

# The Feedline



**Field Day Wrap-Up**  
**HAM Radio Goes To Camp**  
**HAMS Help Paddlefest 2005**  
**Cloud Warming With NVIS**

*The Official Monthly Newsletter of the  
Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club*



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**Repeaters — K4CO**

147.255+ 444.350+ Edgewood, 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
**Nets**

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255+/  
Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team  
Net: Thursdays at 8:00 PM on the 147.375+

—WEB Site—  
WWW.K4CO.ORG

**Membership meetings** on the **2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

**Board meetings** on the **1st Monday** at 7:00PM, Szechwan Garden Kyles Ln. & Dixie Hwy. in Ft. Wright, Ky..

**Congratulations to new member Rick Fox, WA4QMV, the winner of our Radio Raffle. Rick chose to receive a Yeasu VX-7R Handheld. Good choice Rick! We know you will enjoy it! (He gave it a good workout the past two weekends!)**

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

Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be of 500 words or less, and

**in electronic format.** Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Tim Anderson, AG4XM: 912 Main Street, Covington, KY 41011 — Email: AG4XM@ARRL.NET or Telephone (859) 581-8588.

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**Our Next meeting is Monday July 11th**

**Our guest for the evening will be ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE**

# The Feedline

July 2005 Volume 2005 Issue 7

## Top Of The Tower — NKARC President, Mike Wagoner, KB4VKS



As July rolls around and summer hits its peak, there are still many things to be done. I hope many of you can attend and help with paddlefest or helped with paddlefest. I also want to thank those who helped with the ham fest and field day.

These events and others show how much fun we can have with amateur radio and show the public that we are able to help with communications in an emergency or at a public service event.


With any organization there are still many needs to meet. As most of you know, Tim, AG4XM, will be leaving us soon. I certainly wish him and his family all the best in the future but he leaves a lot to fill. We will need a club secretary, and a Feedline editor. If you are interested in either of these positions please let me know. In order to have a newsletter, someone has to take the time to compile the articles and put it together and print or email it to you. These newsletters just don't appear magically, it takes a lot of work as Tim can attest. I, and the club need your help with the areas that Tim has so

graciously filled and done so well. Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Tim for all he has done for the club and amateur radio in our area. Tim you will certainly be missed around here and my hat is off to you for everything.

May God richly bless you and I hope the new job is a great success. It is my hope and prayer that others will step forward and show the determination and effort that Tim has shown us all.

73 Mike, KB4VKS  
President, NKARC

## Editor's Shack — Feedline Editor, Tim Anderson, AG4XM



Well, this is it. This is the very last issue of the Feedline that I'll be doing for you. Thank you Mike, for your words of praise. I thank all of you for allowing me to be of service. It has been my privilege to work with this club and get to know each of you over the past three years. It has been a rewarding experience.

I hope that my leaving won't be so much a hardship, as it will be an opportunity for some of you to step in and continue the work that we've begun. Strive, not to just keep this club going, but to make each other richer for the experience. It's not too hard if everyone is willing to shoulder a little piece of the responsibility.

Our club faces many challenges, but the biggest challenge that I see, is overcoming apathy. My guiding philosophy in life is to "say what you're going to do and then do what you say and always, always be your word.

I leave you with a few lines from Ulysses by Alfred Tennyson. This is one of my favorites and seems appropriate as we embark on a new adventures.

Come, my friends,

'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.  
Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds  
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
Of all the western stars, until I die.

It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:  
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,  
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.  
Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'  
We are not now that strength which in the old days  
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;  
One equal-temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

73 and may God bless. We'll see you down the log...  
de Tim, AG4XM... QRT

## NKARC Meeting Minutes, Monday June 13th, 2005

**President, Mike Wagoner, KB4VKS:** Called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by self-introductions. Tonight we will draw for a winner in our Radio Raffle. There are only a few tickets left so this is your last chance to buy tickets. They are \$2.00 each.

**Vice-President, Brian Clark, W4SOU:** Tonight's program will be Brewster Rhodes, Chairman of the Paddlefest event in which we will be taking part on July 9th. ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver will be our guest speaker for the July meeting. Programs for the remainder of the year are open. The date for the Kentucky QSO Party have been set. It will begin August 28 at 1600Z (12 noon local) and run until 0400Z on August 29 (August 28 until midnight local) details are posted on [www.ky4ky.com](http://www.ky4ky.com).

**Secretary's Report, Tim, AG4XM:** Apologies for it being late again this month. They were sent out today. We do have printed copies available here tonight.

