



The NKARC Feedline



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

May 2025



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Visit our Club Website at: <https://nkarc.org>

Visit our Facebook Page at: NKARC-Official

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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 3rd 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
- ARETNKY - KY6ET Kroger Community Rewards Program
- NKARC Club Nets Information
- Winner of the Net Control Radio Package Raffle April 21st.
- Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar and Information Links
- This Month's NKARC Business / Presentation Meeting – May19th.

- Next ARETNKY (KY6ET) Meeting and NTS Training – **Re-scheduled from May 26th to June 2nd.**
- Upcoming NKARC Meeting Presentations
- Regular Monthly Scheduler Events – Chili Lunches / Monthly Breakfast
- Upcoming NKARC Field Trips and other Special Amateur Radio Events coming soon.
- News from the Feedline Editor – KY4ROD
- Next NKARC VE Testing Session Date/Time
- Re-cap of the VOA Museum & WC8VOA Ham Shack Tour – West Chester, OH – Saturday April 26th & Re-cap of the GE Aviation Learning Center & Jet Engine Museum Makeup Tour in Evendale, OH – Saturday May 3rd.
- Guest Articles – “What is the RATPAC ? by Rod Milligan – KY4ROD / “Marks Mutterings” – My POTA Secret Weapon by Mark Volstad - AI4BJ

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 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 soon.

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 !

 **ARETNKY - KY6ET Kroger Community Rewards** 

You can now help fund our sister organization - The Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY – KY6ET by shopping at Kroger with your Kroger Plus Card. This program costs you nothing, Kroger typically donates 5% of your purchase to the non-profit organization that you select. Each participating household has the ability to earn up to \$300 per quarter to your designated non-profit organization. The minimum payout to the organization is \$25.00 and Kroger limits its total quarterly reward up to \$50K per organization. To participate in the program, Kroger customers need to register their Kroger Plus card to their preferred community non-profit organization. **The Amateur Radio Emergency Team of N Kentucky (KY6ET)’s organization Number is “TL332”.** To signup follow the following steps:

1. On your web browser go to <https://krogercommunityrewards.com>
2. Sign into your Kroger Plus Card Account under the Sign In icon in the upper right-hand corner of the web page using your email account and password registered with the Kroger Plus Program. Once signed in you will see instructions on the page instructing you how to sign in. Go to Step 2 of the instructions “Link Your Card to an Organization.
3. Under step 2 – Click on the Link “Search for your Organization here”
4. Enter your Organizations number **TL332** and Search for the organization - Amateur Radio Emergency Team of N KY will come up.
5. Select **Enroll**
6. Once enrolled you should get a confirmation screen showing your selection.

See the screen shots below for details. You are now setup and ready to go and start earning rewards for our KY6ET Emergency Team!


[Shop](#)
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[Pickup & Delivery](#)
[Services](#)
[Pharmacy & Health](#)

[Account](#)

[In-Store at Florence Marketplace](#)
[View Store Details](#)
[Digital Coupons](#)
[Weekly Ad](#)
[Boost Member Exclusions](#)
[Lula Flowers](#)
[Mother's Day](#)
[Meal Planning & Recipes](#)
[Store Locator](#)

The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

- Create a digital account.**

A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.
- Link your Card to an organization.**


Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

 - Sign in to your digital account.
 - Search for your organization [here](#).
 - Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.
 - Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.
- Your organization earns.**

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

If you have any questions, please contact our [Customer Service Center](#).



[Account](#)

[In-Store at Florence Marketplace](#)
[View Store Details](#)

Find an Organization

Filter by type of Organization:


All

Search Results

Organization Name
Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY

Organization Address
**1409 Mount Zion Rd
Union, KY 41091**

Enroll



[Account](#)

[In-Store at Florence Marketplace](#)
[View Store Details](#)



Donation Summary

Status:
enrolled

Organization Name:
Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY

Enrollment Date:
05/05/2025

Organization Number:
TL332

Change Organization

Cancel Enrollment



Club Net 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. The Net Control announcement scripts can be found and downloaded in the files section on NKARC – PUBLIC groups.io.



Net Control Radio Package Raffle Results – April 21st



During our club meeting on April 21st we held a raffle for a Quansheng K5 radio package. In order to qualify for the raffle a person needed to serve as Net Control or Net Logger between January 1 and March 31 to earn a raffle entry.

