



# The NKARC Feedline



A Monthly Newsletter Brought To You by The Northern Ky Amateur Radio Club

April 2025



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### **NKARC Club Officers & Contacts**

#### **Position**

President

Vice President

Director At Large

Treasurer

Secretary

ARRL NKY-VE Test Lead

ARRL KY Sect Youth Coordinator

Net Manager

NKARC Feedline Editor

Webmaster

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Rod Milligan, KY4ROD

Frank Austin, KI4QFL

Tim Lawrence, W4TWL

Doug Cooper, KE4DTC

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Al Van Dyke, WB8RGE

Rod Milligan, KY4ROD

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### **Club Mailing Address:**

**NKARC**

**PO Box 354**

**Union, KY 41091**

### **Meeting Location and Time:**

**Bethesda Community Church**

**989 East Mount Zion Road**

**Independence, KY 41051**

*All are Welcome! All members and guests are strongly encouraged to attend in person to promote networking, fellowship and to grow trust and camaraderie.*

**We meet 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each Month, FCC License exams are held at 5:30 PM.**



### **In This Month's Newsletter**



- NKARC Club Membership Info & Payment Options
- Help NKARC with the ARRL Club Commission Program
- News from the Feedline Editor
- NKARC Club Nets Information
- Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar Links and Information Links
- Net Control Radio Package Raffle April 21st.
- This Month's Business / Presentation Meeting – April 21st.

- Next ARETNKY (KY6ET) Meeting and NTS Training – **Re-scheduled from May 26th to June 2nd.**
- Upcoming NKARC Meeting Presentations
- Next NKARC VE Testing Session Date/Time
- NKARC First Annual Fox Hunt at Fox Run Park in Independence on March 29th.
- Regular Monthly Scheduler Events – Chili Lunches / Monthly Breakfast
- Special Events & Field Trips – VOA Museum & WC8VOA Ham Shack Tour – Saturday April 26th / Second GE Jet Museum Tour – Evendale Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> / NKARC POTA Activation US-3779 Big Bone Lick State Historic Site Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Guest Articles – “Marks Mutterings” - POTA Trip Report to Daniel Boone NF / Red River Gorge US-4484 by Mark Volstad - AI4BJ and “What is POTA” by Jack Prindle - AB4WS

 **NKARC Membership Info** 

Membership to the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone who has an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$25.00 per year for licensed amateurs and \$15 for each additional household member. If you want to become part of this great club, please [download the membership application](#), fill it out and either turn in in at our monthly meeting or you may mail it to:

NKARC  
P.O. Box 354  
Union, KY 41091

Membership dues can be paid in person by cash or personal check. Membership dues run January through December each year.

**\*\*\* Coming Soon \*\*\*** PayPal credit card payment option through the NKARC.org website. Look for the **“Payments/Donations”** Option off the Main Menu. The PayPal payment option currently being tweaked and is expected to be active sometime in April.

**Existing Members: PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP !**  
**The club needs your membership and participation to remain strong !**

 **ARRL Club Commission Program** 

If you are a current ARRL Member or you are looking to becoming an ARRL Member, You can help NKARC financially by participating in the ARRL Club Commission Program. The [ARRL Club Commission program](#) is an ARRL Affiliated Club Benefit that provides revenue benefits to your club when club members become new ARRL Members or renew their existing ARRL Membership.

**Each new ARRL STANDARD membership earns the club a \$20 commission** (family, student/youth, and blind memberships are not eligible). **Each Membership Renewal earns the club a \$5 commission.** Multi-year memberships only receive a single commission (same amount as a standard single year membership). New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years or more. There is no limit to the amount of commission a club can earn in this program. The commission to the club costs you (the member) - nothing additional. Here is how to participate in the program:

**\*\*\* Important \*\*\* Your ARRL Membership must be submitted through the club in order for NKARC to earn the commission. Joining the ARRL directly by the club member earns no commission for the club !**

1. Each new or renewing ARRL member should fill out a [membership application form](#) (at this link)
2. Payment in **FULL** can be made to ARRL by check, credit card, or cash. You may mail the application to the Club PO Box, or you may submit it in person at our monthly meeting. If you pay by credit card please put your credit card info in the appropriate fields on the application form.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT: If you pay by check, DO NOT make the check out to NKARC, please make the check out to ARRL.**

3. The club leadership will submit all of the Membership Application Forms, Forms of Payment to the ARRL, along with the required Club Commission Reconciliation Form to the ARRL. The applications are submitted to the ARRL by the club once a month usually within a week after our monthly meeting.
4. ARRL will process the applications when received and NKARC should receive a commission payment within two to three weeks of ARRL receiving the forms.

**Please consider taking advantage of the ARRL Club Commission Plan it is a great way to help NKARC raise additional revenue for the Club and it costs you nothing more than a standard ARRL membership fee !**



**News From the Feedline Editor... Rod Milligan - KY4ROD**



The Feedline continues to evolve this month, we have added more color, more content and more pictures to the Feedline! The newsletter is filled with helpful links for you to click on to get more info (just look for the [underlined blue hyperlinks](#)).

