

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

October 2017

MCM Electronics Announces

Merger with Newark element 14

(ARRL 09/21/2017) MCM Electronics, in business for 40 years, will close two plants and its corporate headquarters in Ohio and lay off more than 90 workers, the Dayton Daily News reported earlier this summer. The company, which carries an electronics inventory of more than 300,000 items, including 3-D printers, tools, wire, cable, and other items, has been a Dayton Hamvention® vendor.

The layoffs will begin at month's end and continue through the end of the year.

On its Facebook page, MCM has announced that it is partnering with Newark element 14, and that MCM products will become available via the Newark website, which is not yet available.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/mcm-electronics-shutters-two-plants-announces-merger-with-newark-element-14>

<http://www.mcmelectronics.com/>



FCC's Updated Rules Governing Personal Radio Services Become Effective on September 28

(ARRL 9/1/2017) The FCC recently adopted a comprehensive reorganization of and update to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). These include a wide variety of wireless devices used by the general public for personal communication, including hand-held Family Radio Service (FRS) transceivers, radio-controlled models, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices, and others.

In addition to the updated rule changes, the FCC enhanced the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) to allow new digital applications, allot additional interstitial channels, and extend license terms from 5 to 10 years. It also allotted additional channels to the FRS and increased allowable power on certain FRS channels from 0.5 W to 2 W. It also updated the Citizens Radio Service (CB) rules to allow hands-free headsets, eliminate a restriction on DX communication, and remove other outdated requirements.

"These changes and others will update PRS rules to be more in line with current public demands for the services and will make the rules easier to read and find information, while also removing outdated requirements and removing unnecessary rules," the FCC said.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-s-updated-rules-governing-personal-radio-services-become-effective-on-september-28>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/08/29/2017-17395/personal-radio-service-reform>

Rockwell Collins to be Sold to United Technologies

(ARRL 09/19/2017) United Technologies has announced plans to acquire avionics maker Rockwell Collins in a \$30-billion deal set to be consummated in 2018. United Technologies said it wants to further enhance its role in aviation for both its military and commercial customers in the area of new aircraft connectivity systems.

Collins Radio and later Rockwell Collins for many years manufactured top-tier Amateur Radio equipment. Art Collins, W0CXX, founded Collins Radio Company in 1933. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based firm initially built shortwave and AM broadcasting gear as well as the military and scientific communities, and Collins provided the radio equipment to keep in touch with Admiral Richard Byrd's South Pole Expedition in 1933.

During World War II, Collins became the principal supplier of military radio and navigation equipment, and Collins later produced Amateur Radio equipment and provided communication gear for early NASA missions.

Collins Radio Company was purchased by Rockwell International in 1973. In 2001, the avionics division of Rockwell International was spun off to form Rockwell Collins. In its Amateur Radio heyday, the Collins S-Line was considered the king of the hill. Vintage Collins gear remains popular, and Collins mechanical filters are still widely used.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/rockwell-collins-to-be-sold-to-united-technologies>

Meeting Calendar

8am, September 30, 2017

8am, October 28, 2017

8am, November 24, 2017

at Mom's Café

**2017
PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- AGØL.....Steve Loyd [E]
- AIØN.....Chuck Engberg* [E]
- K3CRFDave Smith [E]
- K5LBS.....Jerry Gault [E]
- KA0IJY Keith Keene [E]
- KBØFSIPat McCollum [T]
- KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
- KBØZZT..... George Bellairs [T]
- KCØDTK..... Joan Bellairs [T]
- KCØHYD.....John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
- KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
- KDØBxB Kim Allen [T]
- KEØXQ..... Bill McCollum [E]
- KGØKR Beth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPYKevin Faris [E]
- N5SEZ Ray McNally[E]
- NØLZHJohn Harrington[T]
- WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien [G]
- WØZYDave McLaughlin[E]
- WØZYD Debbie McLaughlin[G]

**Charter Members #New Ham*

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**

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Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site

www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (W0DBW)

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**MINUTES of
the
MEETING**

The August 26, 2017 meeting was held at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth. The meeting was called to order at 0825 by President Roger Behrns

Those in attendance were Roger (KB0OGO), Kevin (KI0PY), Ray (N5SEZ), John (KC0HYD), Shirley (KC0HYE), Steve (AG0L), Dave (W0ZY), Derek (W0DBW), Dudley (KD0NMD) Kim (KD0BxB), Bill (W3DCQ), Keith (KA0IJY), John (WR5I), and Dave (K3CRF).

