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NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# The Feedline

# FIELD DAY!



### Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
Weaver's Words	4
Field Day Photos	5-7
Field Day Wrap-Up	8
FCC NPRM	9
Being a Better Operator	10

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 8—Paddlefest
- July 10—Membership meeting
- August 14—Membership meeting
- September 11—Membership meeting
- October 9—Membership meeting
- November 13—Membership meeting
- December ? - Dinner Get Together

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147.255+ 444.350+ Edgewood, 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255+

—WEB Site—

WWW.K4CO.ORG

**Membership meetings on the 2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd  
in Edgewood

**Board meetings: TBA**

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# Top of the Tower

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Hello - to use the current ARRL slogan. Field Day has past and Paddlefest is on our doorstep. Hopefully the weather will be as nice as Field Day.

A big THANK YOU and JOB WELL DONE to our club's Field Day committee. Joe KI4QG, Mark AI4BJ, Dann KI4AVO and Rick WA4QMV put together a club event in which all our members can be proud. Of course the food was plentiful and varied with the coals always hot waiting for the next burger, dog or wing. There was plenty to drink to keep refreshed during the hot days.

Most importantly, radios were available for everyone to operate as much as they desired. The unselfish nature of your field day committee is to be commended. They put out radios and offered them to all who wanted to talk. It was as good as going to the Dayton Hamvention if you had something you wanted to experiment with or try out. Your field day committee used solar power, QRP, CW(3 stations available if you wanted), HF, VHF/UHF, satellite. If you had an antenna you wanted to try, you were welcomed to show it off. Fred KE4ESN brought out his homemade vertical. Rick WA4QMV hung his first dipole. Jonathan KI4NEE and Tracy KI4NRF tracked satellites with

their Arrow dual banders. Of course, Joe KI4QG, brought his homemade copperweld wire that took four men about four hours to hang in the trees. The last I checked Joe has about 6 pages of contacts. Sometimes he had 4-5 contacts in a minute. Dann KI4AVO had a Vietnam era radio. Dennis KG4SBG had a 6 meter in the bed of his pickup truck that looked like we were working EME. Mark AI4BJ not only used solar power, but opened his radio to show how it converts the solar energy into power for radio operation or for battery charging.

Another important aspect were the relationships that were made stronger. Your committee put out the welcome mat and invited you to their gathering. Thank you for coming to your club event. We were able to see sides to each other that we can not begin to see during our brief club meetings. Of course you all said hi to me, but more importantly you said hi to everyone that was there. We know each other a little better. Thank you all for sharing your selves with me and with each other. Lets build on the moment.

Our next club meeting is July 10th. See you there.

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***The Field Day photos in this issue were submitted by:***

***Mark Volstad, AI4BJ and  
Robert, N4IJS and Toni, KI4NRG Kluck***

***Thank You!***

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**The June Meeting Minutes and Net Report were not received by the publishing deadline.**

**They will return next month.**

# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**

**ARRL Great Lakes Division Director**

Quite a bit has happened since my last issue of Weaver's Words so here is another one to bring you up-to-date.

## **WE WON A BIG ONE IN THE HOUSE**

The US House of Representatives, this is. On June 8, the US House overwhelmingly passed HR 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. Otherwise known as the rewrite of the US Communications Act, HR 5252 now goes to a conference committee where it will be reconciled with what will likely be a substantially different Senate rewrite of the Act. The Senate bill is still being hammered out.

The beauty of HR 5252 is that it contains a requirement the FCC review its BPL rules within 60 days and report back to the House. The Commission would be required to assure the House that BPL systems would not cause interference to FCC-licensed operators whose frequencies are also used by Part 15 (including BPL) devices.

The BPL-review wording in this bill was added and passed thanks to a combination of the fine work of ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, the rest of the Legislative Action management team and Arkansas Representative Mike Ross, WD5DVR who introduced the BPL control amendment . . . and ARRL members who wrote and otherwise contacted the US House members from their Districts, urging their support of an adequate BPL control clause in the bill.

With the battle in the US House won, the ARRL Legislative Action effort concerning BPL legislation has turned to the US Senate. We are working to get wording similar to that in the House bill included in the developing Senate bill. ARRL members who's Senators sit in key positions regarding the Senate legislation have been asked to contact these senators. This grassroots effort can be expected to spread to the entire Senate as progress occurs on the upper house's rewrite of the Communications Act. Keep your computers and pens warmed up; ready to write to your Senators when you are asked to do this.