Have you ever had trouble tracking when a particular radio contest or event is happening? A new feature has been added to this month's Feedline titled "**Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar and Information Links**". This feature includes web-links to The ARRL Contest Calendar, The POTA Special Events Calendar, The State QSO Parties Calendar finally a 12 Month Perpetual Contesting Calendar containing just about ALL Known Contesting Events (ARRL Sponsored as well as Non-ARRL Sponsored) and a link to The NG3K Contesting Resources and Information website.

This month we will debut our "**Guest Articles**" feature, this month we will have two special guest articles for you: One article from Jack Prindle – AB4WS titled "What is POTA?", and our next guest article will be by Mark Volstad – AI4BJ featuring his POTA Trip Report for his recent activation at Red River Gorge in KY. We will try to feature a column article from Mark from time to time under the column name "Mark's Mutterings". For those of you that remember the old newsletter, "Mark's Mutterings" were a featured column from time to time in the Feedline back in 2007-2012.

I would like to continue to encourage members to get involved with the Feedline and thoughtfully consider submitting a newsletter "Guest Article". We will continue to publish submissions each month as long as we receive them. The guest article is a great way to share knowledge between members and foster participation in the newsletter. I would encourage everyone to try and submit something. You do not have to feel like an accomplished author or that your submission has to be something technical in nature... It does not! The article does not have to be anything long or involved, it can be as short and simple as a single descent sized paragraph offering a tip or trick that you have learned along your way on your amateur journey.

Possible ideas for subjects for your submission may include:

- A story about an experience you had in amateur radio, it can be something serious or something funny. Maybe say something about your journey in amateur radio and how you got to this point. You could maybe write a short biography about yourself and your interests that other members of the club may not know about you, this could be a great way to introduce yourself to the membership and encourage friendships within the club.
- Submit a report of a portable operation such a POTA Activation or a Contest Weekend that you participated in.
- Maybe submit an article on how to mentor someone, how to be a successful Elmer. Explain the virtues of an Elmer... how to present topics in a way that's easily understood, patience, how to be there for someone who is in need of some guidance.
- Maybe an article on how to get the most out of attending a hamfest? Maybe present your strategy of what you prioritize and the plan detailing what to do first at a hamfest – Maybe its vendor shopping first to grab a hot item that's in short supply, then maybe a seminar, a license testing session, a visit to the flea market... even lunch! This could be your chance as a seasoned “hamfest veteran” to educate a newer member on the social, financial and fun aspects to someone who has never attended a hamfest, whether it be something huge like Dayton Hamvention or something small like a local club hamfest.
- Maybe just a simple “tips and tricks” article on organizing your shack, maybe tips and tricks on how to operate Field Day, POTA or SOTA.
- Possibly an article the Do-s and Don't-s on radio etiquette on making out a contact or how to participate in a net. Maybe an article on “Now I have my license, where do I go from here?” ; How to get over mic fright; Maybe do an article on proven study habits you have used successfully to prepare for an amateur radio exam.
- Your article could be something technical if you feel so inclined to mentor others within the club on a particular subject in amateur radio. Possibly do an article on What is DMR, C4FM, DStar, AllStar, What's a Hotspot? What about solar power to power your equipment? The subjects can be endless in this category.
- Maybe do something on how to build a particular kit or an antenna. Maybe something on how to setup a Go Bag or Em-Comm kit?

Rules for submitting a ” Guest Article” are as follows...

- Submit your article in either MS-Word format or plain text format so where it can be easily added to the newsletter.
- Guidelines for articles are a minimum of 1 decent sized paragraph up to 1 or 2 pages. Articles may be simply text or may include a mixture of text and pictures. In the case of several short submissions, more than 1 submission may be published in the same issue at the editor's discretion. In the case of a very long article, the article may be broken up in sections and published as a multi-part article over a couple months, again this is at editor's discretion.
- After the submission deadline You will receive an email stating if your article is accepted and when it is expected to be published. Deadlines for submissions will normally be on the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- The Feedline will be published approximately 1 to 2 weeks before our scheduled meeting date each month. Submit your articles via email to [ky4rod@nkarc.org](mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org).

The Feedline will continue to be distributed via email through groups.io each month. This month our web-master Sean Waldrip has created a link off the NKARC.org website's main menu where the current issue of the Feedline can be accessed, read and downloaded. There will also be a link coming soon to access past issues of the “new” Feedline.

Finally, in closing, if you have any suggestions or comments on the Feedline, please feel free to put them up on groups.io or email me directly at [ky4rod@nkarc.org](mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org). I want to extend a special Thank You to everyone for their comments, encouraging words and suggestions!