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved on a motion by John and second by Kevin.

The treasurer reported a \$50 donation to Murray which leaves \$260 in the repeater fund and \$722.85 in the general fund for a balance of \$982.85. The report was approved on a motion by Steve and second by Keith.

Fred is in Kansas working the Kansas QSO party as a rover.

Roger reported that an Electronics Collection would be in Manley on August 26 and again in Louisville on November 4. The old electronics are being handled by Cross Electronic recycling at no charge except for TVs, CRT monitors and Microwave ovens. Material can be dropped off at their site on north 72nd between collections.

Dudley reported that JOTA will be the 3rd weekend in October and gave an update on participation and activities.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Steve and second by Dave at 0835.



PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City		State	Zip
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer. 		Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General		Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?					

Arecibo Observatory Dish Sustained Serious Damage from Maria

(ARRL 09/23/2017) Articles on the National Geographic and Space.com websites report that scientists and Amateur Radio operators have confirmed that Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory came through Hurricane Maria largely intact but "with some significant damage." Universities Space Research Association (USRA), which helps to operate the Observatory, said it learned via "short wave radio contact" that staff and family members sheltering at Arecibo are safe.

"The major structures, including the 300-meter telescope, are intact, though suffered some damage when the atmospheric radar line feed broke off, and falling debris from it punctured the dish in several places," USRA reported on its website. "Also, a separate 12-meter dish used as a phase reference for Very Long Baseline Interferometry was lost."

Observatory officials are still assessing the damage, but Jim Breakall, WA3FET, of Penn State, told ARRL that the 96-foot line feed antenna at 430 MHz is "historically the key piece to the observatory." It's also the antenna that he and others have used for Amateur Radio moonbounce activities from Arecibo. The Observatory is home to KP4AO.

"To hear that this 10,000-pound key piece to the Observatory fell and hit the 1,000-foot dish is just a huge shock," Breakall said Saturday. "This antenna was connected to the 2.5 million W 430-MHz radar transmitter that was a key to ionospheric experiments. It is a great loss for sure."

Angel Vazquez, WP3R — the Observatory's telescope operations manager — was among the only radio amateurs able to pass along any information; among those he contacted was Princeton University professor and Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT. Vazquez is using a generator that, Breakall told ARRL, was not working very well. "Many others have heard about all of this and have come to help relay messages to loved ones and friends to let people know they are okay," Breakall added.

Breakall said he's less concerned to learn that his own Amateur Radio contest station, built on a hill on his 12-acre farm not far from the Observatory, was destroyed by Hurricane Maria. "Angel said it is totally destroyed," he said. "While this is sad for me and others, my concern is with the safety and health of many friends and the people of Puerto Rico in General. This is my second home, and many of the people there I



The vertical "boom" pointing down into the dish is the 96 foot long antenna that fell.

treat as my brothers and sisters."

USRA has reported that the access road to the Observatory is covered with debris and impassable.

The National Geographic article said that the Arecibo's staff had begun to prepare the day before Maria arrived on September 20, but power went down and, not long afterward, telephone service. Power is reported to be out across much of Puerto Rico.

Amateur Radio may still be the only reliable communication link with the Commonwealth. "It was reported that Amateur Radio seemed to be the only communications that were operational and that was somewhat limited, as many 2 meter repeater systems were still not operational," Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) National Liaison Bill Feist, WB8BZH, said in a SATERN update today. "There is no operational public water system, and many local roads are impassable although some major roads have been cleared."

Breakall told ARRL that he's worried about what might happen in the weeks and months ahead. "I just hope that desperation does not set in, and things get out of hand there," he said. "It is going to be very tough."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-reports-arecibo-observatory-dish-sustained-serious-damage-from-maria>

FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur Radio Use

(ARRL 9/26/2017) The Air Force Academy satellite FalconSAT-3 is now open for Amateur Radio use as a digital store-and-forward system. Built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, FalconSAT-3 was launched in 2007.

The satellite has completed its scientific and training missions, and the Academy now is making it available for Amateur Radio use. The Packet Bulletin Board System operates at 9,600 baud with a 145.840 MHz uplink/435.103 MHz downlink. Output power is 1 W, and the downlink is continuously on. Digipeating is enabled for live QSOs, but unattended digipeating operation is not authorized at this time.

Additional information is on the AMSAT website.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/falconsat-3-now-open-for-amateur-radio-use>
<https://www.amsat.org/falconsat-3/>

