



Pray for our
Troops



God Bless America!

QUA/HAMnews

January
2017

Contents

Quicky Notes	1
Meeting Notice	1
Board of Directors' Meeting	1
Need a Worthwhile Donation for Your Taxes?	1
Congratulate Your Officers for 2017	2
Program Schedule for 2017	2
December Club Meeting – Items Were Displayed and Auctioned	2
Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest – January 14	2
Amateur Radio Parity Act Stalled in Senate – Now Dead	3
Running an Effective SKYWARN Net	4
Galaxy Note 7 Teardown Reveals a Rookie Mistake in Electronics Design	4
Schedule for Volunteer Examinations for 2016	5
Results of the License Examination Session Held in Georgetown, Kentucky, December 10, 2016	6
Report for the WCARS License Examination Session, December 13, 2016	6
Antenna Matching Software	6
Chinese and Others QRMing 40 Meters	7
It's The Rule – FCC Denies Expert Linears' Request for Waiver of 15 dB Rule, Petition Pending	7
UK Student-Built Balloon Reaches Alaska	7
Where's the Rare DX?	8
Upcoming Contests	8
Meeting Schedules for Area Clubs, Exam Sessions, etc.	9
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., December 6, 2016	10
Treasurer's Financial Summary	10
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, December 19, 2016	11
Looking Back, Page 2-3, HAMnews, January 1990 – Outgoing President's Corner	12
Calendar of Ham Radio Activities for January 2017	Inside Cover

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MARS Station AAV4CAB



Glenn E. Welman/KF4NB
Memorial BBS
145.010 and 145.090

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K4KJQ
146.160/.760

ATV Repeater: KY4ATV
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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

Happy New Year!

QUICKY NOTES

– IT IS TIME TO PAY DUES FOR 2017 –

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

Telephone Number for the Shack (basement of the Red Cross Building): 859-402-8208

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

Post notes to the Club ListServ: bars@lsv.uky.edu

It is time to pay your dues for 2017. Memberships in the Bluegrass ARS are for one calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Dues are \$20.00 for regular membership or \$15.00 for associate membership (for those persons who reside farther than 50 miles from Lexington), or \$12.00 per year for Full Student memberships (for those students 21 years of age and under, and no other Club member in their family). Additional memberships of \$1.00 each may be had for family members who reside at the same address as the primary membership holder. Make your check payable to Bluegrass ARS, and mail it to PO Box 4411, Lexington KY 40544-4411, or bring your check to the January meeting and give it to John Barnes/KS4GL, Treasurer. OR -- you can pay your dues by using your Pay Pal account. Fernie Williams/KE4MAI has set up the link for paying your dues on the Club's web page. Just go to

<<http://www.BluegrassARS.org>>. . . on the home page click on "Membership" and proceed by responding to the option that pertains to your membership type. For example click on 1 year regular membership and a dropdown listing will appear giving you options for paying for multiple years, etc. The same occurs when you click on Associate Member (for persons living more than 50 miles from Lexington), and Full Student Member (this may still read "Student Membership"). Once you click on the type membership you want to renew, click on "Buy Now" and the Pay Pal page will automatically display. Follow the instructions presented to finish paying.

There is no added charge for paying through Pay Pal.



"We didn't pass freedom on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

~Ronald Reagan

QUA/HAMnews

January 2017

Meeting Notice

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

The regular meeting of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., will be held the second Monday of January (the 9th), 7:30 PM, Meeting Room B, second floor of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington. This change was due to the first Monday being the official holiday celebration of New Years.

The program is unknown, but I'm sure we will find something to talk about.

We welcome your suggestions of how we can make a difference in the Club in 2017 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@ar1.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, January 16, 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@ar1.net>.

For the board meeting, enter the Red Cross building through the entrance on the right as you stand facing the front of the building. Use this entrance because the basement door leading to the shack is broken. Once inside the entrance on the right/front of the building, go down a hallway to the left of the foyer, at the end of the hallway turn right through a doorway before the door to the Red Cross office area. Follow the stairway down into the basement and into the Education Center adjacent to the shack. ♦

See you at the Board Meeting!

Need A Worthwhile Donation for Your Taxes?

Andrew Cook/KF4OWP
Chair, Repeater Committee,
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington Kentucky

Do you need or want a worthwhile donation to report on your 2016 taxes? The Bluegrass ARS Coax/Repeater Fund needs your consideration and help. Here is the request for donations sent out by Repeater Committee Chair **Andrew Cook/KF4OWP**.

As we continue to do testing to investigate noise issues on the 146.760 repeater located at the broadcast studio of WKYT-TV (Channel 27), it is increasingly likely that work will need to be performed on the antenna and coax located at about 730 feet on their tower. Due to changes in the insurance requirements at Channel 27 it will cost us significantly more in the future when repairs need to be made (they have contracted with a tower/antenna maintenance firm in North Carolina), unless we can be proactive in replacing problem com-

ponents when other work is already being performed on the tower. If we can raise the money far in advance it will allow us to take advantage of better deals, especially for the coax. I would like to set a goal of \$5000 for replacement of the antenna and an upgrade to 1-5/8" transmission line. If we can get more than that it will be left in the account for emergency tower work (which could cost us up to \$3000) per climb by the maintenance crew), or for future repeater projects. To make it easier to donate we have added a Pay Pal button to the Bluegrass ARS homepage <<http://bluegrassars.org>>. Checks can also be brought to monthly meetings or mailed to the club: Bluegrass ARS, P.O. Box 4411, Lexington KY 40544-4411. ♦

Congratulate Your Officers for 2017

The nominating committee members did the count during the Club meeting December 5, and the results were:

President – **Joseph Wallace/KE6IVK**

First Vice-President – **Bill Fuqua/WA4LAV**

Second Vice-President – **James Schlessor/WA9MED**

December Club Meeting

Items Were Displayed and Auctioned

Many thanks to **J.B. Young/WA4WWH** and everyone who brought in items for the auction. We had fun auctioning and bidding on the items.