The winner of the raffle was Wendell Bailey- KO4RXE of Crittenden, KY, congratulations Wendell and Thank You for volunteering for Net Control and Net Logger. Enjoy your new radio Wendell!



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/>



Next Scheduled NKARC Business / Presentation Meeting



The next scheduled NKARC Business / Presentation meeting is scheduled for Monday May 19th 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 will be planning for field day as well as regular club business and reports. A more detailed agenda will be published sometime during the week before the meeting. Following the short business meeting this month will be a presentation by Rod Milligan - “**Powering your Portable Ham Radio Go Kit. The Basics of Batteries and Solar Power.**”



Next Scheduled ARETNKY (KY6ET) Meeting



Please note this meeting date was moved to June 2nd from its original scheduled date of Monday May 26th due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

The next scheduled ARETNKY KY6ET 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 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 (LiFePo4) 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.

Monday June 16th @ 7 PM

Everything You Wanted to Know About Field Day... But Were Too Afraid to Ask!

Presentation to be given by Mark Volstad - AI4BJ ARRL Field Day (June 28 & 29) has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. Last year, 31,000 hams from across North America participated. Part emergency exercise, part social event, part contest, part community outreach -- Field Day truly has something for everyone! Mark will explain the key concepts that you should know, including the main rules, operating categories, the QSO exchange, the scoring system, the available bonuses, and how to submit your log. He will also provide a tutorial on using N3FJP, the most popular Field Day logging program.



Regular Monthly Scheduled Events



Weekly Chili Lunches

Every Tuesday of the month we meet at a different local Skyline Chili 10:45 till 12:30. Arrive early to avoid sitting at the “kids table”!

1st Tuesday – Richwood – 339 Richwood Rd, Walton, KY 41094

2nd Tuesday – Florence Turfway – 1345 Hansel Ave, Florence, KY 41042

3rd Tuesday – Hebron – 1960 Litton Ln, Hebron, KY 41048

4th Tuesday – Florence Industrial – 7340 Industrial Rd, Florence, KY 41042

5th Tuesday – Independence – 1968 Declaration Dr, Independence, KY 41051

Monthly NKARC Saturday Breakfasts

These breakfasts occur generally on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This month’s meet will be at the Bob Evans Restaurant on Dream St in Florence on May 17th from 9 – 10:30 AM.

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



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 for more details.

***** CANCELLED *** National Weather Service Tour - June 2025**

Unfortunately our tour of the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, OH had to be cancelled. Larry Silverman arranged this tour for June and we were awaiting the scheduling information from the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service contacted Larry the end of April that they are no longer scheduling tours at this time due to staffing. Tours may possibly resume this Fall.

NKARC Field Day 2025 - Saturday June 28 – Sunday June 29, 2025

The NKARC ARRL Summer Field Day 2025 is Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th and NKARC has secured the two shelters at the Kenton County Lincoln Ridge Park in Independence (420 Independence Station Road, Independence, KY 41051). On Saturday, Shelter 1 which is closest to the road will be available to us after the frisbee golf people are done at about 12 Noon, we have Shelter 2 which is the one further away from the road and next to the pine tree, it is available to us all day. On Sunday we have both shelters all day. Wendell Bailey - KO4RXE will once again be our Field Day Chef... Mmm... Mmm Good! We are currently seeking help with field day and volunteers are needed. We need volunteers for setup and teardown as well as volunteers as field day operators. Please give thought to volunteering and participating in one of the many needed roles to make Field Day a successful event for NKARC!

Toyota Georgetown KY Assembly Plant – July 24, 2025

Larry Silverman has arranged a tour of the Toyota Georgetown, KY Assembly Plant on Thursday July 24th at 11:30 AM. This is an amazing tour and takes approximately 2 hours to complete. More details are forth-coming. For now, please fill-out the poll survey on our groups.io page so we can get names and a count of those interested in attending. Contact Larry for more details or questions at wb2gys@gmail.com. The link for the poll is below: <https://groups.io/g/NKARC-PUBLIC/vote?pollid=49241>

Hamvention 2025 - Green County Fairgrounds and Expo Center- Xenia, OH May 16, 17, 18th

Once again Hamvention will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, OH. Hamvention is the largest event of its kind in North America. Not only is it the premiere ham radio shopping and social event, but also has a lot of free educational forums you can attend. The fairgrounds are located just north of downtown Xenia off US 68 (N Detroit St). The address is below:

