https://www.facebook.com/groups/spiritmountainarc

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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Welcome to the Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club, and thank you for viewing our second monthly newsletter! It has been an exciting month with many things coming to fruition as we become a growing part of the amateur radio community.

First, we are excited to announce that our club has been issued the vanity callsign KS7MC which follows our club name. We tried for multiple 2x1 callsigns but were unsuccessful this time. Maybe in the future we will be issued one! This is the club callsign that will be used during 2023 ARRL Field Day.

Secondly, we will be operating as a group for Field Day from the Big Bend of Colorado State Recreation Area located at 4220 Needles Hwy, Laughlin, NV 89029. The park is open from 7am-7pm when this event is happening. ARRL Field Day is from 1800 UTC Saturday 6/24 to 2059 UTC Sunday 6/25 which equates to 11am Saturday to 1:59pm Sunday MST/PDT (both are currently on the same UTC time offset), however I do recommend arriving early if possible to avoid the crowds and the heat. We will be operating as a class A club with all within a circle not exceeding 1,000ft (300m). The state recreation area we will be operating from is ALSO a Parks on the Air (POTA) entity. We will be spotting on the POTA spot page using the callsign KS7MC with the park designator K-4437. Calling "CQ POTA Field Day KS7MC" is acceptable and common practice. Depending on whether or not someone uses commercial power will determine if we will be class A or A-Commercial. All are welcome and carpooling is encouraged. Entrance fees are $10 for NV vehicles and $15 for non-NV vehicles. If you have a Nevada state parks pass, entrance fees are waived but you must present your park pass to the rangers upon entry. If you wish to camp, the fees are $20 per vehicle per night for NV vehicles and $25 per vehicle per night for non-NV vehicles, and an additional $10 for sites with utility hookups. For information on the park, visit: https://parks.nv.gov/parks/big-bend-of-the-colorado. For information on ARRL Field Day, visit: http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules.

If anyone does not want to attend the Field Day event being held at Big Bend of Colorado State Recreation Area but wants to make a contact with the club from other location using their own personal callsign, that is permitted and welcomed. Additionally, for those attending the event, the use of band pass filters is recommended as to not cause bleed-over between different bands. The goal is "to work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions." Our station is active on the ARRL Field Day Locator accessible at: http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator.

A quick reminder: If you have not yet purchased a club badge and would like one, please visit: https://hambadgers.com/HamRadioClubs/SMARC/medium-smarc-badge to order yours today!

For more information regarding 2023 ARRL Field Day, please contact SMARC Club President Paul Jameson, WB7N at WB7N@outlook.com. We hope to see you there!

73, Paul Jameson, WB7N
Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club President

MEET A MEMBER!

"As the first newsletter editor of the club, I wanted to start things off by introducing myself to everyone. My goal going forward is to feature a different member each month, introducing them to the club, starting with club board members and going on from there. I'll go first."

The basics first. My name is Mark Melvin and my callsign is AE6MP. I retired a year ago out of Southern California after working 26 years in the McDonalds Bakery, followed by an 18-year career as an elevator mechanic for the OTIS Elevator Co.

What got me into amateur radio? In 1979 I met a fine group of people who flew radio-controlled model airplanes. A notable percentage of model fliers were ham radio operators, mainly for the purpose of flying their planes on frequencies allotted only for amateur radio use. The benefit of flying on these "ham 6M frequencies" was that they were not as crowded as the CB band frequencies used by non-licensed fliers, and you could fly more often on a given day.

I joined the flying club under the guidance of one of these ham radio operators who not only helped teach me how to build planes and fly them, but also introduced me to amateur radio. All the hams in the flying club had mobile radios in their vehicles and carried HTs at the field. I got hooked on model planes and ham radio at the same time. Two great hobbies that meshed nicely. Sadly the ham who got me into planes and radios, Bob KA6FNR, became a silent key within the past two months. 73 and RIP FNR Bob!

