defined radio (SDR).

The second part is a little more involved, but in the end you will be able to decrypt common live radio chatter. These frequencies are more dependent on your area – including highway departments, fire districts, and police dispatch. This is intended only for educational purposes and should not be

used in any other activities.

Heads up before we get started: This tutorial is focused on the Windows operating system. Unfortunately, since this is a software-intensive task, it may be a very different experience on a different OS. Please comment or email the author if you'd like a follow-up post for Linux or Mac operating systems.

Introduction to Software-Defined Radio – What's a Software Defined Radio?

Software defined radio is a type of RF system that utilizes software to perform tasks traditionally performed by hardware, such as generating or decoding baseband signals. This allows for more freedom in RF communication systems: Changing what your radio does becomes a matter of editing code instead of modifying hardware.

A software defined radio (hereafter referred to as SDR) must have a data converter (ADC for receive, DAC for transmit), and a processor that can run the necessary software.

There are many manifestations of the SDR and models that you can buy on the market. Since this is an introductory project, I will be using a low-cost dongle, the R820T2, which is linked in the requirements list below. This dongle can tune to receive signals on frequencies between 500 kHz and 1.7 GHz. This range encompasses a variety of broadcasting bands, including amateur radio, satellite, and common broadcasting bands such as music stations.

By itself, the dongle is only a piece of an SDR. It has an RF receiver and an ADC, but it uses the computer it's connected to for signal processing. It's worth noting that this device is limited to receiving signals. Other devices, such as the HackRF and BladeRF dongles, provide the ability to also transmit on a wide range of frequencies – for a steep increase in price (these are available from \$300-\$650 per device).

It's also worth noting that transmitting signals may require special licensing. In the U.S., depending on the strength of your transmissions, you may be classified as a station, which requires an amateur radio license from the FCC.

Recreating the FM Radio

Once you've plugged in your SDR dongle, wait for Windows to stop trying to automatically install drivers for the device. Make sure you've screwed in the antenna that came with the dongle. Without it, you won't be able to pick up anything!

The simplest way to obtain the drivers for your dongle will be to use Zadig, which

"One disadvantage of having nothing to do is you can't stop and rest."

~ Franklin P. Jones

should automatically detect the proper drivers for your system. Make sure "List All Devices" is on under the Options menu, then select the RTL2838 in the dropdown menu. Zadig will select the driver you need and all you have to do is click the "Install" button.

Once you've got your drivers sorted out, it's time to download the SDR Software Package. (Illustration is clearly shown in the original article as "The SDRSharp download page at Airspy.com.")

Unzip the file you download and save it in a memorable directory (you will have to navigate to this folder again in order to open the program). No further installation is required!

It is important to note the default source is set to AIRSPY. In order to use the USB dongle, it's necessary to change the dropdown (highlighted in the picture) and select "RTL-SDR (USB)". Follow the instructions given in the original article:

"Next, click on the gear highlighted in red in the picture. This will bring you to a settings menu. Ensure that the correct device is in the drop-down menu. Then, select the highest available sample rate—without this, your signals will be lower resolution and you'll pick up more noise."

"Finally, increase the RF gain by moving the arrow to the right. It makes a big difference in the clarity of the signals you receive."

"Now for the fun part! Let's hear some live broadcasts."

"Press the Play button to the left of the gear to start receiving signals. In most areas in the US, you'll receive FM broadcasts around 90-100 MHz, so that's a good place to start. Be sure to set your radio settings to receive WFM."

Listening to FM radio in SDRSharp

In my example screenshot, you see clear peaks in the top window and a much darker spectrum reading where my cursor is. Each peak symbolizes one station's signal. If you are getting poor signal quality, you can adjust your bandwidth setting. Hint: Try to get it to match the width of the signal. A smaller bandwidth should work, but if it's much larger than the signal then you'll get a lot of extra noise.

That concludes the first part of this project! If you had problems with any part of these settings, feel free to leave a com-

ment or see if it's been covered here: <<http://www.rtl-sdr.com/rtl-sdr-quick-start-guide/>>.

If you want to explore more frequencies you can pick up with the SDR, I strongly recommend the Frequency Manager Suite add-on to SDRSharp. It includes features that greatly improve the user friendliness of SDRSharp with features like typing in the frequency you'd like to go to (instead of scrolling), as well as scanning frequencies to check for signals and scheduling. You can find the Frequency Manager Suite here: <<http://www.freqmgrsuite.com/>>.

Disclaimer Before Part 2

Using the Digital Speech Decoder, we'll be able to decode signals transmitted over public frequencies. These could include police dispatch frequencies, similar to how commercial police scanners work.

There are some legal restrictions to police scanners. For example, in NY and other states, one isn't allowed to have a radio that can directly receive these frequencies outside of one's home (unless you have an amateur radio license). I am not a lawyer, so look into these things, yourself!

That said, in most places, this is not illegal. Just use your powers for good, okay?

Required Software for Part 2

VB Audio Cable (free software available at <<http://www.dxzone.com/dx30470/vb-cable.html>>)

Digital Speech Decoder DSDPlus (free software available at <<https://www.dsdplus.com/download-2/>>)

Homemade Dispatch Scanner

First, install the VB audio cable. Once installed, go to your Recording Devices. VB-audio virtual cable should appear as an option: make sure it is enabled.

Then, click on the properties for that device and go into the "Listen" menu. Make sure "Listen to this device" is checked.

In SDRSharp, open the "Audio" section. Under the "Output" dropdown section, select the VB Audio Cable. (This is illustrated in the screenshot shown in the original article.)

We're halfway there!

Now we need the Digital Speech Decoder. Download the DSDPlus application and its DLLs (these are two separate downloads! Make sure you do both, or you won't be able to run the program properly). After unzipping both, copy all the DLLs into the folder that DSDPlus is in.

Run DSDPlus. Then all you need to do is find your frequencies to listen to and start listening!

What frequencies do you need? Well, it's going to vary based on your geographical location. The FCC requires that broadcasting organizations make these frequencies public. I found my frequencies by going to Radio Reference and looking in

my geographical area.

What's Next for SDR?

This is only scratching the surface of what the SDR is capable of. With the wide range available, you can listen to NOAA

You know you're living in 2017 if:

"Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses."

Schedule for Volunteer Examinations in 2017

Harry Sparks/KN4S,
Bluegrass Volunteer Examiners,
kn4s@kn4s.com

The exam schedule for 2017 follows nearly the same format as past years. The scheduling is for Lexington/Fayette County and the sessions in Danville, Georgetown, Winchester, and Richmond hamfest. The Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society-sponsored ARRL exams will continue to be held on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter (except the August Session will be the date of the Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest in Lexington), and the WCARS sessions remain as they were last year, Tuesday evenings quarterly.