Greene County Fair and Expo Center

210 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385

Coordinates are 39.702 N – 83.9420 W

Hamvention 2025 Hours

Friday - May 16th, 2025 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday - May 17th, 2025 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday - May 18th, 2025 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Hamvention 2025 Website: <https://hamvention.org>

Hamvention 2025 Educational Forums List: <https://hamvention.org/event-details/forums/>

The general parking at the Fairgrounds is in a field, this parking area is weather dependent and can be very muddy if they receive a lot of rain. There have been years the parking has been so muddy that vehicles have had to be towed out, so be aware of the day's weather. Additional parking is available at Xenia High School is about 5 minutes away and the high school is my favorite parking spot for Hamvention because of its convenience and shuttles run every few minutes. There is also parking further away in Fairborn, OH at Hobson Freedom Park.

Xenia High School - [303 Kinsey Road, Xenia, 45383](#) Coordinates are 39.710 N -83.926 W

Daily shuttle bus Service Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shuttles runs: 7A-6P Friday & Saturday, 7a-3P Sunday.

Hobson Freedom Park - [2910 Trebein Road, Fairborn, OH 45325](#) Coordinates are: 39.772° N -83.993° W

Daily Shuttle Bus Service on Friday and Saturday Only – No Shuttle Service on Sunday Park is Closed. Shuttles run 7A - 6P Friday & Saturday, No Shuttles on Sunday as this site is closed to parking on Sunday.

National Voice Of America Museum of Broadcasting Open House – Thurs 5/5 - Sun 5/18/2025

For those of you who missed the NKARC VOA Museum Tour in April, you can still tour the museum on your own during the VOA Museum Open House and Museum Tour during Hamvention. The VOA Museum has special hours with a public open house that runs during Hamvention. Why not stop by the museum on your way home from Hamvention? Yours truly – KY4ROD, will be volunteering at the VOA Booth #1910 in Building 1 (Time TBT) at Hamvention on Saturday afternoon come by and say hello!

The VOA Museum's special hours during Hamvention are as follows:

Thursday May 15th: 12 Noon - 9PM

Friday May 16th: 12 Noon - 9 PM

Saturday May 17th: 12 Noon - 9 PM

Sunday May 18th: 12 Noon – 5 PM

Admission is \$10.00 at the door, children 15 and under Free.

National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting

8070 Tylersville Rd (for GPS use: Crosley Blvd as address)

West Chester, OH 45069

Website: <https://voamuseum.org>



Before delving into this month's features, I would like to take a moment to talk about participation and volunteering in the club. Everyone belonging to this club had a specific purpose in joining, whether it was to learn more about amateur radio, contributing knowledge or giving back to others as an "Elmer" in the hobby or simply to socialize and make more friends. I encourage everyone in the club to participate in our activities including: the weekly nets, the meetings, the field trips, special events and presentations. Participation and volunteering fosters learning, friendships and shares the work load among all the members. Those who volunteer gain an increased sense of participation, teamwork & satisfaction in contributing to the hobby and building long-lasting friendships. Those who sit back and do nothing never really grow or advance, they may pick up a bit some additional piece of knowledge from time to time, but they are simply "just there" and never grow socially. Many may feel like "I am the new guy... I don't have anything to contribute", I would argue your wrong in thinking that way. Everyone has something to be gained by participating and volunteering, it benefits the club as a whole. Everyone can do something... a simple greeting and introduction with a handshake can make all the difference in the world to the "new guy". Something as simple as arriving a little bit early or staying a couple mins later to help setup an take down tables and chairs can make a difference. You can also contribute by doing a meeting presentation or submitting a Feedline article. The purpose of this club is as much social as it is technical. Volunteering and participation are a "2 way street", the more you give, the more you will receive in return. In the next 2 months we have 2 premiere events coming up: In May is Hamvention 2025 in Xenia OH and coming in June is ARRL Field Day 2025. Both of these events are great opportunities to participate in and to make friends. Field Day 2025 is a great opportunity to not only make friends but also to volunteer and to contribute to the success of this club. I encourage everyone to participate in these events and contribute to make these events memorable for everyone.

We are **always** in need of volunteers to do presentations at the monthly meetings, if you would like to volunteer as a presenter or if there is a special topic you would like to see presented, let me or another member of club leadership know and we will try to accommodate the request either by finding a speaker or publishing an article about it in the Feedline. Volunteer or send your requests or article submissions to ky4rod@nkarc.org.