Everyone in attendance was given time to view the items and consider their worthiness or usefulness. **Bruce Campbell/KM4EHU** reported in his minutes of the meeting: "A lively and extend year-end auction of equipment, collectables, pieces, parts, odds and ends provided by **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV, Andrew Cook, KF4OWP,** and **Terry Layman, N6OKR,** who included items from silent-key member **Harry Bradshaw's, W4TPB,** shack. **J.B. Young, WA4WWH,** acted as auctioneer, and **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV,** provided descriptions of items and color commentary. Auction proceeds donated to the club amounted to \$66.50." ♦

Secretary – **Bruce Campbell/KM4EHU**

Treasurer – **John Barnes/KS4GL**

Director-at-Large – **Tim Kunkel/KF4MPM**
and **David Richardson/W9KHZ**

Now it's time to get to work. Be sure to congratulate these fellows and thank them for placing their names on the ballot. Let them know what programs, projects, activities, etc., you think are important for the Club to pursue during 2017. ♦

Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest! – January 14

Bill Cotter/N4LG,

via eMail
Nicholasville, Kentucky

This might be an interesting contest if antennas and propagation are working together that day.

73 **Bill N4LG**

The Second Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest!

Some questions, and answers:

- On the bonus situations, the EOC bonus is exactly what it says – operation must be from an EOC, not a nearby trailer or remote location. EOC ops, add 50 points to your total contact score.

Operation from any portable location

Program Schedule for 2017

Brad James/WA4HBM, Chair (Now Retired), Program Committee
Bluegrass ARS, Lexington, Kentucky

The following programs are scheduled for 2017. I was very pleased with the programs we had last year and thank each presenter for providing us with their time and knowledge. I need your input and suggestions for programs for 2017. Call me, Brad, at (859) 253-5893, or e-mail to <sophie16@twc.com>.

Month	Topic	Presenter(s)	Comments
January	Open		
February	Open		
March	Open		
April	Open		
May	Open		
June	"Field Day"		
July	Open		
August	Hamfest	Hamfest Committee	Site 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

(trailer, tent, park bench, igloo) is 100 points added to your total contact score. Contact an ARES officer of any type, add 5 points to that contact (in other words, if your contact says he's an EC, it's worth 6 points.)

- On digital. All modes are open, we've had some questions as to "which" mode. Any of the modes commonly accepted for NBEMS work!
- Frequencies haven't been mentioned. Grab any you like - if your district has a prescribed simplex frequency, try that first. Anything except a repeater. Make sure you get the county or location of your contact - the whole point is to be able to plot your best coverage area. Look for "real" signal reports.
- You know what? If you get bored and want to fry some eggs on your six-meter antennas, go for it. DO NOT INCLUDE your six contacts for a score, but plotting coverage will be good!
- HAVE FUN!

Here are the rules again!

Purpose

ARES is tasked with being able to provide communications "When all else fails." Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES is sponsoring the ARES VHF Contest (Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF/UHF Contest got a little long-winded). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the time-frame of the contest, with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators, ARES members are strongly encouraged to participate. How else are you going to win the "bragging rights" session of your next ARES meeting?

When did you say it was?

The contest is January 14, 2017. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 10:00 AM through 6:00 PM Eastern.

Operating Locations?

You may operate this contest from anywhere. There are certain benefits for venturing out from your warm, comfortable home station. EOC stations can gain extra points. Portable stations can gain even MORE extra points?, that is, if your frozen fingers will still be able to operate a keyboard. Portable stations MUST use portable antennas, nothing permanently attached - kind of like Field Day on ice.

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.

We are not going with any mobile operation this time.

What Bands? What Modes?

Because local emergency communication takes place primarily on the two meter and 70 centimeter bands, the contest is limited to those two bands. Within each band, we will have these modes: FM Simplex, "Everything else" Simplex; DIGITAL simplex contacts will make up a third mode on each band.

Contacts with a station count once per mode - if you can talk the other guy into abandoning "his frequency" and meeting you on SSB or CW, more power to ya! NO REPEATER CONTACTS WILL COUNT. If you get bored, you certainly are welcome to chat amongst yourselves on repeaters, or simplex, or cell phones, or smoke signals.

Contacts

The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. You can make as many overall contacts as you like, they will then be multiplied by the number of counties you've reached. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, ASEC or SEC. Pretty simple - any more complex and we'll confuse the scorekeepers.

Scoring

Each FM Simplex contact counts 1 point.
Each non-FM simplex contact counts 1 point.
Each digital simplex contact counts 1 point.
Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, ASEC or SEC adds 5 points.
Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 5 points.
Operation from an EOC add 50 points to your total contact score.
Operation from a portable location add 100 points to your total contact score.
Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties you contacted.

Logs

Please use any of the appropriate computer logging programs, paper dupe sheets, a well-worn slide rule, or rusty abacus. Just keep all that to yourself, we can't find any-

one with the time to go through all the detail contacts. Submit an email to <contest@delares.org> with the following:

Your name:
Group name:
Location: (City, county)
FM Simplex Contacts:
Simplex Contacts:
Digital Simplex Contacts:
EOC bonus:
Portable bonus:
Total Contact Score (Add all together,):
Multiply by total number of counties contacted (include your own):

Bask in the glory of a well thought out, well executed effort!

Definition of Acronyms

EOC = Emergency Operations Center
NBEMS = Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System
ARES = Amateur Radio Emergency Service
SM = Section Manager
SEC = Section Emergency Coordinator
ASEC = Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator
DEC = District Emergency Coordinator
ADEC = Assistant District Emergency Coordinator
EC = Emergency Coordinator
AEC = Assistant Emergency Coordinator
CW = Continuous Wave
SSB = Single-Side Band
FM = Frequency Modulation ♦

ARRL Vows Continued Pursuit in the 115th Congress

Amateur Radio Parity Act Stalled in Senate - Now Dead

Via eMail
Pete Clough/WD4GPO,
Paris, Kentucky
December 10, 2016

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, died an unbecoming death as the 114th Congress of the United States drew to a close today. After having passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, **Sen. Bill Nelson** (D-FL).

Over the course of the past year, Sen. Nelson has received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward. Negotiations, which led to an agreement with the national

association of homeowner's associations and publicly supported by CAI and ARRL, were brushed aside by Sen. Nelson as irrelevant.

In a final meeting with the Senator's staff earlier this week, it became clear that no matter what was said or done, the Senator opposed the bill and refused to allow it to move forward. Unfortunately, as the bill did not receive floor time, the only manner in which it could get passed in the Senate would be through a process that required unanimous consent, which means no one opposes the bill.

