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NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Robert Kluck, N4IJS, presented a well-received program on setting up an HF station, at the April NKARC meeting.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 14 – Membership Meeting
- May 18,19,20 - Dayton Hamvention
- June 11 –Membership Meeting
- June 23,24 – Field Day
- July 7 – Paddlefest

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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

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

Board meetings: TBA

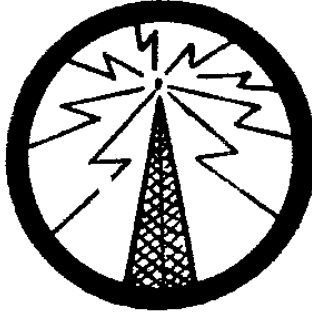
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Top of the Tower

Fellow Hams: The onslaught of Dayton Hamvention, Field Day, Paddlefest and other hamfests is upon us. I hope you all get a chance to enjoy your chosen event. This brings up getting a chance to enjoy your club's past and future features. One of the features of our club is Echolink. We've had two full programs on the Echolink features. Those of you who could attend were provided the opportunity to use all the features in a hands on manner. Most of us watched in amazement as the various attributes of Echolink were presented.



Echolink is the newest feature of our club. It provides us the ability to talk around the world from a 2-meter repeater. As with all new things there is a learning curve. One of the features on that learning curve is the ability for you when you are on vacation this summer to check in to the net. One of our members called from Florida a few weeks ago. I invite all members to try and learn how to check-in when they are out of town. This will cause some consterna-

tion during the learning process, but it will be nice to hear from folks when they are out of town.

Your net manager, Dennis KG4SBG, was fortunate enough to be hosting the net when someone called into the repeater using Echolink during a recent Tuesday evening net. Dennis is working on ways to keep your club net open to all and at the same time interference free. Any and all suggestions are welcomed. Please forward all suggestions to Dennis or any of your Directors.

Our program presenter this month Greg May. Greg has written many articles for the Feedline and been a program presenter in the past. His articles and presentations are always well received. I'll keep you in suspense about his program.

73, Tony AI4IP

April Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
4/03/07	KG4SBG	9	22	0
4/10/07	KG4SBG	9	30	0
4/17/07	KB4VKS	9	25	1
4/24/07	KG4SBG	9	32	1
TOTALS		36	109	2

Editor's Soapbox

Dayton

My interest in ham radio began as an offshoot of my SWL activities as a teenager growing up in Atlantic Canada during the 1970s. I subscribed to 73 Magazine, and learned of an annual gathering of hams from all over the world, known as the Dayton Hamvention. I dreamed of someday being able to attend, but as so often happens, life intervened.

I finally earned my ham ticket in 2003. By this time I was living just 90 minutes down the highway from Dayton, and so I attended my first Hamvention in May of 2004. It was everything I expected it to be, and more. I got lost in the outdoor flea market, and didn't want to be found! I got to meet Wayne Burdick and Eric Swartz, the founders of Elecraft, whose amazing little K2 had re-sparked my interest in ham radio after almost thirty years.

Piero Begali

I've returned to Dayton each year since, and hope to do so for as long as my health allows me to. One of my favorite "Dayton moments" occurred two years ago. I was winding my way through one of the remotest corners of the flea market (a GPS receiver would have come in handy), when my eyes fell across a gleaming Begali CW paddle. I had treated myself to a nice Begali paddle when I earned my ticket, but they were still relatively uncommon at this time. Then I noticed another, and another — a whole collection of beautiful Begali paddles laid out neatly across a small folding table. I finally looked up, and there was Signore Begali himself, smiling broadly, having traveled all the way from Italy! I introduced myself to him and he was delighted to learn that I already had one of his marvelous creations, a Begali Simplex, serial number 102. Last year, I was happy to see that he had upgraded up to an indoor booth. In just a few short years, he has gained a reputation for creating keys and paddles that are simultaneously works of art and marvels of precision engineering. Italian craftsmanship at its finest!