The May meeting minutes were published in the June Feedline. Motion to accept the May meeting minutes as published in the Feedline by K4RIW and seconded by KC8VIG, passed. The Feedline was sent out via email to all members in good standing.

**Treasurer's Report, Ben, KG4NMH:** Copies of the May financial report were handed out. Final numbers for the Hamfest have also been tallied and handed out in the Hamfest Report Motion to accept the treasure's reports by AB8SH and seconded by KG4SBG, passed.

**VE Team, Lyle, AB4SH:** Good session at the hamfest. We had six candidates, of which 4 passed. Tonight we had one gentleman come and he passed his Technician's test.

**Communications Manager, Bob Burns, AB4BK** Nothing to report.

**Net Manager, Don, W8NSV:** Not present.

**Hamfest, Rob Blocher, N8JMV:** Hamfest went fairly well. We had about 240 in attendance with 60 flea-market vendors and one indoor vendor. Congratulations to our prize winners and thank you everyone who attended and helped out. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. A check is needed for one-quarter of the flyer mailing costs. AG4XM made the motion and W4SOU seconded, the board approved.

**Field Day, Lynn, WD8JAW:** Field day is June 25 & 26th from 2pm Saturday until 2pm Sunday. It will be at Middleton— Mills Park and will be a joint effort between NKARC and KD7ARET. We will be in shelter #1 as opposed to shelter #2 as originally announced. Directions are posted in the Feedline and available here tonight as well. We are planning to operate as 3A Voice and CW HF, with an additional station for GOTA and possibly a VHF station. The site is by a small lake with few trees. There are 30 foot light poles that can be used for wire antennas for stations working out of the shelter. Lynn would like to use his 10-40-meter vertical from the hill above the shelter. Scott WB4SMS offered to loan us his camper for this station. Joe, KI4QG will be running his station from the shelter, and hopefully Jerry, WB8WEV will be running his CW station from the shelter as well. We will need help with setup on Saturday morning, we would like to get a schedule of operators for the event as well as other duties. A signup sheet is being circulated. Please try to sign up for a two hour shift. We also need to be sure someone copies the W1AW bulliten text and gets the field day message to ther Section manager for extra points. We will be using the club's generator for emergency power. We should also try to take advantage of the alternate power source for extra points. Tim, AG4XM will be brining his solar battery charger for his rig. Lynn will provide his laptop and software for logging, Tim will bring his laptop as well and set up the wireless network. We still need one or two more laptops for logging. It was decided that we would not do the family picnic/potluck Saturday afternoon. So that ther is food and refreshments, Bob, AB4BK will bring some hotdogs. The club will provide some hamburger patties, buns condiments, soft drinks and coffee. Rick, WA4QMV will also provide pizza from Dominos.

### Old Business:

**Tim, AG4XM; Paddlefest,** This event will be on July 8th and 9th. Our services will be needed on the morning of the 9th. We will need about 20 communicators. We will meet at the Four Season Yacht Club early Saturday morning. A signup sheet was passed around. The Chairman of Pad-

dlefest, Brewster Rhodes is here to speak to us tonight.

New Business:

**Radio Raffle, Mike, KB4VKS:** The last tickets for the raffle are sold. Thank you to John, W4RIW for doing an outstanding job of selling tickets at the hamfest. The drawing was held and the winner of the radio was Rick Fox, WA4QMV. Rick chose to get a Yaesu VX-7R Hand Held at equivalent cost in place of the mobile. AG4XM will purchase the radio and send it to Rick.

**New Business: Mike, KB4VKS:** Mark Volstead, AI4BJ will be setting up an amateur radio demonstration for the Boy Scout event at Camp Michael on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Mark for donating his time and equipment for this worthy public service.

**Rob, N8JMV:** We have Milford Hamfest tickets and flyers available tonight.

**Lynn, WD8JAW:** We have OHKYIN Hamfest tickets available

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the business meeting by Rob, N8JMV and seconded by Lynn, WD8JAW. Motion was passed. Refreshments were served and after a short break, Brewster Rhodes of the Paddlefest committee gave an excellent presentation on The Ohio River Way and their Paddlefest event.