The legislation will be reintroduced in both houses of Congress after the 115th Session begins in January. We have already been in contact with the sponsors of the bill to allow for an early introduction, which will give us more time to obtain success. We believe that we can get his bill adopted given the fact that we were inches away from crossing the goal line. We will continue to need the support of the membership, particularly in Florida, as we go forward through the next year. ♦

Running an Effective SKYWARN Net

Submitted via eMail by
Peter Kragh/K2UPD,
<k2upd@OUTLOOK.COM>.
Member, Bluegrass ARS
Lexington, Kentucky

I've been a severe weather spotter for close to fifteen years. I've had my share of close calls, and even more so, I've experienced plenty of boredom. Being out in the field often is long stretches of nothing peppered with bits of extreme excitement. But for the last few years, my storm spotter experience has moved inside as being net control. Now instead of worrying about just my safety, I have to be concerned about every spotter in the field. That's why as net control I strive to run a disciplined net that keeps traffic to a minimum and reports structured and precise.

So what goes into running a good severe weather net? Here's a video taken during a recent SKYWARN drill. You'll get to see my station and operating position, and watch over my shoulder as I run the drill net.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mmB3uzcgK5M>

Two things mentioned in the net are the

"The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket."

TLCS reporting format and the Reportable Criteria. Both are critical for running an effective net, so I'll elaborate on them here:

TLCS Reporting Format

Accurate weather reports from the field are crucial. When giving a report to net control, missing a key point can cause the net control station to ask for a repeat or additional information. This slows down the net, and hinders the timely reporting of events to the National Weather Service office. That's why as net control I've adopted the TLCS format of reporting weather conditions and train the net participants in its proper use.

I can't take credit for this report format, I learned about it from the Sullivan, Wisconsin, Weather Committee. And like any great idea, this one deserves to be shared.

"The acronym (TLCS), stands for Time, Location, Condition, and Source"

The TLCS format is simple. Presenting your information to net control in a recognized and repeatable format aids in comprehension by the net control and with practice will speed up your net.

Here's TLCS broken down:

Time: This is the time of the event (not the time of the report)

Location: Location where the weather event was observed. Give your location by intersection and estimated distance and direction of the event.

Condition: The severe weather event itself. Use the reportable criteria unless requested by net control to give a general observation.

Source: Your call sign. Don't report second hand reports. If you didn't observe it, refrain from sending it in.

Putting this all together, a TLCS formatted report would go like this:

You: NCS, Looking west at one mile from the intersection of County Rd X and Pine Tree Lane, I observed a rotating wall cloud. WX9XYZ.

NCS: Copy at 4:30 PM rotating wall cloud one mile west from the intersection of County Road X and Pine Tree Lane. Liaison did you copy that report?

Liaison: Copied direct, will relay to the weather service.

A great net excels in its brevity. Using a standardized format by net control and the reporting station reinforces that brevity.

Reporting Criteria

Each weather service office will have their own particular criteria for reporting weather events. Some offices may want every observation imaginable, and others will be very particular. Often the weather office will give you a cue or indication of what they are looking for at the start of their regional net.

In our area, and much of the upper midwest, this is the criteria that our served weather offices would like for the reports received. If they are looking for something different, they will tell us.

Reportable Criteria (listed in order of importance)

Tornado
Funnel Cloud Aloft
Wall Clouds (indicate rotating or not)
Winds greater than 50 mph (state if measured or estimated wind speed)
Flooding or Flash Flooding
Hail (size of the largest stone, how deep, and duration)
Storm Damage

Conclusion

Running an efficient net boils down to two things: proper technique and control. Things can get pretty crazy in the field and observers will get excited. Don't wait for the heat of the action to implement these procedures, but instead practice them on your weekly drill nets. With practice and a bit of coaching by the control, you'll soon be running a disciplined net. ♦

Galaxy Note 7 Teardown Reveals a Rookie Mistake in Electronics Design

Tim Youngblood

<<http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/news/galaxy-note-7-teardown-reveals-a-rookie-mistake-in-electronics-design/>>

December 9, 2016

In Case You Haven't Heard...

Unless you've been living under a rock or on that lonely island on a remote planet where Luke Skywalker was found, you've probably heard about Samsung Galaxy Note 7 batteries exploding and their sub-

sequent recalls. The situation has been such a hot topic that you could spend an entire day just looking at the Internet

memes that have spawned as a result. (A word of warning: many of them are pretty offensive.)

"Men have become the tools of their tools."

~ Henry David Thoreau

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 454 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, January 14 , 2017 10:00 AM	W5YI	Winchester
Saturday, January 28 , 2017 10:00 AM	ARRL	Danville
Saturday, February 11 , 2017 10:00 AM	ARRL	Lexington
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 21 , 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 ? 2017 11:00 AM (?)	ARRL	BARS Hamfest
Saturday, September 9 , 2017 10:00 AM	ARRL	Georgetown
Saturday, September 18 , 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 7:00 PM	WCARS	Lexington

The Galaxy Note 7 phenomenon has trickled into our lives in more than just the news, which you've probably noticed if you've been on an airplane lately.

A Rookie Mistake

Just when the Galaxy Note 7 craze was starting to die down, it came back to the forefront of the news. On December 2nd, Instrumental (an assembly line data startup company) released a post detailing why Samsung Galaxy Note 7 batteries have been exploding. In the last week, the post has gone viral, catching fire (too soon?) in the electronics blogosphere. It was written by **Anna Shedletsky**, the CEO of Instrumental, Inc., and gives insight into a teardown they performed with one of their own inspection stations (I suppose I can't fault them for good product placement).

The primary takeaway is that the design didn't allow enough space for natural expansion of the battery. Lithium ion batteries swell a little when they are charged and discharged. As a result, battery engineers recommend leaving some extra room in the battery's housing to accommodate it. This space is referred to as a ceiling, and the Note 7's ceiling was shown to be nonexistent.

According to Instrumental's teardown, the 5.2 mm battery was laying in a 5.2 mm ceiling, meaning that there was no room whatsoever to account for battery swelling. This is bad for a device that sits on a desk like a computer. But for a mobile device, which runs into environmental factors like being dropped or sat on, it can be catastrophically bad. Pair this with the nature of lithium ion batteries, which generate a lot of heat, with no room for said heat to dissipate, and you have a recipe for phone-splosions.

Now, you're probably wondering, if battery swelling is common knowledge, why did Samsung proceed with such a dangerous design? The folks at Instrumental were curious as well.

After all, up until now, Samsung has had a good track record of solid designs for mobile devices. My Galaxy S6 has been working fine... And it's not like they're trying to jump on the latest trend of maximizing profit in a short amount of time like the obscure manufacturers of hoverboards all over the world (and

yes, we are aware that they don't actually hover).