### **Club Nets Information**

**Weekly 2m NKARC Net:** Held Tuesdays at 8:30 PM local time on the 146.79 WB8VOA Repeater (minus) - 600 Khz Offset with a PL tone of 123 Hz. Net Controllers and Net Loggers rotate each week monthly, a scheduled Net Controller / Net Logger list is published each month.

**Monthly NKARC 2M Simplex Net:** Occurs on the 1st Sunday of each month at 6 PM on Simplex Frequency 146.580. Join us in this fun event as we participate in a simplex net to practice and develop our communication skills without the use of repeaters. Please remember this net uses relayed check-ins and the more people we get to check in, the better the chances of us getting further out into the Tri-state area. This net was run by Matt Conley each month, we are in the process changing the Net Control to a rotation as we have for the weekly 2m NKARC net. **A big “Thank You” goes out to Matt for establishing this net & all the planning that goes into it!**

New Net Control Ops are always welcome. If you want to help out, or gain experience as a net control operator for either net, please email Al Van Dyke at [wb8rge@gmail.com](mailto:wb8rge@gmail.com). The Net Control announcement scripts can be found and downloaded in the files section on NKARC – PUBLIC groups.io.

### **Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar Links and Information**

**ARRL Contesting Information for 2025 is listed at the link below:**

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

**WA7BNM’s Contest Calendar 2025 is listed at the links below:**

**Home Page:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.php>

**State QSO Party Contest Calendar:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.php>

**12 Month Perpetual Contest Calendar listing all contests (both ARRL & Non-ARRL affiliated):**

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

**Alphabetical Contest Calendar:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/alphabetical.php>

#### **POTA Official Event Calendar**

Please note that the POTA organization currently recognizes 5 “Official” Events: New Years Week and the 4 Support your Parks Weekends Seasonal Events – Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. POTA discontinued their Plaque Award Events in 2023. Official events and dates are listed at the link below:

<https://docs.pota.app/docs/events.html>

**State Parks On The Air** are considered “Un-Official” events sponsored by private group sponsors, they are eligible for POTA credits for hunters, & activators, however event certificates come from the event sponsors & not POTA. The easiest way to find an event is to search for the event on the Alphabetical Contest Calendar link above. These are **Un-Official events** and **NOT** listed on the POTA site and **NOT all states have State Parks On The Air Events.**

**NG3K Amateur Radio Contesting Resource Links:**

<https://www.ng3k.com/Contest/>



## Net Control Radio Package Raffle



In order to encourage more Net Control participation in our Tuesday night 2-meter net, we are thrilled to announce a special **raffle** for a **Quansheng K5 radio package!**

This radio package was generously donated by Doug Cooper (KE4DTC). This radio comes equipped with the latest F4HWN firmware and is pre-programmed with local 2m / 70cm repeater frequencies. Plus, the winner will receive an awesome set of bonus accessories, including:

- ✓ Programming cable
- ✓ Carrying case
- ✓ Abbree 771 antenna
- ✓ Abbree mini gooseneck antenna
- ✓ Nagoya UT-106UV mobile antenna

### How to Qualify:

Simply serve as **Net Control or Net Logger** between **January 1 and March 31** to earn a raffle entry. During our **April club meeting on April 21 st** , we will hold a drawing and award the radio to one lucky winner - **No need to be present to win!**



## This Month's NKARC Business / Presentation Meeting



The next scheduled NKARC Business / Presentation meeting is scheduled for Monday April 21st at 7 PM at:

### Bethesda Community Church

**989 East Mount Zion Road  
Independence, KY 41051**

Business to be covered in this meeting will be the presentation of the unified by-law changes addressing VE Testing to be added to the NKARC Constitution and By-Laws, and the first public reading of the changes to the club membership. The second reading of the proposed changes will take place during the May Meeting, followed by the ratification vote of the changes at the June Meeting. A raffle drawing will also be held for the Net Control Radio Raffle for the Quansheng K5 radio package.

Following the short business meeting will be a group show & tell presentation “**Show us you Portable Go Kit and your Favorite HT.**”





## Next Scheduled ARETNKY (KY6ET) Meeting



**Please note this meeting date was moved to June 2<sup>nd</sup> from its original scheduled date of Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> due to the Memorial Day Holiday.** The next scheduled ARETNKY meeting is scheduled for Monday June 2nd at 7 PM at:

**Bethesda Community Church**  
**989 East Mount Zion Road**  
**Independence, KY 41051**

ARETNKY will hold a brief business meeting followed by a training presentation by Al Van Dyke – WB8RGE on the National Traffic System and Radiograms. Al will cover how to handle traffic and how to send and receive radiograms.



