Vol. 2008, #4 April 2008



C

0

_

⋖

2

2

F

Z V

NIUCKY

X M

Z Z H

RIF

0

Calling All VEs!

Dixie Heights High School has a new Amateur Radio class in progress and will need to have a test administered on the afternoon of May 29th. Robert Kluck, N4IJS, is coordinating this event along with Jim Hicks, WB4CTX, and is looking for some volunteers to help. This is a great way to get some younger folks into the hobby!

If you are a Volunteer Examiner (or in the process of becoming one), we need your help! We need around 6 or 7 VEs to help with this event as there are about 30 students in the class. This would involve only one afternoon and a couple hours of your time.

If you are available to assist with giving the exam, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at n4ijs@insightbb.com or (859) 426-5588.

Thank you for your consideration!

Tech Class Offered

The OH-KY-IN ARS, QCEN and WARN are co-sponsoring a 1 day amateur radio class covering the entry level technician license. The class will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 8:00AM to 4:00PM in the Western Hills area of Cincinnati at the Salem Presbyterian Church.

The examination for the technician license will be given at the same location on Saturday, April 26, at NOON. Registration is required and students must register by April 11. Call for information and directions: 513.471.8866. For more details visit the OH-KY-IN ARS web site at www.ohkyin.org

73, Lynn, WD8JAW

Repeater Committee Members Sought

The Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club is in the process of creating a Repeater Committee to help run and manage our repeaters.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, via email (n4ijs@k4co.org or n4ijs@insightbb.com), phone (859/426-5588 or 513/919-6672), or on the 147.255 machine. We will be discussing this committee during our April meeting.

Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
Mark's Mutterings	4
March Meeting Minutes	5
Weaver's Words	6
QSL Card of the Month	10

Dates to Remember:

Apr 9 — NKARC Directors Meeting
Apr 14 — NKARC Membership Meeting
May 12 — NKARC Membership Meeting
May 16-18 — Dayton Hamvention
Jun 28 — Paddlefest
Jun 28,29 — Field Day

NKARC Directory

President

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

Vice President

Club Trustee & Historian

Greg Hatton, KG4ZTG Harold Blocher Sr., W4YWH

w4ywh@arrl.net 859-441-9595

Feedline Editor

Director at Large

Don King, AJ4DK

kingdl19406@msn.com

Secretary Net Man

Bob Burns, AB4BK b.burns@fuse.net

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

 $\underline{mvolstad@insightbb.com}$

859-689-4234

Webmaster

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@insightbb.com

Net Manager

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@insightbb.com

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

VE Testing

Testing sessions are held <u>by appointment only</u> on the 2nd Monday of each month at Turkeyfoot Middle School. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at <u>ab8sh@arrl.net</u> or tel. 513-315-4032

WEB Site

http://www.k4co.org

NKARC membership meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

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

Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or 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 publication. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ: 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 — Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com

Page 2 THE FEEDLINE

Top of the Tower

I would like us to take a moment to remember Charles Samuel ("Sam" WA4AAI). Charles passed away last month. I have only known Charles for 4 years, during this time I had many enjoyable conversations about amateur radio with him when he would attend club meetings or stop by on Field Day.

I would like to get some people to volunteer to serve on a repeater committee. This committee will evaluate our current repeater conditions and focus on correcting problems with the repeaters. The committee will need to come up with a long term plan to ensure our repeaters can serve hams well into the future. This topic will be discussed at the April meeting. If you would like to volunteer please join us at the April meeting or e-mail me at dfox03@fuse.net.

Club Meeting Presentations, If you have a presentation that you would like to present at club meeting, please contact us, we would like to get a schedule together with Amateur Radio related material for 2008.

First Aid Kits

Where are they now?

A lot of amateur radio operators and clubs prepare to help out in public events or emergency situations. Often equipment is put together, just for such an event. Then time passes with nothing happening, batteries go dead, things are moved around, equipment is used for other things, after a long period of time what was once a good set up may not be as effective as it was initially. I was reminded of this a

few weeks ago, after helping out at a car accident. I was very thankful there were only bumps and bruises and not cuts. As I was driving off I wondered if the First aid kit was in the trunk. I used to have one in each car but that was years ago. I believe about 9 years had gone by from the time I built the first aid kits. It had been about 7 years since the one in the car was used for its last emergency. Once home I started checking the condition of the one mobile first aid kit that was still intact. I found that a cold pack will break over time, iodine bottles leak, and bandage packages turn color after years in the trunk of the car.