Respectively Submitted

Tim Anderson, AG4XM Secretary

## NKARC/KD7ARET Field Day RECAP

Our 2005 Field Day was a fine success. It was very hot and humid but overall, band conditions weren't too bad. 75, 40 and 20-meters had fairly good propagation to the south and southwest all week-end. WD8JAW's station worked mostly 80-meter phone from the camper on the hill using a vertical and 75-meter dipole. From inside the shelter, KI4QG's station worked mostly 20-meter phone with a makeshift long-wire, AG4XM's station worked 40-meter phone using a B&W multi-band sloper, while Lynn, WA4VAP worked 15 & 20-meter phone and CW using a hustler with the lake as his ground plane.

Special thanks to our operators, loggers and others who came out to help, Lynn Ernst - WD8JAW, Joe-KI4QG, Lynn Benjamin-WA4VAP, Tony-AI4IP, Fred Banta-WI4HQS, Rick Fox-WA4QMV, Dan Fox-KI4AVO, Sam, WA4AAI, Dave Heil-K8MN, Bill Richardson-KI4EAH, Brain-W4SOU, Mike-KB4VKS, Dennis-KG4SBG, Rob-N8JMV and Kim-N8OXG

All-in-all, we did pretty well. We had 408 phone and 57 CW contacts for a QSO score of 1044 points. We collected 950 bonus points for running on emergency power, being in a public location, having a publicity table, getting press coverage, copying the W1AW bulletin, sending a message to the Section manager, making contacts using solar charged batteries and submitting our results via the ARRL website. Our grand total was 1994 points. The reports and all of the supporting documentation was submitted to the ARRL last week.

For more Field Day pictures, and full results, go to [www.k4co.org](http://www.k4co.org).



# Ham Radio Goes to Camp

Story & Photos by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Near the center of Boone County, several miles west of the town of Union, lies a little corner of paradise known as Camp Michaels. I discovered this jewel of the outdoors when I moved to Northern Kentucky in 1988 and volunteered as a Cub Scout den leader. I have fond memories of overnight camps and other events my son and I attended at the camp over the next several years. When Mike Wagoner recently put out a call to NKARC members looking for someone to put on a ham radio demonstration for a Twilight Camp being held for 280 boys in grades 1 through 5, I jumped at the opportunity of visiting Camp Michaels again for the first time in 13 years.

This is the fourth year for Twilight Camp, which is unique among day camps in that it is held in the late afternoon and early evening hours. The camp lasts two weeks, and the Friday night that I was being asked to come out on was the last day of camp. It was designated as family night, so parents, siblings and even a few grandparents would be in attendance. I decided to head out early in the afternoon so that I would have plenty of time to set up.

The entrance to the 675-acre Camp Michaels consists of a nearly mile long drive along a dusty, bumpy dirt road through dense woods. The road suddenly opens onto a broad grassy area the size of several football fields, hemmed in by steep wooded hills. Gunpowder Creek runs through the center of the camp, and the hills are laced with great hiking trails. Since I had arrived quite early, I had my choice of where I wanted to set up my station. As the temperature was already 85 and on its way through 90, I picked a spot under a line of trees near the creek that provided ample shade.

My portable HF station is completely self-contained and fits in my hatchback with plenty of room to spare. It consists of a folding camp table and chair, a 33ft telescoping fiberglass mast to support my 66ft doublet, a 10 watt solar panel, and of course my trusty Elecraft K2 with internal 3AH battery. I've mastered the art of erecting this antenna by myself, and had it up in short order. I had a brief scare when I turned on the K2 and found that it was unresponsive to any of the controls! I quickly traced this to one arm of my CW paddle being stuck in the closed position, probably



from the long bumpy ride. I could relax, and wait for the crowds to arrive.

The antenna proved to be a real attention-grabber, and I got quite a kick out of the puzzled expressions sported by both kids and adults as they wandered up to my table with their noses pointed at the sky. One young lad, eyeing the ladderline running up to the antenna, wanted to know when the squirrel was going to climb it! I found it a bit saddening, but not terribly surprising, that few of the young people I asked had ever heard of ham radio. I did my best to correct that situation. Unfortunately, propagation was not as good as might have been hoped for, though we did eavesdrop on QSOs with hams in Spain and Italy. Being alone, I found it rather difficult to start a QSO while being peppered with questions from curious observers. Having an extra ham to act as an "explainer" would have been great. I had brought along a sampling of the more interesting QSL cards from my collection, and these garnered a few oohs and ahhs.