## Upcoming NKARC Meeting Presentations



### **Monday April 21st @ 7 PM**

#### **Group Presentation (Show & Tell) – Show us your Portable Go Kit and your Favorite HT.**

Members will be asked to bring their Portable Go Kits for POTA / SOTA and / or their favorite HT(s) and accessories. If you don't have a Go Kit or Go Bag, please bring your favorite HT, there is something for everyone who operates portable, whether its operating at QRO or QRP power levels or just from your favorite HT. Members will be asked to present to the group the reasons why they chose the equipment they did and what particular usage scenarios they use them for. Focus on the pros and cons of each and the reasons you had for purchasing them. This presentation is aimed at assisting our newly licensed as well as intermediate hams with information to aid them in selecting / building a Portable Go Kit or selecting a particular HT. ***Please look for posting on [groups.io](https://groups.io) as an email in the coming week asking who is planning on bringing what to the presentation so we can accommodate as many people as possible. We will try limit this to about 8 to 10 presenters so club members have time to walk around look at the equipment up close and ask questions.***

### **Monday May 19th @ 7 PM**

#### **Powering your Portable Ham Radio Go Kit. The Basics of Batteries and Solar Power.**

Presentation to be given by Rod Milligan – KY4ROD. Presentation will cover selecting the right battery for your portable setup, whether it be a casual setup in your yard, a local park or special event, a Parks on the Air activation or a Contesting setup such as Field Day. We will review the different types of battery chemistries with the pros and cons of Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) vs Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePo) batteries. We will cover how to select the correct battery size to fit your needs and things to think about when charging your batteries. We will cover the basic setup of using just a battery alone vs a battery box, examples of a purchased battery box vs a home-built battery box and accessories you might want to consider for your setup. Next, we will discuss using solar power to charge your batteries on site. We will discuss the advantages of using a commercially available solar generator vs a home-built solar setup using a discrete solar charge controller and solar panel, the advantages of different types of charge controllers PWM vs MPPT controllers. We will cover selecting the correct solar panel to fit your needs and how all the pieces go together.



## Next VE Testing Date / Time



The Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club is pleased to sponsor the our ARRL accredited VE Team. Our VE Team offers in-person license exams for anyone interested in earning their first license, and for existing license holders who wish to upgrade. The next scheduled VE Testing Session is scheduled for Monday April 21st at 5:30 PM at:

### **Bethesda Community Church**

**989 East Mount Zion Road  
Independence, KY 41051**

### **Registration Required**

To attend an NKARC exam session, please register at the link below. Walk-ins are not accepted.

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/NKARC>

### **What to Bring**

A list of what you should and should not bring to the exam session can be found at [www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session). This information is very important -- make sure you read it! Of primary importance is an FCC Registration Number (FRN). If you do not have an FRN, you will not be able to take an exam. If you are upgrading, you must bring proof of your current license.

### **Special Needs Accommodations**

Our team will do their best to accommodate candidates with special needs. Please contact Mark Volstad under the contact info below.

### **Fees**

#### ARRL Exam Session Fee

The ARRL charges an exam session fee of \$15, which our testing team collects on their behalf. This fee is reduced to \$5 if the candidate is under 18 years of age. Payment is made at the exam session by cash, check or money order. This fee is not refundable if the candidate fails to pass the exam.

#### FCC Application Fee

The FCC charges a \$35 application fee to all first-time licensees. This fee is paid directly to the FCC. Upon receiving a license application from the ARRL, the FCC will email a link with payment instructions directly to the candidate. The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed the application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. More information can be found here: <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

#### ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

The ARRL will cover the one-time \$35 FCC application fee for new license candidates younger than 18 years of age for tests administered by NKARC. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed by the ARRL directly to the fee payer.



## Contact Info

If you have a question that is not covered above, please reach out to the NKARC VE Team Lead, Mark Volstad, at [mvolstad@twc.com](mailto:mvolstad@twc.com) or 859-991-3906.

Please see the NKARC website <https://nkarc.org/exams.html> for additional details. **Note: New candidates who successfully pass their Technician class exam will receive a FREE NKARC Club Membership for the balance of the year!**

## NKARC First Annual Fox Hunt – Fox Run Park - Independence, KY

On Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> the N Ky Amateur Radio Club held its first annual Fox Hunt at Fox Run Park in Independence, KY. The rain held off and several club members participated in the fox hunt organized by our very own Dick Arnett – WB4SUV. All those participating in the hunt had a great time in this fun event and it was truly a fulfilling learning experience for some. The knowledge gained will be valuable for our next fox hunt.



Thank You, Dick for organizing this event and we look forward to the next fox hunt !

## Regular Monthly Scheduled Events

### **Weekly Chili Lunches**

- Every Tuesday at a different local Skyline Chili 10:45 till 12:30
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Richwood – 339 Richwood Rd, Walton, KY 41094
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Turfway – 1345 Hansel Ave, Florence, KY 41042
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Hebron – 1960 Litton Ln, Hebron, KY 41048
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Industrial – 7340 Industrial Rd, Florence, KY 41042
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Independence – 1968 Declaration Dr, Independence, KY 41051

### **Monthly NKARC Saturday Breakfasts**

These breakfasts occur generally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. We have a breakfast at a local restaurant and you will need to follow us on groups.io to see where we are planning to meet at. This month's meet will be at the Bob Evans Restaurant on Dream St in Florence from 9 – 10:30 AM.