Test Session Locations

Lexington*	Winchester**	Danville	Georgetown
Red Cross Building 1450 Newtown Pike Lexington KY 40509	Clark County EOC 200 Maryland Ave Winchester KY 40391	Danville Red Cross 3rd St Methodist Church S. 3rd Street Danville KY 40442	Georgetown Police Dept 550 Bourbon Street Georgetown KY 40324

* August, Bluegrass ARS Hamfest, Eastland Shopping Center, Lexington, Kentucky

** September, CKARS Hamfest, Madison County Fairgrounds, Richmond, Kentucky

Contact Information

ARRL VEC: Lexington and BARS ARRL Hamfest test sessions – Liaison **Fernie Williams/KE4MAI**, ke4mai@arrrl.net, 859-652-3393 (www.bluegrassars.org)

Danville – Liaison **John Wulf/K4FT**, k4ft@bellsouth.net, 563-505-0339, Wilderness Road Amateur Radio Club

Georgetown – Liaison **Ron Malinowski/WX4GPS**, wx4gps@arrrl.net, 502-542-8252

WCARS VEC: Lexington – Liaison **Margueritte Williams/KE4MAJ**, ke4maj@arrrl.net, 859-489-6274 (www.bluegrassars.org)

W5YI VEC: Winchester – Liaison **Darrell Epperson/AC4YD**, eppersond@aol.com, 859-771-1834

TEST SESSION FEE: ARRL – \$15; WCARS – \$10; W5YI – \$14

Date and Time	VEC	Location
Saturday, March 11 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Georgetown
Tuesday, March 21 , 2017	07:00 PM WCARS	Lexington
Saturday, April 8 , 2017	10:00 AM W5YI	Winchester
Saturday, April 22 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Danville
Saturday, May 13 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Lexington
Saturday, June 10 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Georgetown
Tuesday, June 13 , 2017	07:00 PM WCARS	Lexington
Saturday, July 8 , 2017	10:00 AM W5YI	Winchester
Saturday, July 22 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Danville
Saturday, August 12 , 2017	11:00 AM ARRL	BARS Hamfest
Saturday, September 9 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Georgetown
Saturday, September 16 , 2017	12:30 PM W5YI	**Richmond
Tuesday, September 19 , 2017	07:00 PM WCARS	Lexington
Saturday, October 14 , 2017	10:00 AM W5YI	Winchester
Saturday, October 28 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Danville
Thursday, November 2 , 2017	06:30 PM ARRL	Georgetown
Saturday, November 11 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Lexington
Saturday, December 9 , 2017	10:00 AM ARRL	Georgetown
Tuesday, December 12 , 2017	07:00 PM WCARS	Lexington

weather radio broadcasts, aircraft, and ship location broadcasts, and even receive images from satellites (if you have the right antenna)! (Licensed Hams have even many more capabilities available to them to communicate with other Hams all over the world. . .search the Internet for detailed posts about how to do it. . .N4DIT)

What will you do with your SDR? Be sure to comment or email the author at CMzDurham@gmail.com with questions, suggestions, and links to any images or video of your own projects!

There are plenty of further resources to explore the SDR enthusiast community.

RTL-SDR.com is a great website that has tutorials, lists of compatible software, a wiki for identifying signals that you receive, and more – this is a great first stop!

ARRL has a great compilation of on-line resources on the SDR (<<http://www.arrrl.org/software-defined-radio>>).

The Wireless Innovation Forum has a great series of articles on the SDR (<http://www.wirelessinnovation.org/what_is_sdr>).

Localized radio stations accessible via SDR are documented at <<http://www.websdr.org/>>, so be sure to see if there's a station near you!

Great Scott Gadgets has an on-line video series on building SDR applications with the open source program GNU radio (<<https://greatscottgadgets.com/sdr/>>).

Finally, look into High Performance SDR open source designs at <<http://openhpsdr.org/>>. ♦

Charlieplexing: RGB LED CUBE

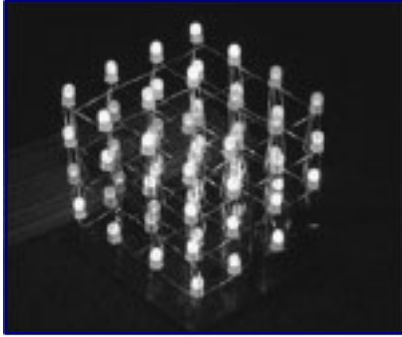
By **Adubinsk** in
Jameco Electronics
January Newsletter

Submitted by **John Barnes/KS4GL**,
Member, Bluegrass ARS,
Lexington, Kentucky

Are you interested in trying an Arduino project? Here is a kit project you might be interested in.

This DIY electronics project might be the simplest design of tri-color LED cubes

out there. Without using complicated components such as shift registers, decade counters, reference shifting transistors or any other components to control LEDs, this project focuses on a much simpler, cost-effective design. The LED cube utilizes Charlieplexing and can operate using only 16 digital pins of an Arduino controller with no additional hardware besides the RGB LEDs themselves.



You will need:

Solid hook-up wire
Soldering iron and solder
Wire cutters

Kit Includes:

- (2) Header vertical receptacle 1 row 16 count
- (4) Male to Male standoffs 3-16"
- (10) 4-40 zinc plated steel nut
- (1) 4.3" x 6.8" general purpose prototyping board
- (1) USB-A male to USB-mini 5-pin 2.0 cable
- (1) Nano 3.0
- (64) 5mm water clear GRB LED
- (1) Instructions

Go here for more information and to order the RGB LEDs Cube Kit: http://www.jameco.com/z/CJKIT-21343-4x4x4-RGB-LED-Cube-Kit_2218847.html. ♦

Andy Rooney wrote that . . .
". . .most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives."

Magnificent and Beautiful Italy Family Trip, 2018

Don Dobson/KK4OGX
Member, Bluegrass ARS
Lexington, Kentucky

Are you interested in a very pleasurable trip. I recommend this Amalfi Coast/Rome trip. Please let me know ASAP as it is almost full. There is also an optional Rome post-trip too.