I then made the discovery that has probably been made countless times by hams in similar situations. Kids think that Morse code is cool! Everyone noticed the gleaming gold Begali paddle sitting beside the K2, and wanted to know what it was for. A few associated it with the telegraph keys they had seen in westerns, and rightly pointed out that mine was "sideways". Fortunately, I had thought to bring along a Morse code chart, and when I asked a group of kids if they would like to try sending their names in Morse code (in practice

*(Continued on page 7)*

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mode, of course), a line instantly formed! I would stand to one side and say each letter out loud as I heard it, so the ones who were waiting their turn could try to guess the name being sent. When each girl or boy successfully completed their name, the look of satisfaction on their face was priceless.

Of course, I had no illusions of being able to compete with activities like BB-gun target shooting and archery, but overall I was very pleased with the interest that was shown in my amateur radio demonstration. When a couple of boys had to be dragged away from my table by their parents, I knew that I must have done something right. Before I knew it, a bugle summoned all scouts to the Council Ring,

## HAM RADIO HELPS PADDLEFEST 2005

Tim Anderson, AG4XM

Saturday, July 9th, 15 local HAMs from NKARC, KD7ARET and Hamilton County's ARPS got up very early and headed down to the river to assist with communication for the 3rd Annual Paddlefest sponsored by the Ohio River Way.

In this event, the Ohio River was shut down to all traffic for four hours except for the hundreds of canoers and kayakers who paddled 6 miles down river from the Four Season's Marina to the Serpentine Wall downtown at Sawyer's Point.

Amateur radio provided event communications from two base locations at each end of the course, five safety boats located along the course, and assistance with the massive traffic management as boats were dropped off and launched at the marina and the pulled out at the other end of the course. We also helped manage and coordinate the Canoe and Kayak Sprint Races at Sawyer Point later in the day.

**Tim, AG4XM** coordinated communications ably assisted by **John, NB4K** and **Brian, W4SOU** as Net Controls.

**Mike KB4VKS** provided net control assistance and relays from his home QTH

On the boats out in the river, keeping watch on the paddlers were **Lynn-WD8JAW**, **Bob-AB4BK**, **Bill-KC8VIG**, **Fred-KI4HQS**, **Tim, K9TGC** and **Greg-WG8Z**.

Handling the boat drop-of and take-out, parking and event logistics were **Rick-WA4QMV**, **Tony-AI4IP**, **Joe-KI4QG**, **Dan, KI4AVO** and **Bill KA9LAY**.



War Canoe passes Sawyer Point

The semi-formal, directed "River Net" was established on the K4CO 147.255 repeater and was supplemented by other 2-meter simplex frequencies for tactical communications.

The event coordinators were impressed with our responsiveness, dedication and professionalism. According to Paddlefest Chairman Brewster Rhodes, "This year's event was much bigger and more complicated than years past and you (HAMS) really helped it run smoothly. We couldn't coordinated it all nearly as well with-

out you all. Many, many thanks to your team."

Thanks to all of you who helped out with this terrific event and we look forward to doing it again next year! Thanks too, for making my last blast with you guys so great. 73-Tim, AG4XM



**Above:** NB4K and KA9LAY working the base. **Below:** KI4AVO, W4SOU and KI4QG on duty at Sawyer Point. **Bottom:** W4SOU and AI4IP run the net from high atop the Serpentine wall





**FIELD DAY:** Thanks in large part to a cantankerous left foot and leg, I wasn't able to get out to visit any of the FD sites in my area. I did the next best thing: operated on the air from my home QTH as much as I could. Even this wasn't glorious success because of

time limitations. The bottom line is that I made just over 75 Qs which I limited to stations in Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. I wanted to give as many points as I could to folks in "my" territory. My practice is to send QSLs for essentially each Q I make. Half of the QSLs for FD are in the mail and the rest will be there within a couple of days. I always enjoy receiving cards for QSOs, but if any of you do not readily have QSLs readily available, don't worry about sending a card to me. If you have them, though, I'd sure like to add them to my collection of members from this Division.

**US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION 230:** In my previous E-mail newsletter I asked you each to send a letter (that I provided) to ask your US Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 230 (note this is not a House Bill). This Resolution would "ask" the FCC to review the details of its decision to allow Broadband over Power Lines essentially without insuring it would not wipe out operations on our HF and VHF bands.

There good news is that some 250 of you care enough about protecting our frequencies that you took the time to send the letter. The bad news is that this is only 250 of the more than 12,000 members in this Division. Could it be that the 11,750 who did not take the time to write just don't give a tinker's dam about Amateur Radio? I certainly hope this is not the case.