The chief flying instructor Ken WA6IVD gave me my Novice test at his home, I passed the 20-question written test, along with the 5 wpm CW test and became KA6KSX. Months later I visited the FCC office in Long Beach, CA to take my Technician test, passed and became N6DFG. I wanted to get my General next, so Ken loaned me a Johnson Adventurer CW transmitter along with a Korean War era receiver, TR switch and dipole antenna. I was off to the races making CW contacts up and down the state of CA on 40 meters, and eventually passed my General Test.

There were only two notches left on the amateur radio belt to achieve. I kept studying, took some electronics classes in college, and passed the Advanced test to become KE6MP. The final step to Extra took place around 1995. I used the vanity callsign program to get an Extra class callsign and changed from KE6MP to AE6MP.

My other hobbies besides amateur radio and model airplanes, include computers and classic cars. With computers I enjoy dabbling in computer networking and in the past doing a monthly newsletter for two different clubs. With classic cars I own two American Motors AMXs, one for 13 years, the other for 46 years now, my first car I bought when I was 18 years old. I take both cars, one at a time, duh, to car shows sometimes as far away as Kensoha, WI, where the car was made.

I haven't been as active in Amateur Radio as I'd like to be, other than regularly talking on IRLP to a ham friend in Denmark, Kim OZ1ARQ/KA1WCC. I look forward to being activate on VHF/UHF bands and freshen up my CW skills and poke around on HF bands and see what happens.

Mark Melvin AE6MP
SMARC Newsletter Editor

FCC RF EXPOSURE LIMIT RULES?

I recently became an ARRL member for the first time in some 40 years, after getting my novice license first around 1980. By not being a member I'm sure I missed a lot of good information the organization shared with its members over the years. One of those things I missed is a new rule, at least new to me, that requires all radio stations to evaluate RF exposure? I just recently come across this. It's probably not a big deal, but I thought I'd put it out there to consider. The article below was from April 2021, but the period to complete RF exposure evaluation just ended May 3 of this year. Everybody has their evaluation done, right? Ya, me neither. I'm on it now.

Mark AE6MP

Use this link to read about this issue on the ARRL website.
http://tiny.cc/freqrules

There is also a link to a multi-page article/ manual "RF Exposure and You," available for free. Use the following link. http://tiny.cc/rfexposure

I use "URL redirector links" that are much shorter than actual links, which will redirect your browser to the proper page.

The ARRL also has an RF Safety page on its website.

From the article on the ARRL website…
"With the new FCC RF exposure standards for ham radio, we have to calculate exposure. If someone has a vertical antenna will they have to build a fence around the antenna and radial field to comply or is posting the proper sign enough?"

"stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits"

"The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level."

Mark Melvin AE6MP

CLUB MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Get your own custom SMARC membership badge from Ham Badgers. Several members have ordered their badges with quick results. Order using the redirect link listed below.

https://bit.ly/smarcbadge

NEW HAM

The Spirit Mountain ARC is welcoming Alexander Vezie to the club who just received his callsign KK7MPA. Welcome to the hobby. It's great to have you!

If you haven't come across this page yet, the ARRL has great information for new hams.

http://tiny.cc/newhams

Mark Melvin AE6MP

SMARC Membership

Are you ready to become a member of the Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club? Use the link below. It will redirect you to the on-line membership form. Fill out the requested information and click on submit. A PayPal request will be sent to your email address for payment.

The cost is listed at the top of the membership form, $20 for individuals and $30 for families of up to three members. Thank you.

https://tiny.cc/smarcjoin

Pat N6RMJ on a microwave safari

By a show of hands, how many radio operators out there have experience working other stations via microwave? Last week Pat N6RMJ put out the invite to join him out in the field while he operated his microwave station. Two of us took Pat up on his offer to find out what microwave operation is all about. Early bird Tim Adams N6DLC trailed Pat out to a location in Nevada near US95 & 163 where a portable microwave station was set up and put into operation. After several hours of zinging microwaves around the area, Pat packed up and moved his home brew custom radio station back to Bullhead City where I met him at a location off Hwy 68.