These trips are nonprofit so the price cannot be beat. For a beautiful brochure and details contact Don at: <dobson@qx.net> or <ddobson@sc.rr.com>. ♦

QRZ Announces New Image Database

Discussion in "**Amateur Radio News**" started by AA7BQ, February 17, 2017,
<<http://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/qrz-announces-new-image-database.555677/>>

Did you know that QRZ has the world's largest collection of amateur radio related images? Sure, as a regular user of QRZ you've no doubt noticed that the site has always had some great images, but never before have they all been brought together as collection in their own right. Let's face it, there are probably thousands of pictures that you're not likely to ever see unless you have a reason to lookup a specific call sign. That's too bad because there are a lot of great images that almost never get seen by others.

Well, all of that changes today with the release of QRZ's exclusive Amateur Radio image gallery which we lovingly call the Picture Safari or PicSafari for short.

The reason it's a "safari" is because browsing through the collection will certainly take you to places that you've never been before, seeing things that you've never imagined were there. The entire collection is keyword searchable and we are asking for your help in adding keywords, known as Tags, to the collection. Once a tag has been added, the image becomes searchable by that tag. It's easy and extremely powerful. Images can have multiple tags and all are weighted equally. There's even a voting system whereby if you noticed that someone has mistagged an item, you can vote it down and/or add your own, improved tag. Need convincing? Just visit the page and type in a simple keyword such as Kenwood or Icom and

Results of the License Examination Session Held February 11, 2017

Fernie Williams/KE4MAI,

Chair, Volunteer Examinations Committee,
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky

Many thanks to the VE team:

Margueritte Williams/KE4MAJ, Thomas Mulvaney/KR4BD, Henry Mills/WD4HXE, Darrell Epperson/AC4YD, Odis Carroll, Jr./W4IOD, Ron Malinowski/WX4GPS and Bill De Vore/N4DIT.

We had a very successful session!

Element 2: 4 passed, 0 fail.

Element 3: 1 pass, 3 fail (three attempted unsuccessfully after passing Technician with no prior study).

Element 4: 1 pass, 1 fail (one additional attempted Extra Element 4 after passing General Element 3, but was unsuccessful).

This resulted in the following license grants:

Technician 4

General 1

Extra 1

The call signs and upgrades have been posted to the FCC – listen for the new KN4BBG to KN4BBJ amateurs on the air. ♦

SUMMARY

Element	Elements		Percent Passed
	Given	Passed	
2 (Tech written)	4	4	100
3 (General written)	4	1	25
4 (Extra written)	2	1	50
Totals	10	6	60

Licenses (New)/Upgraded:

Technician (4)
General 1
Extra 1

watch an unbelievable number of results come rolling in.

There are other unique things about the page that you just have to see to believe. For starters, the main display page has no end, no bottom of the page. As you keep scrolling, more pictures keep arriving and will do so until your mouse finger gets tired. We can tell you that so far, nobody has seen the entire collection (however, every image has been "seen" and vetted by our administrators at least once).

We hope that our members will find new uses for this information that we didn't think of. Please feel free to let us know what you think and how it can be improved.

Check it out from the Database menu from the home page <<http://www.qrz.com>>.

73, Fred/AA7BQ

"A man can't get rich if he takes proper care of his family."

~ Navajo Saying

100 Watts and a Wire

Discussion in "Amateur Radio News" started by K0STH, Tuesday, 21 February, 2017

We all have a list. You know about the "home repair" and the "honey do" lists. Maybe you have a, "I've been meaning to do that" list? Or, a "maybe when I retire" list. But, what's next on your amateur radio project list? Listeners answer the call. Plus, how to deal with QRM on and off the air. What can we do when we want to do more than just "turn the dial"? All of this and more can be heard on each

edition of "100 Watts and a Wire."

<<http://100wattsandawire.com/100-watts-and-a-wire/episode86>>

100 Watts and a Wire® is a weekly podcast celebrating amateur radio. Join **Christian Cudnik, K0STH** for topical conversation, interviews, news and an entertaining look at the adventures of a ham trying to figure it all out.

100 Watts and a Wire is perfect for those who are new to ham radio, those looking to serve as Elmer's, and the technically curious crowd.

Whether you run 5 Watts or 1500 Watts, everyone is welcome. In our community, it's OK not to know everything, ask for help, give advice and get on the air.

Visit <100wattsandawire.com> for more information. You can subscribe to the show by clicking the RSS feed. Or, by using podcast apps like, iTunes or Stitcher.



It's the Rule

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

ARRL Web Site
<memberlist@www.arrl.org>,
21 February 2017

The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz for Amateur Service use. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels – one would be within the new band – as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice. Comments are due Monday, March 20.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 kHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the U.S. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially

those between the U.S. and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in its petition.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its petition. NTIA, which regulates federal spectrum, initially proposed the five channels for Amateur Radio use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises.

The League said in its petition that while the Amateur Radio community is grateful to the FCC and NTIA for providing some access to the 5-MHz band, "The five channels are, simply stated, completely inadequate to accommodate the emergency prepared-

ness needs of the Amateur Service in this HF frequency range," ARRL said. Access even to the tiny 15-kHz-wide band adopted at WRC-15 would "radically improve the current, very limited capacity of the Amateur Service in the U.S. to address emergencies and disaster relief," ARRL said.

The WRC-15 Final Acts stipulated a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), which the League said "completely defeats the entire premise for the allocation in the first place."

ARRL said the FCC should permit a power level of 100 W PEP ERP, assuming use of a 0 dBd gain antenna, in the contiguous 60-meter band. "To impose the power limit adopted at WRC-15 for the contiguous band would render the band unsuitable for emergency and public service communications," the League said.

The ITU Radio Regulations permit assignments at variance with the International Table of Allocations, provided a noninterference condition is attached.

Interested parties may comment on RM-11785 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at, <<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>>. ♦

Where's the Rare DX?

"OPDX Bulletin 1306"

February 27, 2017

<<http://www.papays.com/opdx1306.html>>

ALBANIA (ZA) - Ops will sign ZA/PA2LS Mar 22-29 on 160-10m, as well as 6 and 2m using CW/SSB/PSK/RTTY. They will also be in the CQWW WPX SSB Test (Mar 25-26). QSL via PA2LS direct or by the Buro.

BANGLADESH (S2) - Juris/YL2GM and a team will sign S21GM and S21KW Mar 15-27 on 160-10m using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via YL2GN, direct, by the Buro, ClubLog's OQRS or E-mail. <<http://www.lral.lv/s21gm/index.html>>.

BANGLADESH (S2) - Ops will sign S21L during the CQWW WPX SSB Test Mar 25-26. QSL via S21L by the Buro.