Join us for good food, friendship and conversation at either a Chili Lunch or Breakfast!



## **National Voice Of America Museum of Broadcasting – Sat 4/26/2025**

**\*\*\* There is still time to sign-up, the signup window will close on Tuesday April 15th, sign-up by emailing Rod Milligan at [KY4ROD@nkarc.org](mailto:KY4ROD@nkarc.org) \*\*\***



**When:** Saturday April 26, 2025 / **Time:** 9 AM to 12N

**Location:** National Voice Of America Museum of Broadcasting  
8070 Tylersville Rd (for GPS use: Crosley Blvd as address)  
West Chester, OH 45069

For more info on the VOA Museum see: <https://voamuseum.org>

**Directions:** Take I-75 North, past I-275 (Northside of Cincy) to Exit 22 – Tylersville Rd. At the top of the Tylersville Rd exit ramp turn right, heading east-bound on Tylersville Rd toward Mason approximately 1 mile. The VOA Museum sets back in a field on your left after you pass all the shopping centers. There is a sign on your left for the museum next to the Crosley Drive entrance leading to the museum.

**Admission:** \$10.00 per Adult, Children 15 and under Free

**\* Note: We must have a minimum of 15 confirmed paid admissions to qualify for our private club tour, please do not sign up and then no-show. If for some reason you cannot make it, please notify Rod Milligan as soon as you can so we can find alternates if needed.** You will pay your admission at the museum, the day of the tour. Signup by either filling out the signup sheet at the meetings or emailing Rod Milligan at [ky4rod@nkarc.org](mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org). information will be presented at the Feb and March meetings for this field trip. The tour will be open to members of NKARC as well as ARETNKY (KY6ET) and their families. **The museum is fully ADA access compliant.**

NKARC is proud to announce that we have secured an exclusive access for private tour of the National VOA Museum of Broadcasting on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 12 Noon, for NKARC and ARETNKY members before the museum opens to the general public at 12 Noon. We will have the entire facility to ourselves with a guided tour of the facility from VOA Tour guides along with a tour of the West Chester Amateur Radio Assn WC8VOA Ham Shack. The ham shack is truly “a world class contest station” and WC8VOA club members will be on site to answer your questions and allow you supervised access to operate from their shack using the WC8VOA club callsign if you wish to do so.

Some Items of interest in this tour include:

- A video explaining the history of the VOA and the Bethany Relay station and its construction. You will learn about VOAs role in fighting propaganda, educating the world about American values and the English language and providing hope to people that had very little during WWII and the cold war.
- Discover how Cincinnati became the center of broadcast engineering with VOA in the 1940s, Not New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. Learn about the history of radio and Cincinnati broadcast history.
- History of the Crosley brothers - Powel and Lewis Crosley who were ultimately responsible for the construction of the 6 original 200 KW transmitters, the VOA relay station as well as WLW and WLWO.
- Learn why Cincinnati was chosen as the site for the VOA Bethany Relay Station.
- Visit the Crosley exhibit displaying all the Crosley Brothers - Powel and Lewis' inventions and patents in appliances, automotive products, aircraft and radio. The Crosley brothers were visionaries ahead of their time. Among their inventions famous inventions are:
  - 1939 Crosley – America's first compact car boasting 50 mpg and the 1949 Hotshot sports car.
  - The first American carmaker to implement disc brakes on all its models.
  - The first pushbutton car radio
  - The first mass produced affordable radio for everyone.
  - First implementation of lights on a major league baseball field
  - The first non-electric refrigerator & the first refrigerator with shelves in the door.
  - The Reado Radio Fax machine - The first affordable facsimile radio that allowed broadcasts of the newspaper overnight via radio fax.
  - The top-secret radio altimeter proximity fuse for developed for the US Military and the Allies in WWII. The proximity fuse is considered the #2 invention with the atomic bomb being #1.
- The first implementation of 50 KW, 200 KW and 500 KW commercial radio transmitters. See one of the original 200 KW Crosley WLWO transmitters as well as a walking tour through the remaining VOA #6 Collins 250 KW transmitter.
- Learn about the VOA Bethany Relay Station's antennas including the 24 rhombic antenna arrays and its two 21db + gain Sterba curtain antennas that could beam VOA signals from Cincinnati to South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North Africa, Russia and Asia.
- Tour the VOA Control Room. Learn about VOA's feedlines and its antenna switching matrix.
- Learn about radio technology from the late 1800s to the present day and the implementation of the first radios that were added to aircraft and ships.
- Visit the newly added STEM lab which explains the origins of radio from magnetism to radio broadcasts using morse code and modulated carriers
- Visit the new sound effects lab which shows hands on prototypes of the first devices used to create sound effects for radio programs.
- Learn about the early days of broadcast entertainment with displays of the Larry Smith Puppets, Ruth Lyons and WLW talent including Rosemary Clooney, Doris Day, Red Skelton, John Houseman, Edward R Murrow and Rod Sterling.
- See the original RL Drake radio collection of Bob Drake containing nearly every radio produced by the RL Drake company in Springboro OH.
- Visit the "Ham Radio Room" displaying many vintage amateur radios, shortwave and broadcast radios as well as a vintage Collins ham radio station.