Last month we debuted our **"Guest Articles"** feature, this month we will have two more special articles for you: The first article "What is the RATPAC? by yours truly – KY4ROD and another special guest article of "Marks Mutterings" by Mark Volstad – AI4BJ about "My Secret POTA Weapon – CESSB"

I would like to continue to encourage members to get involved and participate by thoughtfully considering to submitting a guest article for the Feedline. 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. 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 7th of each month, unless we reach our submission quota earlier.
- 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.

The Feedline will continue to be distributed via email through groups.io each month. It's also available on <https://NKARC.org> through the website's main menu.

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. I want to extend a special Thank You to everyone for their comments, encouraging words and suggestions!



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. 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 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 Field Trip to the National VOA Museum of Broadcasting on April 26, 2025



On Saturday April 26th our club traveled to West Chester, OH to participate in a private tour of the National Voice of American Museum of Broadcasting. The tour was an overwhelming success and everyone had a great time. we had 19 participants and I hope everyone had a good time and learned a few things. One other special note of thanks goes out to Chuck Casson KQ4PZN, who supplied the club with fresh Dunkin Donuts before the start of the tour! I want to apologize for the WC8VOA ham shack not being operational for our club members to get on the air after our tour as we were short WC8VOA Club members to man the shack. The West Chester Amateur Radio Club normally has 2-3 elmer's staff the radios in their VOA shack for guests to operate. We were without those Elmer's on Saturday due them attending a funeral for one of their club members. A couple of weeks ago they lost a longtime friend and elmer Bob Fay un-expectantly. Bob was one of the senior members of the club, he was very likeable, an Elmer to many and friend to all. Bob was a member of the club for close to 35 years from back in the day when the club started out as the Fairfield Amateur Radio Club years ago before the club became associated with Voice of America and later became the West Chester Amateur Radio Club. It was unfortunate that Bob's funeral happened to fall on the day of the tour. Thank you again for coming to this event and I hope you enjoyed it.







On Saturday May 3rd, Larry Silverman arranged a second tour of the GE Aviation Learning Center and Jet Engine Museum for NKARC members who missed the original tour that was held on March 1, 2025. NKARC Members had a great time at the General Electric / Evendale Aviation Learning Center touring the Jet Engine Museum. Though the turnout was smaller than the tour in March, everyone had a great time. Our group enjoyed the tour of the museum, it was a self-guided tour of GE military and commercial jet engines and their development from WWII through the present day. **A “Special Thanks” go out to Larry Silverman WB2GYS and his daughter Jennifer for arranging this makeup tour for club members who missed the original club tour !**





RATPAC is an acronym for **R**adio **A**mateur **T**raining and **A**ctivities **C**ommittee.

I first learned about RATPAC a couple of years ago while I was studying for my Amateur Extra Exam. At the time, I attended a presentation on the RATPAC at another local ham club given by Anthony Luscre – K8ZT. Anthony is one of the organizers of RATPAC, he is also the ARRL Ohio Section Youth and Education Outreach Coordinator. RATPAC consists of a library of over 500 training videos and presentations for just about anything amateur radio. Anyone can join the RATPAC, it costs you nothing. To participate in RATPAC, it is requested that you join the RATPAC Groups.IO and/or follow the “Radio Amateur Training and Activities Committee” on Facebook.

The RATPAC Home page can be found at <https://ratpac.us>

RATPAC offers Amateur Radio Training Presentations via ZOOM every Wednesday and Thursday at 9 PM Eastern. Wednesday night presentations are usually general amateur radio presentations while Thursday evening presentations are usually EmComm related. See the link below for a list of present and archived presentations.

RATPAC has a link to live Zoom Training Sessions every Wednesday & Thursday: <http://www.ratpac.us/zoom>
Generally all the presentations are archived to YouTube within a couple of days after the live ZOOM Presentation. Many of the presentations also contain supporting documents and PowerPoint slides if the presenter gives RATPAC permission to post them.

RATPAC has many internet sites you can access for information. These sites include:

The RATPAC Home Page <https://ratpac.us>

RATPAC link to Live RATPAC Zoom Sessions every Weds & Thurs: <http://www.ratpac.us/zoom>

RATPAC YouTube Channel – Search for **RATPAC Amateur Radio:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/RATPAC>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/ratapacfb>

Groups.IO – Search on RATPAC or Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee. Once you signup and join RATPAC on groups.io you will receive daily emails on RATPAC happenings and presentations.

