Vol. 2012, #4
April 2012

NKARC
NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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The Feedline

Online DXCC Application Debuts April 2

From the ARRL Letter, 3/28/2012

Beginning April 2 at 12:01 AM EDT (0401 UTC), the ARRL's new Online DXCC tool will be ready to accept applications, allowing hams to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form to apply for a new DXCC award or endorsement. Submitting a DXCC application using Online DXCC is easier than making a paper application, saving both time and money.

Using the Online DXCC Application, the user can select the cards that he or she would like to have checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC. When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ. The card checker's job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the participant has worked that out with the card checker), as the client can pay online. Once submitted, DXCC staff can access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

Advantages of submitting your DXCC application using Online DXCC include:

- ***Cost***: The application fees are lower when submitting a DXCC application through Online DXCC. In particular, the application fee and the extra QSO fee for Online DXCC are half those of a traditional paper application.
- ***Accuracy***: Making a DXCC submission with Online DXCC is more accurate than a paper application that

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D-STAR Program

The April meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club will feature a D-STAR video.

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 12 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

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Dates to Remember:

Mar 31 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
Apr 9 – NKARC membership meeting
May 14 – NKARC membership meeting
May 18-20 – Dayton Hamvention
June 23,24 – Field Day
June 23 – Paddlefest

NKARC Directory

Vice-President
Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH
ab8sh@arrl.net

President
Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Club Trustee & Historian
Brian DeYoung, K4BRI
k4bri@arrl.net

Director at Large
Don King, AJ4DK
kingdl19406@msn.com

Feedline Editor
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
Tel: 859-689-4234
mvolstad@insightbb.com

Webmaster
Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Repeater Committee Chair
Tony White, AI4IP
ai4ip@arrl.net

Net Manager
Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Field Day Chair
Greg Lamb, W4TSA
w4tsa@yahoo.com

Repeaters (K4CO): 147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895– and 145.420- (D-STAR) 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 VETesting@k4co.org 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

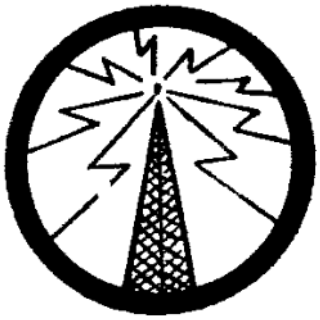
The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed via direct email to current NKARC members. **If you are a member in good standing but are not receiving your copy, please notify the Feedline editor.** Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given. Submissions, 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
Tel: 859-689-4234

Top of the Tower

Are you ready?

Last year, I read an interesting article in the March edition of *CQ* magazine. Well, it was more of a blurb inside of a column, but it still struck a chord with me.



Basically, the gist of the story is this. A Ham couple were on a Cub Scout hiking trip with their 8 year old son. They hiked for about an hour to a mountain camp site. Normal, everyday type of activity, right? Well, while they were out looking for something, they heard some moaning coming from the side of the mountain. At first, they thought it was a wounded animal, but they decided to investigate. It turned out to be another parent of a Scout on the hike who had fallen off the side of the mountain and landed on an outcropping. He was injured very badly and needed help.

The first thing they tried was their cell phones. Surprising to them, there was no reception where they were. So, they pulled out their handhelds and tried a local repeater. Brought it up no problems at all and someone was monitoring to provide communication assistance. The end of the story – the injured person was rescued within about an hour of initial discovery and it was all thanks to Ham Radio. In fact, had it not been for the couple bringing their handhelds, that person would have most likely died.

Interestingly, here in Cincinnati last Thursday during Opening Day, all cell phone service in downtown Cincinnati had issues in every respect. This occurred simply because the system was overloaded by the number of people in the downtown area attempting to access the system. Didn't matter which carrier you had, there was just too much volume for the system to handle. And, there was no disaster in the mix either!

This is just another example of how Amateur Radio can be there to help not only ourselves, but our community as well. But, in order to take advantage of this aspect of this wonderful hobby, we have to use (and know how to use) our radios. Are you ready? Do you often monitor the simplex frequencies? Do you know all of the repeater frequencies in the area? Do you know the tones for the various repeaters? Do you often check into the local nets? The more we practice anything, including our radio operating skills, the better we get.

We need you!

We are in need of someone to take the reins of the Feedline. Mark, AI4BJ, has been doing a fantastic job as Editor of the Feedline for several years, but he is looking to try some other things at this time. This is where you come in – become the new Feedline Editor! We will make sure the transition is as smooth as possible, so why not give it a try? If you are interested, please contact me at the information below.

In closing…

I would like to hear from you as well. How are we doing? Is the Club meeting your needs? Do you have some ideas to improve the Club? Please let me know your thoughts and how we could make our Club the premier Amateur Radio club in the Cincinnati area.

