

PostScript



July 24th Edition

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Revised FCC Form 605 Will Ask Applicants “the Felony Question”

(from ARRL Bulletins)

A revised FCC Form 605 — *Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services* — going into effect in September will ask all applicants to indicate if they have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony. The Communications Act obliges the Commission to ask “the felony question,” as it did on the old Form 610 and still does on other applications. This action will correct its omission on Form 605, which has existed for years. Applicants’ responses and explanations will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee. The FCC told ARRL that it’s still deciding whether to issue a public notice on the change.

“The Commission is revising the basic qualifications section of the form to include a question regarding whether an application has been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court,” the Office of the FCC Secretary explained in a May filing with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which must okay the revision. “Applicants answering YES must provide an explanation regarding the conviction. This item enables the FCC to determine whether an applicant is eligible under sections 310(d) and 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to hold or have ownership interest in a station license.”

The revision also will apply to NCVEC Form 605 — the *unofficial* Amateur Radio-specific version of the application that is completed and filed at volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC) examination sessions. VECs will have to start using the revised form on September 7. Responding to VECs’ questions, the FCC offered some guidance, with a particular focus on NCVEC Form 605.

ARRL VEC Manager and NCVEC Vice-Chair Maria Somma, AB1FM, thanked the FCC for honoring a request to amend the effective date of the change, initially in early August. “At the urging of the NCVEC leadership, the FCC took into consideration the undertaking to change and distribute all affected forms and update software and agreed to push back the execution date by 1 month,” she said. The NCVEC will create a revised NCVEC Form 605 and release it to VE teams before September 7.

Once the Form 605 update has been implemented, assuming all other information is correct, negative felony question responses will result in a license grant, the FCC said. A YES will place the application in the “pending file for review” category. Applicants answering YES would have to, within 14 days, provide the FCC with a statement explaining the circumstances, and a statement “giving the reasons why the applicant believes that grant of the application would be in the public interest, notwithstanding the actual or alleged misconduct,” the revised Form 605 instructions state. The FCC said an applicant’s answer to the felony question and explanation will be public via ULS, unless a separate request is made to the FCC that the applicant’s explanation be kept confidential. The FCC will review applications on which the felony question has been answered in the affirmative and decide whether to grant them or designate them for hearing.

“The applicant must provide sufficient information for the FCC to determine whether there exists any material and substantial question of fact regarding whether the applicant has the character qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC said. There is no set checklist of items, but useful information would include such information as details regarding the conduct that resulted in the conviction or guilty plea, including time

and place; the date of the conviction or guilty plea; the penalty imposed and whether it has been satisfied, and “any efforts taken to remedy the wrongs committed and ensure that the applicant will not engage in such conduct in the future,” the FCC said.

The FCC said the only additional information that VECs will have to collect is the response to the felony question; any explanatory exhibits and confidentiality petitions will go directly to the FCC, and VECs will have no information as to the status of such applications.

The FCC said the felony question must be answered every time — even if previously answered — for New, Modification, Renewal/Modification, and Amendment applications. “Assuming that nothing has changed, the attachment to the subsequent applications can simply reference the file number of the application where the complete explanation was given, rather than having to set forth the complete explanation each time,” the FCC memo said. “Clubs are not exempt from the felony question. The question applies to the club as an entity and to the trustee, but not to any other individual officers.”

Individuals convicted of a felony and later pardoned or whose record has been sealed should answer YES, and include information regarding the pardon, “as that will be relevant to whether the conviction still presents any material and substantial question of fact regarding whether the applicant has the character qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC told VECs. “An overturned conviction need not be disclosed — but a conviction still on appeal must be disclosed.”

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DMR Repeater Range Comparisons

(from: Gregory Drezdson, [WD9FTZ](#))

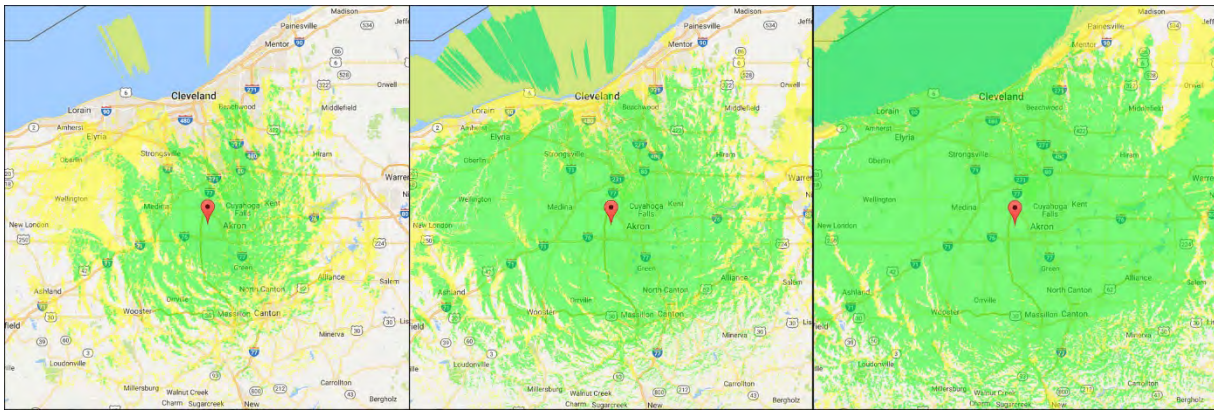
How much of a range difference is there between a Digital Mobile Radio handheld, mobile and base station when using a repeater? This writer simulated the variations of each by plotting charts for each scenario.