K3 (nope, not a new mountain peak)

When I make my fourth pilgrimage to Dayton in a couple of weeks, I'll be heading straight to the Elecraft booth, where I hope to spend some face time

with their newly announced K3 HF transceiver. Although their critically-acclaimed K2 has been around for more than 7 years, Elecraft followers like myself were still caught by surprise by the announcement of a new rig. For years, we've been dreaming up lists of all the features we would like to see in a mythical "K3", and it looks like the boys in Aptos were playing close attention. Receiver performance specs have not been released yet,



but based on the design architecture and Elecraft's reputation for paying close attention to detail, there is much speculation that the K3 may squeeze by the Orion II to the top of the charts. In a departure for the company best known as a producer of high quality "kit radios", the K3 will be available both factory-assembled and as a modular, no-soldering kit. It looks like Elecraft is getting serious about "playing with the big boys". A comprehensive FAQ has been posted on the company's web site (elecraft.com).

It's great to see successful American companies like Elecraft, Ten-Tec and FlexRadio leading the way in producing radios with innovative designs and best-of-class performance.

Antenna work

My antenna project this Spring was to replace the cheap TV antenna rotator on my Cushcraft MA5B mini-beam with something a bit more robust. My antenna is mounted on a short (6 ft) tower that is fastened directly to the roof of my house. The TV rotator worked ok, but it was not able to keep the antenna from turning in a stiff breeze. This had the effect of transmitting a rather unpleasant groaning sound into the bedroom of my daughter, who has the misfortune of having her bed more or less directly under my antenna tower.

I upgraded to a small Yaesu rotator which incorporates an effective braking system, and am happy to report that my daughter is once again sleeping peacefully.

73, Mark, AI4BJ

April Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tony White at 7:30 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School. Tony led us in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed. The sign in sheet showed 18 people present.

Dann Fox presented the treasurer's report. Copies of the report were made available to all present. A motion was made by Joe Stern and seconded by Lynn Benjamin to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Dann also reported that Wally Treller is open to receiving phone calls. Please see Dann for his phone number.

A motion was made by Toni Kluck, and seconded by Lynn Benjamin to accept the March minutes as they appeared in the Feedline. The motion passed.

Joe Stern reported that Banklick Woods shelter number two has been reserved for this year's field day. It will be a combined effort with KY7ET, with each group splitting the cost. We are in need of radios, antennas, and people willing to operate throughout the night.

Lynn Ernst reported that there was one paper upgrade and three tested upgrades in this evening's VE session.

Tony White reported that the 147.375 repeater should be operating by Friday, April 13, weather permitting. The club will have a repeater committee headed by

Greg May and Robert Kluck.

Robert Kluck, Webmaster, asked all to take a look at the NKARC webpage and let him know what we think about it.

Tony White reported that the audit committee is still working on the audit.

No Ham -O- Rama is planned for 2007.

Lynn Ernst reported that Paddlefest will be on 07/07/07. Volunteers are needed from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. A sign up sheet was passed around. We will use the W4YWH 146.790 (PL123) repeater for the event. The NKARC 146.895 repeater will be the backup repeater. Information on Paddlefest can be found at www.ohioriverway.org. Volunteers who show up at 6 a.m. will receive a Paddlefest t-shirt.

Robert and Toni Kluck will be operating W1AW on April 28 from noon until 3 p.m.

Greg May will be the presenter at the May meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Toni Kluck and seconded by Lynn Benjamin. The motion passed.

After a short break, Robert Kluck presented a program on setting up an amateur H. F. station.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burns, AB4BK

Armed Forces Day Crossband Radio Communications Test Set

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will co-sponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio Communications Tests to celebrate the 57th Armed Forces Day. Although Armed Forces Day falls on Saturday, May 19, the 2007 Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will take place a week earlier, on Saturday, May 12, to avoid conflicting with the Dayton Hamvention May 18-

20. The annual celebration features military station-to-amateur station crossband tests on SSB and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. Full details on participating stations, times and frequencies are available on the Army MARS Headquarters Web site:

<<http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/ARMEDFORCESDAYFinal.doc>>.

