

Vol. 2007, #11
November 2007



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



At the October NKARC meeting, the SWR/Power meter kits were distributed to members who ordered them. In the photo above, Dave Core (K8WDA), seated left, provides soldering tips to Rob Ziegler (KI4YWJ) and Bob Burns (AB4BK), while Lynn Ernst (WD8JAW) looks on.

Photo by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ.

There will be no VE exam session in December. Exams will resume in 2008.

Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
Editor's Soapbox	4
October Meeting Minutes	5
Weaver's Words	6
QSL Card of the Month	10

Dates to Remember:

- Nov 10,11 – [Kentucky QSO Party](#)
- Nov 12 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Dec 10 – NKARC/KY7ARET Christmas Dinner
- Jan 14 – NKARC Membership Meeting

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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

NKARC Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

—WEB Site—

<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

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members
of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

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reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publica-
tion. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor:

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Top of the Tower

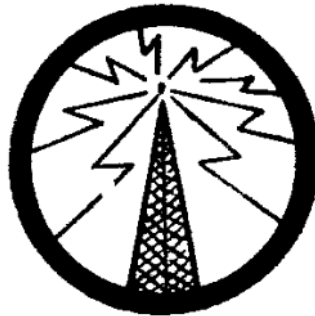
Fellow Hams:

By the time you read this our club will possibly have doubled in size. How? Jim Hicks and his students at Dixie Heights High School recently completed their course and there were 37 exam takers. I want to encourage us all to welcome any of the new hams who wish join our club. If you see someone new at the club meeting - stick out your hand and introduce yourself to them. The more welcoming and friendly we are the stronger our club will be and our growth will continue.

How is your project kit coming together? If you're not finished yet, do not worry. It will be January when we bring all our kits and test them and see how they actually operate. This month we'll see some finished kits and some in various stages of construction. Some will show up needing calibration. Bring your completed, partially completed or still in the bag kit to the meeting and get your

questions answered.

This month we elect our new slate of officers for the coming year. Our VP Dann Fox, KI4AVO has put together the slate for the coming year. I look forward to some new ideas and our club continuing to grow.



Mark your calendars now for December 10, 2007 for our annual Christmas dinner. This is the second Monday of December - our usual meeting evening. It will be a joint dinner with our sister club, KY7ARET. The location will be the Golden Corral on Houston Road in the Turfway area. Golden Corral is in front of the Lowes and Biggs stores. The scheduled time is 6:45 pm.

See you next Monday the 12th at our club meeting.

73, Tony AI4IP

October Net Report

If you are interested in helping the club out and expanding your Amateur Radio skill set, please take a turn at running one of our weekly nets! This is a great way to hone your radio, net control, and message handling skills in a friendly environment. If you are interested, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at (859) 426-5588 or n4ijs@insightbb.com.

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
10/02/07	N4IJS (Robert)	6	25	0
10/09/07	KB4VKS (Mike)	10	32	0
10/16/07	N4IJS (Robert)	5	21	0
10/23/07	KB4VKS (Mike)	13	35	0
10/30/07	KG4SBG (Dennis)	10	35	0
TOTALS		44	148	0

Editor's Soapbox

QRP and SSB

A few months ago, a large manila envelope from ARRL headquarters arrived unexpectedly in my mailbox. When I opened it, I was surprised to find an award certificate indicating that I had placed first in the 2006 ARRL Sweepstakes in the single operator QRP phone category, Kentucky section. How exciting! I immediately went to the contest scores database on the ARRL web site to see how my score compared with others. My head deflated by several inches when I discovered that my entry was the *only* entry in this category from Kentucky.

I see that I still have plenty of work to do in spreading the QRP gospel! (One of the advantages of being the editor of the club newsletter is that I get to flog my readers with subjects that are of particular interest to me.) QRP is usually associated with CW, probably because most of the inexpensive transmitter and transceiver kits that are currently available can only operate in this mode. The fact of the matter is that you can make plenty of phone (SSB) contacts too using low power. Although the gap between 5 watts and 100 watts may appear huge, it in fact corresponds to a difference of just slightly more than 2 S-units on the receiver's S-meter. (A doubling of power represents a 3 dB increase, and one S-unit is generally accepted as corresponding to 6 dB.)

One trick to busting a DX pile-up on the phone bands is to drop your power to 5 watts and tack "QRP" after your callsign when calling the DX station. It's amazing how often I have done this and had the DX station reply with "The QRP station, go ahead please...". Of course, this technique will only work when path conditions will allow you to sacrifice 2 S-units' worth of transmit signal and still be heard by the DX station. Using a decent antenna certainly improves your odds.

