



# The Feedline

## NKARC/KD7ARET Christmas Dinner

All NKARC and KD7ARET members and their guests are invited to attend the annual Christmas dinner Monday, December 14 at 6:30. The location will be the Golden Corral at 488 Orphanage Rd. in Fort Wright, just north of I-275 off of Rte. 17. (Same location as last year.)



### Upcoming Programs

**Dr. Alan Cohen, KA9GRY**, will present a program on **bio-terrorism and Amateur Radio** at the **January 11** meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

## A Voice from the Past

*I received the following email in response to last month's article on the early days of NKARC — Ed.*

It was with great interest that I read your article "NKARC: The Early Days." I was surprised to find my name on the 1958 member's list. My call sign was K4VEY. Currently my call sign is W6RGV. I am retired in Corpus Christi, Texas. I was born in Covington, Ky. I am pleased to find the club still alive after 50 years. I was in high school and graduated from Highlands High in 1959. I ran a homebrew 813 plate modulated by a pair of 811's at the time.

The club was founded with a strong connection to Civil Defense as that was the cold war period. The club was also connected with the Red Cross and provided emergency communications during floods from the Ohio. The club participated in CD drills and was graded on relaying a "Big Bomb" message to CD headquarters. The club had full access to the Lexington, KY signal corps depot surplus property and was able to buy at the price of 10 cents per pound. The club did in fact obtain a quantity of military mobile 10m FM transceivers.

Continued on page 10

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### Dates to Remember:

- Dec 12, 13 – [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)
- Dec 14 – NKARC/KD7ARET Christmas Dinner
- Jan 11 – NKARC membership meeting

# NKARC Directory

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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.

**NKARC Net:** Tuesdays, 8:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

**VE Testing:** Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month, prior to the NKARC membership meeting. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at [ab8sh@arrl.net](mailto:ab8sh@arrl.net) or tel. 513-315-4032

**NKARC Web Site:** <http://www.k4co.org>

**NKARC Membership Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Hilltop Church of Christ, 5300 Taylor Mill Rd (Ky. 16), Taylor Mill, KY. Visitors are always welcome!

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed via direct email to current NKARC members. **If you are a member but are not receiving your copy, please notify the Feedline editor.** 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 for the January

Feedline must be received no later than January 1. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

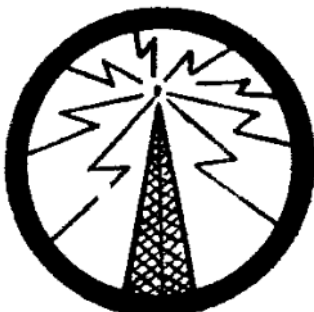
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# Top of the Tower

November has been a busy month for the club, and an exciting one to boot! The Artemis tour was a lot of fun, as well as being informative. They have an incredible setup there, and they are tasked with a tough job that they do extremely well. Even in the face of shifting budgets, they continue to expand and update equipment, and their coverage area keeps growing. We had a nice opportunity to see how the communication system works, as well as the cameras and the scanner information center they have. Hopefully we'll be able to set up another tour down the road for those who wanted to go this time but were unable to do so.



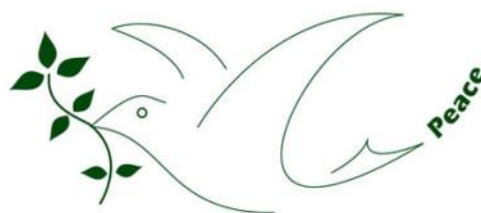
Dinner, and I hope everyone is planning to come and enjoy the fellowship with friends and family.

We have a number of new members and so I make a special invitation to them to join us for dinner, and getting a chance to visit with everyone is always a treat!

I hope Christmas brings a time of joy and peace to you and yours, and that somehow in the hustle and bustle of the season that we find time to not only enjoy our radios, but also each other. The friends and family we have in this life are far more valuable than anything else this world has to offer.