When the race to the market precipitates cutting corners in designs with large lithium ion batteries – especially in parts of the world with little or no safety regulations for electronics – the resulting explosions aren't all that surprising. But what if Samsung's engineers were put in a position not so different from the engineers riding the hoverboard craze?

The Dangers of "Aggressive Design"

And how would Samsung's engineers be put in a similar position to hoverboard designers? The need to release products on schedule.

In this case, Samsung, locked in a perpetual battle for smart phone releases with Apple, was dead set on releasing the Note 7 before Apple released the iPhone 7. And, in the end, the Note 7 beat the iPhone 7 to market—but at the cost of not addressing a major design flaw.

Naturally, Samsung hasn't released details on the scenario, but I'm inclined to agree with Anna Shedletsky's analysis that Samsung's engineers were aware of this flaw, but the company decided to proceed with the release schedule anyway. Pressure to keep up with Apple in a brand war likely caused Samsung to release a phone that wasn't ready. Ironically, there have been rumors of iPhone 7's bursting into flames as well... perhaps these grueling release schedules aren't so good for the industry?

Andy Rooney wrote that . . .

"... We've sent a man to the moon, and that's 29,000 miles away. The center of the Earth is only 4,000 miles away. You could drive that in a week, but for some reason nobody's ever done it."

Samsung is launching a formal investigation to determine the cause of Note 7 explosions, but whether or not they actually release their real findings publicly is another story. There will likely always be some mystery surrounding the Note 7, so I don't expect stories and conspiracy theories to stop circulating the Internet anytime soon.

Personally, I hope these events change the culture of electronics manufacturers for the better. This seems like a classic case of investors overriding the advice of engineers, and this time it cost Samsung \$10 billion. Hopefully, in the future, electronics manufacturers like Samsung will take their engineers' input more seriously. ♦

Report for the WCARS License Examination Session, December 13, 2016

Marguerite Williams/KE4MAJ,
Liaison, WCARS VEC,
Lexington, Kentucky

Thanks to the following VEs who

helped with the session last week:

Darrell Epperson, AC4YD
Bill DeVore, N4DIT
John Meyer, N4CVG
Doyle Mills, WD4HXE
Ron Malinowski, WX4GPS
Fernie Williams, KE4MAI

We had 4 applicants who each took Elements 2 and 3. All earned their Technician Class licenses.

73, Margie/KE4MAJ

Antenna Matching Software

Via eMail
Bill Cotter/N4LG,
Member, Bluegrass ARS,
Lexington, Kentucky

If you have ever put up a dipole, inverted vee, vertical, loop or any other odd-ball antenna, and found that the SWR of the antenna at resonance ($Z=R+j0$) is too high (above 1.5:1), here is a great (free) tool for finding a coaxial line segment to bring the SWR down to 1:1.

<http://www.seed-solutions.com/gregordy/Software/SMC.htm>

You install your antenna and cut the element lengths for minimum SWR at the desired frequency (i.e., 7.025 MHz), as seen by an antenna analyzer (i.e., MFJ-259B). Then take the R and jX measurements from your antenna analyzer and plug the numbers into the calculator along with the center frequency.

You can find the appropriate lengths of coax sections that is required to match the antenna for a 1:1 SWR. This tool works best for monoband antennas. ♦

Results of the License Examination Session Held in Georgetown, Kentucky, December 10, 2016

Ron Malinowski/WX4GPS,
<ron.malinowski@gmail.com>
Liaison, ARRL VEC,
Georgetown, Kentucky

Thank you to the following VEs who helped at the Georgetown, Kentucky VE Session on December 10, 2016:

John Meyer/N4CVG, David Clark/NE4DC, Thomas Mulvaney/KR4BD, Henry Mills/WD4HXE, Richard Mehs/AE4EH and Darrell Epperson/AC4YD.

We had six applicants take 11 elements.

Element 2: 5 taken and 4 passed (one person failed the first time and retested and passed)

Element 3: 5 taken and 2 passed (two existing amateurs tested and upgraded to general, 3 attempted unsuccessfully after passing technician with no prior study)/

Element 4: 1 attempted extra and failed after passing general.

This all came out to four new licensed amateurs and two existing amateurs upgraded from technician to general class.

Our next session will be March 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

SUMMARY

Element	Elements		Percent Passed
	Given	Passed	
2 (Tech written)	5	4	80
3 (General written)	5	2	40
4 (Extra written)	1	0	0
Totals	11	6	54

Licenses (New)/Upgraded:

Technician	(4)
General	2
Extra	0

Chinese and Others QRMing 40 Meters

"The ARRL Letter,"

Rick Lindquist/WW1ME, Editor
December 22, 2016

The IARU Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System newsletter reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio

"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

~ **Ronald Reagan**

is secondary on 30 meters.

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz, together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be logged on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger. ♦

UK Student-Built Balloon Reaches Alaska

AMSAT-UK, via
Amateur Radio Newsline Report
Number 2043,
Friday, December 23, 2016

The travels of Santa Claus have got nothing on one balloon that was built by students in Bristol in the United Kingdom and launched December 11th carrying a 434 MHz beacon and APRS. A report came seven days later that it had crossed the Pacific Ocean and made it to Canada; shortly thereafter, it was over Alaska.

Built from 50-micron-thick film and about 1.9 meters in diameter, the UBSEDS21 balloon is carrying a payload with a weight of 34.2 grams. Following its launch, it reached a stable altitude of 15.2 kilometers and was heading east.

The balloon may not have had a change of course, but it did have a change of plans. The students' original goal was to use it to contact the International Space Station on 145.825 MHz via APRS. The space station's VHF radio is not functioning, however, so the balloon will instead test its amplifier and communicate with any satellites that have APRS.

The students involved attend the University of Bristol and are part of UK Students for the Exploration and Development of Space Society. ♦



It's the Rule

FCC Denies Expert Linears' Request for Waiver of 15 dB Rule, Petition Pending

ARRL Web Page

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/>>

December 27, 2016

The FCC has denied a request by Expert Linears America LLC to waive §97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules limiting amplifier gain. Expert, of Magnolia, Texas, distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy. Its waiver request, filed in June, would have allowed Expert to import an amplifier capable of exceeding the current 15 dB gain limitation as it awaits FCC action on its April petition (RM-11767) to revise the same Amateur Service rules. That petition remains pending. Expert has asserted that there should be no gain limitation on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service. Most commenters supported Expert's waiver request, but a couple of commenters – including FlexRadio – demurred.