It took me a few days to update all the first aid kits and get them ready for use if needed.

This was a good reminder to start looking at some of my emergency equipment like extra batteries for the radios. I should have enough stuff to set up a portable antenna.

So the tip of the month is: be prepared, and if you were a few years ago check to make sure your supplies have not expired.

Dann C. Fox, KI4AVO

March 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
3/4/08	AJ4DK (Don)	6	23	0
3/11/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	9	32	0
3/18/08	AJ4DK (Don)	7	32	0
3/25/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	25	0
TOTALS		31	112	0

Page 3 THE FEEDLINE

Mark's Mutterings

Move over, Elecraft!

At the 2005 Dayton Hamvention, I came across a booth for a company called DZKit that was developing a high-end HF transceiver kit. When I came home, I tried to Google the company's web site, but could not find it. I did not see them at last year's Hamvention, so I assumed that the project was cancelled. Well, I recently stumbled across the web site I was looking for. The company is based in Colorado, and the radio is called the Sienna. They are now taking orders, but as far as I can tell, none have been delivered yet.

It seems as though last year's introduction of the Elecraft K3 may have taken most of the wind out of the Sienna's sails, though, as the Sienna lists for almost double the price of the K3, while offering fewer features (the lack of IF DSP and 6M coverage being the most significant omissions). It utilizes a traditional triple-conversion design with 70 MHz first IF instead of down-converting a low first IF frequency the way Ten-Tec and Elecraft do. As such, I doubt that it will set any performance records for close-in receiver dynamic range. The Sienna's main selling point seems to be that it is a "true kit", in the sense that extensive soldering of components is required on the part of the builder. The kit version of the K3, by comparison, ships with modules that are 100% pre-assembled and tested. Whether this is enticement enough for hams to part with 3000 smackeroos remains to be seen, but knowing that there are some hams who seem to feel compelled to build every radio kit that's on the market, I'm sure DZ will sell a few. I wish them the best of luck!

Mountain Dew, giant aluminum stilts, and ham radio

It's so rare for ham radio to get any mentions in today's popular culture, that when I saw this hilarious TV commercial recently, I nearly fell out of my chair! Can you identify any of the boat anchors the YL is using? I think I see Drake and Hammerlund rigs on the left, but have no clue about the units on the right. I'm sure that one of our old-timers will set me straight.



An author among us!

Congratulations to NKARC member Robert Kluck, N4IJS, whose article on how to run Linux under Windows will be appearing in the May/June issue of QEX magazine! I've had a chance to see an advance copy of the article, and I'm sure that it will be very well received by the QEX readership. I believe that Robert plans to do a presentation on this topic at a future club meeting.

73,

Mark, AI4BJ

Page 4 THE FEEDLINE

March Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2008, NKARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dann Fox at the Turkey Foot Middle School at 7:32 p.m.

Dann led the group in the pledge to the flag.

Self introductions followed with 17 present.

The treasurer's report presented by Dann was approved.

Lyle Hamilton reported that tonight's examinee upgraded by passing both the Technician and General tests

Dann asked everyone to keep Charles Samuels in mind, he is very ill.

When in doubt about whether a meeting will take place due to inclement weather, monitor

the repeaters and check the web site for information about cancelled meetings. The possibility of having cancellations posted on commercial TV and radio stations is being considered.

Banklick Woods Park has been reserved for Field Day. This is the same location as last year. There is a conflict with Paddle Fest and Field Day this year.

Lynn Ernst reported that Paddle Fest is June 28 this year. The shift is from 6 a.m. until about noon. He suggested that one could work Paddle Fest and then participate in Field Day later in the afternoon and evening.

The meeting was turned over to Mark Volstad for tonight's presentation on using solar power with your HF rig.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Burns

The April NKARC membership meeting will include a presentation by Robert Kluck, N4IJS, on HF communications. Please join us Monday, April 14.

Weaver's Words

Jim Weaver, K8JE

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

Kosovo and DXCC

Kosovo (or Kosova, if you prefer) has come under the DXCC microscope these days thanks to our friends Martti Lane, OH2BH, Bob Locher, W9KNI, Kip Edwards, W6ZN and Bernie McClenny, W3UR. I say friends because each of these amateurs has contributed greatly to the DXCC program. I especially appreciate the QSLs I have received through several of Martti's DXpeditions. In spite of this, I believe these friends are off base concerning Kosovo.