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

(513) 919-6672 (cell)

March Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2012 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President Robert Kluck, N4IJS, opened the meeting at 7:36 PM with the pledge, followed by introductions of attendees.

Treasurer's report not available.

The minutes of the February meeting were amended (WD8JAW) as follows:
KJ4HPG (not WD8JAW) made the contacts with the Boone Co Fire Training Center that resulted in KD7ARET using that facility for the DX contest on March 3rd.

Motion by Lyle, AB8SH, to accept the February minutes as amended. Second by Dann, KI4AVO. Approved

Old Business:

AI4IP reported no change regarding the status of the D-Star repeater since February report. It is still running at 10 watts to reduce RF feedback. SARA paperwork has been sent and fee paid but K4CO listing not in Journal.

KY4JD suggested that more publicity regarding the D-Star repeater appear in the Feedline. Also, the 895 repeater is listed as "+" offset which is incorrect.

N4IJS said the FD site has been secured.

Robert reiterated that Mark, AI4BJ, has held the position of Feedline editor for a number of years and is requesting a replacement. He will be vacating this position in June. He is offering to train someone and help to get them started. If you can take this position, please let Robert or Mark know.

New

AB8SH reported that three candidates were present for testing. Two obtained General status and one to Extra.

AI4IP presented split-the-pot. Winner, Dan, KI4AVO, donated his winnings to the Club. Thanks Dann.

Dann, KI4AVO, is recruiting operators for Paddlefest. Contact Dann if you can help.

Robert, N4IJS, requesting a member take the position of Treasurer. Robert is currently serving as President and Treasurer. If you are willing to take this on, contact N4IJS.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Following the break, Robert, N4IJS, gave a presentation on D-Star and the Club's repeater located at NKU.

Meeting closed at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Don, AJ4DK

Wanted: Feedline Editor

After wearing my editor's hat for more than 5 years, I would like to pass the reins to someone who can bring some fresh ideas to the table. No previous experience is necessary — I will provide training if necessary. All you need is a PC and an internet connection. If interested, please contact either myself or Robert Kluck, N4IJS.

— Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

(Continued from page 1)

is filled out by hand because typographical errors are eliminated (except for the call sign). There will be no data entry errors at ARRL HQ because the contents of an Online DXCC application are transmitted directly to the DXCC system at HQ.

- ***Speed***: Making a DXCC submission using Online DXCC speeds up the processing of an application because the information on the DXCC Award Application and the DXCC Record Sheet do not have to be manually entered into the DXCC system by ARRL HQ staff. The more applicants who use this system means there is a smaller backlog of applications and a faster turnaround for all DXCC program participants.

- ***Convenience***: The Online DXCC system will save the entered QSL card and application information for future access. You may enter information from your QSLs as you receive them and then submit your cards for checking when you are ready to apply for a DXCC award or endorsement. Cards no longer need to be in band or mode order.

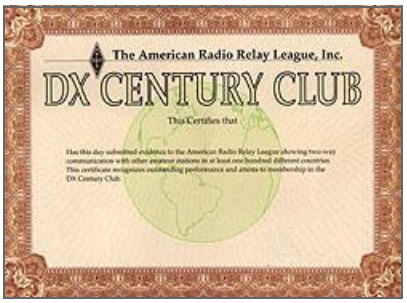
Keep in mind that QSL cards will still need to be checked if you use the Online DXCC Application, either by a **DXCC Card Checker** or sent to ARRL HQ for checking.

Any radio amateur in the world — ARRL member or non-member — may use the Online DXCC Application. If you are applying for a DXCC award:

- ***With a US call sign*** — you must be an ARRL member. If you are not yet a member, you can **create an Online account**, begin entering your QSL card information right now and then **join the ARRL** when you are ready to submit your application.

- ***With an overseas portable US call sign (like TF/NN1N)*** -- you must be an ARRL member.

- ***With a non-US call sign*** — you do not need to be a member of ARRL.



March NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
March 6	AJ4DK (Don)	10	33	0
March 13	KB4VKS (Mike)	8	20	0
March 20	W4TSA (Greg)	7	20	0
March 27	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	6	10	0
TOTALS:		**31**	**83**	**0**

Hams in Indian, Kentucky and Ohio Provide Support During and After Tornado Outbreak

From ARRL Letter, 3/14/2012

A devastating storm system moved across the United States on March 2, spawning a slew of tornadoes that contributed to at least 28 fatalities in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. These tornadoes followed an earlier outbreak that began on February 28 and left 13 dead across Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Tennessee and battered parts of Kentucky. The Clark County (Indiana) Emergency Management Agency activated the local RACES team to help provide communications support, hams in Eastern Kentucky set up SKYWARN nets to assist the local National Weather Service office and Cincinnati-area hams supported the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross.