BONAIRE (PJ4) - Ops will sign PJ4G during ARRL Intl DX SSB Test Mar 4-5. QSL PJ4G via WA2NHA or LoTW. Ops will sign PJ4/homecall before and after the test til Mar 11. QSL via their home CBAs or LoTW. <<http://www.pj4g.com>>.

BURKINA FASO (XT2) - YL Elvira/IV3FSG will sign XT2SE til Mar 13 on 80-10m using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via IK3GES.

CEUTA AND MELILLA (EA9) - Nobu/JA0JHQ will sign EA9/JA0JHQ Mar 20-21 on mainly 17/15m, using CW and RTTY. QSL via JA0JHQ direct, by the Buro and LoTW. <<http://pandasan.jimdo.com>>.

CHAGOS (VQ9) - Jeremy, N1ZZZ will sign VQ9ZZ late April-mid-June on 20/17m, SSB and various low power Digi modes. QSL via his home CBA, direct, by the Buro or LoTW.

DEM REP OF THE CONGO (9Q) - Fernando/EA4BB will sign 9Q6BB for 3 years on HF (80-10m), mainly SSB. QSL via W3HNK.

DJIBOUTI (J28) - Jean-Philippe/F1TMY will sign J28PJ for at least 3 years on 160-6m. QSL via F1TMY.

GAVDOS IS (SX9) (EU-187) - Cliff/SV1JG will sign SX9VK Jul 1-10 on HF. QSL via his home CBA.

INDIAN OCEAN 6M EME DXPEDITIONS (Update) - Lance/W7GJ will sign VK9CGJ from West Is/Cocos Is Sep 12-28, and Christmas Is as VK9XGJ Oct 2-18 <http://www.bigsky_spaces.com/w7gj/Indian%20Ocean%202017.htm>.

JERSEY ISLAND (MJ) - The Low Land DX Team (Alex/PA1AW, Ron/PA3EWP, Jo/PA9JO, and Bob/PB5X) will sign MJ/homecall May 5-11 on 160-2m using as

Upcoming Contests

Sean Kutzko/KX9X,
QST, <<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>>,
scroll down, click on "Contest Corral"

- Mar 1 UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, Phn, www.ukaiccc.com
- Mar 2 NRAU 10-Meter Activity Test, CW/Digi/Phn, www.nrau.net/activity-contests
- Mar 4 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 40/20m, CW, www.qrp.ru/contest/wakeup
- Mar 4-5 ARRL International DX Test, 160-10m, Phn, www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
- Mar 4-5 Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, 160-10m, www.ual.com.ua/
- Mar 5 UBA Spring Contest, 80m, CW, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Mar 5 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, www.darc.de
- Mar 5 SARL Hamnet 40-Meter Simulated Emergency, Phn, www.sarl.org.za
- Mar 5 NSARA Contest, 80m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.nsara.ve1cfy.net/?page_id=82
- Mar 6 RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data, www.rsgbcc.org/hf
- Mar 7 ARS Spartan Sprint, 80-10m, CW, www.arsqrp.blogspot.com
- Mar 7 AGCW YL-CW Party, 80m, CW, www.agcw.org
- Mar 8-12 AWA John Rollins DX Memorial, 40/20m, CW, www.antiquewireless.org
- Mar 11 Nauryz DX Contest, 80-10m, CW/Phn, www.nauryz-dx-contest.com
- Mar 11 AGCW QRP Contest, 80-10m, CW, www.agcw.org
- Mar 11 QRP ARCI Spring Thaw, SSB, 160-10m, Phn, www.qrparki.org/contests
- Mar 11-12 SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest, 6-UHF, Digi, www.sarl.org.za
- Mar 11-12 RSGB Commonwealth Contest, 80-10m, CW, www.rsgbcc.org/hf
- Mar 11-12 F9AA Cup, 80-10, +2m, Phn, www.site.urb.asso.fr
- Mar 11-12 South America 10-Meter Contest, CW/Phn, www.sa10m.com.ar
- Mar 11-12 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 160-6m, CW, www.skccgroup.com
- Mar 11-12 Oklahoma QSO Party, 80-6m, CW/Digi/Phn, k5cm.com/okqp.htm
- Mar 11-12 Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 160m, CW, www.kkn.net/stew
- Mar 11-12 EA PSK63 Contest, 80-10m, Digi, www.concursos.ure.es/en
- Mar 11-12 QCWA QSO Party, 160-6m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.qcwa.org
- Mar 11-13 ESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, 80m, www.radiosport.org.rs
- Mar 11-12 Idaho QSO Party, 160-10m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.idahoarrl.info/qsoparty
- Mar 12 N American Sprint, RTTY, 80-20m, Digi, www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
- Mar 12 UBA Spring Contest, 2 Meter, CW/Phn, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Mar 12 WAB 3.5 MHz Phone, www.wab.intermip.net
- Mar 12-13 Wisconsin QSO Party, All Bands, CW/Digi/Phn, www.warac.org/wqp
- Mar 15 RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW, www.rsgbcc.org/hf
- Mar 16 NAQCC CW Sprint, www.naqcc.info
- Mar 18 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 2m/70cm, CW, www.agcw.org
- Mar 18 Feld Hell Sprint, 160-6m, Digi, www.sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
- Mar 18-19 Russian DX Contest, 160-10m, CW/Phn, www.rdxcc.org
- Mar 18-19 Louisiana QSO Party, 160-2m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
- Mar 18-19 Virginia QSO Party, All Bands, CW/Digi/Phn, www.qsl.net/sterling
- Mar 18-20 BARTG HF RTTY Contest, 80-10m, Digi, www.bartg.org.uk
- Mar 19 UBA Spring Contest, SSB, 80m, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Mar 20 Run for the Bacon QRP Test, 160-10m, CW, www.qrpcontest.com/pigrun
- Mar 20 Bucharest Contest, 80/40m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.yo3test201x.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page.html
- Mar 21-26 CLARA Chatter Party, 80-2m, CW/Phn, www.clarayl.ca
- Mar 22 SKCC Sprint, 160-10m, CW, www.skccgroup.com
- Mar 23 RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB, www.rsgbcc.org/hf
- Mar 25 FOC QSO Party, 160m-VHF, CW, www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
- Mar 25-26 CQ WW WPX Contest, 160-10m, Phn, www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm
- Mar 26 UBA Spring Contest, 6 Meters, CW/Phn, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Mar 29 UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, CW, www.ukaiccc.com

many as possible modes. QSL by Alex/PA1AW for all call signs. <<http://www.ildxt.eu/mj2017-ildxt-goes-to-jersey-bci>>.

