

# ARKANSAS DIAMOND



PRESIDENT Roger Alaback \_\_\_\_\_ KF5SDE

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER VOLUME NO. 37 DATE July14, 2022



Thursday Thursday Thursday Thursday

THE CLUB MEETING WILL BE AT

DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
100 WEST CHURCH ST.  
MORRILTON

Bring at least one can of food for their food pantry

Food by Pizza from somewhere

Remember the club meeting at 6pm on

*Thursday* the 14 th.

Jim will have the magic box (testing supplies) in case someone wants to test. He hopes to see a big turnout. This will be our third meeting of the year. Club dues paid now

due for 2022 only \$10 for one \$15 for family.

Have a great day.

Jim AF5EI

If you are coming or might come email Jim

AF5EI@AF5EI.COM

## Testing

The Testing date is when your ready and we can get VEs(Testers) together  
Email  
AF5EI.AF5EI.com

## Local Nets

**Morrilton Monday Night**  
**444.10 14.8 tone 7:00**

**Morrilton Repeaters**  
**146.685 pl 141.3**  
**443.800 pl 79.9**

**146.625 114.8 8:00**

**Tues Perry County**  
**447.150 100 8:00**

**Faulkner County Thur**  
**146.97 114.8 7:30**

**Thursday 8pm 146.510**  
**THE A D A R C 2m**  
**SIMPLEX NET.**  
**RELAYS ARE WELCOME**

## **From the desk of Roger Alabach KF5SDE**

Well the extreme hot weather killed our field day outing this year. Hopefully by this time next year we will work out a location with air conditioning. Safety is a number one concern. And so, what do we have to look forward to? As you may know I like working special event stations and collecting QSL cards. Its fun to bust through a pile-up and learn patience when I can't.

I found on the ARRL website 22 special events occurring the first 3 weeks of July. Also if you want a challenge and to test your equipment, the 13 Colonies special event will be July 1st through the 7th. I managed a clean sweep last year and hope to do it again. In the last month or so it seems like the bands are opening up. I am able to hear stations in countries that I have never heard before. Sometimes I can work them, sometimes the pile-up is too great. I am running only 100 watts.

Jim Taylor AF5EI and I were fortunate to attend a couple of hamfests this spring. The one near Tulsa was a big one. The other one we attended was in Spring-

**The Arkansas Diamond Radio Club  
(KE5FSY) of Morrilton News Letter**

**This bulletin is published 4 times a year for the promotion of HAM radio. Ham radio is for enjoyment and is the emergency back bone of communication for the communities. When all else fails we will be there, we have in the past and will be in the future.**

**Editors are KD5LBE    Stewart Nelson**

**All HAM related stories are welcome.**

field. Not so big but I was able to get an auto tuner for a very reasonable price.

I encourage each of you to spend some time on the air. I hope to have a play day as soon as they let us meet in the North Fire Station again. See you at the meeting on July 14th

### **Automatic Gain Control and Noise Reduction....KF5SDE**

So I am moving through the band and hear someone calling CQ. I answer and he answers back. We exchange signal reports and then start rag chewing. Another operator joins us and we are having quite the QSO. That evening like most others, however, the radio was quite noisy. I believe we refer to that as having a high level of QRN. Regardless, I am able to understand most of the conversation but hearing is somewhat difficult. I am thinking the settings of my "Icom 746 PRO" must not be correct so I refer to the manual. I find under the receiving section of the manual a setting called AGC which stands for Auto Gain Control. The manual says this "controls receiver gain to produce a constant audio output level even when the received signal strength is varied by fading, etc." I can set it to fast, mid, or slow. So what does that mean?

Fortunately there is the Internet and Google. So I found several YouTube videos on the subject and so I will summarize what I have learned. First of all AGC is just one of a few functions that will help you reduce background noise on your radio. I learned that one should set the AGC to fast when listening to weak signals. So for searching out those weak DX signals,



the fast setting is best. Why? Because and I quote, I am no radio engineer, "this stops the strong signals from desensitising the RX too much as you tune by them." In other words a strong signal off frequency can inhibit one's ability to hear the weak signal. The fast setting will enable one to hear that weaker signal. With a moderately strong SSB signal, like the one you would receive during a rag chew session, the slow AGC setting lowers the background noise between pauses in speech. With an extremely weak signal you may find it best to turn the AGC off and use the RF gain to enhance your signal to noise ratio. The best way to understand how this works is to practice.