For you who aren't familiar with the situation, Bob, Kip and Bernie are each quoted on a post card Martti sends along with QSLs for a DXpedition he headed to Kosovo in February. Kosovo declared independence February 17. Martti and the group want ARRL to ignore its DXCC rules and declare Kosovo a new entity.

I applaud the determination and dedication each of the four amateurs have displayed. However, I don't view the issue the same way as they see it. They want us to ignore the following rule for determining when a political entity can become a new DXCC entity:

"1. Political Entities:

"Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. They generally contain an indigenous population which is not predominantly composed of military or scientific personnel.

"An Entity will be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

"a) The entity is a UN Member State.

"b) The entity has been assigned a callsign prefix bloc by the ITU. (The exceptions to this rule are international organizations, such as the UN and ICAO. These Entities are classified under Special Areas, 3.a); and Ineligible Areas, 4.b).) A provisional prefix bloc assignment may be made by the Secretary General of ITU. Should such provisional assignments not be ratified later by the full ITU, the Entity will be removed from the DXCC List. "c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

"New Entities satisfying one or more of the conditions above will be added to the DXCC List by administrative action as of their 'Event Date'."

So far, Kosovo is not qualified to be listed as a DXCC entity by the above criteria. When it qualifies, it will be listed.

I won't take the space in this e-letter to discuss each point Martti cites as reason for considering Kosovo a special case and making it a new entity. Let's take a look at few of the points, though:

- "With Russia on the UN Security Council, Kosovo is not likely to become a UN member for quite some time." This may or may not be true. Regardless, UN membership is not the only way to become recognized as a new entity.
- "Kosovo is analogous with East Timor and therefore should be recognized." The fact is that Kosovo is not analogous with E. Timor. The argument does not apply.
- "An Independent Kosovo is part of the UN roadmap of it." There is/was no UN roadmap for its independence. One was proposed, but was not adopted.
- "Contacts with Kosovo after February 17 should count as Kosovo; not Serbia." The fact is that US recognition notwithstanding, Kosovo has yet to receive sufficient recognition worldwide to be considered independent.
- "ARRL reacted abruptly in proclaiming Kosovo was not eligible to become a new entity." In the true sense of the word, ARRL did not proclaim Kosovo was ineligible to be an entity. League members asked if contacts from the February DXpedition counted toward DXCC. The HQ staff merely answered these questions by stating that DXCC rules prevent these contacts from counting. We did not

Page 6 THE FEEDLINE

rush out to move against Kosovo's declaration of independence.

It is noteworthy that the February DXpedition was sanctioned by Serbia -- not by Kosovo. The Callsign used by the operation is Serbian. Provided Kosovo is, indeed, an independent country, it will come to receive worldwide recognition and will be listed as a new entity by ARRL.

Incidentally, it has been said that US soldiers died to make Kosovo an independent country. I may be wrong, but the way I remember it the US military was involved in Serbia to stop "ethnic cleansing," not to bring independence to anyone. Conversely, it did nothing to prevent independence.

Final comment: The ARRL staff and Board of Directors have worked hard and long to take the DXCC program out of politics. The issue surrounding Kosovo as a new country is fully political. As for me, I'm pulling for Kosovo to become recognized internationally. Changing DXCC rules to list it as an entity will not help them gain this recognition.

Elmering newbies -- more

Several members wrote concerning my comments on nurturing newbies in the March issue of Weavers' Words. Included in these was a reminder by Phil DeRuiter, K5PDR of a golden oldie article named Your Novice Accent. Phil went so far as to trace it down -- to KB6NU's web page. KB6NU happens to be none other than Dan Romanchik, Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC).

The article was written many years ago when Morse code proficiency was required for licensing. Even so, a little judicious mental editing makes it just as appropriate for phone operating as it is for code operating. Dan had updated the article some time in the past. It could probably stand further updating to become Your Technician Accent.

I encourage clubs, licensing class teachers and individuals who are interested in developing quality new hams to review the article, add items related to phone operating and include relevant portions of it in club activities, newsletters and as supplemental material to license training classes.

Your Novice Accent can be found at

<u>http://kb6nu.com/your-novice-accent/</u>. Thanks to Dan for posting it.

NB4K appointed **DLAC**

I am very happy to announce that former Kentucky SM John Meyers, NB4K has accepted appointment as the Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) for the Great Lakes Division. In this position, John will coordinate the activities of the Legislative Action Coordinators for each of our states. With John as DLAC you can expect to see more activity assigned to our LACs and Legisla-

tive Action Assistants (LAAs).