Another great event was the K4CO Special Event Station organized by Mike, KB4VKS. Over 100 contacts were made, and several students from Dixie Heights made their first HF contacts. Multiple generations were a part of this 50 year celebration, with one of the founding members present (thanks, John, KY4JD!). Many folks chipped in time and equipment to make this happen, and all the effort paid off in one of the best club events ever. Thanks to all!

See you all for dinner!  
Robert AK3Q



December brings with it our annual Christmas

## November NKARC Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
11/3/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	32	0
11/10/09	AJ4DK (Mike)	8	21	0
11/17/09	N4IJS (Robert)	10	33	0
11/24/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	23	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>

# November Meeting Minutes

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

- Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31
- Treasurer's report handed out; motion carried to accept the report as written
- Motion carried to accept October minutes as reported in the Feedline

### Old Business

- Special event station discussed;

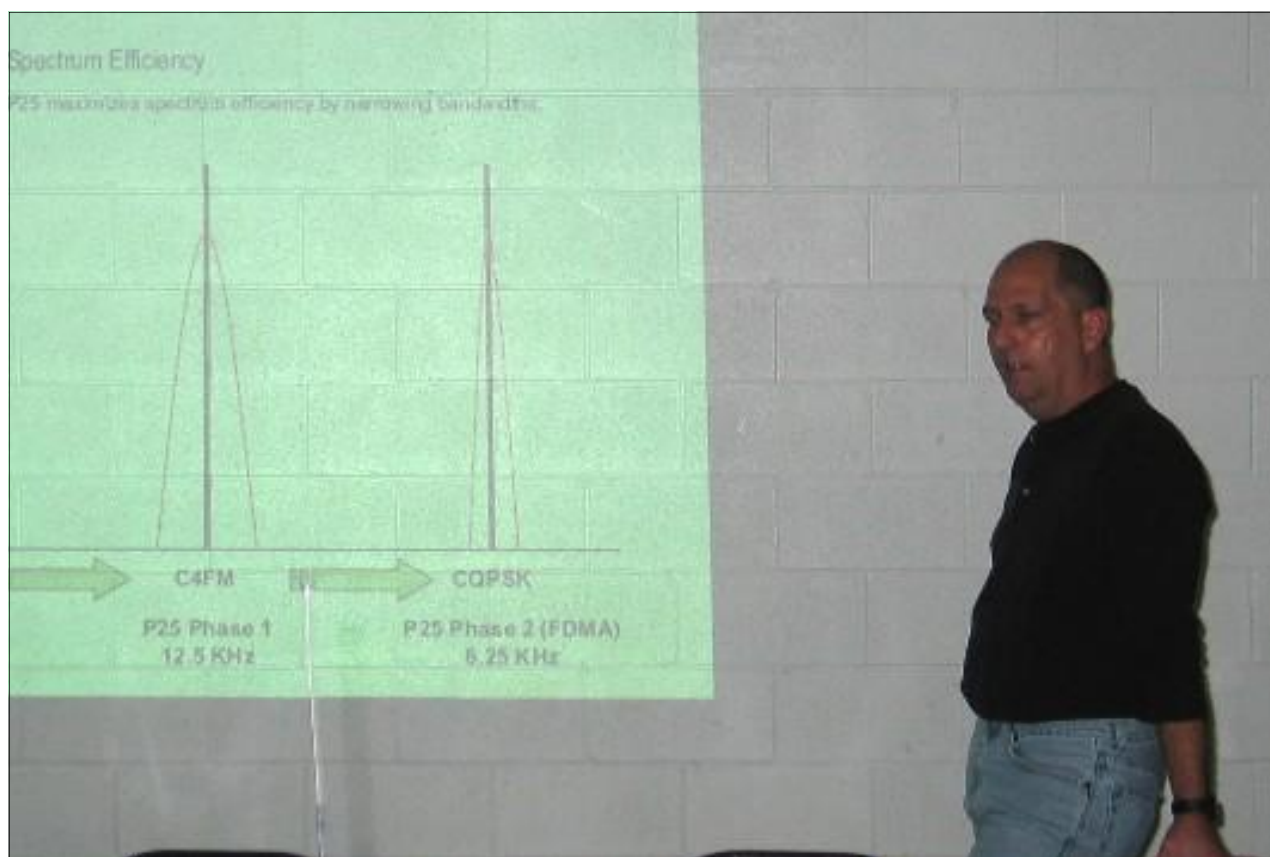
- Halloween Contest was a success
- After motion to Nomination committee (Mark Volstad and Rod Villari) announced slate of candidates for 2010: Dann Fox President, Robert Kluck VP, and Don King Director at Large; vote on slate will be held at January meeting--motion made/amended to accept single slate of officer candidates, all in favor, none opposed

