

Vol. 2010, #6
June 2010



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Field Day is just around the corner! The 2010 edition will once again find NKARC and KD7ARET joining forces at Lincoln Ridge Park in Independence on the weekend of June 26 & 27. Sign up for an operating time slot [here](#).

Above, Dave Schmidt, KI4QH, radiates the happiness that comes naturally to Field Day participants!

Inside this issue:

May Net Report	3
May Meeting Minutes	3
Mark's Mutterings	4
Tech Test Changes	5
Weaver's Words	6

Dates to Remember:

June 14 – NKARC membership meeting
June 19 – Milford [hamfest](#)
June 26 – [Paddlefest](#)
June 26-27 – ARRL Field Day
July 12 – NKARC membership meeting

NKARC Directory

President:

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

Vice President:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Club Trustee & Historian:

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

k4bri@arrl.net

Director at Large:

Don King, AJ4DK

kingdl19406@msn.com

Feedline Editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Tel: 859-689-4234

mvolstad@insightbb.com

Webmaster:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Net Manager:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Repeaters (K4CO): 147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights. The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

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

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

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

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

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

dress or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005
Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com
Tel: 859-689-4234

May Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2010 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

I. Meeting called to order – 1935

II. Allegiance to the Flag / Roll call

III. One candidate passed their exam and became a General – congrats!

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

- Motion to accept: Lynn, WD8JAW
- Second by: Dave, KI4QH
- All in favor: All
- All opposed: None.

V. Treasurers Report

- \$20 in new dues
- Other income for Church donation.
- Phone / electric paid after report ran (so will be reflected in next report).
- \$2,257.56 in available funds.
- Motion to accept: Tony, AI4IP
- Seconded by: Ron, KG4HMO

- All in favor: All
- All opposed: None.

VI. Old Business

- Field Day
- Will be discussed after the business portion concludes.
- Also, don't forget about Paddlefest – happening same weekend. Please see Lynn, WD8JAW, for more information.

VII. Other information

- Please remember our Net Contest is running again this year. Join the Net every Tuesday for your chance to win the prize this year!
- Next month, we will again devote the meeting to Field Day preparations.

VIII. Adjournment

- Motioned by: Tony, AI4IP.
- Seconded by: Ron, KG4HMO
- Meeting adjourned at 1940.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS

May NKARC Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
May 4	AJ4DK (Don)	13	40	0
May 11	KB4VKS (Mike)	9	20	0
May 18	N4IJS (Robert)	15	28	0
May 25	KG4SBG (Dennis)	11	32	0
TOTALS:		48	120	0

Mark's Mutterings

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ★ 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE ★ CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Thanks to Lyle Hamilton (AB8SH) and Robert Westbrook (KJ4FZS) for taking time out of their Memorial Day weekend to help out at [Adventure Base 100](#) in downtown Cincinnati. While we weren't able to conduct the "Morse Code vs. texting" competition the organizers had hoped for, we were able to demonstrate ham radio to dozens of interested members of the public. The kids loved spelling their names out in Morse Code. Appropriately, to celebrate their centennial, the Boy Scouts have revived the [Signaling](#) merit badge, which was first offered in 1911!

Well, **Hamvention** has come and gone, and after skipping it last year, I'm happy that I decided to attend! The crowds were as thick as they've been in the five years that I've now attended. I had a chance to eyeball Elecraft's new [P3 panadapter](#), and I have to say that the display looks rather small compared to the RF spectra that were being displayed on 40-inch plasma monitors by Flex Radio and others. The main advantage of the P3 (to me, anyway), is that it is a standalone unit that is tightly integrated with the K3 and does not require a PC. For somebody who enjoys portable ops as much as I do, that's an important consideration!

Kenwood was displaying their new [TS-590](#) HF rig. Following Yaesu's lead (FTDX9000), Kenwood has decided to return to a down-conversion architecture, presumably to close the huge lead in RX performance that Elecraft and Ten-Tec have built in recent years. How long do you think it will be before Icom releases a down-conversion model of their own? I bet that they make an announcement within the next six months.