KALININGRAD (UA2) - Members of the UA2 Contest Club will be active as RW2F during the ARRL Intl DX SSB Test Mar 4-5. QSL via RW2F direct, by the Buro, or ClubLog's OQRS.

LEONT'YEVA ISLAND (AS-022) - Ops Yuri/R2DG, Vasily/R7AA, and Eugene/UA6EX will sign RIØLI from the Medvezhyi (Bear) Islands group in the E Siberian Sea during the third week of July on various HF bands. <<http://www.ri0li.com>>

MOLDOVA (ER) - A Polish Radio Club

will sign ERØPL from Donici, also ERØPL/P and ERØPL/M from other villages on 80-10m using CW, SSB and Digi. QSL via SP9KAT, by the Buro or direct. ClubLog will be used, no LoTW.

NAMIBIA (V5) – Tev/TA1HZ will operate during the CQWW WPX SSB Test (Mar 25-26). QSL via LoTW and LZ3HI.

NEPAL (9N) – The EIDX Group will sign 9N7EI Mar 8-20 for 9 days, all bands/modes (80-10m). QSL via MØOXO (OQRS, log search, Buro). QSL direct (w/ \$2.00 and SAE) to: Charles Wilmot, 60 Church Hill, Royston, Barnsley, South Yorks, S71 4NG, England, U.K. <<https://9n7ei.com>>.

<<https://9n7ei.com>>.

NEPAL (9N) – Dave/EI9FBB and members from the EI DX Group will sign 9N7EI on Mar 13. For more info, photos and latest news visit <<https://9n7ei.com>>.

POLAND (HP800) (Special Event) – a Polish Amateur Radio Club will sign HF8ØØO til Mar 31 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Opole City. QSL via the Buro or direct.

RWANDA (9XB954) – Harald/DF2WO will sign the very unusual call 9XB954 Feb/Mar on various HF bands. QSL via MØOXO's OQRS.

SVALBARD (JW) (EU-026) – Kamil/

SQ8KFH signing JW/SQ8KFH til May 20 on 20m using SSB, PSK, and RTTY. QSL via his home CBA by the Buro or LoTW.

SVALBARD (JW) – Tom/OH6VDA/LA6VDA will sign JW6VDA on Spitsbergen Is (EU-026) Mar 1-22 on various HF bands using SSB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, ClubLog's OQRS or QRZ.com.

TONGA (A3) – Masa/JAØRQV will sign A35JP/P from Niuafo'ou Is (OC-123) Mar 22-28 on 40-6m using CW/SSB. QSL via his home CBA, by the Buro, direct (SASE w/1 IRC), LoTW or ClubLog. <<http://blog.goo.ne.jp/rqv>>. ♦

Meeting Schedules for Area Clubs, Exam Sessions, etc.

Bill DeVore/N4DIT

Volunteer examinations are held in or near Lexington on a schedule that has tests in central Kentucky every month of the year. Schedules for area sessions are as follows:

The **Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc.** (Lexington) – (**Fernie Williams/KE4MAI** (ARRL – \$15.00) and **Margie Williams/KE4MAJ** (WCARS – \$10.00)), with **Darrell/AC4YD** in Winchester (W5YI) and **John/K4FT** in Danville (ARRL), have a schedule to offer an exam monthly in Lexington/central Kentucky. Sessions scheduled are: Fernie in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov (ARRL affiliated) (859-652-3393), and Margie in March, Jun, Sep, and Dec (WCARS affiliated). ARRL-sponsored tests are held the second Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM in the Red Cross Building, Meeting Room “B”, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington (except the August session is the Sunday of the second full weekend of the month and is held at the site of the Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest), and WCARS-sponsored sessions are held the third Tuesday of the scheduled month, 7:00 PM in Meeting Room “B” in the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington. Contact **Margie/KE4MAJ** at 859-489-6274 or email to ke4maj@arrl.net. Go to <<http://www.lexkywcars.org>> for information.

Winchester (W5YI VEC) – Test sessions are the second Saturday of January, April, July, and October at 10:00 AM. They are located in the Clark County EOC, 200 Maryland Avenue, Winchester, Kentucky. Their 2016 schedule: Saturday, January, 9, Saturday, April 9, Saturday, July 9, and Saturday, October 8. Contact Liaison **Darrell Epperson/AC4YD**, eppersond@aol.com, 859-771-1834

Danville (ARRL VEC) – Test sessions are fourth Saturday in January, April, July and October at 10:00 AM. Liaison **John Wulf/K4FT**, 563-505-0339, Wilderness Road Amateur Radio Club, Red Cross Building, 454 South Third Street, Danville.

Georgetown (ARRL VEC) – Liaison **Ron Malinowski/WX4GPS**, wx4gps@arrl.net, 502-542-8252, Georgetown Police Dept, 550 Bourbon St., Georgetown.

Radio Theory and Construction Workshop – Each Saturday 1:00-3:00 PM in the Bluegrass ARS Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington. Contact **Bill Fuqua/WA4LAV** at (859) 272-9523 or wa4lav@arrl.net.

Versailles/Woodford County – The Woodford County Amateur Radio Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Versailles Fire Station No. 2 on Big Sink Pike. Anyone interested in amateur radio is cordially invited. Also, visit their web site at <<http://www.ky4wc.org>>. You may contact **Todd**

Rose/KE4YAH (atrose@windstream.net).

Fayette County ARES Net, Wednesday, 9:00 PM, 146.760 repeater.

Amateur Television and Specialized Communications Net – An informal meeting is held every Sunday evening at 9:00 PM (local time) on the 146.760 (-600 offset) repeater in Lexington.

Kentucky Six-Shooters Net – Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM six meters FM on 52.525 MHz (vertically polarized). **David Jordan/KI4AWZ** net control; and, Daily Six-Meter FM Ragchew net 7:00-9:00 PM on 52.525 MHz (vertically polarized). **James Peel/KG4VAR** net control.

KY-QRP – Contact **Chris Gay/KU4A**, ku4a@arrl.net. Meetings are the same schedule as Bluegrass ARS, first Monday each month, but at 7:00 PM, in Meeting Room “B”, second floor of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington.

Scott County Amateur Radio and Emergency Service Club (SCARES) – Scott County Amateur Radio and Emergency Service Club (SCARES) – Meetings are the third Saturday each month, 9:00 AM in the Solarium room at Georgetown Community Hospital, 1140 Lexington Road, Georgetown. Check in to their weekly simplex net Tuesdays at 6:00 PM on 147.490.