Following the tour, the West Chester Amateur Radio Association who are headquartered at VOA will open their world-class, high-power contest station WC8VOA to our club to tour and we have supervised access to operate out of their shack, if we choose. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there for this once in a lifetime event!





**Additional GE Jet Engine Museum – Saturday May 3, 2025 – GE Learning Center - Evendale, OH**

Our NKARC members had a great time at the GE Jet Engine Museum last month, so we planned another trip there. For those that couldn't make it last time, it will be Saturday May 3rd 2025, 10am to 12pm. Please respond to this email sent by Larry Silverman on groups.io on 3/23/2025 if you plan to attend and if you will bring a guest.

The museum is located at the GE Evendale Complex, off I-75 North Exit 13 - Aviation Way. The building will be about a ¼ mile after the exit ramp, located on the right, its a large white building with a green glass front with glass awning. The building is set back in the parking lot.

The address for the learning center is:

GE Learning Center, 1 Neumann Way, Cincinnati, OH 45215

<https://www.geaerospace.com/>

**NKARC POTA Event – Saturday May 10, 2025 at US-3779 Big Bone Lick State Historic Site – Union KY**

NKARC will hold a Parks on the Air Special Event at US-3779 Big Bone Lick State Historic Site. This will be a great event for members who are interested learning more about in the Parks on the Air and see an actual POTA Activation. At last year's event, we had 4 stations on the air. Members who have never operated a POTA activation will have a chance operate one of our stations, see the various radio and antenna setups. At Big Bone Lick, we will operate at the top of the hill near the Baker Cemetery. The site is located at the top of the hill near the park's campground, follow the signs to the campground, the POTA site and the Baker Cemetery is located on the left just before reaching the campground. Setup will begin around 7 am and we will plan on operating from 9 AM until about 2 PM. Contact Jack Prindle – AB4WS [ab4ws.ky@gmail.com](mailto:ab4ws.ky@gmail.com) for more details.



## QRV From US-4484 Daniel Boone National Forest / Red River Gorge

I discovered the joy of backpacking around the same time that I earned my ham radio license 22 years ago, and I have combined the two activities ever since. My wife and kids enjoy day hiking with me, but my overnight hikes are typically solo trips, unless I can coax a friend to join me on what is usually very short notice — I usually wait for ideal weather conditions.

I lived in Kentucky for 15 years before “discovering” [Red River Gorge](#), and I now think of those as “the lost years”. I’ve been making up for lost time ever since! My first trip of 2025 took place in mid-March, during a glorious spell of sunny, warm weather. Red River Gorge lies entirely within the Daniel Boone National Forest, POTA US-4484, so a POTA activation is a key element of every trip now. On this trip I planned to test two new pieces of equipment: An Explorer mast and a 20m halfwave vertical antenna with custom matchbox, both homebrewed.

I arrived at the Bison Way trailhead shortly after Noon. This spur trail connects with the Sheltowee Trace after about half a mile. Sheltowee, meaning “big turtle”, was the name given to Daniel Boone by the Shawnee chief who kidnapped him and adopted him as his son. I hiked on until I reached the unofficial cutoff to [Indian Staircase](#), one of the most popular day-hike destinations in the gorge. I turn 67 this year, and I’m not sure how much longer I’ll be able to tackle this strenuous climb with a 33 pound pack, but I made it this time, again. Elevation gain from the trailhead to the top of Indian Staircase is about 630 feet. Water sources on ridgetops in the gorge are rare, so backpackers must carry their own.

My destination, about a mile further on, was a narrow sandstone ridge in a remote corner of the gorge, with spectacular views and sheer drops on three sides. Not recommended for those prone to sleepwalking! The last quarter mile was brutal. Hurricane Helene [wreaked havoc](#) in the gorge last Fall. The main trails are mostly cleared now, but the backcountry is littered with fallen trees of all sizes that have to be climbed over, under, or bushwhacked around.