QRP and DX'ing

Speaking of DX'ing, if you have any interest at all in this aspect of our hobby, I heartily recommend the book [The Complete DX'er](#), by Bob Locher, W9KNI. In his introduction to the 3rd edition, Bob talks about how, after arriving within one or two countries of the top of the DXCC list, his interest began to falter:

"There is a truism that is too often forgot. Ham Radio is a hobby. That means that it is supposed to be fun, or at least rewarding in ways that we consider worthwhile. When what you are doing in ham radio no longer meets that test, you should be trying to figure out why, and make changes until it is fun again."

He goes on, "For me, I was getting a little stale — I decided I needed to do something to relight the fire. In October of 1999, I bought myself an Elecraft K2 transceiver kit." ... "I thought something like this would be a lot of fun. I had no idea!"

Bob's view of what constitutes "QRP" is also interesting:

"Now, let me be frank about something — many QRP operators limit themselves to 5 watts output — or 10 watts on SSB. Somehow these arbitrary numbers became the official QRP maximums. I do not subscribe to this limitation. When I hooked up the little rig, my watt meter said I was getting 12 watts out. That worked for me."

As of March of 2003, Bob had worked 308 countries using his version of QRP, mostly on CW but also some SSB. There is no official QRP endorsement for the DXCC award, so Bob went to all of this effort simply for the personal satisfaction that success would bring him.

73, Mark, AI4BJ

October Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tony White at 7:32 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School.

Lynn Benjamin let the group in the Pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed.

The motion made to accept the September minutes as presented in the Feedline passed.

Anyone interested in helping out by being a net control on the Tuesday evening net contact Tony White, Dann Fox, or Robert Kluck.

Tony White reported that three candidates took and passed their VE exams this evening.

There will be a KY7ET exercise on Saturday, October 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the 147.375 repeater.

Dann Fox reported that he called everyone on the phone list for the nominating committee. So far, Dann Fox, Gregg Hatton, and Lynn Benjamin are interesting in being officers in 2008. Election information will be published in the November Feedline and the election will be held at the November meeting.

Mark Volstad distributed the kits to the members who ordered them.

After pizza and kit building, the membership drifted away without a formal adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burns, AB4BK

At the November NKARC meeting we will be voting on our new club officers for 2008. We will also be reviewing construction of the SWR/Power meter kits and offering assistance to any who require it.

The NKARC/KY7ARET Christmas dinner will be held Monday, December 10, 2007 at 6:45. The QTH will be the Golden Corral on Houston Road in the Turfway Park area. Golden Corral is in front of the Lowes and Biggs stores. Attendees will be expected to pay for their own dinners. Please join us for good fellowship and good food!

Weaver's Words

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

Your ARRL

You who followed along as I discussed the operations of the ARRL Field Organization (e.g. the SMs, SEC's, etc.), it's policy-making branch (the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Officers) and it's staff (e.g. the CEO, levels of management at HQ) should have a good idea as to who is responsible for respective activities in the League. In this issue, I will discuss aspects of ethical and fairness in the ARRL election process.

There are three positions in League governance that are filled by vote of the members. These are the Section Manager, who manages the Field Organization in the Section and the two members of the Board of Directors "family" from each Division. These two members are the Director and the Vice Director. The 15 Directors establish ARRL policy.

The minimum eligibility to run for the office of Section Manager (SM) is to be a licensed amateur, to be a full member of ARRL for a minimum period of 2 continuous years and to agree to observe the rules and regulations of candidacy and, if elected, the of the post.

Candidates for Director and Vice Director must maintain full ARRL membership for a minimum of 4 years prior to their nomination and must also agree to observe all rules and regulations that pertain to the respective offices.

The rules and times for nominations and periods for campaigning are defined in the ARRL By-Laws.

Not only do the ARRL Articles of Association, By-Laws and Standing Orders spell out the rules for elections, but they outline the minimum conduct expected of candidates for election and elected officials.

The rules governing candidacy for office are nothing more than common sense as applied to ethics and conduct. Writer Erma Bombeck put it this way in the title of one of her successful books which is "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."



Everything needed to satisfy the requirements of ethics and behavior in ARRL elections was learned on our parent's knees when we learned to play fair, not to lie and not to cheat.

So, how do ARRL elections rules work?

Each year at the "annual" (January) Board meeting, the President appoints an Ethics and Elections (E&E) Committee consisting of three Directors who are not on the Executive Committee. All questions or complaints regarding violations of League ethics and elections rules are considered thoroughly by this Committee which advises of any remedial action it concludes is needed. The committee also reviews the petitions for candidacy of each person who wishes to run for an ARRL elected office. This review is to ensure the candidate satisfies the rules of eligibility to run for office. These rules are published for anyone to read.