Central Kentucky ARS (Richmond-Berea) – Meet the Third Thursday each month in the Madison County EOC, Richmond, Kentucky, at 7:00 PM. Talk-in on 146.865 (-600, PL-192.8 Hz) and 145.370 (-600, PL-192.8 Hz) repeater for location, directions to meeting site, or other information.

Pioneer ARC (Winchester) – Fourth Tuesday each month, Golden Corral Restaurant at 7:00 PM (eat at 6:00), except March 24 will meet at City Hall (SkyWarn). Talk-in and info on the 145.430 (T-103.5) repeater.

Jessamine Amateur Wireless Society (Nicholasville) – Second Monday each month at 7:00 PM in the St. Joseph/R.J. Corman Ambulatory Care Center, 1250 Keene Road. (U.S. 27 Bypass south to intersection with 169; turn left at the light.) Talk-in and information on the 145.490 (T-123.0).

The Jessamine County ARES Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, 145.490. . . Byron Smith, Sr./KA3WOD EC, byronllx@aol.com.

The Madison County ARES Net meets Monday at 7:00 PM, 146.865 (pl 192.8). Everyone is invited to check in. . . Wilderness Trail Emergency Net, Wednesdays, 8:30 PM, 146.715 (pl 100.0). . . Glenn/KO4OL.

Please send any changes or corrections to these notices, or notices not listed here, to my attention, **Bill DeVore/N4DIT**, in care of Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., PO Box 4411, Lexington, KY 40544-4411, or e-mail to billdit@twc.com.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., February 6, 2017



The February general meeting of the Bluegrass ARS was called to order by President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, at 7:30 PM.

The twenty-one (21) members in attendance all introduced themselves.

The February program on Emergency Preparedness Go-Bags, Bug-Out-Bags, and Get-Home-Bags supplies and equipment recommended by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, was presented by Director-at-Large and emergency preparedness committee chairman **David Richardson, W9KHZ**.

Following David's excellent program, February birthdays were recognized for **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, and **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV** (in absentia).

Geoff Lowe, K4GDL, exhibited his BITX-40 QRP transceiver kit and companion microprocessor controlled antenna tuner kit.

Treasurer **John Barnes, KS4GL**, presented the BARS membership application for **Blaine Early, KM4ZFQ**. The application had been reviewed and accepted by the directors at the past January director's meeting. President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, recommended that the application be approved by general acclamation of those members present, which was agreed to unanimously.

Treasurer **John Barnes, KS4GL**, submitted the summary treasurer's report of amounts available in deposits (rounded to the nearest \$100) as of January 31, 2017. John's report and summary are presented in the table at the right. President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, moved, and **Bill DeVore, N4DIT**, voiced a second, that the treasurer's report be accepted which was approved unanimously.

President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, called for standing committee current comments and announcements.

Newsletter Committee: **Bill DeVore, N4DIT**, is accepting suggestions and submissions for content and inclusion in the Newsletter.

Program: **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, tentative meeting programs: March – National Weather Service severe weather spotting and reporting.

Recorded and submitted by:
Bruce A. Campbell, KM4EHU
Secretary

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Respectfully submitted, **John Barnes/KS4GL**, Treasurer

BLUEGRASS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC. INCOME, EXPENSES, AND ACCOUNT BALANCES January 31, 2017

	Checking Account	Pay Pal Account	Savings Account	Total
Income:				
ARRL Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BARS Dues	389.00	300.31	0.00	689.31
Coax/Repeater	100.00	9.41	0.00	109.41
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hamfest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.77	0.00	0.01	0.78
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	489.77	309.72	0.01	799.50

Expenses:				
ARRL Dues	0.00			0.00
Coax/Repeaters	0.00			0.00
Donations	0.00			0.00
Education	0.00			0.00
Election	0.00			0.00
Equipment	0.00			0.00
Field Day	0.00			0.00
Hamfest	0.00			0.00
Insurance	0.00			0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00			0.00
Newsletter	0.00			0.00
Picnic	0.00			0.00
P.O. Box/Postage	0.00			0.00
Subscriptions	0.00			0.00
Telephone	0.00			0.00
Total	0.00			0.00

Account Balances

	December 31, 2016	January 31, 2017
Checking*	\$12234.01	\$12723.78
Pay Pal Balance	\$ 2196.92	\$ 2508.64
Savings Balance	\$ 200.26	\$ 200.27
Total Balance	\$14631.19	\$15430.69

*Fund Specific Balances (Checking)

General	\$ 9674.07	\$10063.84
Coax/Repeater	\$ 564.64	\$ 684.64
Education	\$ 1995.30	\$ 1995.30
Total	\$12234.01	\$12723.78

April – Fayette County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

May – Bluegrass Army Depot Chemical Weapons Disposal, CSEPP (Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan).

June – Field Day.

July – To be determined.

August – Hamfest.

September – Annual Family Picnic.

October – To be determined.

November – Officers and directors nominations.

December – Officers and directors elections, and members' auction.

Hamfest Committee: **David Richardson, W9KHZ**, announced that this year's 2017 Central Kentucky Hamfest will be held at the Bingo Hall in the bottom level of Eastland Shopping Center here in Lexington on August 12th, the second Saturday of the month. Suggestions for soliciting vendors and special interest groups to attend would be appreciated. A Facebook page, Central Kentucky Hamfest, has been established.

Public Relations and Membership Committee: A volunteer for chairperson is needed.

Shack Committee: **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, opens the shack on Saturday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon for visitors and operators. The amateur radio call sign license plate display board has been hung on the wall in the education

center/meeting room. During the twenty-four (24)-hour winter field day weekend of January 28-29, fifteen (15) operators made twenty (20) contacts using the K4KJQ station in the shack. Propagation conditions were not good.

Historian: **Bill DeVore, N4DIT**, Recovery of a computer hard drive containing files of historical importance is being looked at by **Alan Martin, KV4YB** to see if the files on it can be recovered.

Library: **John Barnes, KS4GL**. The bookshelves in the education center will be relocated during future overall rearrangement of the room.

Volunteer Examinations Committee: **Fernie Williams, KE6MAI**. Saturday, February 11th at 10:00 EST, in the Red Cross Building, Lexington.

Committee chairpersons are encouraged to attend the directors' meetings, as specified by the club Bylaws, on the third Monday of each month, which is also open to all club members and visitors.

Old Business

President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, reported that the basement door to the education center and K4KJQ shack was repaired, and the locking mechanism will be repaired.

New Business: (none)

Closing comments by president **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, reminded the membership that dues for the current 2017 year are payable.

