

# W9JOZ

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2021

## Next Meeting is on the Air Jan. 21st at 7 pm. 145.410 repeater

Greeting fellow amateurs,

Happy New Year.

Pray for an end to Covid and we can meet again.

Let's try to hold a net on club nights.  
Sorry I missed the last one.

Dave  
Kc8obh



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.



Are you on the air?

Library Door locks at 7:00 p.m. so if you are late, knock loud.

**Still no in-person meetings.  
But, we do meet on the  
repeater.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Reminder
- 2 Events/Articles

## Events

**Meeting is on the air, Jan. 21st 7:00 pm  
on the 145.410 repeater**

## Birthdays

Jan. 9th - David, KD9U

Jan. 15th - John, W3ML

If your birthday has not been listed, it is because I do not have the date for it. If you would like it to be included in a newsletter, please email me the date. Thanks w3ml@w3ml.com

---

**Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net is  
on every Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Central time.**

DAY OF WEEK: Saturday 8:00 p.m. Central time

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

---

## New Items Listed

See all the For Sale Items at

<http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

There are a lot of them there. Updated regularly.

See the For Sale Page on the Club website. If you have items to sell email me a list with prices and contact information.

\*\*\*\* There are several items on Doc's SK Listing that should be on someone's want list. NEW PRICES!

If you see item on there that you are interested in, contact me and we can work out deal on it.

---

---

# Notice for 2021

Even though we are not meeting in person at this time, it is imperative that we keep the Club together and active. We have a 2 meter net every Saturday at 8 p.m. on the 145.410 repeater. President David, KC8OBH also runs a net on the repeater on the evening of the Club Meeting at 7 p.m.

Dues for 2021 remain at only \$12.00 a year.

**Paid Members for 2021:**

Bill, K9BZM  
Richard, K9ILU  
Chester, KA9FAW  
Bart, KC9FQA  
Nita, KC9PM  
Lenny, KQ9A  
Tom, W9QN  
Jack, WA9ZTP  
Levi, WB9CAO  
Bob, KD9IHY  
Wayne, K9KFT

**Officers for 2021:**

David, KC8OBH  
John, W3ML

Please stay a member and pay your dues for 2021. Hopefully, before too long we will be able to meet again at the library.

Dues may be mailed to John Poindexter 204 South Main St. Knox, IN 46534  
Checks can be made out to the Starke County Amateur Radio Club. \$12.00

John W3ML

---

I am sorry to hear about the loss of HAM-COM (Dallas-Plano Texas area). I have attended this hamfest three or four times in the past fifteen years. Apparently a second year of COVID issues was too much. It was a fun hamfest.

<https://sites.google.com/hamcom.org/ham-com>

Tom, W9QN

---

# Indiana QSO Party May 1-2

2021 rules on the web site: <http://hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

---

## How to prevent ESD damage

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

⑩ **USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP** whenever handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist prevents your body from building up charge and causing when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!

⑩ **USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR** for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.



you are  
strap  
damage  
or test

**MATS**  
materials  
boards,  
to

⑩ **KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES.** This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

⑩ **DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.** Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's import to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

↘ Ensure your device is off.

↘ Connect your cable to your device.

↘ Attach a 50  $\Omega$  shunt to the open end of the cable.

↘ Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

⑩ **USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED.** In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

⑩ **NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE.** While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

⑩ **CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS** to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by

accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.

⑩ **USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS.** This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

⑩ **DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS.** Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

⑩ Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.

⑩ Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.

⑩ Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

=====

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

---

I saw this on the Collins Collectors Association reflector and thought it was interesting.

<https://www.grz.com/db/II1DCC>

Tom, W9QN

---

## FCC Sets Amateur License Fee at \$35

December 30, 2020 By [Dan KB6NU](#)



In [Report and Order FCC 20-184](#), the FCC has set the amateur radio licensing fee at \$35. It includes quite a bit of commentary on how it decided on that amount. In the R&O they noted, “We agree with commenters asserting this fee is too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications and therefore adopt a reduced amount of \$35 fee for all personal license application fees.”

They also addressed some other other concerns brought up by the nearly 4,000 people who commented on the amateur radio license fee. For example, they write:

Numerous commenters suggest that amateur radio licenses should be exempted or are exempt under section 8(d)(1) of the Act. We disagree and note as a starting point that the Commission has no authority to create an exemption where none presently exists. Thus, if an exemption exists, it must be contained within the wording of section 8(d)(1) of the Act.<sup>61</sup> None of the listed exemptions apply to exempt Amateur Radio Service licenses.

Basically, what they are saying is that since Congress did not specifically exempt amateur radio, they cannot do it on their own.

The FCC also disagreed with the argument that the Amateur Radio Service should be exempt from fees because amateur radio operators provide emergency and public communications:

[The argument] that amateur radio licenses should be exempt under section 8(d)(1)(B) as they are “operating for all intents and purposes as non-profit entities” because they provide public safety and special emergency radio services in times of crisis on a volunteer basis. While we are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public, we do not agree that amateur radio licenses fit within the section 8(d)(1)(B) exemption Congress provided. These specific exemptions do not apply to the amateur radio personal licenses. Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules. Further, there is no indication that most or all amateurs solely use their license for emergency communications; even the section of our rules allowing certain amateur operators to broadcast civil defense communications limit such authorization to periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. As we have noted previously, “[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.

How’s that for a zinger?

They also addressed the argument that it will discourage younger people and others who may not be able to afford the fee from entering the hobby:

ARRL and many individual commenters additionally claim that the proposed fee will harm the public interest by discouraging people who are younger from becoming licensed or by causing people who are older and living on fixed income to leave the service (depriving others of their skills and experience). These

commenters explain that participation in the amateur radio service can be an entry point to science, technology, engineering, and math careers. They also note that amateur licensees have driven innovation in communications and other technologies. While we agree that participation in the Amateur Radio Service offers important public interest benefits, that determination does not alter our obligation under RAY BAUM’s Act to adopt cost-based fees for processing applications regarding nonexempt service.

They also addressed the argument should this fee go into effect, the FCC should then use that money to provide better enforcement. They write:

These commenters argue that if the Commission adopts application fees for the service, it should use the fees for the benefit of licensees, for example, by taking more robust enforcement actions against unlawful operators.<sup>88</sup> While we appreciate the commenters’ diligent advocacy for their service, we remind them that the Commission does not have discretion on how to use application fees, which must be deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

To address the arguments that the FCC’s hands are tied with respect to imposing the fees and how the fees are to be used, the ARRL is going to gear up its lobbying effort. The next time a bill like this is in the works, someone is going to have to be looking out for amateur radio and ensure that specific language gets put into the bill. Unfortunately, that’s how our system works when your interests are not very high on the priority list.

The date on which the FCC will start charging the fee has not yet been set, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC needs time to develop the procedures detailing how and when the fees will be collected.

You can download the entire Report & Order by going to <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf>

---

## **FCC to Require Email Address on Applications Starting on June 29, 2021**

12/31/2020

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as “defective.”

On September 16, the FCC adopted a *Report and Order* (**[R&O](#)**) in WT Docket 19-212 on “Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services.” The *R&O* was **[published](#)** on December 29 in the *Federal Register*. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at any time by accessing the licensee’s password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

Licensees can log into the ULS **[License Manager System](#)** with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday – Friday, 1300 – 2300 UTC) or **[reset the password](#)** on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license must show the grantee’s correct name, mailing address, and email address. “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence,” the amended rule will state. “Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

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

---

If you have something for the newsletter, please send it to me before the 20th of the month.

See you at a meeting.

Sometime in the Future

73

*John*, W3ML