"In light of the conflicting comments regarding the desirability of eliminating the 15 dB limitation, we conclude that waiving the limitation at this stage of the rulemaking proceeding would preju-

dice the rulemaking proceeding and prematurely dispose of commenters' concerns," the FCC said in denying the waiver. "Moreover, we agree with FlexRadio that granting Expert's waiver request while the rulemaking petition remains pending would provide an unfair market advantage for one equipment model over other manufacturers' RF power amplifiers that would still be limited by [the existing rules]."

The FCC said it would rather give full consideration to "the pending issues" and apply the result of the rulemaking proceeding to all Amateur Radio Service equipment. The Commission said rule waivers "generally" are not warranted "merely to accommodate technical parameters that are based solely on harmonization with the manufacturer's products available abroad."

The FCC said a minority of those commenting on the waiver request expressed concern that eliminating the 15 dB limita-

tion would lead to an overall increase in power levels, "including transmissions that intentionally or unintentionally exceed the maximum power limit."

In its April rulemaking petition, Expert maintained that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators.

Although the FCC had proposed in 2004 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a minimum of 50 W of drive power – and subsequently did so – it did not further discuss the 15 dB limit in the subsequent Report and Order in that proceeding.

Expert has pointed to its Model 1.3K FA amplifier as an example of a linear "inherently capable of considerably more than 15 dB of amplification," which would make it a suitable match for low-power transceivers now on the market.

Where's the Rare DX?

"OPDX Bulletin 1297"

December 26, 2016

<http://www.papays.com/opdx1297.html>

ARUBA (P4) (IOTA SA-036) – John/W2GD will sign P4ØW (SA-036) Feb 12-30 and during the ARRL Intl DX CW Test, usually on 160/80m and 30/17/12m. QSL via LoTW or direct to N2MM, Buro cards no longer accepted. Logs loaded on LoTW.

BONAIRE (PJ4) – Mike/NA9Q will sign PJ4/NA9Q from Bonaire (SA-006) Dec 4-10 on 40-10m using SSB with some RTTY and CW. An effort will be made in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (Dec 10). Logs will be uploaded to LoTW upon his return. QSL via his home CBA.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (ZF9) – Stan/K5GO will sign ZF9CW from Cayman Brac Is (NA-016) Jan 22-Feb 23 (in the CQWW 160m CW Test Jan 29-31, and the ARRL DX CW Test Feb 18-19). QSL via his home CBA direct.

COSTA RICA (TI) – Nathan/N4YDU will sign TI5W during the ARRL Intl DX CW Test Feb 18-19 on all-bands. QSL via N3YIM direct. Listen for TI5/N4YDU before and after the contest. QSL TI5/N4YDU via LoTW. QSL TI5W via W4FS and LoTW.

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

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

FERNANDO DE NORONHA (PYØF) (IOTA SA-003) – Erwin/PY2QI will sign PY2QI/PYØF Feb 15-21 on 40-10m using CW only. QSL via his home CBA direct.

FIJI (3D2) – Chris/VK3FY will sign 3D3FY Dec 6-14 on 80-10m using CW and SSB. QSL via MØOXO OQRS.

FIJI (3D2) – Jim/WB2TJO will sign 3D2JS from Taveuni Is (OC-016) til Mar 2017 on various HF bands using CW, SSB and Digi. QSL via his home CBA.

GREENLAND (OV9Ø/OX9Ø/OZ9Ø/5P9Ø) – Members of the Experimenterende Danske Radioamatører (EDR) will sign OZ9ØEDR, OX9ØEDR and 5P9ØEDR from Greenland (NA-018) throughout 2017 on all bands including 30/17/12m and all modes. The call sign OZ7D will be used for the JT modes. ONLY QSOs with OZ7D in JT modes are valid for the EDR award. QSL to OZ1ACB. NO BURO QSLs. <<http://oz90edr.oz5bir.dk>>

GUYANA (8R) – Heye/DJ9RR is now signing 8R1/AG6UT (length of stay not) on 40-10m, and he will be in CQWW DX CW Contest Nov 26-17. QSL via DJ9RR.

LAOS (XW) – Ken/K4ZW, will sign XW4ZW during Jan 2017 on all bands, but mostly on

Upcoming Contests

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

- Jan 1 AGB New Year Snowball Test, 80m, CW/Digi/Phn, www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm
- Jan 1 SARTG New Year RTTY Test, 80/40m, Digi, www.artg.com/contest/nyrules.htm
- Jan 1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 80-20m, CW, www.agcw.org/index.php/en/
- Jan 1 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 2m/70cm, CW, www.agcw.org/index.php/en/
- Jan 3 ARS Spartan Sprint, 80-10m, CW, www.arsqrp.blogspot.com
- Jan 4 UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, Phn, www.ukaiccc.com
- Jan 7 PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, 80-10m, Digi, www.podxs070.com
- Jan 7 Kids Day Test, 80-2m (all WARC Bands except 30m), Phn, www.arrl.org/kids-day
- Jan 7-8 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 160-6m, CW, www.skccgroup.com
- Jan 7-8 WW PMC Contest, 80-10m, CW/Phn, www.s59dcd.si/en10
- Jan 7-8 Original QRP Contest, 80-20m, CW, www.qrpcc.de
- Jan 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup, 80-10m, Digi, www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
- Jan 7-8 EUCW 160-Meter Contest, CW, www.eucw.org/eu160.html
- Jan 8 DARC 10-Meter Contest, CW/Phn, www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest
- Jan 11-15 AWA Linc Cundall Memorial, 160/89/40m, CW, www.antiquewireless.org
- Jan 14 Old New Year Contest, 80-10m, CW/Phn, www.radio.ru/cq/
- Jan 14-15 UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, 80-10m, Digi, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Jan 14-15 North American QSO Party, CW, 160-10m, www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
- Jan 15 NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB, 80/40m, Phn, www.nrau.net
- Jan 15 NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW, 80/40m, www.nrau.net
- Jan 16 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 160-10m, CW, www.qrpcontest.com/pigrun
- Jan 19 NAQCC CW Sprint, 80-20m, CW, www.naqcc.info
- Jan 20 LZ Open Contest, 80/40m, CW, www.lzopen.com
- Jan 21-22 Hungarian DX Contest, 160-10m, CW/Phn, www.ha-dx.com/HADX
- Jan 21-22 North American QSO Party, 160-10m, SSB, www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
- Jan 21-23 ARRL January VHF Test, 6m and Up, CW, Digi, Phn, www.arrl.org/january-vhf
- Jan 21-22 WAB 1.8 MHz Phone Test, www.wab.intermip.net
- Jan 21-22 Feld Hell Sprint, 160-40m, Digi, www.sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
- Jan 25 SKCC Sprint, 160-10m, CW, www.skccgroup.com
- Jan 25 NAQCC CW Sprint, 160m, CW, www.naqcc.info
- Jan 25 UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, 80m, CW, www.ukaiccc.com
- Jan 27-29 CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW, www.cq160.com/rules.htm
- Jan 28 Montaña QSO Party, 160m-70cm, CW, Digi, Phn, www.fvarc.org
- Jan 28-29 REF Contest, 80-10m, CW, www.concours.ref-union.org
- Jan 28-29 BARTG RTTY Sprint, 80-10m, Digi, www.bartg.org.uk
- Jan 28-29 UBA DX Contest, SSB, 80-10m, Phn, www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules
- Jan 28-29 Winter Field Day, All Bands, CW, Digi, Phn, www.winterfieldday.com/rules.html