Indiana

On March 2, with a cold front bringing extreme weather to the **Ohio Valley**, the Clark County RACES team set up a SKYWARN net to relay weather reports to the National Weather Service office in Louisville, Kentucky. According to Clark County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Jeffrey Brady, N9WSV, this front spawned several tornadoes that swept through the northern part of Clark County, as well as other nearby counties.

"After the storms passed, we started receiving reports of massive destruction in the Henryville and Marysville Indiana areas," Brady told the ARRL. The National Weather Service reported that an EF4 tornado -- with estimated wind speeds of 170 miles per hour and a damage width of one-third of a mile -- **swept through the town of Henryville**, located in the northwest portion of the county. This tornado destroyed hundreds of homes and killed 11 people. Not more than an hour later, another tornado, an EF1 twister, came through town.

"Immediately, ARRL Clark County Emergency Coordinator John Shean, N9TV, initiated contact with Clark County Emergency Management Director Les Kavanaugh," Brady said. "He activated the local RACES team to help provide communications support in the affected areas. We set up a net, and the RACES team established a command post at the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department. Cell phone service was out over the entire affected area, and landline service was also out in much of the area, due to destruction of infrastructure. To make matters even worse, vital components of the 800 MHz radio system that the public agencies use were either down or severely overloaded during much of the first 12 hours of the situation."

Brady told the ARRL that radio amateurs were dispatched to staff the relief stations to help coordinate health-and-welfare traffic and assisting with search-and-rescue efforts throughout Northern Clark County.

"As of March 14, we are still providing operational support, Brady said. "We are still coordinating health-and-welfare traffic, as well as directing volunteers and supplies to provide the victims with the resources they need. We would also like to commend the operators from nearby counties in Indiana and Kentucky who have come to our aid with operators and equipment. Even as we maintain operations, we have started making notes of things that have worked well for us, and items we need to improve upon. We have also brought in some new members of the team who are getting some real world on-the-job training. Once we get the operation wrapped up, we are going to debrief the team with our lessons and share this information with other groups so they can be better prepared.'

Kentucky

It is not often that Eastern Kentucky experiences severe storms, but on March 2, **several EF3 tornados struck the area**, the first seen in the area in many years. According to ARRL Kentucky District 10 Emergency Coordinator and Great Lakes Division Assistant Director John Farler, K4AVX, the Region 4 ARES organization in Eastern Kentucky provided a tremendous amount of storm data during the recent activity to the National Weather Service office in Jackson, Kentucky.

"The town of West Liberty actually suffered some damage in the smaller tornado outbreak on February 29, but the tornado on March 3 practically destroyed the town," Farler told the ARRL. All in all, 48 counties in Kentucky suffered damage from the storms, and 22 people died. This part of the state was definitely the hardest hit during this outbreak, including the Laurel County area, which had its own SKYWARN operators feeding information to NWS office Jackson."

Farler explained that the area has a repeater system -- the Eastern Kentucky Linked Repeater System -- that serves all of the Big Sandy Valley, the Upper Kentucky River Valley and parts of the Upper Cumberland River Valley. "This rural mountainous area does not have a high concentration of amateur operators," he said, "so the system helps us work together to maximize efforts."

SKYWARN operations on the repeater system started at 6 PM March 2, and continued for the next four hours. "Johnnie Brashear, KY4JLB, in Perry County, served as net control. Hams on the net who were in the areas affected by the storms passed along reports that were in turn passed on to the National Weather Service via **NWSChat**," Farler said. "This information was immediately accessible to the meteorologists." Farler said that more than 33 radio amateurs in the affected area sent reports of very large hail, high winds, downed trees, blocked roads, funnel clouds and downed buildings.

"We here at the Jackson National Weather Service want to thank you all for your efforts on Friday," said Warning Coordination Meteorologist Tony Edwards, KJ4FYM. "I cannot thank you all enough for the reports. This event serves as a great example of how important Amateur Radio is during catastrophic events. Had it not been for your reports, we would not have known the true severity of the impacts."

Ohio

Radio amateurs in the Cincinnati Area participated in SKYWARN nets and helped provide support to the American Red Cross in the aftermath of the March 2 tornado outbreak. At about 1 PM on March 2, the National Weather Service office in Wilmington issued a tornado watch for the Cincinnati region. In less than an hour, hams had set up and were operating a SKYWARN net.