In case you care about the future of Amateur Radio and your lack of writing is because you didn't read my last newsletter or it got lost in the E-mail or you simply forgot about it, there is still time for you to write. If you still have my May 29/30 WEAVER'S WORDS, the letter and in-

structions for sending it are in this issue.

If you no longer have the May 29/30 issue, let me know and I'll send the information to you right away. Please take the time to help defend Amateur Radio. Become an active participant in defending our frequencies.

Of course, thanks very to you members of the "LEADING 250" for your support of Amateur Radio. I don't have the time at this moment to thank you individually as is my usual practice, but be assured your help is very much appreciated.

**GRASSROOTS LOBBYING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLD:** You've doubtlessly seen several of my writings on the still-new, ARRL Grassroots Lobbying effort during previous months. This program very frankly has the greatest potential of anything I know to promote the future of Amateur Radio. The letter writing referred to above and during the past year or so is just part of the non-partisan lobby project we are developing. The next step in this project is to develop a working structure for it.

Therefore, it is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of the following Great Lakes Division ARRL members to leadership positions in the Grassroots program:

1. VICE DIRECTOR DICK MONDRO, W8FQT, is appointed DIVISION LEGISLATIVE ACTION CHAIRMAN (LAC), GREAT LAKES DIVISION. He reports to Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. Dick is responsible for guiding development and activities of the Grassroots program in the three states in this Division.
2. JIM ASHMAN, W8ASH, is appointed STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COORDINATOR (SLAC), OHIO. Jim reports to Division Legislative Action Chairman Mondro and is responsible for guiding development and activities of the Grassroots program in the State of Ohio.
3. VAL ROSE, N8EXV, is appointed STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COORDINATOR (SLAC), MICHIGAN. Val reports to Division Legislative Action Chairman Mondro and is responsible for guiding development and activities of the Grassroots program in the State of Michigan.



5. GREGORY BAIZE, KG4VJC has accepted appointment as the State Legislative Action Coordinator, Kentucky. Greg is highly qualified for this post. He will report to Division LAC Monday.

With the Great Lakes Division leadership positions in the critically-important ARRL Grassroots Lobbying project filled, Dick, Gregory (Kentucky SLAC), Jim (Ohio SLAC), Val (Michigan SLAC) and I will hold a telephone conference Saturday, July 2 to begin the major effort of developing the program structure in each of the three states in our Division.

The legislative activity referred to in the above paragraphs is Federal government in nature. Legislative action originating in the state governments in our three Sections is under the management of the Section Manager through the Section Government Liaisons (SGL) they appoint.

I thank Jim, Val, Gregory and Dick for accepting their very important appointments.

**SHOULD BANDWIDTH OF TRANSMITTED SIGNALS BE REGULATED?** In one form or another, this question has been raised by many amateurs. Most of these are intelligent, highly-motivated hams. A recent question by one of these hams (an ARRL member in the GLD) essentially suggested as have other that it would be best if we just opened the bands. After I read reply which attempted to add perspective to his discussion, I thought I'd share this with each of you who read this newsletter. Here it is:

----- "I certainly hear you . . . on the point about seeming inconsistencies in the current state of the draft bandwidth proposal. Being a simplistic purist myself, these also disturb me. Conversely, where should we draw the "line" and, more importantly, should the "line" be drawn?"

"In sharp contrast to my uneasiness over setting upper bandwidth limits are my equal concerns over the downsides of having no such limits. In contrast with current thinking of establishing upper (transmitted signal) bandwidth limits, is the proposal by many hams to have absolutely no limits -- i.e., to have wide open bands. This proposal to the opposite extreme of regulating transmitted signals has merit of its own. There would be no limitation to experimentation and use provided the signal was "kept within the

band." Of course, depending upon the band and propagation, this extreme would prevent anyone else from using the band during times the full-band signal was being transmitted.

"My quandary is that what one person considers "the way to go" is nearly the opposite to the thinking of another person. Automatic digital covering all bands is the ideal of some folks. Absolutely no automatic digital is the ideal of others. Enhanced SSB, fully Hi-Fi (and stereo) AM, wideband FM, etc. are the "things" that turn on a number of people. At least some of these folks would like these modes to have access to all ham frequencies.

"OK, so what does all this mean to me at this moment? It means that compromises must be made by all of us for the good of all of us. This is the way life is in so many of its features. The question that derives from this fact of life simply is, "where are the best places to make compromises so we can ensure the best overall health and viable future of Amateur Radio . . . and simultaneously allow each individual amateur to obtain the greatest possible joy from our great service?"