When I finally arrived, I quickly set up my station. The [Explorer](#) carbon fiber mast is a backpacker’s dream. It weighs only a pound and collapses to just 27 inches yet extends to a full 33 feet. It is small enough to fit in the overhead compartment of an airplane, so I plan to bring it with me when I travel to Canada later this year. I bungee-corded the mast to a small pitch pine, and raised my vertical antenna, a 34 ft length of 24 AWG wire. The [matchbox](#) at the base is a simple L-C circuit, similar to that used in many antenna tuners, consisting of a toroid inductor and a capacitor. It reduces the high impedance at the feed point to the 50 ohms seen at the output of my [Elecraft KX3](#) transceiver. A short length of RG316 coax connects the matchbox to the radio. One of the advantages of a halfwave vertical is that it requires no radials, unlike a quarter wave antenna. Verticals are a great choice here in the Midwest, since there are plenty of stations to work in every direction!

I was using the [Ham2K PoLo](#) logging app on my iPhone for the first time and was quite impressed. I warmed up by hunting a few other parks on 20m SSB, then found an open frequency and started calling “CQ POTA”. The PoLo app makes it



extremely easy to spot yourself, and it only took a minute before hunters started answering me. I worked about 30 stations before announcing QRT to eat supper. Signal reports ranged between 55 and 59, so I was very pleased with the performance of the antenna.

The output of my KX3 was 15 watts. The battery was a 4.2 AH LiFePO4 battery, and a foldable 20W solar panel kept the battery and my iPhone fully charged until sunset. After supper, I tuned the KX3 to [CFRX](#) on 6070 kHz. CFRX's transmitter site is half a mile from the house where I grew up, outside Toronto. The irony of seeking solitude in a remote corner of nature only to connect with the outside world via radio is not lost on me! One huge benefit of operating in such a remote environment is the near absence of man-made QRN — I could copy S1 signals.

The usual summer night time noise makers — whip-poor-wills, crickets and spring peepers — had not arrived yet, so my sleep was interrupted only by a few owls and some distant baying coyotes. The temperature dipped into the 40s, but I was snug and cozy in my down sleeping bag.

The hike out the next morning was all downhill, though I had to fight my way through all the blowdowns again. As usual, I rewarded myself with world-famous [Miguel's Pizza](#) before heading to the Mountain Parkway and home. I'm already planning my next trip to this corner of paradise!







## Parks on the Air

### What is POTA?

By: Jack Prindle AB4WS

POTA is Parks on the Air. Parks on the Air is an ongoing program encouraging Amateur Radio Operators to develop their portable operational skills, fostering community, and demonstrating their skills to the public. There are thousands of parks available in the program worldwide each present a unique experience. Operating styles and seasons affect the nature of your experience.

Parks on the Air, an amateur radio program encouraging portable operations from parks began as a one-year event called National Parks on the Air in 2016 by the American Radio Relay League. Because of the popularity of the program in 2017 Parks on the air emerged as a separate entity, with its own web site and administration.

Amateur Radio Operators set up and operate in a listed National or State Park and try to make contacts on any band, in Any mode, logging them and submitting their log to the Parks on the Air Administrators. Operators who set up in the park are called activators. The operators who try to work parks are called hunters. Activators are responsible for submitting their logs, and Hunters get credit for their contacts based on the activator's logs. The popularity of the program continues to grow by leaps and bounds, boasting over 500,000 participants.



Award certificates are awarded for several achievements both by activators and hunters. They are created by the POTA group and are downloaded electronically as PDF files on your account in the [pota.app](http://pota.app) website.

There are two web sites which provide you with information on Parks on the Air. The first is [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com) which is the help and getting started information site which provides a lot of basic information. The second site is the [pota.app](http://pota.app) which is the operational web site. When you first go

to [pota.app](http://pota.app), you should create an account on the web site. You do this by providing a login and password and some basic information including you callsign, QTH, Email address, and you can load a profile photo. Once you create the account you may find that you already have some hunter contacts.

Active Spots Data will refresh in 26 seconds.

At a park now? [ADD SPOT](#)

Band: All 79 Mode: All 79 Program: All 79 QRT: Show 79 Hunted: Show 79 Sort: Time

