

# W9JOZ

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 2020

## Next Meeting is on the Air

Greeting fellow amateurs,

The only thing for this month is to be safe and healthy and use the repeater. We can still hold virtual club meetings on the air.

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 meetings in person.**

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- 1 Meeting Reminder
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## Events

**Meeting is on the air, Sep. 17th.**

**145.410 repeater**

## Birthdays

Sep 20 - Steve, KB7GPW

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

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**Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net will  
be on each 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

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## 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.**

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# ALERT ALERT ALERT

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## Fort Wayne Hamfest CANCELLED

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Dear Central Division ARRL Member;

I have received a number of inquiries today about the FCC NPRM 20-270 which proposes to a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application. The ARRL will be filing comments in opposition to application fees in the amateur radio service. Please read the details below from the ARRL.ORG website.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

From the ARRL Website;

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

08/28/2020

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute

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excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

“[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review,” the FCC said in its NPRM. “For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required.”

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. “Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee,” the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. “For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge,” the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. “The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services,” the FCC said.

The Ray Baum’s Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. File comments by using the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

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ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
w9xa@arrl.org  
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SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB021  
ARLB021 FCC Application Fee Proposal Proceeding is Open for Comments

ZCZC AG21  
QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 21 ARLB021  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT September 3, 2020  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB021  
ARLB021 FCC Application Fee Proposal Proceeding is Open for Comments

Comments are being accepted on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which proposes application fees for radio amateurs. Formal deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. Comments may be filed now, however, by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), located at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>, and posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. The docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

The NPRM can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-116A1.pdf>.  
NNNN  
/EX

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## ***Handy Hint***

***By Steve Mollman-KD9HL***

### ***Lightning Strikes***

***(Be sure to disconnect the comm port)***

During a conversation with a service tech at a major transceiver manufacturer, he mentioned that from August through October, during the lightning season, they receive a lot of lightning damaged equipment. Invariably the customer says "I disconnected everything EXCEPT ...", then they list one item-the COMM PORT.

It is most likely the lightning strike came in through the COMM PORT connected to the COMPUTER (via DSL or Cable Modem). Those lines are long and run for miles, so a direct hit is not necessary to do damage.

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Besides the most likely Com Port and the obvious antenna connection, he has seen lightning come in other things connected to the equipment, such as the DC power cord, ground, Paddle/Key, Key-Out to Amp etc, but the com port was the most frequent culprit.

When lightning threatens, disconnect all power, ground, coax, rotator control cables, etc. Anything that goes to the outside world

◀73's and Good DX▶

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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