The effort aimed at fighting flawed BPL systems the past several years has been worth the effort. Skeptics among us feel otherwise. This is their privilege. The facts, though, show they are wrong.



First of all, indiscriminate development of flawed BPL systems countrywide has been delayed substantially thanks to ARRL. There can be no doubt that the League and you members who enlisted in the grassroots program caused this delay. There has been no one else leading the fight.

Secondly, as an obvious result of the strong fight against interference-causing BPL systems, several planned and even existing BPL trials were dropped. Newer systems that have been brought online and that are planned seem to involve BPL systems that are not problematic. We'll need to see about this, of course.

Finally, provided we continue our success on the legislative front and achieve a strong BPL position in the Senate rewrite of the Communications Act, the threat of rampant interference from BPL should be gone forever. The ARRL goal of getting resounding support from the FCC to keep interference from Part 15 devices will have paid off.

We will still need your help, so please be ready.

## **MANASSAS VIRGINIA**

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has finally been allowed to chime in on the horrendously noisy BPL system run by Manassas, VA. The Commission wrote to operators of this system saying they need to come into compliance with the provisions of Part 15 of the FCC rules. This means the system must discontinue interfering with Amateur Radio signals soon or it may be shut down, summarily. The enforcement letters also mean the ARRL has won a big one with the FCC.

The city's own data show the system is operating well beyond required limits.

The final lesson to be learned from the enforcement action is that the FCC Enforcement folks will not tolerate interference to licensed services by poorly designed and poorly-executed BPL systems. This is something would-be operators of BPL systems will need to consider before they pony up the money needed to develop a system.

## **BOARD MEETING**

As I've done in the past, I'm letting you know the ARRL Board of Directors meeting will be July 21 and 22 in Newington, CT. I'll leave on July 19 to participate in the quarterly Administration & Finance Committee meeting on the 20th. If there is anything you'd like me to check on at these meetings, let me know.

**Please see "WEAVER", page 11**







# Field Day Wrap-Up

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**Joe Stern, KI4QG**

Field Day is about being prepared to operate under adverse conditions no matter what curveballs are thrown our way, and having some fun in the process. We were ready with more than we needed - extra heavy power cords, wire, coax, rope, insulators, food, water - all in abundance. We even had two generators.

We also had one big curveball. We had requested shelterhouse #1 which is in the front of the park next to some well spaced mature trees. I did not notice that our permit from the parks department was for shelterhouse #3, which is about 100 yards away from any large trees. We discovered the discrepancy in a discussion with the park groundskeeper when we were halfway set up. After calling his supervisor, he told us we could use #1 only until 7am Sunday morning and then we would have to move to #3.

At that point we already had two verticals and one wire antenna on a push-up mast set up and most of our equipment on the tables at shelterhouse #1. My delta loop antenna, which needs tall trees and considerable time to set up, and take down, was not yet up. Since several of our people were only going to be there Saturday and did not want to move, we split into both locations. With permission from the Parks Department, we carried a table from shelterhouse #3 100 yards to a shady spot amongst the tall trees and put one generator there.

Everyone helped me put my loop up in the trees. Since we had lost so much time in the move, I did not put up my 80M dipole. I operated there, being

joined by Tim, AG4XM, who could not stay long and did not want to operate. Convincing him to take the mike was about as hard as pulling a kid INTO a candy store. Everyone else stayed at shelterhouse #1.

Dave, KI4QH, who has been antenna challenged and off of HF for several years, took charge of the GOTA station and had a blast working CW. He says it was the most fun he has had in a long time.

Dennis, KG4SBG, operated 6 meters with the help of lots of sporadic E, which also kept 20M open all night. Propagation and weather were both excellent. I worked a German contest station with a special DR2006 prefix. But for me, the high point came at dawn Sunday morning when I got on 40M and made three contacts in one minute and then one in each of the next two minutes.

Dan, KI4AVO, kept us well fed with hot dogs, hamburgers, and beans. Mark, AI4BJ made us a pancake breakfast.

In order to let more people operate Saturday, we operated class 3A, even though few people wanted to keep operating in the wee hours of the night, and a shortage of operators on Sunday.

At one point I leaned back to relax. Starring up at the trees, I realized that one of the branches overhead was not part of the tree. It was poison ivy. That must have been to make up for the lack of mosquitoes.

I love Field Day.

**Have you volunteered for *Paddlefest*?**

**Contact Lynn, WD8JAW at:**

**[wd8jaw@arrrl.net](mailto:wd8jaw@arrrl.net)**



# FCC TO SEEK COMMENTS ON KATRINA PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

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The FCC will invite public comments in response to recommendations presented this month by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf)> in EB Docket 06-119, released this week, contains wide-ranging proposals and considerations that could involve FCC rule or administrative changes, a few of which deal with the Amateur Service.

"The devastation of Hurricane Katrina highlighted the importance of telecommunications and media to our daily lives, and our dependency on our national communications infrastructure," remarked FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin. "With this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we are asking for comments and suggestions from the public on how to best address and implement the Independent Panel's recommendations."

The Independent Panel's report points out that Amateur Radio stations were among those segments of the communications infrastructure adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"Equipment was damaged or lost due to the storm, and trained amateurs were difficult to find in the immediate aftermath," the report said. "However, once called into help, Amateur Radio operators volunteered to support many agencies, such as FEMA, the National Weather Service, Hurricane Watch [Net] and the American Red Cross."

The Independent Panel report said Amateur Radio volunteers provided communication in many locations where no other means of communicating existed. Hams also provided other technical aid to communities affected by Hurricane Katrina, the report added. The panel recommended adopting "a proactive (rather than reactive) program for network reliability and resiliency."

ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, addressed the Independent Panel on March 7 to note that Amateur Radio volunteers "were part of the solution" in supplementing normal emergency communication systems taken out by the storm. For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations.

In its NPRM, the FCC asked if should explore amending its rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas. "As a condition of the waiver or STA, the FCC could require verbal or written notification to the Commission staff contemporaneously with activation or promptly after the fact," the NPRM suggested. Following last year's devastating hurricanes, the FCC issued a handful of STAs to permit licensees lacking HF privileges to operate on HF for emergency purposes. The NPRM offered these specific areas for consideration.

\* Waiver of Amateur Radio and license-exempt rules, permitting transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs.

\* Waiver of application filing deadlines, something the FCC did last fall for amateurs who lived in hurricane-stricken states.

\* Streamlined STA process, so parties in the affected area may simply notify the FCC in writing or orally of a need to operate in order to restore service.

Comments will be due 30 days from the date the NPRM is published in the Federal Register and may be filed via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

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## Field Day Participants

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Thanks to the following people who helped make Field Day a success:

Charles Samuel, WA4AAI  
Rick Fox, WA4QMV  
Tony White, AI4IP  
Fred Eastabrookes, KE4ESN  
Robert Kluck, N4IJS  
Toni Kluck, KI4NRG  
Dann Fox, KI4AVO

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ  
Dave Schmidt, KI4QH  
Lynn Benjamin, WA4VAP  
Jon Jennings, KI4NEE  
Tracy Jennings, KI4NRF  
Joe Stern, KI4QG  
Tim Anderson, AG4XM

And any others who may not have signed in.

# Being A Better Operator

**John Meyers, NB4K**  
**KY Section Manager**

Am I being the best operator that I can be? Would I want others to operate the same way I do? Would I like it if they did? What do I need to change? These are some very important questions we all should be asking ourselves. How do you rate yourself?

Being a better operator probably would include some soul searching on our behalf. Let's start with our attitude towards the hobby and how it might affect others. Do we constantly complain about our hobby? Then maybe we need to look a little further into it and see if we're happy with where we are as an amateur. Being unhappy with where we are is sometimes a problem that is easily corrected by just upgrading or changing our area of proficiency. Like maybe becoming a net control for a RACES/ARES net or even the local traffic net. On the other hand, if you're already doing that and you're unhappy then maybe you might want to look into being an Elmer or just becoming a VE. What ever you opt for you need to be happy in doing it or you'll not only be not helping those you chose to help but won't be helping yourself as you'll still be unhappy. An unhappy attitude is a deterrent to others.

I'm sure if you see others acting this way you probably have many ideas as to what they should be doing with their life. Let's not point the proverbial finger until we make sure we're doing the best we possibly can. We may be strong to labor, but there should be no complaining in our streets. When our friends or their brethren come to us to complain, we should say to them, be helpful for our sakes, as a

peaceful heart is what leads us to a healthy attitude. How we come to that depends on what we put into the hobby is what we can expect out of the same. I sure you like the happier times of life as do you fellow hams and getting there takes some work for most of us.



Being a better operator might mean pausing before replying to a fellow ham so that someone else would have a chance to break in. There is a courteous beep on most repeaters not only to reset the timer but to offer us a chance to let other stations break in. On HF the way I've found best is to say your call to yourself after the person that is talking finishes before you start talking and most of the time that is sufficient for most conversation round tables. Now I know that there are frequencies that doubling and tripling are an everyday occurrence, but we need to pause in case of an emergency or needed use of the frequency. I'm sure there are other pet peeves that you've come across that needs changing, try suggesting it to the individual but use brotherly love to do it. Remember that we're all human and need understanding and TLC.

Think about what you would need to change, if anything, in order to help those just coming into the hobby. Try being a spark that enlightens the heart of a new ham, invite them in to your group or home and make welcome to the upcoming fraternity. You might just be the one who helps change a bad situation into something productive. There has been so much change in the Kentucky Section that it makes my job as Section Manger very interesting and enjoyable. Keep up the good work and camaraderie, as you are your brothers' keeper.

*The Feedline is looking for:*

- 1. Photos from Paddlefest 2006 for the August edition.*
- 2. Articles (how-tos, opinions, stories, ideas) and photos for future editions*

*Email to [w4sou@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4sou@bellsouth.net)*

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## WEAVER (from page 4)

### YOU ASKED: WHY AN ARRL VISA CARD?

Sometimes I love to answer questions with a question, so my answer is "Why not?"

Actually there are two very simple reasons to have the ARRL Visa card. First, the Card publicizes Amateur Radio and to a lesser extent, ARRL. Second, by using this card, members provide additional financial support to ARRL.

The publicity aspect is easy to understand so I won't go into it. What about the added financial support?

For every dollar charged on the card, ARRL gets a small reward. It isn't much, but with hundreds of members using the card, the extra dollars add up to a worthwhile total. In addition, each card issued brings a one-time reward to ARRL - sort of a finder's fee if you will. When one considers that no one is forced to get one of these cards and no one is forced to use one, this is one of the win-win situations I've talked about before.

The bottom line to this is that if any of us wants to use a credit card and if there are no particular disadvantages to the ARRL Visa Card over other cards, we may as well use the ARRL card. Using it brings rebates to the user and a slight income to the League. Might as well use it as most any other card . . . provided you are going to use a card of any sort.

### NOT A PROPHET AFTER ALL

A number of you caught my spelling error in the discussion of profit from the sales of books and the like. Somehow or other, I turned the word profit into the word prophet the second time I used it in the item. Don't know how this happened, but it did. A couple of you were kind enough to assume I was trying to be clever, but this wasn't it. I just goofed!

A couple of you asked how it could be that ARRL, a CFR 501.c.3 not-for-profit organization by IRS standards, is allowed to make a profit. For you who haven't been involved in non-profit groups, there is no prohibition against these groups making money. The issue is relatively how much they make and how they use it. If you doubt this, consider the amount of money the Heart Association or any other major non-profit, charitable organizations have brought in each year. One purpose of a non-profit usually is to make money to help finance the operation it supports.

## A PAIN IN THE BACK

First off, I'm healthy and alive in Mason, Ohio. As is true of most people who've gotten past 39 years old, I'm having a bit of a problem, though. I may need back surgery to correct a spinal issue. I've had this procedure previously, and it went very well. There is one additional area in the lower back that requires attention. The problem occasionally gets in the way of my traveling as much as I'd like and had done previously. I hope any additional surgery is over and the back problem is resolved by the end of this summer. In the meantime, I'm cutting back a little on longer distance auto trips. I'm still getting around and I'll still make the Board meetings.

I've scheduled a trip and haven't advised you it has needs to be cancelled, it is still on my calendar.

## NEW DX COUNTRY CRITERIA

If you missed the recent announcement, the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) and the DX Desk at HQ combined forces to develop a new rule governing the acceptability of territories as new countries. For details, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/06/14/100/?nc=1>. The new rule replaces the one that was dropped by the Board of Directors several months ago.

Also related to DX, Montenegro recently voted to become a separate country. It will automatically become a new DX entity upon receiving a radio prefix from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) or acceptance into the UN - whichever occurs first. To qualify for credit with Montenegro, QSOs must occur after one these options has occurred, not before.

On a similar theme, during the recent processing period, the Awards group at HQ processed 8 applications for Worked All States (WAS). Six of these were submitted via the Logbook of the World (LoTW). Look for LoTW to be able to support other ARRL and non-ARRL awards in the near future. For us who QSL to a large extent to receive credit for awards, the use of LoTW will save considerable money. . . and time. For those of us who occasionally want to receive hard copy QSLs as souvenirs of special QSOs, we can still exchange these, but at the higher cost incurred with them. Incidentally, the instructions for using LoTW are being rewritten to simplify them still further.



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