In all seriousness, I ask, "just what are your answers to this last question" .

### **AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING**

In answer to requests for the status of the pending action on this by the FCC: It is my understanding that the Commissions once again is dragging its feet and that we probably have a 50:50 chance of seeing meaningful action on this proposal until near the end of this year or even into next year.

"Tnx for your interest as well as your fine dedication to Amateur Radio. I truly appreciate hearing your thoughts and look forward to your further ideas.

"73, Jim

*THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS KNOWING WHICH PART(S) OF IT SHOULD BE GIVEN UP TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF OTHERS, AND WHEN THIS SHOULD BE DONE.*

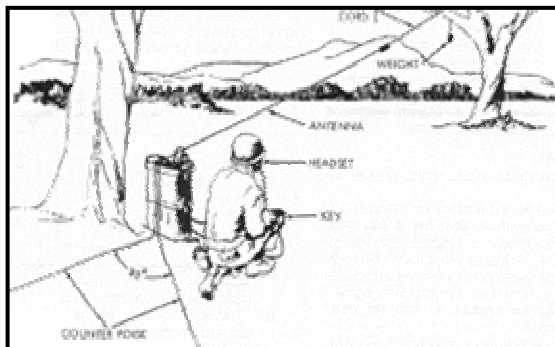
Jim Weaver, K8JE Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL; <http://www.arrl.org/>

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Most amateurs know how to respond if asked to provide regional communications in an emergency situation; typically a few 2 meter or 440 radios are employed along with the nearest available repeater. Since Kentucky has well over 100 repeaters on 2 meters, and nearly as many on 440, it is usually not too difficult to find a “machine” that will support communications over a range of perhaps 40 to 50 miles. This range is also easily attainable between fixed stations on these bands if they can be located on a modest hill top. A more elaborate installation can add a few miles to this range if equipment is available and time permits the installation of these facilities. This kind of response is relatively easy to implement and is the one familiar to most people involved in emergency communications.

How would you respond if asked to provide expedient communications at a range of perhaps 100 or 150 miles? While there are a few areas in our state where a 100 mile range is attainable via linked repeater systems, these are the exception rather than the rule. In most areas, an alternative must be considered when point to point communications are required at ranges of greater than 50 miles or so. Contacts at this range are certainly possible between fixed stations using 2 meter SSB, but such installations are usually impractical for field use. Tall towers and long yagi antennas with low loss feed line are not generally available for temporary field use, and would require considerable time to implement.



Military forces requiring greater range than that offered by typical VHF FM systems have long employed the Near Vertical Incident Skywave

(NVIS) technique. Use of NVIS methods in the 80 or 40 meter amateur band offers communication at ranges of 40 to more than 200 miles, and requires only an HF radio and common dipole antenna which can be erected in a few minutes by two people. Fortunately, a high angle of radiation is desirable for NVIS work, so the antenna can be installed at a modest height. In fact, if you can walk under your antenna safely, it should work nicely for NVIS. Another factor which makes NVIS worth consideration for emergency use is that remote support infrastructure is not needed, since the stations communicate directly with each other.

There are several sources of design information for NVIS antennas that are loosely based on the military AS-2259/GR unit. Simply described the amateur version consists of two resonant inverted “V” antennas at 90 degrees to each other and fed at a common point. The usual configuration has one antenna for 80 meters, and one for 40, although there is no reason why this antenna could not be made to cover 60 and 40 meters or 80 and 60 meters if desired. It is also possible to cover all three bands by using 3 pairs of wires with careful tuning. This can be a very robust and “storm proof” antenna if properly constructed, as it is essentially a center mast guyed by the antenna wires themselves. Expedient antennas can be easily fabricated using wood, PVC or fiberglass mast material and common wire antenna methods. The combination of stand-alone operation, significant range and simple inexpensive hardware makes HF NVIS an attractive option for medium range amateur communications.

### Some Useful NVIS Links...

- <http://www.qsl.net/wb5ude/nvis/>
- <http://www.vcars.org/tech/NVIS.html>
- <http://www.emcomm.org/svares/projects/nvis.htm>
- <http://www.hamuniverse.com/nvisbeam.html>
- <http://www.w0ipl.com/ECom/NVIS/nvis.htm>
- NVIS Propagation Maps -
- <http://www.w0ipl.com/ECom/NVIS/NVISprop.htm>
- NVIS Yahoo Group -
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nvis/>



# ARRL NEWS

**Tenth Annual Spectrum Defense Appeal Under Way** (Jul 6, 2005) -- The League has kicked off its 10th annual appeal to members seeking support for the ARRL Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies--also known simply as "the Spectrum Defense Fund." The fund fuels League efforts and activities that focus on fending off threats to amateur spectrum access. ARRL CEO

David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the current telecommunications environment is more complex and challenging than ever.