Weaver's Words

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL
E-mail: k8je@arrrl.org; Tel.: 513-459-0142

Legislative Action Program

I apparently didn't do a good job of explaining what I meant last month when I talked about the separation of Section and Division legislative action programs. What I intended to say is that the Board of Director's Legislative Action Program (LAP) and the Section Managers' Section Government Liaison legislative (SGL) program operate with differing goals and differing managements. The LAP focuses on Federal legislation and the SM SGL program focuses on State and Local legislation.

These are managerial distinctions, only. In the Great Lakes Division, the Section Managers and I can be counted on to support each other and the respective legislative programs we manage when this is called for. LAP volunteers will be encouraged to volunteer to support an SM/SGL project, and the SMs, I am sure, will encourage their SGL legislative program volunteers to support the LAP.

Code Proficiency Field Test Program Approved

The ARRL Programs & Services Committee approved field testing of the ARRL Code Proficiency Program in the Great Lakes Division at its April 21 meeting. This means that four ARRL VE teams in the Division will soon be offering code proficiency testing at locations in their areas. If successful, the program may be adopted nationwide.

People who achieve solid copy of text for one minute may obtain a certificate or an upgrade sticker for proficiency at the speed they copied. Code speeds range from 10-40 wpm in the on-air program, but speeds in the field test will be from 5-40 wpm.

The field program, as is true of the W1AW broadcasts, will be run once a month. There is no charge for participating in these code runs. There is a processing fee for successful candidates only if they want to obtain a certificate or upgrade sticker. The trial run will be performed by ARRL VE teams headed for this purpose by Fernie Williams, III, KE4MAI, (Lexington, KY), Gary Kline, WC8W (Akron-Canton-Massillon, OH), Bob Johnson, K3RC (Toledo, OH) and Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP (Brighton, MI).

During discussions with the VEC manager at HQ, I learned

that a number of countries still require applicants for Amateur Radio exams to pass code proficiency exams. With the FCC having gone out of the Morse code testing business, non-coded US hams who want to obtain reciprocal licenses in these countries are out of luck unless they pass code test in the foreign country. Did you ever consider taking a Morse code test in Japanese?

By running our Code Proficiency field testing program with ARRL VEs, could it be possible that passing one of our code field tests would be acceptable proof of code proficiency for these countries?

Division Gathering Spot at Hamvention®

Most of you know there will be another ARRL Expo at the Dayton Hamvention® this year. One feature of the Expo will be a Great Lakes Division come-and-visit booth. Division members, Division appointees, Section Managers and Section appointees are invited to "come and sit a spell" or stand around and chat with each other. It'll be a good time to get to know each other as well as to ask questions and offer suggestions.

While at the Division booth, feel free to check around the other booths at the Expo. You just might find President Harrison, W5ZN, CEO Sumner, K1ZZ and a few others in the area would like to meet you and talk.

Check the schedule of ARRL forums in the program book.

RM-11306 Withdrawn

By now, everyone has probably heard that the ARRL Board of Directors has withdrawn RM-11306 from consideration by the FCC. This action was a well thought-out move. There was, and is, no sinister motive behind the withdrawal. The fact is that we did a poor job of explaining the benefits of the proposal to you and other amateurs. I realize our mistake and pledge to each of you we won't make this mistake again if there is anything I can do about it.

ARRL Licensing Activity

Maria Somma, AB1FM who manages the ARRL VEC program, estimates there has been a 35% increase in new license applications since February 23. There has also been an estimated 50% increase in upgrade applications.

A Poll for Great Lakes Division ARRL Members

I'm trying to get a tentative idea of what you think about the



following questions. Please answer the following question "yes" or "no," only. As always, you can expand on these very brief answers, but put any discussions at the bottom of your e-mail.

Please do not mix a brief answer with a discussion. I don't have staff that can digest discussions, quickly. Reading and understanding your discussion will occur over following weeks.