John has considerable experience in promoting Amateur Radio to local and state legislators and officers in Kentucky. He will be a great asset to the Legislative Action Program in the GLD.

Nominate an outstanding young ham

The ARRL invites nominations for the 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM) Memorial Award. The League's premier youth recognition, the HPM Memorial Award goes annually to a radio amateur under age 21 in recognition of the recipient's accomplishments and contributions "of the most exemplary nature" to the ham community and general-public communities during the previous calendar year -- 2007 in this instance.

Examples of criteria for nomination include:

- Participation or leadership in organizational or operational affairs at the local or national level (e.g. radio club, ARES/EMCOMM, net control, participation in civic groups).
- Technical achievement (building radios, putting up an antenna and

such).

- Operating record (for example, nets, disaster drills, contests, ARRL November Sweepstakes, etc).
- Recruitment and training of new amateurs (for example, helped teach a license class, JOTA, etc).
- Public relations activities (for example, create a ham radio Web page.

President Harrison suffers second tragedy

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN has suffered the sec-

Page 7 THE FEEDLINE

ond personal tragedy when his father, Barney Harrison passed away on Monday, March 10. The funeral service was held on Thursday, March 13. I expressed the condolences of the Division to Joel.

President Harrison named by Arkansas governor

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe has appointed ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to a four year term to the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority. The appointment was ratified by the Arkansas Senate.

It is about time that something good happened to Joel!

Hamvention road construction

As many people know, the orange barrel is the unofficial state flower of Ohio. Dayton Hamvention(R) Robert Lunsford, KB8UEY has given notice that several routes to HARA in the Dayton area may prove slow due to reconstruction. Robert is Talk-In Chairman for the Hamvention and has posted clear instructions on avoiding most of the slow spots on the Hamvention web site. These instructions can be found at www.hamvention.org.

ARRL at the Hamvention

Speaking of the greatest gathering of amateurs in the world, the Dayton Hamvention(R), ARRL again will feature an ARRL Expo. The Expo will feature several mini-seminars, displays of ARRL programs and products, many of the League officers, directors, vice directors and members of management.

A Great Lakes Division booth will be included in the XXXXXX area. Members in this Division are invited to stop by the booth to say hello and discuss any issues they may have. Section and Division officers are invited to spend time at the booth to chat with people who stop by.

Michigan QSO Party

The Michigan QSO Party is April 19, 1200 EDST to 2400 EDST (16Z Saturday April 19 until 04Z Sunday April 20) Details at http://www.miqp.org. The MiQP is REALLY fun - we folks in Michigan are the bait for all the folks outside the state who are looking for contacts!

For up to date info on who is operating, etc., please join the Michigan QSO Party reflector. Details of how this works are at http://www.miqp.org/Reflector.htm

Mni tnx to Hank Greeb, N8XX for the above item. I especially like to publicize our Section QSO parties -- as well as to operate in them.

Why I love this job

I don't believe I've ever explained the reason I enjoy being your Great Lakes Division Director. I've made individual comments about this, but let me put it all together.

The first reason I enjoy being your Director is that I have the opportunity to see many of you personally, and to correspond with still many others on a one-on-one basis. Hams are the greatest. Sure, there are a few stinkers who have sneaked in among us, but in my mind, Amateur Radio operators generally are a cut above the average member of the general population.

Getting to know you even on a limited basis adds much to my life.

Doing my best to ensure the future of Amateur Radio is safe and enjoyable for everyone in it is my second reason. Of course, there are many amateurs who devote part of their available time to promote and preserve hamming and its value to the public. I applaud each of you who do this. My thrill is that I am favored through good fortune and your support to be able to work at the national level and even to attempt to influence our great radio service internationally.

For some reason, I've also always enjoyed problem solving. The more difficult or complex the problem, the more I enjoy trying to help solve it.

As GLD Director, I certainly have plenty of opportunity to tackle problems. These problems often require the cooperation and assistance of many additional people. Fun. Especially when the problem is solved.

Finally, I really enjoy hearing from you -- your wishes, your complaints, your general comments. I want to know what you think. Please keep it up.

Map your FD site

ARRL has opened a new online locator service. Through this service, Field Day (FD) groups may post their location on a map to help workers and visitors reach the site. This new service is described on the ARRL web site at

www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/03/21/10021.?nc =1.

I was privileged to participate in the beta test of this locator service. It is neat.