**US Senate Version of Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act**



**of 2005 Introduced** (Jun 17, 2005) -- A US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 has been introduced with bipartisan support in the 109th Congress. Sen Michael Crapo of Idaho sponsored the measure, S 1236, on June 14. The wording of the bill is identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced earlier this year by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida. Joining Crapo as cosponsors of the Senate bill were Senators Christopher Bond of Missouri, Max Baucus and Conrad Burns of Montana, and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. The bill has been referred to the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee of which Burns is a member. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League is pleased that Crapo has agreed to once again sponsor this legislation at ARRL's urging.

**Space station crew on the air for Field Day** (Jul 6, 2005) -- The International Space Station Expedition 11 crew of John Phillips, KE5DRY--operating as NA1SS--and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR--operating as RS0ISS--thrilled a number of ARRL Field Day 2005 operations by handing out contacts from space over the June 25-26 weekend. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, reports Phillips was active over the US while Krikalev worked stations in the Americas and elsewhere around the globe--including non-FD stations in South Africa and Thailand. Phillips, meanwhile, managed about two dozen Field Day contacts over North America.

"The call signs reflect contacts in Alaska, Canada and the West Central US," Ransom said.

**FCC Issues \$21,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Maine Amateur** (Jun 14, 2005) -- The FCC has issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) proposing to fine Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, \$21,000. In the *NAL*, released June 7, the FCC alleges that Baxter has violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service Rules. The list includes interfering with ongoing communications, transmitting communications in which he has a pecuniary interest, failing to provide information the FCC has requested, engaging in broadcasting, and failing to exercise control of his station. In the *NAL*, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau recites a litany of correspondence over the past

several months to and from Baxter--a registered professional engineer and executive director of the American



# AREA NEWS

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2005

12A

## Ham radio to the rescue

### Amateurs there at crunch time

By Troy Lyle

Post staff reporter

When the Licking River flooded and swallowed much of Falmouth in March 1997, it was amateur radio operators from Northern Kentucky who were the first to arrive on the scene.

They set up communications when telephones, cell phones and local radio systems were disabled. They pulled people from the mud and water even before most professional rescuers arrived, said Tim Anderson, a broadcast engineer from Covington who serves as the amateur radio emergency coordinator for Kenton County.

It's during times of emergency that amateur radio operators shine, said Allen Pitts, public relations manager for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio.

"Amateur radio has been shown repeatedly to be the one fail-safe, absolute fallback communication position that works," he said.

It's amateur radio's ability to go anywhere at anytime that makes it so useful, said Anderson.

That's why organizations such as the Department of Homeland Security, American Red Cross and the Salvation Army lean heavily on amateur radio operators in times of severe emergency like the hurricanes that pounded Florida in 2004.

In less stressful times, amateur — or "ham" radio — is also a "great peo-

### Kinds of licenses

Operating an amateur radio requires a license from the Federal Communications Commission. There are three license classes, each with its own test:

► **Technician** — 35 questions on the common rules and regulations of operating an amateur radio; gives access to all amateur radio frequencies above 30 megahertz; mostly for local communication.

► **General** — 35 questions on the introductory math and physics behind amateur radio; five word-per-minute Morse code test; gives access to most amateur radio frequencies above and

below 30 megahertz.

► **Amateur Extra** — 50 questions on the advanced math and physics behind amateur radio; gives access to the remaining amateur frequencies and privileges.

For more information on amateur radio or obtaining a license, contact:

► **Brian Clark**, Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1062, Covington, Ky. 41012; (502) 484-0596; [www.k4co.org](http://www.k4co.org).

► **John Meyers**, Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team, 218 Cory Lane, Butler, Ky. 41006; (859) 472-6690; [www.ky7et.org](http://www.ky7et.org).

ple experience," said Anderson. "You can talk to a wide range of individuals from all over the world."

There are more than 675,000 ham operators in the U.S. and more than 2.5 million worldwide. They range in age from eight to 80 and come from all walks of life — movie stars, doctors, politicians, students and retirees.