The questions:

1. Do you think you understand what ARRL's Regulation by Bandwidth petition would have accomplished?
2. Do you favor changing our band assignments so that any legal mode can operate anywhere in each band (i.e. there would be no subbands for voice, data, etc.)?
3. Do you favor having amateur licenses issued for the life of the license holder (i.e. never expire during the life of the licensee)?
4. Are you happy with the way ARRL has communicated the content of its petitions to FCC with you? (The question is not about how you feel about the content of the petitions; just about the quality of the way in which ARRL informed you of them and the value of them to Amateur Radio.)
5. Are you in favor of separating our bands into segments for wide-band transmissions (e.g. up to about 4 kHz), mid-band transmissions (e.g. about 1.5 kHz to 300 Hz) and narrow-band (less than about 300 Hz).

I will let you know the results of this yea or nay poll.

New Official ARRL Badges

In January, the Board of Directors authorized two new badges for ARRL volunteers. These are for the Legislative Action Program's volunteer Legislative Action Coordinator (light blue) and Legislative Action Assistant (rust). You can expect to begin to see these badges at the Hamvention®.

HQ Goofed

At least one person at HQ goofed, anyway, and I apologize for this happening.

Gail Iannone who handles many of the services to Affiliated Clubs was out of the office for a few weeks for medical leave. During this time, other members of staff took over her duties. With the cross-training in jobs that has been done at HQ during recent months, there should have been no problem.

Unfortunately, the person who took over the responsibility for having us directors review and approve (or disapprove) sanc-

tioning of hamfests wasn't up to the task. Gail has returned to work and is uncovering a number of applications for sanctioning that either were not forwarded to the respective director or that had received director approval, but this approval was not passed on to the hamfest sponsor. ARRL "goodies" that were available to sanctioned hamfests were not sent in these instances.

Gail nearly has the situation back in hand. For example, during the last few days before writing this note, I've "re-approved" or approved about six hamfests that had somehow fallen into a black hole initially.

I regret this happened and have made the appropriate manager at HQ vividly aware of the foul up. I've strongly encouraged that corrective measures be taken to prevent this from occurring again in the future. If you've been the unwitting victim of this gaff, please be kind to Gail. She is the person who discovered the problem and knows all too painfully what has happened. She is working vigorously to get everything caught back up to date.

Tentative Travel Schedule for KI4LA and K8JE.

2007

- May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH - Gary & Jim
- Jul 12: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown, OH - Gary
- Jun 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - Jim
- Jul 19: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim
- Jul 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT - Gary & Jim
- Jul 28: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI - Jim
- Aug 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL - Jim
- Sep 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI - Jim
- Sep 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim
- Sep 16: Cincinnati Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH - Jim
- Sep 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH - Gary & Jim
- Sep 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH - Jim
- Oct 2: OH-KY-IN ARRL Night, Cincinnati, OH - Jim
- Oct 8: Portage County ARS, Kent, OH - Jim
- Nov 19: Southern Ohio ARA Christmas Dinner, Russell, KY - Jim
- Dec 1: Motor City RC 75th Ann., Wyandotte, MI - Jim

Tnx, 73,

Jim, K8JE



We Are Missing Something

Submitted by:

Dennis Leach, KG4SBG
NKARC Net Manager

Hello everyone,

I chose to write this article for the purpose of expressing my thoughts and desires about the fast growing and popular Echolink.

Three months ago, a group of our local amateurs from NKARC formed an effort to start an Echolink repeater system on the 147.255 repeater. The idea is now catching on and is rapidly growing thanks to the effort of Robert N4IJS and others who made it possible.

In light of its growing popularity however it has become evident to myself and others that this service can be best utilized and enjoyed when used in its proper manner. That is to say an Echolink net that could be established and sanctioned by NKARC and its members.

I have a very strong concern that Echolink on our regular Tuesday evening net that begins at 7:30 P.M. can and will be disruptive when it is opened by out of state operators who know nothing about our local club net or its function for our local club.

Please remember the purpose as it is most often given when you here from the preamble the following words:

"The purpose of this net is to provide a forum for promoting club activities, announcements, and items of interest to the radio amateur community."

I ask that all participating members please use good amateur practice and do not use Echolink when checking into the Tuesday evening net. I would also ask Robert if he would please disable Echolink 1/2 hour before the net, and then feel free to resume its operation after the net ends. Thanks you for your cooperation.