"The first indication of trouble wasn't a severe weather report, explained District 4 District Emergency Coordinator Steve Lewis, N8TFD, "but numerous reports of debris such as plastic foam and plywood falling from the sky. This was soon fol-

lowed by a string of damage reports. The now-confirmed tornados seem to have been mostly rain-wrapped and were difficult to observe. By 6:30 that evening, it was clear from both Amateur Radio and media reports that a disaster had occurred, and several members of the Queen City Emergency Net — an Amateur Radio group attached to the Cincinnati-Dayton Region of the American Red Cross) reported to Region headquarters to prepare for probable deployment."

Hams with the Queen City Emergency Net conducted a resource net that evening at 8. Lewis said that the tasks assigned to the hams by the Red Cross were mainly related to disaster assessment; Amateur Radio was to be used for coordination, as cell phone service and other public utilities were experiencing outages. "A group of 14 radio amateurs met at the Red Cross on Saturday morning," he told the ARRL. "Two of them staffed the Red Cross radio room for coordination, while the other 12 deployed as six two-person teams into the tornado 'strike zones' in Clermont County, Ohio and to Kenton, Grant and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky. Throughout the day, other hams reported to the chapter to help out."

Clermont County RACES/ARES members staffed the radio room at the Clermont County Emergency Management Office. According to Lewis, they were providing updates and receiving information from hams in the field and maintaining situational awareness for hams involved in the effort. Out in the field, they were using the Clermont County RACES/ARES repeater extensively for coordination of relief efforts in Franklin, Tate and Washington Townships, which include the village of Moscow.

"The most interesting and productive aspect of the day's operation was a relatively new process for disaster assessment in Clermont County," Lewis explained. "In Ohio, County Emergency Management Agencies have traditionally done their own damage assessment, with the Red Cross doing its own. Although Red Cross disaster assessors don't enter homes, the 'from the street' criteria are very similar between the EMAs and the Red Cross -- and reporting this data twice seemed like some unnecessary work to both parties. To improve this process, Amateur Radio operators who were doing the disaster assessment function were assigned to EMA-managed task forces in Moscow, the Clermont County village with the most damage. Each team had members of Fire/EMS and county engineering and building inspectors, as well as Red Cross volunteers. The team moved through town, determining damage (and possibly talking to clients) only once, instead of numerous times. All members of the task force were required to check in and out with the command post, consistent with NIMS accountability practices. This process was very effective, and the radio amateurs working in the area had a particularly strong working relationship with the Washington Township Fire Department."

Lewis told the ARRL that after the assessments were complete, hams were able to enter the information from the Red Cross into WebEOC for consumption by Clermont County Emergency Management Agency, "closing the loop on a great story of cooperation between Amateur Radio and public safety."

Weaver's Words

Special Issue

Help Urgently Needed

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

Do you live in a community that is covered by CC&Rs? Have you been prevented from putting up an outdoor antenna (wire, vertical or beam) whether on HF, VHF or UHF? Has this inability to put up an antenna prevented you from participating fully in emergency communications activities during disasters? If your answer is yes, ARRL wants to hear about your experience. What you encountered and the difficulty it presented to you in providing public support/emergency communications service may be the information needed to help amateurs get relief from overly restrictive CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) in home purchase or lease contracts.

A provision of Public Law 112-96 instructs the FCC, in the context of Amateur Radio emergency communications capabilities, to conduct a study to identify, among other things, "impediments to enhanced amateur radio service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations." The FCC will be seeking input very soon, but because time will be short we are asking you to begin thinking about it now. We are particularly looking for stories about situations in which you as an Amateur Radio operator could have provided valuable service through Amateur Radio but your assistance either was prevented or diminished because of overly restrictive CC&Rs. We know situations of this type have occurred during power outage, snowstorm, tornado, flood, earthquake and other crisis relief effort. If you are willing to write to the FCC about your experience, please let me know. We are not ready at this moment to ask for letters, but a request for them will come very soon. If you need help in composing your letter, this help will be given to you.

Please be aware that our request for letters does not relate to actions taken by a branch of government such as a city, township or county. The letters will relate only to limitations placed by home-owners associations and similar private groups on the installation of outdoor antennas.

If you or someone you know has had overly restrictive CC&Rs prevent you from responding to or seriously limited your ability to help during relief operations, please let me know. If you are willing, please include your telephone number so I or another ARRL official can call you if this proves desirable.

Over the years, many members have asked when ARRL is going get some relief from overly restrictive CC&Rs. The answer is that the League has been trying different approaches to accomplish this. Now that Congress has mandated a study of the problem we have an opportunity to document it. The study itself will not make the problem go away but should provide a public policy basis for the relief we need. The time is rapidly approaching for you who have experienced the heavy hand of oppressive CC&Rs to come forward to help transform them into reasonable guidelines.

Tnx es 73,

Jim

Return to:
Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 18215
Erlanger, Ky. 41018

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

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NKARC Feedline April 2012
Volume 2012 Issue 4