Pat had all his station's components loaded in the back of his truck and it didn't take long for him to haul it out and get set up. A heavy, stout tripod was followed by the radio payload and dish antenna. After a short briefing on the adverse consequences of stepping in front of the dish antenna during transmission, Pat started working his magic on 10 gigahertz, preceded first by coordinating contacts on a UHF radio network, with both stations taking turns hanging a carrier so each could zero in on the other, eventually resulting in a short lived QSO.

The first contact I observed was down into the Phoenix area, quite a good hop I thought. I was under the assumption that the higher the frequency, the more line of sight the operation becomes. I learned from Pat that a common practice of microwave radio operation is to bounce their signal off aircraft, or off rain clouds.

I stayed around for 3 hours to watch Pat and found microwave operations quite interesting. I would be interested to find out what other stations Pat contacted after I left. Thank you, Pat, for sharing your expertise in microwaving.

Mark Melvin AE6MP

FCC Cores Licensing System Information

Recently I heard that the FCC had implemented a new online registration system. I headed over to FCC.GOV to check it out. It was a little bit challenging to figure out the new system. You must create a new CORES account and associate your FRN number with it.

The confusion for me came when I tried to look up my FRN on their system and it showed I had two numbers. I tried to reset passwords from the old registration system to retrieve my FRN number, but the system kept telling me I didn't know my mother's maiden name, which is the security challenge question.

I ended up calling the FCC hotline directly and was helped by a pleasant female voice on the other end. The problem, it turned out to be all along, was that my mom's maiden name in their database was Capitalized and I wasn't aware of it. So along with using the correct capitalization on my old password and being told there was only one FRN in their system, I finally got registered in the new CORES and into the Universal Licensing System ULS.

CORES access is required to check on an application status, change of address, retrieve a copy of your license. Note, the FCC no longer mails out a paper copy of your license. You will need to use CORES to enter the system and download your own copy of your license going forward.

Mark Melvin AE6MP

New FCC Online Licensing System by Charlie N5CET

The FCC has a new CORES system. You must create a new account as nothing was transferred from the old system.

The CORES System is about YOU. The FRN System is about your LICENSES. The ULS System is how you search for information.

Creating a CORES Login Go to this web site.
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do

Select Need a Username? then REGISTER. Fill out the form with your email address and create a password. Write these down and save them. Fill in the rest of your information and select SUBMIT. An email will be sent to you with a link in it. Open the email and select the link. You will now be Verified. You are done with email, so go back to the web browser and go to this page again. https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do

Go to USERNAME LOGIN and type the email and password from above, then select LOG IN. Associating Your FRN with the CORES Account Select ASSOCIATE USERNAME TO FRN. Type your FRN. Type personal ham radio license then select CONTINUE. Your existing FRN and License(s) information will be linked to your new CORES account.