The next formal scheduled meetings in are:

Directors' Meeting: Monday, February 16, at 7:30 pm, in the education center, basement of the Red Cross Building.

General Meeting: Monday, March 6, at 7:00 pm, in the meeting room "B" of the Red Cross Building.

NOTE: There will be no KY-QRP meeting at 7:00 pm due to the expected large attendance for the National Weather Service Severe Weather Spotting and Reporting program. A short club meeting will be held immediately following the National Weather Service program.

Directors' Meeting: Monday, March 20th at 7:30pm, in the education center basement of the Red Cross Building.

During the February Club meeting, the winner of the trivia question item provided by **Terry Layman, N6OKR**, was **Bruce Campbell, KM4EHU**, who had the first correct guess drawn from the entries, that the item was a single carbon battery cell, part of a multicomponent battery used in a Crosley Globemaster AM radio manufactured in the 1950s.

With no other business at 8:40 PM, **Darryl Bennett, KD4CSW**, moved, and **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, voiced a second, that the meeting be adjourned, which was approved unanimously. ♦

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, February 20, 2017

Recorded and submitted by:
Bruce Campbell, KM4EHU
Secretary

The directors' meeting was called to order by President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, at 7:30 pm. In attendance were: President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**; First Vice President **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV**; Second Vice President **James Schlessler, WA9MED**; Treasurer **John Barnes, KS4GL**; Secretary **Bruce Campbell, KM4EHU**; Directors at Large **Tim Kunkle, KF4MPM**, and **David Richardson, W9KHZ**. In addition, Newsletter Committee chairman **Bill DeVore, N4DIT**, plus members **Harvey Frye, AA4HF**, and **Barry Jackson, WB4N**, representing MARS operations, were present.

Treasurer John Barnes, KS4GL, presented one new membership application from **Randy Harris, W4HCR**. **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, moved, and **Barry Jackson, WB4N**, seconded that the application be accepted, which was approved unanimously. It will be presented to the membership at the next general meeting scheduled for March 6, 2017.

Treasurer John Barnes, KS4GL, submitted the summary treasurer's report of amounts in available deposits as of January 31, 2017. **Bill DeVore, N4DIT**, moved, and **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted, which was approved unanimously.

Secretary Bruce Campbell, KM4EHU, reported that a letter of thanks and confirmation was mailed to **Mike (N0MH)** and **Barbara (KB4KIU) Hagen** for their donation of \$100 to the repeater fund.

Copies of the BARS Bylaws, revised December, 2016, were e-mailed to ninety-seven (97) BARS members-of-record in accordance with Article-V, Section-D, Item-9. Thirty-seven (37) paper copies of the BARS Bylaws, revised December, 2016, will be mailed to those BARS members-of-record that have no e-mail address listed on the membership roster.

In order to facilitate BARS e-mail correspondence with the club members, BARS

members who are also ARRL members are encouraged to use the ARRL e-mail forwarding service with <call sign>@arrl.net as their e-mail address for club electronic messages. All BARS members are encouraged to be members of the ARRL.

Committee Reports

Education: **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV**. Young people interested in hands-on work with basic robotics have attended the open education sessions on Saturday afternoons. General license study classes are being conducted in Georgetown, which will be followed by license exam sessions on March 8th and March 11th in Georgetown. Blue-

grass ARS will consider Technician and General license study class sessions in the second and third quarters of this year.

Hamfest: **David Richardson, W9KHZ.** Suggestions and contacts for vendors for the Hamfest would be welcome. Invitations will be extended to vendors and exhibitors at the Xenia, Ohio, Hamvention in May, who may be interested in attending the Central Kentucky Hamfest in Lexington this summer in August. A MARS table and a portable station will likely be setup and operating at the Hamfest.

Shack: **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK.** Fifteen (15) operators logged nineteen (19) contacts during Winter Field Day at the K4KJQ shack during the January 28/29 weekend. Propagation was poor. The back room is being prepared for painting.

A new packet radio and computers with software are being considered. A Visitors' Log is now available in the shack for licensed and non-licensed guests who wish to operate or observe the Bluegrass ARS K4KJQ station. An equipment check-out log is now available to record Bluegrass ARS-owned equipment loaned to members. Paper towel holders have been installed in the bathrooms adjacent to the education center.

Repeater: **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV** (for **Andrew Cook, KF4OWP**). The noise problem is continuously being studied.

Newsletter: **Bill DeVore, N4DIT.** Relevant content is always welcome for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

Historian: **Bill DeVore, N4DIT.** The computer hard-drive containing files from 2007 to present is not repairable. Lost historical records will be reconstructed from printed sources and restored to electronic media.

Volunteer Exams: **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK** (for **Fernie Williams, KE6MAI**). Successful examinations were completed on February 11th for four (4) Technician class, one (1) General class, and one (1) Extra class licenses.

Library: **John Barnes, KS4GL.** The bookcase shelves will be moved around and relocated as part of the planned Bluegrass ARS meeting room rearrangements.

MARS: **Harvey Frye, AA4HF,** and **Barry Jackson, WB4N.** The MARS radio equipment will be relocated to the back room after the painting is completed. A new antenna is planned for placement on the outside tower structures.

Old Business

The outside rear door to the station and education center has been repaired and is working.

New Business

A Kids Field Day is being planned as a joint BARS/JAWS event at Jacobson Park on Saturday, May 13th, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. BARS will consider supplying the food for a picnic cookout and the cook (s). The shelter has been reserved.

A Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge session has been planned for March 25th at the Fire

Training Center. The amount of BARS participation has not yet been determined.

The FCC and ARRL proposed changes for a new entry class license or an expanded Technician class license and privileges was briefly discussed. Without complete details of the actual license change proposals, four of those in attendance were opposed to any changes in the current amateur radio licenses, and six attendees held a neutral opinion.

The current BARS Bylaws revised December 2016, were discussed. President **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, felt that the Bylaws should be reviewed for current relevance to correct and/or eliminate outdated or obsolete terms and references such as Novice class license training sessions. These types of basic editorial updates that do not alter the BARS procedural content will be considered and recommended by a bylaws committee in the future.

The next formal BARS scheduled meetings in March are:

March 6th, 7:00pm – General Meeting
Program: National Weather Service Severe Weather Watch.

March 20th, 7:30pm – Directors' Meeting.
April 3rd, 7:00pm – KY QRP.

April 3rd, 7:30pm – General Meeting
Program: Fayette County EOC.

April 17th, 7:30pm – Directors' Meeting.