But my biggest "find" of the day actually occurred several miles from Hara arena. To my amazement and delight, I discovered that Dayton now has a [Tim Hortons](#)! Ok, I can sense the blank expression on your face. You have to be Canadian to [understand](#)...

The current (June) issue of QST contains an interesting article on how to construct an HF **triplexer**. This is a device that allows three transceivers to share a single antenna. Antennas are typically the most challenging aspect of **Field Day** planning, so being able to use a single antenna instead of three seems like a no-brainer to me! The author used a Yagi antenna, but in our Midwest location I think a vertical might be a better choice. This might make an interesting club project for the coming year.

Field Day is, by a wide margin, my favorite amateur radio activity, so it surprises me that many hams choose to skip this annual event. Just hearing the HF bands bursting at the seams with CW, phone and digital

activity is a treat in itself, but there is so much more. There are the tentative radio voices of youngsters and adults who are making their first QSOs. There's the satisfaction that comes with logging the rarer ARRL sections (ND, SD, WY, DE). There's the camaraderie, and the satisfaction (usually!) of knowing that you managed to survive whatever obstacles Murphy and Mother Nature conspired to throw in your way. If you've never experienced Field Day before, what are you waiting for? Come out to Lincoln Ridge Park on June 26/27 and find out what you've been missing. I hope to see many of you there!

73, Mark, AI4BJ



Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go

are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this — or shortly thereafter — the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proof-reading it right now.



While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters

or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

=====

When not updating his No-Nonsense amateur radio license study guides, you'll find him on 40m, 30m, 20m, and if we ever get any sunspots to stick around, 15m and 10m pounding brass. You may even hear him trying to get the hang of using the bug he bought at Dayton this year. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, and you can e-mail website suggestions to cwgeek@kb6nu.com

The deadline for submissions for the July Feedline is **Saturday, July 3.**

Weaver's Words

Remember the Fallen; 1776-2010

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

Field Day Cometh

Field Day 2010 is June 26 and 27. The 2009 results are on the ARRL web site just in case anyone wishes to see how they fared last year. As always, have fun, learn something toward improving emergency communications skills and be safe.

2010 ARRL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ARRL Foundation scholarship awards for the year went to 65 amateurs. Seven of the award winners live in the Great Lakes Division. Pretty good representation when one considers there are 15 divisions. Award winners are:

- The Earl I. Anderson Scholarship - \$1250 each, went to Kelly Kinkade, KD8LXM of Waterford, MI.
- The Dayton Amateur Radio Association Scholarships - \$1000 each went to Chelsey Bruce, KC8YSS of Cuyahoga Falls, OH and to Kathryn Ankenbauer, KD8AHA of Portage, MI.
- The Thomas W. Porter, W8KYZ, Scholarship Honoring Michael Daugherty, W8LSE - \$1000 to Richard Elrod, KB3LLM of Barberton, OH.
- The Don Riebhoff Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 to Samantha Young, KC9ENB of Sidney, OH.
- The Bill, W2ONV, and Ann Salerno Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 to Jacob Wagner, KD8CDC

of Rocky River, OH.

- The Zachary Taylor Stevens Scholarship - \$750 to Thomas Fielitz, KC8YAK of Smiths Creek, MI.

Well done to our scholarship winners.

Monitoring our Frequencies pays off

“Prompt follow up work by IARU monitors helped resolve the intrusion on 7150 and 7190 by a Kuwait Broadcast station,” according to The Official Observer Summary dated April, 2010. Chuck Skolaut, KØBOG, Field & Regulatory Correspondent of ARRL reported that thanks to the work of Region I monitors, Radio Kuwait has moved its broadcasts from the amateur bands.



Even though IARU monitors are not part of the ARRL Official Observer program, the work ARRL OOs perform is often similar to the work these monitors performed. Thank your friendly, local OOs for the support they provide.

In Case You Missed the Information

Hamfest/Swap committees should be aware that ARRL no longer automatically sends boxes full of free handouts for your event. Instead, it is your privilege to determine which freebies you want and to inform HQ of your wishes. You will receive the free material you request and it will still be shipped to you free-of-charge.