the lower bands and CW only. QSL via K1SE direct (with SAE/SASE).

MADAGASCAR (5R) – Andy/OE7AJH is now signing 5R8UP from Antananarivo. Length of stay not known. Activity has been on 40/20m using CW and SSB. QSL via his home CBA.

MARION ISLAND (ZS8) – A report has circulated that David/ZS1BCE will return to Marion Is and be active as ZS8Z in late Dec or early Jan, through May 2018. Activity will be on various HF bands using SSB and Digi. QSL via ZS1LS.

MAURITIUS (3B8) – Willi/DJ7RJ will sign 3B8/DJ7RJ til Dec 6 on 160-10m mostly on 160m using CW and SSB. QSL via his home CBA direct.

MICRONESIA (V6) – Sho/JA7HMZ, will sign V63DX from Pohnpei Is (OC-010) Feb 17-24 on 160-6m, all modes and including

the ARRL Intl DX CW Test signing V6A. QSL via his home CBA. No Buro QSLs.

NAMIBIA (V5) – Tev/TA1HZ (call pending) will operate during the CQWW WPX SSB Test (Mar 25-26, 2017). QSL via LoTW and LZ3HI.

NORFOLK ISLAND (VK9N) (OC-005) – Matt/K1MA will sign VK9NM Dec 19-26 on 40-10m from Mt. Bates, and he hopes, 160-10m from the house. QSL via e-QSL and LoTW only.

PANAMA (HP) – Ops Mike/W1USN and Bob/AA1M will sign HP/W1USN and HP/AA1M, respectively, Feb 10-22 on various HF bands using CW, SSB and Digi. QSL HP/W1USN via W1USN direct or LoTW; QSL HP/AA1M via AA1M direct or LoTW.

POLAND (HP800) (Special Event) – a Polish Amateur Radio Club will sign HF8000 Jan 1-Mar 31, 2017, to celebrate the 800th

anniversary of Opole City. QSL via the Buro or direct.

PUERTO RICO (KP4) (Special Event) – Listen for P4AW til Jan 29 on 160-10m. QSL via NP3IR, LoTW or eQSL.

PULAU BABI TENGAH IS (IOTA AS-046) (9M2) – Victor/R6AF is signing 9M2/R6AF/P on 20/17m CW. QSL via his home CBA or ClubLog's OQRS.

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

SENEGAL (6W) – Ronald/VE3REV plans to

sign 6W1SU for 2-3 years on 80-6m, currently SSB only, CW later. QSL via MØURX direct or the OQRS (direct or Buro).

SVALBARD (JW) – Erik/LA2US will sign JW2US from Hopen Is (IOTA EU-063) for 6 months on HF using mostly CW. QSL via OQRS ClubLog, LOTW, eQSL.

TONGA (A3) – Hiro/JA6WFM is now signing A31MM from Nuku'alofa til the end of 2017 on 160-6m. QSL via EA5GL or LoTW.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (VP5) – Dave/W5CW will sign VP5/W5CW from the Is of Providenciales (NA-002, WLOTA 1476)

til Dec 13 on 160-6m using CW and SSB. QSL direct to his home CBA.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS, CYPRUS (ZC4) (AS-004) – Dave/G4IAR and Judith/G4IAQ will sign ZC4DB and ZC4JB, respectively, during Jan on various HF bands. When on other parts of the island, call signs will be 5B/G4IAR/P and 5B/G4IAQ/P. QSL via their home CBAs direct.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS (ZC4) – Steve/GØGSB will sign ZC4SB Jan 11-25 on 80/40/20m CW and SSB. QSL via his home CBA direct. ♦

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 Regular Meeting of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., December 5, 2016



The December 5th general meeting was called to order by President **Brad James, WA4HBM**, at 7:30 PM.

In attendance were twenty-three (23) members and three (3) guests: **John Eggum, K4EGG**; **Kyle Cravens, W4KCX**; and **Geoff Lowe, KY4GDL**.

A fifteen (15)-minute recess period was called for preparation for the scheduled year-end equipment auction.

Longtime club member **Harold O'Donnell, K4HOD**, was recognized and welcomed by the president.

Treasurer **John Barnes, KS4GL**, submitted the summary treasurer's report of a total amount of \$14,400 in available deposits, representing current balances of: \$2,200 in the PayPal account, \$200 in the savings account, and \$12,000 in the checking account which consisted of; \$9,500 in the general fund, \$600 in the coax/repeater fund, and \$2,000 in the education fund. **J.B. Young, WA4WWH**, moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, and was approved by general acclamation.

David Mahlbacher's, KG4JDY, application for BARS membership was presented by treasurer John Barnes, KS4GL. The application had been reviewed and accepted by the directors at the past November director's meeting. **David Richardson, W9KHZ**, moved that the application be approved, and **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**, seconded the motion. The membership application was accepted unanimously.

The Shack report was presented by committee chairman **Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK**. The high-power linear amplifier is in operation, and was used during recent contacts with Europe. Visitors at the shack were recently-licensed **Kyle Cravens, W4KCX**, who made his first HF QSO, and a boy scout and his parent. A QSL card was received from **K4OYY, Roger Steambridge**, a former Marine Corps drill instructor and a disabled mid-east war veteran. Roger was operating from a national monument in Macon, Georgia. The QSO took place on September 17, 2016, on 7198 kHz LSB.