Hawaii Moonbounce a Hit

From the ARRL Letter

Vol. 26, No.17

Bruce Clark, K0YW, operating as KH7X from the station of Alex Benton, KH6YY, made the first successful 2.3 GHz EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contact from Hawaii April 23 (UTC). "This is the first time EME from Hawaii has been worked on this band," reports Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, who assisted in the effort. Clark made contact with well-known VHF/UHF and moonbounce enthusiast Al Ward, W5LUA, in Texas. Hashiro says the Hawaii operation was set up in a tent pitched next to the 12-foot TV receive-only (TVRO) dish used for the antenna, in order to minimize feed line losses. "The CW signal was

just above the noise level and sounded 'watery,' as if the speaker were being held underwater," Hashiro reported. "The warbling tone was much worse than Arctic flutter." He said Doppler shift was on the order of 3 kHz. CW was sent at about 10 WPM. K0YW made additional contacts with several other stations on 2.3 GHz as well as on 1.2 GHz EME, Hashiro said. News of Clark's temporary Hawaii moonbounce setup made the April 21 edition of the Honolulu Advertiser <<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Apr/21/In/FP704210343.html>>. In addition to Benton and Hashiro, others assisting in the moonbounce experiment included KH6ND, KH7U, WH6GS and AH6NF.

QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Ken Rood, KZ5KR

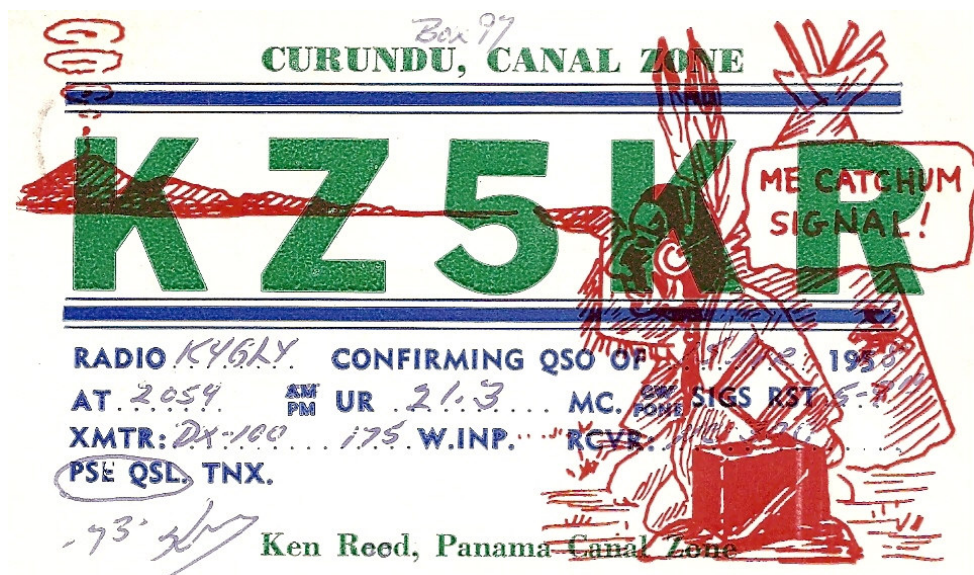
Comments

Imagine how surprised I was when I opened my 2004 Christmas present from my daughter. She and her husband had been scanning EBay when they ran upon this QSL card. The first thing my daughter noticed was my handwriting. (I didn't know it was that bad.) Of course she kept the bidding going and got it for \$5.50. I think the card was initially posted on EBay for the Canal Zone stamps.

Some of the information on the card is a little hard to read, but it was to K4GLY on April 15, 1958. The receiver was a National NC-300 and transmitter a Heathkit DX-100. As I got my General class license in February of 1958, this was one of my first contacts.

This cherished card is in a picture frame displayed with the family pictures on our sideboard.

If you have a special QSL card you would like to share, submit it to the Feedline editor, along with any comments you would like included.



Return to:
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