Relative to this point, the ARRL elections and ethics rules are being attacked by the followers of a candidate who was found to be ineligible because of failure to correct erroneous material sent out in his favor. E&E initially found this candidate met the requirements to run for Director. Later, the candidate acknowledged errors in an e-mail campaign

distribution. He agreed to correct these, promptly, according to a plan proposed by E&E. The possibility of punitive action in case the correction was not made was discussed with him.

The issue would have been resolved and the election would have proceeded without difficulty if the candidate had issues issued the correction. Unfortunately, after about two weeks, the promised correction had not been sent. After further warning and an additional wait for action, E&E concluded that continuing violation of the rules of fairness had become unacceptable. The incorrect information that may have started as a simple mistake was escalated by the candidate into a serious ethical blunder when he repeatedly failed to take the needed corrective action.

In some people's minds, the ARRL Board is guilty of taking the right to vote from them. Never mind it was the seemingly unethical action of the candidate that caused him to be disqualified.

But of course, few people are responsible for their actions these days.

The ARRL Constitution and By-Laws clearly define the rules that govern League elections. These and the ARRL Standing Orders may be found at www.arrl.org/aabl.html.

Great Lakes Division Award Winners

The Great Lakes Division Convention is the scene for special awards given for outstanding service to the amateur community. Great Lakes Division awards given this year were:

- George S. Wilson, III, W4OYI, Lifetime Achievement Award: Fred Jones, WA4SWF, Louisa, Kentucky.
- Amateur of the Year Award: Bob Check, W8GC, Independence, OH.
- DXer's Achievement Award: Ted Pauck, Jr.,

K8NA, Troy, MI.

- Newsletter of the Year: West Chester (Ohio) ARA "HF Chronicles", Mike Ashley, N8XW, editor.

- Director's Outstanding Achievement: Thomas L. Mansfield, KG4TND, Lexington, KY.

- Director's Outstanding Achievement: Bill Carpenter, AA8EY, Westerville, OH.



Congratulations to the award recipients. More importantly, thanks to them for their hard work and unselfishness in supporting Amateur Radio and their communities through our great radio service.

Division Convention -- Postlude

The Great Lakes Division Convention on Saturday, September 22 is over. It was a great event, involved tremendous internationally-known speakers, located in very neat and comfortable surroundings, featured good food and was coordinated by a tremendous committee headed by Bob Check, W8GC.

Bob, et al, thanks for putting together such an outstanding Convention. A special thanks to Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, who was a very successful General Chairman of this and the two previous Division Conventions. Similarly, Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE, has managed the exemplification of the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong at each of these conventions. A hearty well done to everyone.

Automatic Survey -- Some additional Results

I shared a couple of results of this online survey with you a few weeks ago. Here is quite a bit more from it.

To review the situation, 2,453 members took the survey with 1004 being from the Great Lakes Division. The two additional Divisions that participated were the Atlantic and the Delta Divisions.

Please note that some questions could receive multiple answers.

Of the 1270 who say they operate digital modes:

- 303 operate APRS.
- 51 operate D-Star.
- 132 operate Digital Voice.
- 1086 operate modes using keyboards.

Of the 1086 who use keyboard modes,

- 904 use PSK-31.
- 598 use RTTY.
- All remaining selections were used rather minimally.
- 171 use store and forward.
- 136 use Packet with TNC.
- 58 use Packet with sound card.
- 47 use PacTOR.
- 193 use Winlink.
- 137 of these use Winlink for emergency communications.
- 139 use Winlink on VHF; 111 use it on HF.
- Winlink was used most often (in descending order of use) on 20M, 40M, 80M, 10M, 15M and light use on 12M NS 160m.
- 15 operate a PMBO.

Walberg Sponsors HR 462

Representative Timothy Walberg, 7th District of Michigan, has signed on to co-sponsor HR 462. This is the bill that would require the FCC to review and justify its rules concerning BPL and other Part 15 devices. Included in the FCC rules to be reviewed will be the one that gives unlicensed, Part 15 incidental emitters favorite status over licensed operations including police, fire and Amateur Radio services.

Thanks to the members in Michigan Congressional District 7 who wrote to Mr. Walberg and achieved his co-sponsorship. Good job.

Vanity Call Fee Drops

In case you missed it, the FCC reduced the fee for Vanity Call Signs effective September 17. The previous fee of \$20.80 dropped to \$11.70. This new

fee is the lowest that has been charged since 11 years ago when the original fee was set at \$12. The Commission expects about 14,700 applications to be received during its coming fiscal year.

Neat Idea

When the River Cities ARA had a special event operation in Ashland, KY, they anticipated a substantial number of visitors from the general public. They got them ... and the ham station they operated kept them.