The Repeater report was presented by committee chairman **Andrew Cook, KF4OWP**. The 146.760 repeater at the

Respectfully Recorded and Submitted by:
Bruce A. Campbell, KM4EHU
Secretary-elect

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BLUEGRASS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC. INCOME, EXPENSES, AND ACCOUNT BALANCES November 30, 2016

	Checking Account	Pay Pal Account	Savings Account	Total
Income:				
ARRL Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BARS Dues	175.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
Coax/Repeater	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations	7.54	0.00	0.00	7.54
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hamfest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.74	0.00	0.01	0.75
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	183.28	0.00	0.01	183.29

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	358.09			358.09
Miscellaneous	0.00			0.00
Newsletter	0.00			0.00
Picnic	0.00			0.00
P.O. Box/Postage	102.00			102.00
Subscriptions	0.00			0.00
Telephone	0.00			0.00
Total	460.09			460.09

Account Balances

	October 31, 2016	November 30, 2016
Checking*	\$12306.48	\$12029.67
Pay Pal Balance	\$ 2176.83	\$ 2176.83
Savings Balance	\$ 200.24	\$ 200.25
Total Balance	\$14683.55	\$14406.75

*Fund Specific Balances (Checking)

General	\$ 974i6.54	\$ 9469.73
Coax/Repeater	\$ 564.64	\$ 564.64
Education	\$ 1995.30	\$ 1995.30
Total	\$12.306.48	\$12029.67

WKYT-TV tower is currently operating at acceptable levels of performance.

A lively and extend year-end auction of equipment, collectables, pieces, parts, odds and ends provided by **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV**, **Andrew Cook, KF4OWP**, and **Terry Layman, N6OKR**, who included items from silent-key member **Harry Bradshaw's, W4TPB**, shack. **J.B. Young, WA4WWH**, acted as auctioneer, and **Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV**, provided descriptions of items and color commentary. Auction proceeds donated to the club amounted to \$66.50.

Election ballots for the upcoming 2017-year directors, plus proposed Bylaws changes, were tabulated by nomination committee chairman **Roger Colvin**,

KJ4YSY, who was assisted by new member **David Mahlbacher, KG4JDY**, and visitor **Kyle Cravens, W4KXC**. The election results from the sixty-one (61) ballots collected named:

President: Smokey Wallace, KE6IVK;
First Vice President: Bill Fuqua, WA4LAV;
Second Vice President: James Schlessler, WA9MED;
Secretary: Bruce Campbell, KM4EHU;
Treasurer: John Barnes, KS4GL;
Directors-at-Large: Tim Kunkel, KF4MPM, and David Richardson, W9KHZ.

The proposed Bylaw changes were approved by a majority of ballots.

Appreciation and thanks are extended

to all members who ran for office elections, and all members who participated in the balloting.

Chris Gay, KU4A, moved that outgoing president **Brad James, WA4HBM**, be recognized for his past two years of dedicated service as BARS president. The motion was approved unanimously without second.

The January, 2017, general meeting will be held on January 9, 2017, the second Monday of January, due to the first Monday, January 2, being the national New Year's Day holiday. There will be no change in the scheduled director's meeting on the third Monday of January, the 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM by general consensus.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, December 19, 2016

Respectfully Submitted, **R. William DeVore/N4DIT**, Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society, Inc., was held Monday, December 19, 2016, in the education center adjacent to the Club shack in the basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky. Those officers/committee chairs/guests present were President **Brad James/WA4HBM**, First Vice President **Bill Fuqua/WA4LAV**, Second Vice President **James Schlessler/WA9MED**, Secretary **Bill DeVore/N4DIT**, Treasurer **John Barnes/KS4GL**, and Director-at-Large **Andrew Cook/KF4OWP**. Also present were Committee Chairs **David Richardson/W9KHZ**, and **Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK**, and member **Bruce Campbell/KM4EHU**,

The meeting was called to order by incoming President **Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK** at 7:32 PM. Smokey's first order of business was reports by officers and committee chairs.

Secretary Bill DeVore/N4DIT reported he had received a call from **Wilson Wells/N4ZQT** who would like to donate the mobile transceiver and antenna he has mounted in his vehicle. Wilson said he recently celebrated his 90th birthday and no longer drives, thus does not need the transceiver. We unanimously congratulated him on his reaching 90, making him the official elder of the Club.

Program Committee: The incoming president reported for the committee due to the retirement of **Brad James/WA4HBM**. Smokey said he has been establishing working relations with both **Stephen Bishop** and **Tim Brandevie** with Fayette County Emergency Management. Both have indicated they would like to present programs to detail their respective offices – what their objectives are, what services they provide, how our Club can assist, etc.

Education Committee: **Bill Fuqua/WA4LAV** said his Saturday workshop students (five students, all Club members) are working on projects; his Thursday technical group includes six regular attendees, plus a few occasional attendees for a total of nine,

eight of whom are Club members. The president said he has been getting inquiries from people interested in upgrading their license and needing help studying for General Class or Extra Class licenses. Bill said he provides that assistance for people who request it during his Saturday workshop. The president said he is going to get an interest in the Club to provide more assistance for folks wanting to upgrade. **Brad James/WA4HBM** suggested the Club offer a study manual to anyone interested in studying for a Technician Class or upgrading, then if the person passes an examination we offer her/him membership in the Club for one year (\$20 value) or they can return the manual. We also should look into loaning an HF rig to licensed Hams so they can operate from their home, dorm, etc.

Repeater Committee: **Andrew Cook/KF4OWP** reported they are running more tests to identify the noise source. It has become intermittent. **Bill Fuqua/WA4LAV** said they are almost positive it is not our equipment – it is caused by something nearby, but they have not been able to pinpoint it yet.

Treasurer: John Barnes/KS4GL read his financial summary for November (published elsewhere in this newsletter). **Bill DeVore/N4DIT** moved John's report be accepted; a second was voiced by **Brad James/WA4HBM**. Motion passed.