To celebrate that diversity, the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club and the Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team will host a joint Field Day today and Sunday at Middleton-Mills Park in Covington. The event will begin at 8 a.m. today and run continuously until 2 p.m. Sunday.

Field Day is a national event held since 1933, during which hams set up radio stations in less than optimal conditions using emergency power and portable antennas. Its purpose is to fine-tune emergency communication skills, raise public awareness and educate community and government officials.

More than 30,000 ham operators across the country and Canada participated in last year's event.

The event is the largest "on-air" operating event of the year, said Brian Clark, of Owenton, vice president of Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. In it, stations try to contact as many other hams as possible in a 24-hour period.

Anderson said Northern Kentucky ham were able to contact 3,018 different hams last year using six radio stations.

Hams use a variety of radio and antenna configurations. Most utilize high frequency, or short wave band radios that can cover very long distances, said Anderson. Others enjoy very high frequency, which operate just above the standard FM radio band of 107.9, and "old school" AM radios that are "strictly for pleasure," he said.

"A lot of people think we're geeks," said Pitts. "But we're fun geeks."

CITY EDITOR: (859) 292-2600 ■ FAX: (859) 291-2525



BRUCE CRIPPEN/The Post

**Tim Anderson**, in his "radio shack," listening for radio traffic from his friends around the world and across the country.

It was a terrific honor to be interviewed and photographed for the Kentucky Post article that appeared just in time for Field Day last Saturday. Thanks to Troy Lyle and the Post for a fine piece as well as Brian, W4SOU for setting it up! This was great publicity for Amateur Radio and the club! - *Tim AG4XM*

## **Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service** **A Review of Wilderness Protocol** **Ron Dodson, KA4MAP—KY Section Emergency Coordinator**



Lots of people will soon be heading for the hills and mountains, the beaches, rivers, lakes and deserts across America. Some will be hams and unfortunately, some will get in a bind! It's a good time for a review of the WILDERNESS PROTOCOL. (Ref. June 1996 QST, page 85).

Primary frequency: 146.52 MHz (FM simplex).

Secondary frequencies: 446.0, 223.5, 52.525 and 1294.5 MHz.

All stations (both fixed, portable or mobile) monitor the primary (and secondary if possible) frequency(s) every three hours starting at 7:00 am local time, for five minutes (7:00-7:05 AM, 10:00-10:05 AM, etc.)

Additionally, base stations or others that have sufficient power resources can monitor for five minutes starting at the top of every hour, or continuously.

If you go on outdoor activities and get stuck, here is a great way to conserve power and still get help if you are out of range of repeaters and other communications.

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Tim Anderson, AG4XM  
(859) 581-8588



**Happy July  
Birthday to  
Marrie Allison, KG4OH**

## VE Testing

**Congratulations to Dejan Samardzic, who passed Element 2 and earned his Technician License at our VE testing session last month.**

Exams are given at 6:00pm prior to the general membership meetings.  
Please register at least two days in advance.  
No walk-ins accepted

Contact:

Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH  
NKARC VE Liaison  
(513)315-4032

**HAROLD F. BLOCHER Sr.**  
**W4YWH** (859) 441-9595



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for more information!

## NET REPORTS

### NKARC—March 2005

Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club

Sessions: 4  
Checkins: 37  
Minutes :131  
Traffic : 5

NSC Stations.:W8NSV, KB4VKS, KG4SBG

Net Manager: Don Maupin, W8NSV

### KD7ARET

Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team

Sessions: 5  
Checkins: 83  
Minutes:233  
Traffic: 5

NCS stations:W4SWS; AG4XM; W4SOU;  
KB4VKS; WD8JAW Net Manager, Lynn Ernst, WD8JAW

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS & EVENTS

### 23 July - 8th Annual OH-KY-IN Hamfest

Diamond Oaks Career Development Campus

Cincinnati Ohio

<http://www.ohkyin.org>

Talk-In: 146.670 (-)

### 16 July - Owensboro Amateur Radio Club

#### Swap Meet

Red Cross Center

Owensboro, KY

<http://www.k4hy.net>

Talk-In:147.210

### 10 Sept - Greater Louisville Hamfest and KY ARRL Convention

Paroquet Springs Conference Center

Shepherdsville, KY

<http://www.critterbob.net/glha/>

### 18 Sept GCARA Hamfest

Scarlet Oaks Development Campus

Cincinnati Ohio

<http://www.gcara.org>

Talk-in: 146.88-

## *Stubby* by Fred Hurteau, WD4SKH