Clubs are teaching CW

Its nice to see a few clubs are offering Morse code classes and are having members sign up for them. Before you get me wrong, I'm not someone who thinks one cannot be a ham unless they have shown proficiency in CW. What I believe is that Morse has a definite place in Amateur Radio for those who wish to use it. I said this knowing I would displease some members, but this is what I think.

Code is wonderful when one is trying to pull a weak signal out of QRM or QRN. It is great for DXing. So are many of the digital modes.

Where does this leave me? I favor having as many amateurs who wish to use them use any mode the FCC makes legal for us to use.

One-day licensing courses

I have nothing against making it possible for wannabe hams to become licensed through 1-day intensive courses. I have a concern that too many of these courses are being unfair to the student as well as to Amateur Radio. Why?

My guess is that many cram courses do not include meaningful discussion of good operating practices. For this matter, few longer-term license courses contain such discussion. It is ignorance of good operating practices that is one of the biggest problems Amateur Radio faces today.

I suggest that one objective of any licensing course should be to help instill awareness of good operating practice as well as to get people licensed.

April Fools' Day fun

After all of these years (I won't tell you how many), I will 'fess-up to being as nasty an older brother as most young guys. I am the oldest "kid" in the family and my next younger sibling is my only sister. I

particularly gave her a rough time (before she grew old enough to beat me up) on her birthday. When was this? April 1. What else would you expect?

Tentative Schedule

2008

Apr 2: Lake County ARC, Painesville, OH - Jim

Apr 14: Portage County ARS (OH) Meeting - Jim

Apr 22: Quarterly Division Cabinet Teleconference, 9 PM

May 7: Mound ARA Meeting, Miamisburg, OH - Jim

May 16-18: Dayton Hamvention(TM) - Gary & Jim

Jun 21: Milford, OH, Hamfest - Jim

Jul QST 'til noon Aug 8: Nominations for Director/Vice Director open.

Jul 10: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown, OH - Jim

Jul 17-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim & Gary

Jul 22: Quarterly Division Cabinet Teleconference, 9 PM.

Aug 10: Central KY ARRL Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim

Sep 21: Cincinnati Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH - Jim. Sep 23-Oct 1: Ballots mailed for Director/Vice Director election.

Oct 7: OH-IKY-ARS Meeting, ARRL Night - Jim Oct 12: Michigan State Convention & Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI - Jim

Oct 28: Quarterly Division Cabinet Teleconference, 9 PM.

Nov 21, noon: Deadline for return of ballots. Ballots counted.

Nov 22 end of day: Candidates notified of election results.

2009

Jan 1, noon: Terms end for current GLD Director/Vice Director. Terms begin for newly elected/re-elected Director/Vice Director.

QSL Card of the Month

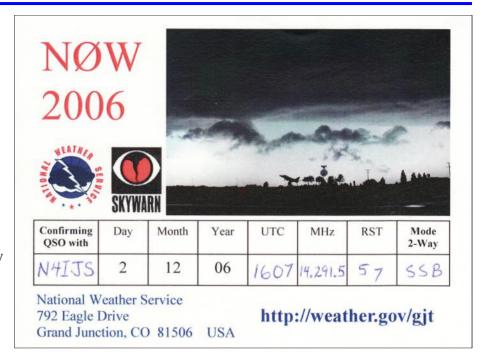
Submitted by:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

Comments:

One of the many facets of Amateur Radio I enjoy is combining one of my other interests, weather (or WX), with Ham Radio operating (or, as my wife says, I am being an 'Uber Goober'). Most of my family, including my wife Toni, KI4NRG, daughter Erika, and son Robert, are certified NOAA Weather Spotters. We learned all about weather spotting, what to report, and how to save lives and property and are members of SKYWARN (www.skywarn.org). If you enjoy weather, you may want to consider going to one of these classes - while a bit long to sit through, you can get a lot of information (watch the K4CO web site for upcoming classes).

Usually on the first weekend of December, NOAA sponsors a spe-



cial SKYWARN Recognition Day. During this time, various Amateur operators will go to their local National Weather Service office and operate a special event station. One of the main special event stations is NOW, which I was fortunate enough to work last year. I think that the picture they chose to include on the card is really special! My wife and I were trying to figure out if the plane in the pic-

ture is (a) real or a monument and (b) is the "thing" under it a stand, tree, or something else... Any guesses?

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.

Page 10 THE FEEDLINE

Return to: Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 1062 Covington, Ky. 41012 FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NKARC Feedline April 2008 Volume 2008 Issue 4