John read three applications for membership submitted by **Geoff Lowe/K4GDL**, Lexington (**David Richardson/W9KHZ** moved Geoff's application be approved for submission to the members present at the Club's January meeting; a second was voiced by **Brad James/WA4HBM**, Motion passed); **Jonathan Aynes/KM4YOS**, Lexington (**Bill DeVore/N4DIT** moved Geoff's application be approved for submission to the members present at the Club's January meeting. **David Richardson/W9KHZ** voiced a second, motion passed); **Kyle Cravens/W4KXC** (**Andrew Cook/KF4OWP** moved Kyles's application be approved for submission to the members present at the Club's January meeting; **Brad James/WA4HBM** voiced a second; motion passed).

Shack Committee: **Joseph "Smokey" Wallace/KE6IVK** reported on recent activities and noted he has successfully improved the reception/output of the Kenwood TS-940SAT and beam antenna. New member **Kyle Cravens/W4KXC** has been using it on Saturday mornings and has logged a notable list of DX contacts.

He said a number of guests came to the shack last Saturday morning, some of whom need help/advice about their home stations. A couple guys are building antennas and kits. He said he would like to have more members come in Saturday

mornings to help assist folks.

Being no further business, **Bill De Vore/N4DIT** moved the meeting be ad-

journed. A second was voiced by **Smokey Wallace/KE6IVK**. Motion passed and the meeting was called adjourned at 8:50

PM. The next Board meeting was set for January 16, 2017, in the Education Center, at 7:30 PM. ★

Looking Back. . . Pages 2-3, HAMnews, January 1990

Outgoing President's Corner

Glenn Welman/KF4NB, President

Well the election is over and you have a new president. The bylaws wouldn't allow me to run again, which is good. Being president does take a little time and effort. Plus, the Club can benefit from an infusion of new ideas and leadership. I would like to say that I leave the office feeling good about my two terms and feeling that the Club is once again growing. But, I certainly cannot take all the credit. Without the help of the committee chairpeople and their individual members, the Club would not be where it is today. And, for all of the many events for which we get called upon to help, the Club members always respond with sufficient numbers of volunteers to get the job done. For all of this help, I am truly grateful. I am sure that everyone will continue this fine tradition under the leadership of our new president.

Last month I said a lot of nice words about our shack chairman [Bill Woodward, KC4CHF]. I certainly didn't mean to imply that our other committee chairpeople had not done an outstanding job as well. I was wanting to thank our shack chairman and hopefully inspire some others to volunteer their time as well. I fully intended to thank the rest of our committee chairpeople this month.

So let me start by thanking Nan Muth/AA4UN and her group of volunteer examiners for a job well done this past year. Without this fine group we probably wouldn't see nearly the number of upgrades. Thanks Nan for leading this fine group.

We all like to give Harry Bradshaw/W4TPB a hard time occasionally. But, without Harry's hard work lining up programs, sending out public relations letters, and lining up volunteers for the numerous events, we wouldn't have a very interesting club. Thanks Harry for all of your help.

Frank Brumett/WD4CIZ does a fine job as the repeater chairman. Frank spends a lot of time keeping the repeater user codes up-to-date and generally keeping an eye on the repeater. Without that watchful ear and the dedication, we would probably have just another repeater. Thanks for all of your work Frank.

Last, but certainly not least, is Bill De Vore/N4DIT (provided he doesn't edit out this section). Since January, 1984, Bill has done a fantastic job of putting out the newsletter every month. And, I'm sure that he enlists his family too. Plus he has taken charge of the hamfest as well. Bill's dedication is certainly nothing to be taken lightly. Our newsletter is one of the finest in the nation and I haven't heard any complaints about the hamfest either. So, Bill, thanks for all of your fine work as well.

Of course, I also appreciate the fine work of our elected officers too. Thanks to all who have helped during my terms as president.

I'm sure that everyone will show our new president what a great Club this is to run. In fact, I'll even continue to run the education classes. I am looking forward to the continued growth and success of the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society.

'73, Glenn

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).

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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Emergency Preparedness (Liaison Bluegrass ARS with LFUCG DEM)

..... Need Chair
Hamfest..... David Richardson/W9KHZ (daveinlex3@gmail.com)
Newsletter..... Bill DeVore/N4DIT (859) 273-8345 (billdit@twc.com)

Program..... Need Chair
Public Relations and Membership..... Need Chair

Repeater..... AndrewCook/KF4OWP (859-396-9930) (kf4owp@gmail.com)
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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 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 January 2017

- Sun 1 New Years Day Holiday, Club Meeting Postponed until second Monday
- Mon 2 KY-QRP Group Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Meeting Room "B", Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Tue 3 Amateur Swap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
- Wed 4 Six Shooters Net, 8:00 PM on 52.525 MHz FM (vertically polarized)
- Thu 5 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Sat 7 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
- Sun 8 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
- Mon 9 Bluegrass ARS Monthly Meeting**, 7:30 PM, Meeting Room "B", Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Mon 9 Jessamine AWS monthly meeting, 7:00 PM, St. Joseph/R.J. Corman Ambulatory Care Center, 1250 Keene Road, Nicholasville
- Tue 10 Amateur Swap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
- Wed 11 Six Shooters Net, 8:00 PM on 52.525 MHz FM (vertically polarized)
- Thu 12 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Sat 14 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
- Sat 14 License Examination Session, 10:00 AM (W5YI VEC), Winchester, KY, contact Darrell Epperson/AC4YD, eppersond@aol.com, 859-771-1834
- Sun 15 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
- Mon 16 Bluegrass ARS Board of Directors' Meeting**, 7:30 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Bldg, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Tue 17 Amateur Swap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
- Wed 18 Six Shooters Net, 8:00 PM on 52.525 MHz FM (vertically polarized)
- Thu 19 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Sat 21 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
- Sun 22 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
- Tue 24 Amateur Swap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz
- Wed 25 Six Shooters Net, 8:00 PM on 52.525 MHz FM (vertically polarized)
- Thu 26 Meeting of Bluegrass ARS Technical Group, 6:30 PM, Education Center, basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington
- Sat 28 Shack open 9:00-Noon; Radio Theory and Construction Workshop, 1:00-3:00 PM, Education Center, Basement of the Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike
- Sat 28 License Examination Session, 10:00 AM, (ARRL VEC) Danville, KY, contact **John Wulf/K4FT**, k4ft@bellsouth.net, 563-505-0339
- Sun 29 Amateur Television & Specialized Communications Net, 9:00 PM (146.760 Repeater)
- Tue 31 Amateur Swap Net 145.370 (T-192.8) 8:00 PM; "Casual Communicators Net," 9:00 PM Eastern, 443.325+ MHz