## **From the ARRL web site New Testing procedures.....**

The FCC charges a fee to issue an initial license as well as for other FCC services. The FCC fee must be paid directly to the FCC not to an organization or exam team. View the fee filing guide and instructions on the FCC Application Fee webpage.

ARRL will cover the one-time \$35 FCC application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC pro-

gram. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates younger than 18-years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC VE team at the time of the exam. Visit the Youth Licensing Grant Program webpage for more information and for the reimbursement instructions.

### **FCC \$35 Amateur Application Fees Effective April 19, 2022**

The FCC released a Public Notice on March 23, 2022, stating that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application filings, are effective April 19, 2022. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress.

The \$35 application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.

Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams should not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. The FCC fee must be paid online directly to the FCC not to the

VE team or organization processing the application form. VEC and VE team licensing procedures are unchanged. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES Payer FRN System (easier to use) or the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login). CORES payment system information.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each qualifying candidate. The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or, in very rare instances, an explanation for why the application was dismissed or denied. The link will be valid for 30 days.

Candidates do not have to wait for the FCC email to pay the fee. They can look up their application in the FCC application search system using their FRN: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/ApplicationSearch/searchAppl.jsp>

If the candidate has a pending application, that means the VEC has submitted the application to the FCC, and the fee can be paid by logging into the CORES system.

Per usual procedures, examinees that pass multiple exams at one session, will have one application transmitted to the FCC reflecting the highest level license class earned. Again, our VEC procedures

have not changed. The new license candidates have an extra step before the license is issued. VE teams can point candidates to our FCC Application Fee webpage. Our new ARRL VEC CSCEs also include information about the application fee and points candidates to the webpage. The FCC rule pertaining to CSCEs will not change. CSCE credit will continue to be valid for 365 days, starting from the date of issuance.

Additionally, the FCC stated that the fee for applications processed and dismissed will not be refundable. This includes vanity requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. However, returned applications that are missing information will not require an additional fee, if the missing information is submitted to the FCC within the proper amount of time.

The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of getting one that is available.

# Important Message from ARRL VEC

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE FCC APPLICATION FEE AND VEC FILED APPLI- CATIONS

It's been three months since the FCC application fee was implemented on April 19, 2022.

Here's what we know so far...

### 1. MAKE SURE EXAMINEES UNDER- STAND THEY MUST PAY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Examinees do NOT have to wait for the email from the FCC to pay the fee. As soon as an the application file number is issued by the FCC, they can pay by logging into the CORES Payer FRN System (easier to use but only temporarily available) or the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login).

Application File Number search using an FRN: FCC Application File Number Search

CORES payment system background information and instructions: Information.

CORES step-by-step payment instructions: FCC Application Fee Instructions

2. The FCC help center stated there is a known issue with individuals paying the \$35 application fee via a smartphone or tablet. This is not a new issue and they haven't been able to help troubleshoot the issue at the support center. Encourage candidates to login and pay the FCC ap-

plication fee from a computer.

3. Examinees should NOT amend any applications that a VEC submits on their behalf, especially NEW license applications. Amending VEC filed applications will cause the application to be dismissed without action in the FCC system and potentially require the applicant to pay another \$35 fee. If there is a minor mistake on the application, either call us and we can correct and resubmit the application, or the individual can pay the fee, be issued the call sign, and then log back in and make corrections.

4. Individuals should review their application BEFORE paying the fee. If there is a major error on the application, such as the licensee's name or license class earned is incorrect, or the answer to the felony question is wrong, DO NOT PAY the fee. Call the VEC immediately

### **If you come to test...**

**A. Have proof of who you are and results from a previous test if you have tested before**

**B. Contact by computer the FCC and get an FRN number**

**C. Have an email address**



# QST QST QST



## From AF5EI

Well folks, as far as I know everyone survived the 4th of July Holiday, which is good news.