The repeater chosen was the Copley Township DMR repeater (444.5125 MHz), west of Akron, with an antenna height of about 500 feet AGL.

Methodology -- First is a handheld unit using a stock antenna followed by a mobile station with an 2.5 dBi antenna about 5 feet above the ground. Lastly was a base station utilizing a 9 dBi antenna, 30 feet above ground level.

Power output is about 5 watts for a handheld, and 25 watts for a mobile and base station.

The following charts depict interesting results – green is 1.55 microvolts, and yellow is 0.5 microvolts:



Copley TWP DMR repeater range and coverage model using a handheld radio, left, a mobile radio, center, and base station, right.

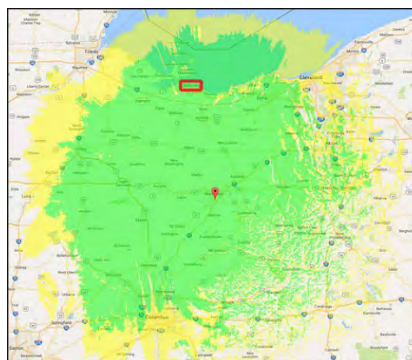
A handheld produced a sufficient power to cover about 2,915 square miles, followed by a mobile radio covering 6,387 square miles. Mobile coverage more than doubles the range versus a handheld radio, plus affords a more consistent signal in congested and outlying areas.

The winner, being no surprise, was the base station being able to cover more than three times more area or 9,838 square miles compared to the handheld radio. A base station increased range 54 percent over that of a mobile unit.

Real world example--

During the Ohio Statewide Net (talkgroup 3139) Wednesday evening, July 5, 2017, a station in Sandusky called in and said he was having difficulty accessing DMR repeaters.

The operator chose the Mansfield DMR repeater, about 51NM to the south-southeast, because Mansfield was the one he could access. This paradigm shows that a base station can make a difference when attempting to communicate.



Sandusky, highlighted with a red box, and Mansfield in the center depicts the potential base station coverage area.

With the cost of a DMR handheld ranging from \$80 to \$100, many of those who get interested in DMR choose to acquire a handheld. However, handhelds have a tradeoff as shown in the above-simulated charts and operators should be aware of range and coverage limitations.

Gregory Drezdzon is a news photographer. He has worked as team photographer for the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Indians, and for almost a decade as staff photographer for the Wichita Eagle (Kansas). Drezdzon also holds B.Sc. in Journalism, and is a FAA Commercial Pilot and Certificated Flight Instructor-Instrument.

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USA ARDF Championships

From: [Joe Moell K0OV](#), ARRL ARDF Coordinator



The Seventeenth annual USA championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding will take place July 31 - August 6, 2017, in combination with the Ninth ARDF Championships of IARU Region 2. This year, the championship events will be at sites near Harrison, Ohio. Competitors from all over the USA will set out on multiple-transmitter courses on 80 meters and two meters. Visiting competitors from elsewhere in the world, including a group of about four dozen middle- and high-school students from China, are expected to be present. Results of these championships will determine the makeup of ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Korea in 2018 for the 19th ARDF World Championships.

Section and division ARRL leaders are encouraged to attend ARDF championship events in their jurisdictions, and it is customary for one or more League officials to help in the presentation of medals at the awards banquet on Saturday evening. As your ARRL national ARDF Coordinator, I would like to invite you to attend these championships and the banquet if possible. (I'll buy your dinner!) More information about these championships is at www.homingin.com/farsnews and at www.ardfusa.com. Information about the international sport of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (also called foxtailing and radio-orienteeing) is at www.homingin.com/intlfox.

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My Final..

WOW... I survived a motorcycle crash this past week! I'm really banged up, but I'm alive, walking and talking!! Now I know firsthand what asphalt feels like at 45mph!! I'm lucky to be alive!! Trust me on this, it's not something that I would wish on my worst enemy. It will take some time to heal, so I will be cutting back on my visits for a short time while I heal. I'm still able to talk to you via email or phone, so if you have questions, or just want to talk, please feel free!





Have you registered for the “Handbook Giveaway” drawing for this month yet? If you haven’t, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered. You never know, you just may be the next winner! Just look for the Big Red Arrow on the left side of the main page..

Hey Gang, there’s another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! This question is really important for me to know. It will only take about 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven’t done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. And, if you have a question that you’d like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me! I have had several of you already do that and I would love to see more!!



Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I’ll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: n8sy@n8sy.com

73,

Scott, N8SY..

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