In addition to the main RATPAC home page, visit Anthony Luscre’s Main Website at: <https://k8zt.com> which contains a listing of other popular websites of “all things amateur radio” and general information as well as the main RATPAC.US website. Anthony also has an extensive library of his own presentations located at: <http://tiny.cc/k8zt-p>. Other resources on his site for new hams and students include:

- Ham Radio Resources for New or Prospective Hams- tiny.cc/new-hams
- Ham Radio Resources for Youth, Students, Teachers and Any New or Prospective Hams (*or anyone working with these groups*) - <http://tiny.cc/hry>
- Students/Young Hams- www.k8zt.com/youth/kids-radio-zone
- Schools/Teachers www.k8zt.com/youth/teacher-radio-zone

Join the RATPAC today, it’s a great resource! ... What are you waiting for ???



My POTA Secret Weapon

Most of my Parks-on-the-Air (POTA) activations are of the drive-up variety, where equipment size and weight are not much of a concern. My Elecraft K4 only weighs 10 pounds and even comes with a carrying strap, so I use it both as my base radio at home and as my go-to portable rig.

Some of the features that make the K4 a great rig for POTA activations include:

1. Tx audio equalization. This allows me to tailor my Tx audio spectrum to eliminate lower frequencies that do not contribute to intelligibility, thus focusing my precious Tx energy on frequencies that *do* contribute to intelligibility.
2. Elecraft's automatic antenna tuners (ATUs) are renowned for their ability to tune the proverbial "wet noodle", and the K4's built-in ATU is no exception. I often use non-resonant antennas, so this is a key feature.
3. Hi-resolution pan-adaptor & waterfall. These make it easy to locate an open frequency to call CQ on and to monitor encroaching QRM.
4. Most commonly used adjustments can be quickly made by pushing a button or twisting a knob – no need to dive into on-screen menus. In the stress of working a pile-up, this is important!

But the feature that makes the K4 a killer POTA machine is one that many hams have never even heard of: CESSB.

What is CESSB?

CESSB stands for controlled-envelope single sideband, and is *not* to be confused with eSSB (extended SSB), a controversial "high fidelity" mode that extends the transmit bandwidth beyond the normal 2.8 kHz. CESSB was introduced to the amateur radio community by David Hershberger W9GR in a highly technical 2014 article in QEX magazine. He also explains it very well in [this YouTube video](#). In a nutshell, it is a variation of standard SSB modulation that results in *average* transmit power being more than doubled. That's like getting a free upgrade of your 100W transmitter to 250W!

How Does it Work?

In a traditional SSB transmitter, automatic level control (ALC) is used to prevent envelope overshoots that would otherwise cause the transmitter to exceed its maximum power rating. It does this by reducing overall Tx gain, which decreases not just the peak power output but average power output as well! In contrast, CESSB eliminates envelope overshoots while simultaneously *increasing* the average power level, using digital signal processing techniques described in the video above. The end result is that your transmitted signal will sound objectively louder at the receiver, without any added distortion or compression effects.

What's the Catch?

There's no free lunch. If average *power* increases, it stands to reason that average *current* consumption will also increase. *Peak* current consumption will *not* increase, though, so your existing power supply should still work, although you can expect it to run warmer. Similarly, if you are running from a battery, you should expect your battery to run down faster than it would without CESSB.

Sounds Great! How Can I Get It?

When I purchased my K4 a few years ago, CESSB was not included or even mentioned in the specifications. It was introduced in a [later software update](#), to the great surprise and glee of K4 owners like myself.

The real mystery to me is why this technology has not yet found its way into *all* new radios, including budget-level rigs. No licensing fee is required, and it does not require a great deal of processing power to implement. To prove that this is possible, you need look no further than QRP Labs' [QMX](#) line of diminutive transceivers, which sell for as little as \$100 in kit form. (I built one myself, but that's a story for another day.) As of the latest firmware update, it now implements CESSB! Hopefully this will shame other manufacturers into doing the same. To my knowledge, the only other manufacturers that have adopted CESSB are Flex Radio and Apache Labs.

If you go to Hamvention this year, ask your favorite manufacturer when *they* plan to introduce CESSB into their products. If you insist that your next radio must include CESSB, maybe they will listen!