Our next club meeting is next Thursday the 14th. We will not have a guest speaker or program. This will be an eat, fellowship and club business meeting. I'm thinking pizza is on the menu, but I am open to other suggestions. If you have something to bring up at the meeting, bring it.

Don't forget Jeremy, N5JKL, donated a DX Engineering grounding and utility enclosure, with all the fixins, to the club. He would like it to go to a new HAM just starting out on HF. I will bring it to the meeting.

Two things, first we haven't seen any upgrades or new HAMs testing lately. We would like to hear from anyone that would like to test. Second, what would the group think about allowing new Techs after they have passed their test, using the Club Call sign KE5FSY with one of the VEs being present right then using an HT and the club repeater to make their first transmission and we give them a certificate of first transmission. The theory can be learned but getting on the air for the first time is a little harder.

Short Cuts you should know if you are going to do any serious contesting or just working in HAM radio.....

In the old days of code radio which was often ships a sea there developed a group of "Q" signals so that the meanings would not be misunderstood, and the transmission could be shortened. "Q" signals could be universally understood in any language. You wouldn't all have to speak the same language. Today we still use some of the same signals but "how long before you get to port is not important and the means have change a little, but if you are in HAM radio there are some things you need to call.

The universal distress call is **SOS, or MAYDAY, or in the old days QRR.** The following are some of the more common signals.

- QRL** is the frequency busy used before you start a transmission.
- QRM** other people transmitting on or near the sam frequency
- QRN** just a lot of background noise
- QRP** used to define people who are using low power around 3 to 10 watts
- QRZ** Someone want to call me
- QSL** Did you understand me??
- QSO** I talked to someone direct
- QST** Calling everybody
- QTH** What is your location
- CQ** I am looking for someone to talk with. CQ CQ CQ KD5LBE
- QSY** Change to another frequency

**Arkansas Diamond Club Members  
maybe**

**WE ARE WORKING ON THE  
MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**Roger Alabach KF5SDE  
Walter Barfield W5WRB  
Kelly Boswell KA5MGL  
Will Cody KG5MMH  
Billy Collins III K8BBC (6/22)  
George Cossey K5GOC  
Charles Drinkwater KG5AUV (6/22)  
Dave Huett WB5RUH  
Jeffery Johnson WB5QWN  
Timothy King K5BXM  
Matthew King KG5QNY  
Jeremy Landon N5JKL  
Robert Lanning K5ZZB  
John Lawrence KI5DBS (2023)  
D'Ann Lindstrom KI5APK  
Greg Lindstrom K5GSL  
Lynda Milligan KG5UFT  
Bill Mooney Jr, W5WMM  
Kathleen Moorman KI5QJS  
Michael Moorman KC5MM  
Richard Neal KF5IHY  
Stewart Nelson KD5LBE  
James Scott K5NWS (6/21)  
Adam Sullivan W2SUL  
Jim Taylor AF5EI  
Joe Taylor KF5DIH  
Jim Wiedower AC5RT  
Daniel Weatherly N5DD**

**George Carrol N5GC  
Clyde Armstrong SR KE5YPZ  
Rachel Beavers KF5MAD  
Steve Beavers KF5DIF  
Richard Cate KI5GUJ  
Sharon Clarkson KG5DAD Bruce  
Curtis W5ATC  
Don Dacus K5SEC  
Hugh Donnell KF5EST  
Joe Dube KF5ESP  
Eichenberger KF5IJA  
Clifford Evans KI5ITD Karolczak  
KF5UDD  
Carlos Lott KI5GWB  
Mike Martin KC5YWN  
Terry Martin K5TGZ  
Mc Dearmon KC5EIK  
Bobby Moses AC5RM  
George Peters KI5HOV  
James Ridling WB5RZR  
Jeffery Ridling KE5UAN  
Sean Rikard W5RKD  
Kirk Rose KF5ITM  
Eric Stricklin AG5EI  
Lenny Stroud KF5DIB  
Anita Tienken AA3AT  
ShellyTienken KF5SBG  
Charles Tudor N5EH  
Wayne Van De Pol N2WV  
Jimmy Wiedower KD5YZD  
Mike Karolczak KF5UDD  
Danial Weatherly N5DDW**

If you are missing OR CAN'T READ  
contact <AF5EI@AF5EI.COM>