

SMARC TELEGRAPH

Connecting People!

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**LOCAL
NEWS**

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SMARC BOOT CAMP & BONFIRE SUCCESS

Our first ever boot camp offering took place Saturday, 7 November at Jordan's (NORK) shop in North Springfield and was a huge success.

Boot campers were taught a lot of basics and short cuts that it may otherwise take years for a new ham to learn. Also building antenna's and understanding them. SMARC hopes to repeat the event sometime in the future.



BOOT CAMP/ FIRE & FREQUENCIES

At least 10 participated in SMARC boot camp last weekend and more came for the Fire & Frequencies bonfire event afterwards. While other clubs are cancelling activities, SMARC remains on the forefront of ham activities.



FEATURE



ASK SMARC

Q: As a new ham, how will all these new fee's the FCC is proposing going to effect me?

A: It will effect everyone in amateur radio. To get your license it's the traditional \$15 plus \$50 to the FCC to "process" your application, something that is virtually automated now. To make changes to your address or other specific information on your license, a fee from \$5-50 will apply.

We don't know if the new fee structure will pass or not. SMARC has strongly opposed the rate applications for amateur radio for many reasons, mainly all other licensee's use their licenses to make money or produce income. Amateur radio provides personnel, and teams of qualified hams to serve in Skywarn, ARES, MARS, RACES and other local operations to help the community in times of emergency and receive no compensation for all their work.



NIXA HAS A NEW 10 METER REPEATER

Nixa's new repeater system located on the water tower in Nixa with help from Verizon with coax will serve the area on the following frequencies: 29.68 output and 29.58 input both with a PL tone of 162.2.

The Commscope DB-201L antennas tuned up and ready to go on the water towers featuring 60 watts of power and vertical polarization.

ISS GETS NEW HAMS ONBOARD

Astronauts often participate in Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts with schools and groups on Earth.

NASA Astronaut Kayla Barron, who completed her introductory course in June and received basic ham radio operations training in late September, recently tested and received the call sign KI5LAL.

European Space Agency astronaut Matthias Maurer passed his amateur radio exam on 30th July 2020, and he got his basic ham operations training in July. He now is KI5KFH.

Astronauts Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD, and Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, completed the refresher course earlier this year. Two other new astronauts are in the queue to take the Technician license exam.

FCC GETS NEW ADDRESS EFFECTIVE NOW

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own zip code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location.

2 ASTRONAUTS GET HAM LICENSES

Although the lockdown of Johnson Space Center (JSC) postponed amateur radio training and licensing over the past 7 months, NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, was able to work with all of the new astronaut-class graduates, as well as offer some refresher courses with already-licensed astronauts. Licensed astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) may operate the on-station ham radio equipment without restrictions.

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WSJT OFFERS UPDATE

Candidate releases are intended for beta testers, WSJT-X 2.3.0-rc1 offers the new modes FST4 and FST4W designed for use on the LF and MF bands

WSJT-X 2.3.0 is a program upgrade offering two new modes designed especially for use on the LF and MF bands. FST4 is for 2-way QSOs, and FST4W is for WSPR-like transmissions.

Both modes offer a range of options for T/R sequence lengths and threshold decoding sensitivities extending well into the -40 dB range. Early tests have shown these modes frequently spanning intercontinental distances on the 2200 m and 630 m bands.

Further details and operating hints can be found in the "Quick-Start Guide to FST4 and FST4W", posted on the WSJT web site - https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FST4_Quick_Start.pdf

Download WSJT - <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

MISSOURI S&T NEWS



[Radio club tunes in to eclipse for science](#). The Aug. 21 solar eclipse across the United States promises to provide not only a rare visual experience for Americans, but also a rare listening experience for amateur radio operators interested in how the eclipse might affect radio waves in the atmosphere. And members of the [Amateur Radio Club](#) at Missouri S&T plan to tune in to the eclipse as part of a global research project.

“During the solar eclipse there will be a worldwide experiment using amateur radio,” says Missouri S&T electrical engineering student Aaron Boots of Kansas City, Missouri. Boots is president of the university’s Amateur Radio Club, W0EEE. He says the eclipse is expected to cause “dramatic changes” in the ionosphere – that part of the atmosphere where neutral atoms and molecules become ionized, or electrically charged, by solar and cosmic radiation. The eclipse offers amateur radio operators a chance to learn about how radio waves propagate under such conditions

LAST MONTH AT SMARC

1 General passed the exam at the testing session.

We discussed the new constitution and by laws to be voted on next month either by online ballot or in person ballot at the meeting TBD.



Greene County Skywarn was, by unanimous vote, made a division of SMARC under club leadership and support. It was allocated a \$100 budget.

Brief discussion about banners and we decided to order some new ones which are being obtained at an excellent price for tech day, field day, safe and sound, winter field day, etc.

Pizza was served at the meeting as Regina was out of town for a family emergency.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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*FIRE &
FREQUENCIES*