With no other business at 9:20 pm, **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV**, moved and **James Schlessler, WA9MED**, seconded, that the meeting be adjourned, which was approved unanimously. ♦

Looking Back. . . From HAMnews. . . March 1993, page 6

The Farm Ham

*Rick Rubeling/KB4SRF, Member
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky*

I visited my good friend named Sam,
He claims that he is a ham,
Although he is big,
He's not as large as a pig,
He's just a crazy radio man.

He says he has a farm of wires,
It's towers and dipoles a quagmire,
While rotating his quads,
Antennas turned, not dirt clods,
And made the contacts he desired.

He goes down on forty as if by command,
It's not some acreage, but his favorite band,
He sends code out on a bug,
Not beetles, flies or a slug,
For they aren't as fast as his hand.

One of his radios had a duck,
But this one's rubber; it won't cluck,
It's not for a bathtub to squeak,
Or a billed bird with webbed feet,
But's attached to a radio he carries in his truck.

His best times are spent in a shack,
My thoughts a shed near a hay stack,
It's a modest room, not big,
With a radio he calls his rig,
He says from here DX he can attack.

Sam's farm to me was a big surprise,
It's not for work, but fun I surmised,
For what I thought would be farming,
Was something vastly more charming,
For the radio hobby really opened my eyes.

QUA/HAMnews

QUA/HAMnews is published monthly by the Newsletter Committee of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., and is distributed by e-mail only.

Letters to the editor, technical articles, items of interest to the Ham community and guest editorials are invited and will be published at the discretion of the editor. Items for sale by members of the Society will be advertised without charge for one issue, and may be resubmitted as often as desired. These ads must be noncommercial in nature.

Commercial ads can be arranged, contact the editor.

All copy must be in the hands of the editor by the end of the Board of Directors' meeting on the third Monday of each month. All articles submitted must be accompanied by the author(s) name(s) and contact information.

Articles published in QUA/HAMnews do not necessarily represent the views of the Officers, Board of Directors, editor, or Society membership, nor does publication thereof represent concurrence by the Officers, Board of Directors, editor, or Society membership of the contents of the article. No article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the material.

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Annual Dues (January 1 – December 31)

Payable using Pay Pal – Go to <http://www.BluegrassARS.org>, click on "Membership," click on the option for your preference:

Regular Membership

One year – \$20.00; two years – \$38.00; three years – \$55.00

(Additional family member(s) at the same address \$1.00 each per year)

Associate Membership – \$15.00 (for those who reside farther than 50 miles from Lexington)

Full-Time Student Membership – \$12.00

(for those 21 and under, and no other Club member in the family)

Shack telephone: (859) 231-0974

web page: <http://www.BluegrassARS.org>

Calendar of Ham Radio Activities for March 2017

Wed 1 Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM, 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5; Fayette Cty ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100hrs), 146.760(-)
Thu 2 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Thu 2 Jaws Ragchew Net, 7:30 PM, 145.490(-) no PL; Woodford Cty ARES Net, 8:00 PM, 145.330(-) PL 107.2; Anderson Cty ARES Net, 8:30 PM, 146.885(-) PL 107.2; Pioneer Amateur Radio Net, 8:45 PM, 145.430(-) PL 203.5
Sat 4 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Edu Ctr, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
Sun 5 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
Mon 6 Bluegrass ARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Meeting Room "B", Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Mon 6 Madison Cty ARES net, 7:00 PM, 146.865(-) PL 192.8; Kentucky Emergency net, 7:30 PM, 3.972.5 MHz LSB; KYy Digi net, 8:30 PM, 3.587 MHz, PSK31
Tue 7 SCARES Net, 7:00 PM, 146.685(-) PL 141.3; Traders Net 8:00 PM, 145.37(-) PL 192.8; AmateurSwap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
Wed 8 Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM, 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5; Fayette Cty ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100hrs), 146.760(-)
Thu 9 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Thu 9 Jaws Ragchew Net, 7:30 PM, 145.490(-) no PL; Woodford Cty ARES Net, 8:00 PM, 145.330(-) PL 107.2; Anderson Cty ARES Net, 8:30 PM, 146.885(-) PL 107.2; Pioneer Amateur Radio Net, 8:45 PM (2045hrs), 145.430(-) PL 203.5
Sat 11 License Examination Session, 10:00 AM (ARRL), Georgetown, Liaison **Ron Malinowski/WX4GPS**, wx4gps@arri.net, 502-542-8252
Sat 11 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Edu Ctr, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
Sun 12 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
Mon 13 JAWS monthly meeting, 7:00 PM, St. Joseph/R.J. Corman Ambulatory Care Center, 1250 Keene Road, Nicholasville; Madison Cty ARES net, 7:00 PM, 146.865 (-) PL 192.8; Kentucky Emergency net, 7:30 PM, 3.972.5 MHz LSB; KYy Digi net, 8:30 PM, 3.587 MHz, PSK31
Tue 14 SCARES Net, 7:00 PM, 146.685(-) PL 141.3; Traders Net 8:00 PM, 145.37(-) PL 192.8; AmateurSwap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
Wed 15 Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM, 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5; Fayette Cty ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100hrs), 146.760(-)
Thu 16 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Sat 18 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Edu Ctr, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
Sun 19 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
Mon 20 Bluegrass ARS Board of Directors' Meeting, 7:30 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Bldg, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Tue 21 **License Exam Session**, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Bldg, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Liaison **Margie Williams/KE4MAJ**, ke4maj@arri.net, 859-489-6274
Tue 21 SCARES Net, 7:00 PM, 146.685(-) PL 141.3; Traders Net 8:00 PM, 145.37(-) PL 192.8; AmateurSwap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
Wed 22 Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM, 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5; Fayette Cty ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100hrs), 146.760(-)
Thu 23 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Sat 25 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Edu Ctr, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
Sun 26 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
Tue 28 SCARES Net, 7:00 PM, 146.685(-) PL 141.3; Traders Net 8:00 PM, 145.37(-) PL 192.8; AmateurSwap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
Wed 29 Six Shooters Net, 9:00 PM, 52.525 MHz FM, Crossbanded on 145.430(-) PL 203.5; Fayette Cty ARES Net, 9:00 PM (2100hrs), 146.760(-)
Thu 30 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
Thu 30 Jaws Ragchew Net, 7:30 PM, 145.490(-) no PL; Woodford Cty ARES Net, 8:00 PM, 145.330(-) PL 107.2; Anderson Cty ARES Net, 8:30 PM, 146.885(-) PL 107.2; Pioneer Amateur Radio Net, 8:45 PM, 145.430(-) PL 203.5.