### New Business

- Artemis tour for the 23rd of No-

- vember announced;
- Voting for Presentation Contest announced, as well as a reminder about the Net participation contest whose awards will be given at the Christmas Dinner
- Motion carried to adjourn business portion of the meeting at 8:10,
- presentation by Rod (KJ4IAM) on Digital Scanning followed.

Respectfully submitted by Robert AK3Q



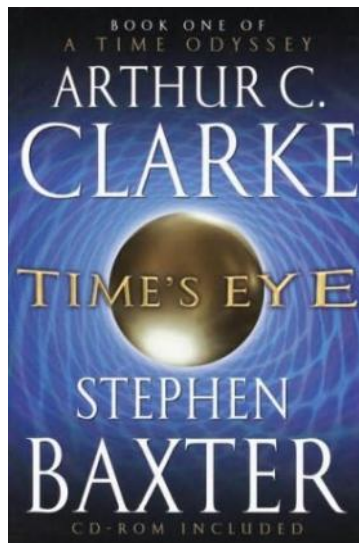
Rod Villari, KJ4IAM, presented a program on digital public radio service scanning.

# Mark's Mutterings

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## Time's Eye

I used to read a lot of science fiction in my youth. Nowadays my reading interests are a bit more varied, but a few months ago I was visiting the public library and picked up Time's Eye from the "quick read" shelf. The novel was co-authored by Arthur C. Clarke (my favorite sci-fi au-



thor) and Stephen Baxter. The premise of the story is that a mysterious time-shift occurs, and the Earth becomes a fragmented patchwork of different periods of time in Earth's history, from pre-history to the mid 21st century. At the moment the time-shift occurs, a group of astronauts have just undocked from the international space station and are preparing to return to Earth in their Soyuz capsule. They realize that the space station has vanished, and that they are unable to make radio contact with Earth. After a couple of days in orbit, wondering what they should do,

one of the astronauts remembers that they are carrying a decommissioned (ARISS) Amateur Radio transceiver. They hook it up and eventually make contact with a group of UN peacekeepers from the not-too-distant future, whose helicopter has crash-landed in Afghanistan. The storyline eventually involves an intriguing cast of historic figures, including Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great and Rudyard Kipling, and comes to a climax in ancient Babylon. If you enjoy history, you'll find it a very entertaining read!



## Searching Feedline back-issues, or, Google is your best friend!

I'm occasionally asked if I remember which issue of The Feedline contained a particular article. Believe it or not, there is a complete index of all four years of Feedlines found on the [k4co.org](http://k4co.org) web site. It's called Google! Just click on the [Advanced Search](#) link, then enter [k4co.org](http://k4co.org) in the text box labeled "Search within a site or domain". You can then search for any word, call sign or phrase. Simple, huh?

## There are antennas, and then there are ANTENNAS!

A few weeks ago I was thrilled to work 5N00CH "Bodo" in Nigeria, a new DXCC entity for me. I was amazed at how strong his signal was. When I looked up his call on [qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) (<http://www.qrz.com/db/5N00CH>), I discovered *why* it was so strong!

Bodo is a German engineer who is currently involved in setting up a new shortwave transmitter station for the Voice of Nigeria. He has antennas at his disposal that most hams can only dream of! He has put together a very nice [YouTube video](#) that describes it much better than words can. Check out the coax adapters at the 1:57 mark! Somehow I doubt that I will ever stumble across a bin full of these in the Hamvention flea market!



# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**  
**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**  
**E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org); Tel.: 513-459-0142**

## S. 1755 Reported from Committee

The US Senate version of The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 was reported by voice vote from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The next stop is the Senate floor.

Stand by for information on how you can help move this bill forward through the full Senate. S. 1755 and companion bill HR 2160 in the US House are the first steps toward overcoming excessively-restrictive codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) in real estate contracts. These CC&Rs ban amateurs from erecting antennas in ever-increasing numbers of private housing developments in the US.



HR 2160 still needs our support. Please write to your representative in the US House of Representatives urging him to support this bill.

Congratulations:

\* To Chris Castle, KI4BOQ of West Van Lear, KY who was named to the Kentucky All-State Choir for the third consecutive year. He is a senior at Johnson Central High School and is the son of Ron Castle, KI4NM. Great job, Chris.

\* To Ken Massie, WN8F of Ironton, OH who received the Great Lakes Division Director's Achievement Award for his long-time service to Amateur Radio and the community in the southern Ohio area. Thanks to Fred Jones, WA4SWF of Louisa, KY for making the presentation on my be-

half.

\* To Kirk Swallow, W8QID of Cincinnati and John Meyers, NB4K of Butler, KY for being accepted into the ARRL A-1 Operators Club. Each of these became new members by being nominated by two existing members. Information on the A-1 Operators Club is at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#a1>.

## Amateur Radio: An Emergency Communication Service?

FCC's statement that Amateur Radio is not an emergency communication service created furor among a number of amateurs. They heatedly insist Amateur Radio is an emergency communication service. I understand what they are saying, but I disagree with them. To call the great service we love and enjoy an EmComm service short changes it. Ham radio is much more than an EmComm service.

The basis and purpose of Amateur Radio as the FCC lists them in Part 97 are:

"97.1 Basis and purpose . . . fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

"(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary, non-commercial communications service particularly with respect in providing emergency communications.

"(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

"(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur rules which provide for advancing skills in

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both the communication and technical phases of the art.

"(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

"(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

Section 97.1 identifies four purposes for Amateur Radio. Only one of these relates to EmComm. By definition, Amateur Radio is more than an EmComm service. Realizing this fact does not detract from ham radio as an important provider of emergency communication support to the public. It merely allows us to realize the broader value FCC places on our service.

### The GLD in Print

December QST, p. 57: GLD member Richard Arnold, AF8X of Clinton Township, MI is in print. His 2-page article describes moving from using a straight key to semi-automatic and automatic keys to operate CW.

Last month, I missed mentioning Matt Severin, K8MS of Traverse City, MI who participated in the 2009 Teachers Institute Advanced Satellite Workshop. Matt's picture is on p. 76 of the November QST. I also have misplaced a reference to an article in a recent issue of QEX by another GLD member. Sorry.

### Two GLD Sections have PRB-1 Bill in Legislatures

Both the Michigan and Ohio Sections have PRB-1 bills in their respective state legislatures. The Michigan bill, Michigan HB 5556, and the Ohio bill, Ohio HB 212, need member support. To

learn how you can help make Michigan and Ohio members of the growing group of states to adopt PRB-1 legislation, please contact the PRB-1 committee managers. These are PRB-1 Committee Project Manager Len Todd, N8AGS (n8ags@arrl.net) and Ohio State Project Manager Steve Katz, N8WL (n8wl@arrl.net).

The Michigan bill may be found at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id17.html>; the Ohio bill at [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128\\_HB\\_212](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_212).

A companion bill to Ohio HB 212 will be introduced into the Ohio Senate within a few days.



These bills are very passable. Work is needed to get this done. Over 50% of the states in the US have already passed similar bills. None of these bills add costs to local or state budgets. They simply will put the provisions of FCC PRB-1 into state law. Doing this will make it much more apparent to local governments it is illegal summarily to ban the amateur antenna structures or to exercise excessive control over their height. Passing the state "PRB-1" bills will put existing federal "law" into state law.

Please contact your Michigan and Ohio state legislators by mail, fax, e-mail, telephone or in person to ask them to support these bills.