To help the visitors understand what was going on, the club set up a large US map and put pins in it to mark the locations of other ham stations they had contacted. The map with scores of pins in it became the stimulus for many discussions about Amateur Radio.

The event? It was the Summer Motion Festival. The River Cities ARA used special event call sign K4S throughout the festival.

International Humanitarian Award

Nominations are open for the 2007 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. Full details of the award are at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>.

If you know of a ham who has provided extraordinary service to others and this service has involved Amateur Radio on an International basis, please submit a nomination by December 31 to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111.

Head of Global Government Agency becomes a Ham

Dr. Hamadoun Toure who is Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) became a licensed Radio Amateur on October 8. The Secretary General is from Mali. He is licensed from Switzerland as HB9EHT.

Not to be confused with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) which is an International association of national Amateur Radio organizations, the ITU is a formal treaty organization of most governments around the world. The Department of State represents the US in the ITU treaty negotiations. Two members of the ARRL technical staff have been appointed to the delegation.

Great Lakes Division Members at the Top

Information compiled by Chwat & Company show that members of the Great Lakes Division have a substantial lead over other ARRL Divisions when it comes to writing to support Federal legislation. This is true whether we are writing our US Representatives or US Senators. This can truly be termed democracy in action. It is a key-stone to representative government.

Although I thank and congratulate everyone who has chosen to exercise their democratic freedom and obliga-

tion when it comes to supporting Amateur Radio, we must and can do better. The total number of members who have written during the current session of Congress is only somewhat above 200. This is a far cry from the thousands of ham letter writers in the Division.

The question I ask each of you is simple. Isn't the enjoyment you have received from Amateur Radio worth writing at least two or three letters a year to support hamming?

Tentative Travel Schedule

Oct 16: Branch Co. ARC, Coldwater, MI - Jim
Oct 19: Mason (OH) Area Repeater Club - Jim
Nov 14: Hazel Park ARC, Hazel Park, MI - Jim
Nov 19: Southern Ohio ARA Christmas Dinner, Russell, KY - Jim
Dec 1: Motor City RC 75th Ann., Wyandotte, MI - Jim
Dec 8: Programs & Services Committee, Newington, CT - Jim

2008

Jan 17: Programs & Services Committee, Newington, CT - Jim
Jan 18-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Houston, TX - Gary & Jim

Welcome, China!

Extracted from The Contester's Rate Sheet, October 31 2007 by Ward Silver N0AX

As the Chinese economy continues to grow and modernize, there is no reason why that shouldn't also be reflected on the air. Imagine what the bands will be like in a few years as 15 and even 10 meters start to open solidly to the Far East.

Will all of the Chinese be operating on phone only? I rather doubt it since Morse has been part of China's military communications for many years. Like Western hams, they will find that CW gets through where phone won't and that many more CW signals can be packed into a given amount of spectrum space. Given the Chinese familiarity with density, why shouldn't these calls also be heard on CW? And digital, too, using the nearly ubiquitous sound card and free software.

Western contest sponsors can help the new competitors come up to speed as quickly as possible. We can share information and experiences about operating, equipment, contest sponsorship, training, and the rules. The Chinese will be making their contributions to DXing and contesting, too. I am particularly interested in how they manage the low bands from a stand-

point of both limited space and spectral pollution. As we know from our own experiences, necessity is a powerful driver of innovation.

When will the first Chinese-sponsored DX contest be announced? What will be its rules? Chinese teams have appeared at WRTC - when will they enter the Top Ten? Will the JA and HL hams rise to the new challenge for Asian supremacy on the air? Restrictions in Thailand have recently been relaxed, with many new E21 calls on the air. And what about the VU ham community? If every cloud has a silver lining, the tsunami of two years ago and the subsequent amateur response has pulled back the limits on Indian amateur radio a bit more.

Just think, the world's two largest populations are about to begin joining us on the airwaves! Western Hemisphere hams can look forward to an ear-opening experience in a few years when the MUF to and from Asia begins to rise and stay put. Europeans are already seeing this new population in their logs, so maybe they can tip us off as to what is coming! I, for one, am excited to see it!

QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments:

Here's a QSL card that arrived at my house last week, courtesy of the ARRL incoming bureau, for a contact that I logged back in 2004.

The operator, Paul Budanov, was operating from Vernadsky Base, a Ukrainian research center on Galindez Island off the Antarctic Peninsula. If you have Google Earth installed on your PC, [this link](#) will fly you to the island. Better yet, this Quicktime VR [panorama movie](#) provides a stunning 360-degree view of the area surrounding the base. What a beautifully desolate location!

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.



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**FIRST
CLASS**



NKARC Feedline November 2007
Volume 2007 Issue 11