Time	Activator	Frequency	Park	Region	Spotter	Comments			
11 sec ago	K7BIN	14216	US-4576 Oregon National Historic Trail	US-ID, + 6	K7BIN	Trail near Filer, ID	1		
13 sec ago	WB0POH	18076.5 (CW)	US-5510 Conway-Robinson Memorial S...	US-VA	G4ZFE-#	RBN 8 dB 21 WPM via G4ZFE-#	15		
13 sec ago	WY5L	14330	US-2755 William B. Umstead State Park	US-NC	KE4QCY		31		
13 sec ago	W6KC	21053.0 (CW)	US-3563 Santa Monica State Beach	US-CA	KG4BIG		19		
14 sec ago	NA1KW	14311	US-10699 Sunnyside School Access Sta...	US-MO	KB3ESQ		51		
22 sec ago	KC8ZKS	14074.0 (FT8)	US-1937 Buck Creek State Park	US-OH	G4IRN-#	RBN 6 dB via G4IRN-#	7		
24 sec ago	JK1LSE/P	7043 (FT8)	JP-2101 Yasu Kogen Kinen No Mori Pref...	JP-FO	JK1WVC	FT8 Sent: +14 Rcvd: +01	2		
25 sec ago	K17QCF	14059.0 (CW)	US-4398 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National...	US-ID, + 1	K9QC-#	RBN 10 dB 30 WPM via K9QC-#	12		
26 sec ago	AF5T	21140.0 (FT4)	US-5633 Carlsbad State Beach	US-CA	W1NT6-#	RBN -15 dB via W1NT6-#	1		
28 sec ago	AH6K	28371	US-2226 Wailua River State Park	US-HI	W1FRD		10		
30 sec ago	KE5YYC	14228	US-11791 Santa Cruz Lake BLM Recrea...	US-NM	KF0PAY	59 Southern Utah	60		
39 sec ago	N2NWK	7074.0 (FT8)	US-7973 Baltimore-Washington National...	US-MD	K9IMM-#	RBN 1 dB via K9IMM-#	1		
42 sec ago	K4AA	7206	US-10397 Southern Nantahala Wilderne...	US-GA, + 1	K4AA	3FER W/ US-4509 & US-4556. PLUS, 2OPS, W/ KE4...	30		
45 sec ago	AI9D	14166	US-4069 Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Man...	US-LA	AI9D	Starting now	1		
45 sec ago	K4NYM	14049.0 (CW)	US-6309 Hilochee Wildlife Management ...	US-FL	WB6BEE-#	RBN 9 dB 20 WPM via WB6BEE-#	6		
45 sec ago	NJ7Z	14269	US-7474 Carpinteria State Beach	US-CA	W6TDX		7		
52 sec ago	K4RNY	18142	US-1222 Jackson Lake State Park	US-CO	K4RNY	QSY	11		
1 min ago	KN5YVJ	14074.0 (FT8)	US-2992 Brazos Bend State Park	US-TX	N6TV-#	RBN -14 dB via N6TV-#	31		
1 min ago	N9NFT	14344	US-1904 Myakka River State Park	US-FL	N9NFT	SSB	9		
1 min ago	W7FRM	28076 (FT8)	US-9557 Jasper State Recreation Area	US-OR	WX9WTF	FT8 Sent: +14 Rcvd: +14 US-9557	3		
1 min ago	WW3G	7210	US-5510 Conway-Robinson Memorial S...	US-VA	KC4ZUA	59 Georgia 🍷	15		
1 min ago	JF7RJM/1	21074.0 (FT8)	JP-0115 Myogi-Arafune-Saku Kogen Qu...	JP-GM, + 1	JF7RJM	FT8	12		

The first screen is spots. This list provides the callsign, frequency, park, and some other information for those activating a park that have been “spotted” by having this information entered in the pota.app. This is a great way for hunters to find and work activators who are set up. Once you work them you can re-spot them and provide some additional information in the comments such as your signal report and location. Once entered this spot will be updated.

Clicking on the “Hamburger in the upper left corner on pota.app will give you a lot of areas to obtain more information or searches to help you with your POTA experience. The “DOCS” area gives you lots of basic information like getting started, rules, and other information which is beneficial for the new POTA operator.



Activating a park is easy and fun. Operators use a wide range of radios, and antennas and set ups, from inexpensive QRP rigs and wire antennas, to full size rigs and sophisticated antenna arrays. The important thing is to have fun. Find a park near you, research it on the POTA site and the official web site of the park to learn the rules and restrictions, and boundaries of the park.

When you arrive scope out a good location for your activation, set up your radio and antenna and other equipment. Logging for your activation also runs the gambit, from some logging by hand with pen and paper to others using phones or tablets with some of the logging apps created specifically for POTA like HAMRS or Ham2K POLO, and still others using other logging software on a laptop computer. Most operators then find a clear frequency, spot themselves on the official POTA APP, and start calling CQ. Before too long they often find themselves working a thrilling pileup.



If you are not interested in activating a park there is always a place for Park Hunters. These are operators who work stations that are activated in a park, from where ever their station is located, be it at home, in the mobile or where ever. The beauty of being a hunter is that you don't have to do anything. The Activators will log your QSO, and you earn hunter rewards through your POTA account.



There are many members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club who are very experienced with Parks on the Air. Probably the most prolific are Tom, NV4H who has made over 45,000 Activator QSO's and over 4,000 hunter QSOS. Tom is always willing to help anyone interested in Parks on the Air with suggestions on equipment, antennas, setup, and how to make the most of your POTA operations. Some other club members who are active in POTA are Mark AI4BJ, Craig KC1NE, Matt K4NKU, Cliff KQ4UUR, Tom KG8Y, Chuck KQ4EZN, Jason N8TAG, Tim W4TWL and others. They all, including myself can help

answer your questions. Watch out for the Club POTA events as well to come out and get your feet wet.

So, what are you waiting for ??? It's time to get your equipment together and get out to the park, remember every day is good when you are playing radio in the park.