### Operating Courtesy

Our ability to drive on streets and highways in reasonable safety depends on orderly driving practices by our fellow drivers and us. Our ability to conduct day-to-day business depends largely on basic honesty between other people and us. So too, our ability to operate and enjoy Amateur Radio depends on mutual courtesy between our fellow amateurs and us.

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To exist in harmony with each other, we need to respect the needs and rights of each other. When it comes to this, all that is needed is to observe the Golden Rule -- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

It is unfortunate that too many hams overlook the Golden Rule. Instead they fail to observe good operating practices and FCC regulations when operating. This occurs most noticeably, but not totally, during contests and DX pileups.

I refer to the bad operating that occurs when in their eagerness to compete, contesters or DXers thoughtlessly transmit on top of ongoing QSOs. Equally bad is when a member of a scheduled net or QSO acts as though the frequency belongs to them and barges into another QSO, contest or DX pileup to claim the frequency by brute force. Either situation represents poor operating practice -- and maybe a flagrant rules violation.

There are gray areas associated with QRM. These gray areas often occur as propagation shifts. As this shift occurs, distant, previously-unheard stations may come into range . . . right on top of an ongoing QSO or net.

When propagation shift results in QRM, which station is at fault? Neither, probably. The situation is an act of the propagation gods. Yet, much of the time we hear one or both stations complain ad nauseum about the discourteous behavior of the other guy who suddenly started to QRM. Never mind that the other guy may have been on frequency for at least as long as the other operator.

A mature operating attitude is all that is needed to resolve coincidental QRM such as this. Someone probably should QSY.

If you are a net control or net manager, the message is that the net does not own a frequency; any

frequency. Most NTS nets of which I am aware understand this and act accordingly. Members of a few other nets sometimes seem to be uneducated about this fact and often try to capture "their" frequency by stomping all over (technical term) other operators.

Courtesy is a free, readily-available commodity. It should be exercised more frequently and more fully.

### **ARISS going Strong**

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is going strong. Updates about earth-ISS QSO scheds and other aspects of the program are sufficiently plentiful to cause ARISS team mentor Charlie Sulfana, AJ9N to send bulletins about the program on a weekly or semi-weekly basis. Members who attended the Great Lakes Division Symposium this past September will remember Charlie as one of the presenters at this gathering.

Information on the ARISS program can be obtained by going to <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ariss/news/arissnews.rtf>.

### **First Waiver goes to Kentucky**

The first waiver granted by FCC to allow employees to communicate via Amateur Radio on behalf of their employers was issued to the Kentucky Department of Communications Affairs, Robert L. Stephens, Emergency Communications Supervisor. Bob is Amateur Radio licensee WA4CMO. The waiver granted a single, 9-hour exception to Section 97.113 of the Commission's rules.

As stated in part in the FCC letter of waiver,



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“This letter grants your request . . . for a waiver to permit certain Amateur Radio Service licensees who are employees of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to transmit communications on behalf of their employer during an upcoming government emergency drill.”

The emergency drill for which the waiver was granted was a “major Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Exercise.”

A recent FCC Public Notice stated that waivers to 97.113 may be granted only for individual government-sponsored drills and only following submission of written requests that detail the drill and its participants.

### **New Canadian Driving Laws Effect Visiting Hams**

In looking into the impact of the new Ontario law that requires operation of mobile, two-way radios to be hands free, it was learned that Quebec also has a law that impacts Amateur Radio. In Quebec, driving while holding a hand-held device with a “telephone function” is outlawed. This is true even though the telephone function is not being used. There is no exemption for amateurs.

In Ontario, the new, hands-free law applies immediately to non-residents. Ontario residents are granted a 3-year grace period before the law is enforced. These new laws appear to be consistent with Canadian-US treaty regarding Amateur Radio.

Finally, Manitoba has passed a hands-free law that is not yet in force. Enforcement will begin only after detailed regulations have been completed.