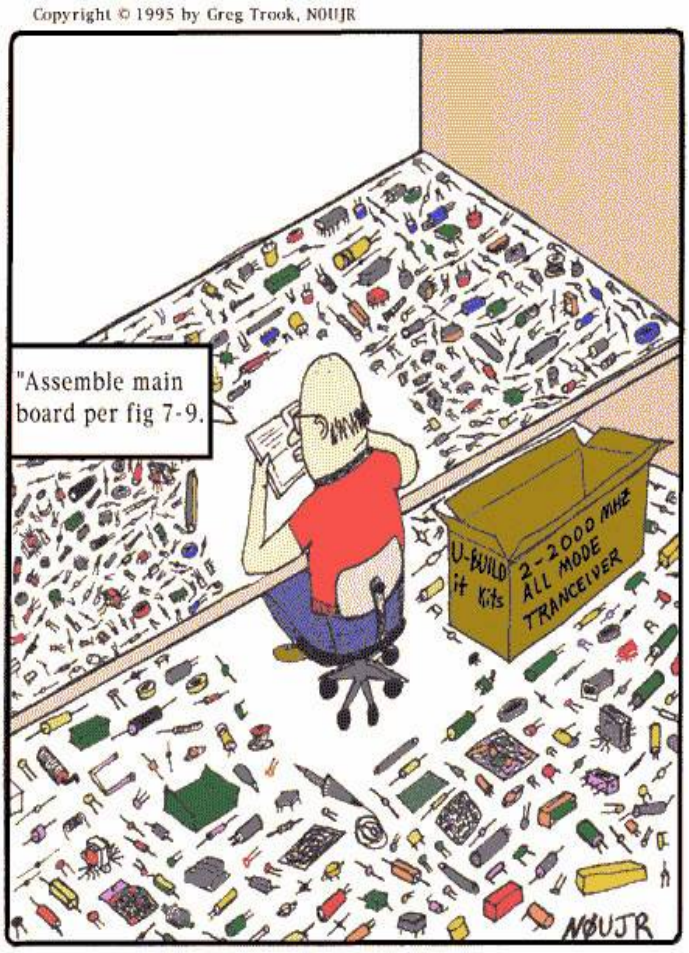
Conclusion
Now you will be able to renew, apply, and edit your existing license information. This is necessary because the new CORES System is used for the billing and payment of fees. Everyone will need to create a new CORES account, even if you had one in the old CORES System.

Copied from BARK, the monthly newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club K5FD.

Just a mention that the SMARC has become an ARRL affiliated club, after last month becoming an ARCA affiliated club.

In the words of ARCA…
The Amateur Radio Council of Arizona, Inc. (ARCA) is a statewide organization comprised of Amateur Radio Clubs from all parts of Arizona, working for the betterment of Amateur Radio statewide. ARCA affiliated clubs present a unified front and have a means to exchange ideas and activities in the spirit of fraternity for which Amateur Radio is so famous. The objectives of the Council are to combine opinions, ideas, and strengths of the various clubs; to assist the affiliated clubs in promoting the welfare of the Amateur Radio fraternity; and to encourage activities that will benefit the art of Amateur Radio."

And in the words of the ARRL…
"It shall be the policy of the League to affiliate with itself organized, non-commercial Amateur Radio groups or societies of kindred aims and purposes with a view to forming a homogeneous organization for unity of action in matters affecting amateur welfare."



Kit fun.

zoom Video Club Meetings

The SMARC Club has a monthly online ZOOM meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 2pm MST. The next one is June 3. If you're new to online video meetings, it's simple, and fun. You need just a microphone and web cam. Most laptop computers already have the mic and cam built in. If you need a camera/microphone combo unit for your desktop computer search Amazon and you'll find a nice unit for just $25-30+.

You can install the software on your phone but you and the others in the video meeting will all have a better experience if you use your desktop or laptop computer on your home or business Internet connection. There's a meeting client to download before your first online meeting. Use this re-direct link: http://tiny.cc/zoomclient.

A suggestion is to add your callsign to your display name, so it'll be displayed to everyone else during the video meeting. You do this in your account settings before entering the meeting. Give yourself extra time before the meeting to prepare.

Contact Mark Melvin AE6MP at mightypilot@gmail.com for help getting set up.

From time to time the meeting schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate member's schedules. The change will be announced on our group Facebook page.

—>USE THIS MEETING RE-DIRECT LINK TO LAUNCH THE ZOOM MEETING!<—
http://tiny.cc/smarczoom

Visitors notice to be posted outside the entrance of your radio shack.

NOTICE

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION, LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.

No we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.

This is is strictly a hobby... we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios, or Wi-Fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.

Yes, the antenna in the back yard is essential to the operation of the equipment.

The cards on the wall are called QSL cads. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.

It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.

An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled, electronics expert. It takes dedication, training, and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

FURTHERMORE IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES.

Speak in a low and soothing tone.
Do not disagree with me in any manner.
Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING. TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC.

I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS