



# The Feedline

## It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23

### ARLB005

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class appli-

cants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at, <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 12—Membership Meeting
- March 12 - Membership Meeting
- April 9 - Membership Meeting
- May 13—Membership Meeting
- May 18-20 - Dayton Hamvention

# NKARC Directory

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513-961-0452

## Treasurer

Dann Fox, KI4AVO  
dfox03@fuse.net

## Repeaters — K4CO

147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

## Nets

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

## —WEB Site—

[www.k4co.org](http://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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of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

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reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

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Mark Volstad AI4BJ: 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 — Email: [mvolstad@fuse.net](mailto:mvolstad@fuse.net)

# Top of the Tower

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Hi members: January has come and gone as quick as the recent "Alberta Clipper" Your club is busy, with much more to take care of by you, our members. You're reading this Feedline with a new editor at the helm. Mark Volstad, AI4BJ has stepped up to fill the shoes of Brian Clark, W4SOU. Brian has taken over as vice chairman of our sister organization KY7ARET. We wish Brian success.

Hopefully you've checked out our new website. The presenter of our January program on Echolink, Robert Kluck, N4IJS built our new website. If you would like something added or have any comments regarding the website there is a comments section. Robert will be presenting a follow-up to the Echolink presentation at our February meeting on February 12. His program on reverse linking promises to be informative.

Tim Anderson AG4XM, took the bull by the horns and reserved a field day location for our club. We had a great field day team last year. Would you like to work on the field day committee this year?

Dennis Leach, KG4SBG continues to work as our Net Manager.

Why am I pointing out individuals? Not to give them praise, but to show that we as a club have a strong group of folks who continue to do what it takes to keep our club going. I want to thank each of them, along with those not mentioned, and encourage you to consider helping out where needed. This is my last point - can you help where needed? Our club needs to hold elections. To hold elections we have to have individuals who want to preside over and run our organization. It is not rocket science, but it takes up some of your free time. Consider being a club officer and taking our club into the future of Amateur Radio.

See you Monday the 12th,  
73, Tony AI4IP

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## January Meeting Minutes

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Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 p.m. by Tony White who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Tony gave us an update on Wally Treller's condition.

Self introductions.

Tony announced that the 147.255 and the 440 repeaters now have a PL tone of 123.0.

Tony reported that the nominating committee would have a slate of officers for the next meeting.

In the discussion of the by law changes, it was noted the titles for President and Vice President will not change.

Joe Stern had several concerns about the proposed changes.

[Club Secretary Bob Burns, AB4BK, had to leave meeting early, so remainder of meeting minutes are missing]

Robert Kluck, N4IJS, presented an interesting program on the club's efforts to make the 147.255 repeater an Echolink node.

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## January Net Report

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DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
1/02/07	KI4QG	7	18	0
1/09/07	KB4VKS	9	31	1
1/16/07	KI4QG	6	17	0
1/23/07	KG4SBG	8	20	0
1/30/07	KI4QG	10	21	0
TOTALS		40	107	1

# Editor's Soapbox

As I begin my new duties as Feedline editor, it is only fitting that I thank my predecessor, Brian Clark W4SOU, for the excellent job he did in putting out a quality newsletter on a timely basis for more than a year. In passing the torch to me, he has provided me with much useful advice, making the transition much easier. I apologize for the rough edges in this month's issue — I'm new to Microsoft Publisher but I'll get better at it with time.

I figure that one of the benefits of editing this newsletter is that I will have the opportunity to expound on topics that are of particular interest to me. I had originally planned to tackle the end of the Morse Code requirement in my first editorial, then decided that I could hardly add anything to a subject that has already been hashed to death. I will let Jim Weaver (Weaver's Words, page 5) have the final word on the matter, since we seem to be of a similar mind on this topic.

One of the joys I derive from this hobby is opening my mailbox and finding a QSL card that was mailed to me from some distant corner of the Earth. My shack is not terribly impressive from the hardware

standpoint, but I am quite proud of the collection of QSL cards I've built up in the four years I've been a ham, and which I display on my shack wall. Beginning with this issue, I am introducing a **QSL Card of the Month** feature. If any of you have a card that is special to you, either due to its original design or perhaps because of an interesting story behind the card, please consider submitting it to me for publication. If you can scan it yourself, great; otherwise, mail it or drop it off with me at a club meeting and I will scan it for you.



Please also consider writing an article for the Feedline. Our club membership represents several centuries' worth of accumulated ham radio experience. Whether you choose to write about the latest and greatest technical advances, or about some historical aspect of the hobby, I'm sure we will find it of interest! How about one of you long-time members writing an article about the history of the club? Whether you submit it to me via email or on the back of a napkin at a meeting, I will gladly accept it!

73, Mark AI4BJ

## QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:  
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments: This isn't the fanciest or most colorful card in my collection, but in these troubled times, the message of peace struck a strong chord with me.

CQ. 33 ITU. 37	TLEMCEN		ALGERIA		LOC. IM 94GS 10-X # 336 10		
	7X4AN						
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	2 WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
A14BJ	28	04	04	2323	14	58	SSB
Rig: Argonaut 509 (40w) Antenna: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4Ele. Yagi <input type="checkbox"/> Dipole TNX QSL, Vy 73's.						MOHAMED BOUKHIAR 263, ZELBOUN TLEMCEN 13121 ALGERIA	

# Weaver's Words

**Jim Weaver, K8JE**

**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**

## **AN OPPORTUNITY OR A DISASTER -- IT'S UP TO YOU**

We've learned the FCC's Report & Order that abolishes testing on Morse code for Amateur Radio licensing will probably (no guarantee, yet) become effective Friday, February 23. This would be the first day new General and Extra class licenses can be earned without needing to pass the 5 wpm Morse code test. Whether one likes or hates the idea, code testing will no longer be required.

We can make of this what we choose. We can take the attitude this marks the pending death of Amateur Radio or we can look upon it as the best opportunity Amateur Radio has had in decades for regaining its health and growth. It is up to you . . . and to no one else. If we choose to take the first attitude, you will be right. Amateur Radio's pending doom is on the horizon. You will make this happen. It will be a self-fulfilling prophesy.

If we take the second attitude, we will again be right and we will see resurgence in Amateur Radio. Through our own will, we will have a favorable, self-fulfilling prophesy.

In other words, the future of hamming is in our own hands. Will we grab hold of it and hold on for dear life, or will we let it fall like an egg on concrete to be crushed?

If we greet new, codeless hams with a sullen attitude, we will drive them away before they even know what Amateur Radio is. If we meet them with welcoming arms and nurturing friendship, and help them get started and on the path to good operating practices, they will become good, friendly, active amateurs -- just like we did.

Look back over the years. How was it that we became active hams after we were first licensed? Was it because some old goat growled at us and made us feel unwanted and ignorant each time we made a mistake on the air? Or, was it because an established ham took us by the hand and led us along the path to become good hams? Was it because everyone ignored us and made us feel unwelcome when we went to our first amateur club meetings, or was it because members of the club made us know they wanted us to come back . . . wanted us to join them . . . truly wanted us to become part of them?

If we don't want new hams in our clubs or even in your communities, we shouldn't offer VE Exams. This would be much better than to get new people licensed and then abandon them as though they were "unclean." The decision to be a welcoming, nurturing club and club member is the first decision club officers and members should make concerning incoming amateurs. Do we want them or not? Will we go out of the way to make them feel welcome or not? Will we help them become good amateurs or will we let them drift by themselves

to pick up bad operating habits so we can complain about how ignorant new licensees are these days?

I've heard the officers and members of club after club after club cry out for new, active members. The rising tide of new amateurs that will soon reach our doors is your opportunity to get the needed new members. Will you open the door to this tide of new blood or will you pile sandbags to prevent them from coming in?

## **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

What can we do to get new licensees interested in joining local ham groups . . . to become the good amateurs we need? Here are a couple of ideas that just might spark interest.



**HAVE A MIDNIGHT MADNESS** licensing session followed by a pizza party. At midnight of the first day exams can be given under the new, no-Morse test rules, hold a VE session at midnight on (presumably) February 23. Have a pizza party before or after the session. Print special Midnight Madness VE Session certificates complete with the names of successful candidates, the date of the exam session, the name of the sponsoring club and have at least one of the VEs who heads the session sign the certificate. If you have a laptop and portable printer, and enough help to do the job, you could print the certificate and hand it to the candidate before he or she walks out of the session. If you can't do this, mail the certificate to them over

the weekend.

If you publicize this well, you will be surprised at the response you will receive to this "special" VE session. Be sure to invite them to the next club meeting and arrange for a club member to bring them to the meeting.

**HOLD A SPECIAL NEW OR RECENT LICENSEE** Night at your club. Welcome new amateurs, including the "no-coders" with open arms. Assign a member of the club to be a tour guide for groups of one or two new people at the meeting. Instruct these guides to introduce the newbies to the members and show them your club station . . . in action. Encourage them to operate. During the evening, find out if the recent licensees would welcome having an Elmer, if they would like help in putting a station together or would like someone to come over to help them get comfortable with operating their station on the air. Make certain one or more members of the club will take care of advising them on equipment and putting the station together, or helping the new people learn how to operate.

**FIND A RECENT LICENSEE** and have one or two of your members visit them to welcome them to the local amateur community. Make the new people feel welcome. Give them any Elmering assis-

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tance they might need. Bring them to a meeting and treat them as discussed above.

AT LEAST UNTIL NEWBIES BECOME INTEGRATED into the club, be sure someone drops by their homes and brings them to meetings and other club functions. At meetings and club activities, be certain to give new people things to do. Put them on committees that actually do something. Get them involved in on-air operating.

I'm sure many of you can come up with still more and better ideas than these. Whatever you do, welcome new amateurs into your club as though you want them to become valued parts of your group. Recruit them to join. Make them want to join.

Oh, yes, you might even want to form a Member-Search Committee. Task this committee with finding ways to attract new -- and older -- amateurs to your club. Put people with innovative thinking on this committee. They need to develop fresh ideas or at least fresh approaches to attracting and keeping new members.

Keep in mind that getting new members is less than half the job. Keeping them as active members is the main job. Club leadership is the key to this job.

## **ARRL LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS**

You've seen me write about ARRL members needing to become active in helping get our national legislative agenda passed in Congress. Many of you have wondered if the Board of Directors, our officers or I were serious about this. Well, folks, we are as you can see below.

Last week, the ARRL Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue five objectives in this Congress. These objectives are:

- To have Congress expand the requirement of "reasonable accommodation" for Amateur Radio antennas (such as in FCC PRB-1) to all forms of land use throughout the U.S. This would be equivalent to having a national PRB-1 rule, but enact it through U.S. law.
- To have Congress require the FCC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of BPL to public safety and other license radio communication services, and to adopt improved rules to prevent deployment of BPL systems having potential to cause destructive interference to radio communication systems.
- To oppose legislation that would diminish the rights of Federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters, especially unintentional emitters.
- To recognize the unique resources, capabilities and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters or homeland security.
- To support the complementary legislative objectives of other radio communication services, particularly the public safety and scientific services that require spectrum access and protection from interference for noncommercial purposes that benefit the public.

How do we expect to accomplish some or all of these goals? We expect to do this by activating the new, ARRL Legislative Action Program in addition to our Washington Government Relations experts.

Now you know the specific agenda we have set. We can accomplish much of this agenda during the coming two years provided you as ARRL members agree to help out. We need two or three of you in each Congressional District and for each Senator to join in our Legislative Action Program by agreeing to make visits to the "home" offices of your own U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator a couple of times a year. No one will ask you to go to Washington to do the job.

To learn more about how you can help pass the ARRL legislative agenda, please contact Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chair, Val Rose, N8EXV at [n8exv@arrl.net](mailto:n8exv@arrl.net) or me at [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org). We seriously need help with this program. Please find out how you may fit into it.

## **HQ ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

When Wayne Mills, N7NG resigned, I received a number of E-mails asking who would follow him. The answer was not immediately available. The search for a successor was still underway. At our meeting last week, the Board heard the plans COO Harold Kramer, W1JB and CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ had not only for finding a new head of Membership Services, but for upgrading the Field & Educational Services organization as well. We enthusiastically approved the plans which were announced officially yesterday.

Well-known and accomplished DXer Dave Patton, NN1N is the new head of what is tentatively being called the Programs & Services Department. This puts Dave squarely in charge of the DXCC, Contests and Awards Programs as well as continuing his old job as head of F&ES. I'll talk more about this and its ramifications for beefing up our Em Comm services in my next newsletter. Until then, let me say that Dave is a frequent DXpeditioner, has 348 confirmed countries, has 2475 Qs in the Challenge listing with 340. Dave has also been instrumental in developing LoTW.

Dave is a fine, dedicated gentlemen, a fact I believe all who need to interface with him will appreciate.

## **REPORT: E-MAIL, I RECEIVE E-MAIL**

I want to bring you up to date on the response I received from two topics during recent weeks. These are my poll concerning what you think ARRL should be doing and not doing, and my personal perspective on losing code requirements for licensing.

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## What ARRL Should and Should Not Do

In contrast with the blasts often directed at ARRL over Internet reflectors and bulletin boards, nearly each one of the 200-plus responders to my poll on this subject were essentially satisfied with what ARRL is doing and wants these items continued. A few people suggest additional emphasis on certain tasks, such as our effort to undue overly restrictive codes, covenants and restrictions against antennas in deeds, leases and rental contracts as well as one or two additional actions they encourage the Board to undertake. My takeaway from all this is that the Board is doing pretty much what the membership has told me you want done. Tackling CC&Rs is, of course, a fight the Board has already accepted. Selecting the best timing for our effort is crucial.

Before going on to the next topic, let me add here that the effort on CC&Rs will be carried to a large extent by the ARRL Legislative Action Program (LAP). If you are interested in overturning overly restrictive CC&Rs, you ought to be interested in helping in the LAP. We are approaching the "fish or cut bait" time. In other words, it is getting to the time when one either need to "put up" or "shut up." Contact Division Legislative Action Chair Val Rose, N8EXV, at [n8exv@arrl.net](mailto:n8exv@arrl.net) to see how you might fit in to the LAP and our fight to influence legislation that affects Amateur Radio.

### My Personal Perspective on Losing Code Requirements.

On this one, I received about 300 comments. I had expected many responders would really tear into me for my rather neutral position which, in the end, can be summarized as "Don't sweat the small stuff; we have more pressing things to worry about." I was surprised that only three responders expressed disagreement with my position. Certainly, many responders indicated they were not pleased with the FCC decision to drop code testing, but they recognized it was a done deal and that in the long run it might even be good for Amateur Radio. This puts them squarely in the same category I am in. Agree with me or not, I want you all to know that I appreciate the time

and thought you invest when you write to me. Agree with you or not, I need to know your opinions so I can include your thinking in the facts I collect before voting on topics in Board meeting. Whether my vote on Board issues follows your line of thought, I consider every comment and suggestion very seriously -- testing my personal thinking against your thinking and against other information I receive. Thanks.

### UNIQUE SPECIAL EVENT STATION

I don't usually list Special Event stations or operations, but the following is sufficiently unique I will make an exception. This is from my old friend Hank Greeb, N8XX, who takes somewhat perverse pleasure in, well, being a little bit different.

"On February 3, 2007, several hams are going to Hell -- Hell, Michigan, that is -- to operate during the AzScQRPions FYBO (Freeze Your Buns Off) contest. So far, the contingent will include Ed, AB8DF, Courtland, KA5S, and Hank, N8XX. A special event call

of N8H has been reserved.

"We'll be operating on all the QRP frequencies, but the best chance for folks in this area will be on 7.04 CW or 7.285 SSB MHz. We will operate between 1400Z and 2359Z. We will try to activate a station using the preferred mode, Hellschreiber."

If the weather stays as warm as most of this winter, maybe the contest should be renamed the MOTF "Melt off the Fat."

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ASSIGNMENTS

At the January ARRL Board of Directors meeting, Great Lakes Division Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA was named to chair the ARRL Historical Committee and I was named to the membership Program & Services Committee. The ad hoc Legislative Action Committee I had chaired was discharged after it had completed its assigned task.

As some of you may know, Gary is President of the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington, Kentucky. The ARRL Historical Committee is charged with reviewing items of historic interest held at ARRL HQ and maintaining an accurate, historic record of ARRL and Amateur Radio.

The Programs & Services Committee is responsible for reviewing programs and services offered to members by ARRL, for developing modifications to these programs and services as this is appropriate and for developing and recommending new programs and services to the Board of Directors. The EmComm operations of ARRL are included in the activities of this Committee.

Gary has previously served as liaison from the Board to the Public Relations Committee. I've previous served on the P&SC (and Membership & Services Committee as it was titled previously), the P&SC and the Administration & Finance Committee that oversees administration of the League and its financial health.

### TENTATIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR K8JE

Feb 7: Cincinnati FM Club, Cincinnati.

Feb 8: Milford ARC, Milford, OH.

Feb 11: Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH.

Mar 12: West Chester ARA, West Chester, OH.

Mar 15: Bellbrook ARC Dinner Meeting, Waynesville, OH.

Mar 18: Toledo Hamfest, Toledo.

Apr 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH.

Apr 20: KY Colonel ARC, Bowling Green, KY.

# Kentucky ARES Annual Report—2006

## **Ron Dodson, KA4MAP KY Section Emergency Coordinator**

In January of 2000, I began reporting to the amateurs of the Kentucky Section, our Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) program's activity for the previous year. There is no ARRL requirement that a Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) do this. However, I feel it is important to our program and to amateur radio as a whole that you are aware of just how valuable our service is to our communities and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Our activity is also our contribution to the national effort to "pay the bills" and keep amateur radio in existence by justifying our use of all of the bands which we enjoy daily. In the opening section of Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations, we see that amateur radio is a "SERVICE" whose existence is for the public good and not merely our private playground. <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>

This is now my eighth year in making this report to give you a look at how we DO make a difference in our communities, our state and the nation. Amateur radio has a proud history of public service. We carry that heritage with us even today as evidenced in this report.

### **KyARES MEMBERSHIP:**

Starting with 711 members in the last month of 1998, we ended 2006 with a membership roll of 1,067. In 2006, 23 amateurs either left the program for whatever reason or were removed for inactivity. On the up side, we gained 29 new members; thus, we show a net gain of 6 since 2005's total of 1,061.

### **TRAINING:**

The better trained we are, the more useful we will be to our local team and to the served agencies in the field. In the first seventy or so years of public service, amateur radio mainly concerned itself with natural and nuclear threats only. Today, it is a new ballgame and we must add the threats of terrorist attack and hazardous chemical accidents to our repertoire. Regardless of the mistaken opinion of a few, there is no such thing as too much training! In many parts of the state, amateur radio operators are becoming involved in local CERT Team developments and this shows great promise to continue. On November 16, 2003, Assistant SEC, Ron Goodpaster, AG4TY unveiled the new, FREE, KY ARES Condensed Emergency Communications training course

<http://www.kyham.net/emcomm/training/kytest.html>. During the last three years, many amateurs in Kentucky, as well as other states, have now completed from one to all three levels of this free course. Others are in the process of doing so. The Graduates page reflects the efforts of those amateurs. <http://www.kyham.net/emcomm/training/grad.html> We also received a surprise when the National Registry of Certified Emergency Volunteers (NRCEV) asked if they could use our Kentucky training class as one of their alternate criteria for certification. We, of course, agreed!

The new National Incident Management System came to the forefront in 2005 with the IS 700 Introduction to NIMS home study course and during 2006 many moved on up to the ICS 100, 200 and IS 800 courses. Some even ventured farther into the IS 703 Resource Management and other areas of training.

While we have no concrete numbers on those completing these, from feedback, I feel that a good many have taken it upon themselves to do so. This speaks volumes concerning the commitment of Ky Amateur Radio operators to adapt to the new requirements of NIMS.

Classroom training is good, hands on is even better! In March of 2006, I was asked to help test the abilities of the new KyEM Mobile Command Vehicle during a major earthquake exercise in western Kentucky [http://ka4map0.tripod.com/western\\_ky\\_eq\\_exercise/](http://ka4map0.tripod.com/western_ky_eq_exercise/).

A large number of amateurs across the state have now had a chance to see this vehicle close up. Many have also had the opportunity to experience using the equipment inside first hand and I am sure more will in 2007. It is quite an asset to our state's communications capabilities and amateur radio is right there with many other communications modes. Several groups took part in their community's exercises and drills in 2006, as well as the Kentucky Severe Storms Drill in March and the annual June Field Day and SET operations. These are all great training and networking opportunities and I encourage that this continue to grow in future years.

### **INTERNET RESOURCES:**

KY ARES offers several online resources to amateur radio operators and their served agencies in Kentucky. These resources are centered around the KYHAM website located at <http://kyham.net/>. The site offers local amateur radio listings, emergency communications training, online reporting, a general-purpose KyHAM email listserv, and links to the KY ARES Yahoo Group, as well as other resources.





## **KY ARES ACTIVITY:**

Each month, I collect reports of previous month activity from local groups, ECs and DECs, which are compiled into the Section ARES Activity Report. This section report is sent to ARRL HQ on or before the 10th of the current month. It is added to the reports from all other ARRL sections and is then used by ARRL to justify the continued need for the amateur radio service to the FCC, Congress and all of the commercial interests who covet our frequency bands for private enterprise.

Reporting was way down in 2006, as we ended with the annual average of only 16.66 reports received per month vs 19 average per month in 2005. A few months did see as many as 22, but some months such as November, showed only 12 received. For 2007, I ask that we try to be more persistent in our efforts to report any activity of nets, public service and emergency operations, which involve amateur radio. Reporting shows that your local group is active in your community and working toward fulfilling our Part 97 obligations. I realize that life gets hectic at times and it is easy to let the monthly report slide by forgotten in the day-to-day world. Report forms are automated on line at the following URL: <http://kyham.net/emcomm/reports.html> .

## **2006 RECAP:**

In 2006, we (the amateurs of the Kentucky Section) reported a total of 1,234 nets and training sessions for 7,793.64 man hours. We had 38 Public Service Events totaling 1,390.5 man hours. These covered a variety of services from supporting the testing of warning sirens and assisting in the programming and distribution of NOAA weather alert radios in their communities to providing SimCell support and communications for Homeland Security Exercises, parades, community and charity events to assisting law enforcement with Halloween Overpass Watches. The year 2006 proved to be an active year for weather related nets with 58 Emergency Communications Responses totaling 1,303.9 man hours. This adds up to 1,330 on the air operations for 2006 and 10,488.04 man hours! As mentioned earlier, the majority of real communications emergencies were weather related. Spotter networks were fully activated and provided important information to our NWS offices as tornadoes and flooding threatened several areas of the state. Kentucky amateurs also responded for an aircraft crash, lost person searches and for disruptions of telephone service to some E-911 centers.

## **EIGHT YEARS IN SUMMARY (The BIG Picture):**

Over the past eight years Kentucky amateurs have been involved in 9,179 nets, public service events and emergency operations! These operations total 187,312.86 man hours in volunteer efforts toward public service, preparedness and response efforts that our program has provided for the citizens of

Kentucky! Moreover, you need to consider it likely that some UNREPORTED activity also took place during the period, which, if reported, would have made these totals even higher! If you think about this, you will come to realize just how important that reporting your local activity can be, no matter how large or small an operation you had for the month. Our service is valuable and can be put into tangible terms quite easily. Add up the cost burden this would have placed on the tax payers of Kentucky to have had to PAY for these communications support services in terms of both labor, benefits AND communications equipment! Once having done all this, you can now see how the ARRL uses this data when this is figured on a nationwide scale to "balance the scales" in Washington and keep amateur radio alive for us all!

## **OUR THANKS AND LOOKING AHEAD:**

My Assistant SECs, Ron Goodpaster, Scott Thile and I wish to thank and congratulate you all on this great accomplishment. In April of 2007, I plan to step down and clear the way for a new Section Emergency Coordinator once the new Section Manager takes office. I have been honored to serve you as Ky SEC these past eight years. It has been a wondrous experience. One which I will look back on fondly in the years to come. If I were to list all of the people who have supported both myself and the Ky ARES program these past 8 years the list would be longer than this report. So I won't even try. Instead, I will simply say, "Thank you all!" for the interest, friendship and respect that you have shown me since 1999. It was a magnificent time and I hope that our program will continue to grow in the future.

Recently the FCC changed the amateur radio license testing structure. This change will likely open up some fresh interest for some in the hobby. We have before us a unique opportunity to "Elmer" all of the new hams-to-be as they enter the hobby and upgrade through the license structure. Let's make sure that they gain a positive image of the public service aspect and mission(1) of amateur radio and the proper support from the skilled and experienced hams to learn how to do the job right! This is one time we certainly WILL reap what we sow. If we start 'em off right and nurture them as a farmer does young plants. We might be surprised at the quality of a well tended crop come the harvest.

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**KY Section Emergency Coordinator**

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