Thanks to Marsha Fleming, N8FE of Oak Park, MI for obtaining much of this information from Richard Ferch, VE3KI of Ontario. Rich is Vice

President, Regulatory Affairs of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). The RAC is the national organization for radio amateurs in Canada.

### **Commercialization of Amateur Radio Webinar -- follow-up**

The October webinar was great. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD and ARRL Regulatory Manager, Dan Henderson, N1ND discussed Section 97.113 of the FCC rules, including the recent Public Notice that clarified this section. Several excellent questions were asked by participants. Nearly 1000 joined in this online seminar.

Audio of the presentation can be downloaded at [www.atldiv.org/training](http://www.atldiv.org/training). A CD that includes video is also available through the site. The cost of the CD is only \$5 plus \$2.41 shipping to total \$7.41.

Thanks to Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR for hosting this event and for opening it and other webinars to GLD members.

### **Mental Meanderings**

Two brief points --

Club Newsletters: I enjoy reading club newsletters. If your club is sending me its newsletter by USPS, this is fine. However, if the newsletter is also published online, please save money by emailing it to me or notifying me where I can find it. If your newsletter is not being sent to me, I will appreciate being added to your distribution list.

Reprinting from Weaver's Words: Feel free to reprint from this e-newsletter. The only requests are that the reprint remains faithful to the context in which it was written and that Weaver's Words be cited as the source. This request is to help ensure that personal statements I make in it are not

viewed as official ARRL Board policy.

Finally, I hope each of you and your families had a very nice Thanksgiving. I wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah or any other occasion you may observe.

### Tentative Schedule

Beginning with 2010, activities scheduled to be attended by a Division representative will be listed on this schedule as soon as attending them is set. In addition, all ARRL-sanctioned hamfests in the Division will be listed three months in advance of their scheduled month.

- 1 Dec: Cincinnati FM Club Dinner - Jim
- 6 Dec: l'Anse Creuse ARC Hamfest, Mt. Clemens, MI
- 14 Dec: Director Teleconference - Jim
- 8 Jan: Dayton ARA presentation - Jim
- 11 Jan: Director Teleconference - Jim
- 14 Jan: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim
- 15-16 Jan: Board of Directors, Windsor, CT - Gary, Jim
- 17 Jan: SMARS Hamfest, Marshall, MI
- 17 Jan: SCARF Hamfest, Nelsonville, OH
- 31 Jan: TUSCO Hamfest, Strasburg, OH
- 6 Feb: HARA Swap & Shop, Negaunee, MI
- 7 Feb: NOARS Winter Hamfest, Lorain, OH
- 11 Feb: SW Ohio DXA presentation - Jim
- 13 Feb: Cherryland Hamfest, Traverse City, MI
- 14 Feb: Midwinter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH - Jim
- 21 Feb: Livonia Swap n Shop, Livonia, MI
- 6 Mar: Mammoth Cave ARC, Cave City, KY - Jim
- 20 Mar: Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI - Jim
- 20 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, OH - Jim
- 11 Sep: Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY - Jim

### "Voice From the Past", continued from Cover.

The mobile units came with a 6 ft rack mounted base station.

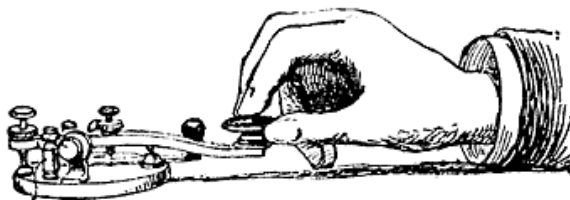
The club met above a florist shop in Newport. The space was also used by a Sea Scout group. The chili shop just around the corner was the place to be after the meetings. The "3 way" was my favorite.

The club members also designed and assembled a 6 meter transceiver kit. It was called the "CQ sender". It was remarked that the kit found its way up to Benton Harbor and the design was "borrowed" by Heathkit for the ["Lunch Box"](#).

Summertime meetings were held at members QTH. The club paid for some "Dawgs" and "fixins" and some soda pop and beer. Opportunity to see and operate members stations.

Lotta good times !!!

73 DE W6RGV  
Jeff Cassell



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