A list of materials available for hamfests is in-

cluded with the free prize certificates you receive. Instructions for ordering the free goods are included with the information. Be sure to ask for your free handouts early enough so they can be shipped to you in time for your hamfest. The freebies are to be placed on the ARRL table of your ARRL-sanctioned event.

How about Inviting a QSL Field Checker to Your Hamfest?

Why not ask a QSL Field Checker to attend your hamfest and check QSL cards for the several ARRL operating awards? Publicize that he'll be checking QSL cards at the 'fest. Doing this will provide a good service to many area amateurs and just might bring a few more hams to your event.

Applicants for an award or supplemental submission to one need to bring, the QSLs they wish the checker to verify, the appropriate completed application — e.g. DXCC, VUCC — and any fee associated with entering the QSLs into the records.

There are three types of field checkers. These are the DXCC Card Checker, the VHF Awards Manager and the HF Awards Manager. DXCC checkers are authorized to check cards for VHF/UHF, WAS and DXCC, as well as cards for the IARU's WAC award. VHF checkers (Award Managers) may check VUCC cards and HF checkers may check WAS. To find a DXCC card checker go to www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search. For a VUCC checker go to www.arrl.org/vucc-card-checker-search and for a HF checker, www.arrl.org/was-card-checker-search.

While on the subject of ARRL sanctioned conventions and hamfests, did you know the League publishes a free handbook of things to do or consider

doing when planning these events? Go to www.arrl.org/files/file/convhf_final.pdf.

Incidentally, it is not necessary to wait for a hamfest to use the services of a card checker. These are available upon request anytime it is convenient for them to check cards for you. Finally, thanks to all the great card checkers and other ARRL volunteers who take their time to provide service to the rest of us and their communities.

Is it a Broadcast or a QSO?

“In response to reports of broadcasting we receive at times, here is one point to keep in mind to help in determining if it is indeed considered broadcasting. Are the transmissions intended to be received by the general public or are they directed to other amateurs? If other amateurs are involved and they take part and ID, it's considered a QSO.”



From: The Official Observer Summary April, 2010 by Chuck Skolaut, KØBOG. Field & Regulatory Correspondent, ARRL.

Thanks for the Letters

Thanks to the members of the Great Lakes Division and other ARRL Divisions who stopped by the Legislative Action booth at the Hamvention(tm) to send letters to their US legislators. These letters encouraged legislators to support S. 2881 and H.R. 4089. These bills would help insure each FCC commissioner has a technically-sound advisor on staff. Thanks also to the 18 volunteers from our Division who worked at the booth.

Division Legislative Action Chairman John

Meyers, NB4K reports 1257 letters were obtained and sent to John Chwat, the ARRL legislative representative in Washington, DC. He will have the letters delivered directly to the legislators. The total number of letters obtained at the Hamvention this year is greater than twice the number obtain in 2009.

Well done.

QSO Parties are Scheduled

It's a little early to turn your rigs on and to bring your favorite snacks in for the Ohio and Kentucky QSO parties, but it isn't too early to mark them on your calendar. The Ohio party (OHQP) will be from 1600Z to 2400Z August 28. It is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club.

The Kentucky party (KyQP) will be from 1400Z November 13 to 0200Z November 14. It is sponsored by the Western Kentucky DX Association.

Tentative Travel, Hamfest and Activity Schedule

Hamfests in the following list have received ARRL sanctioning as of press time. Hamfests and other events for which a Great Lakes Division representative is scheduled to attend are identified with the representative's name. The schedule can be expected to be fine-tuned in the future.

Patronize ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. Hamfests, conventions, symposia and similar events sponsored by ARRL-affiliated clubs may be eligible to be sanctioned by the League. For information and a sanctioning application, see www.arrl.org/hamfest-sponsor-support.. Please have your event sanctioned soon.

Support our Division hamfests and swaps:

- 5 Jun: IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI
- 5 Jun: Mid-Ohio Valley ARC Drive-In 'fest, Gallopis, OH
- 5 Jun: Fulton Co. ARC Hamfest, Tedrow, OH
- 5 Jun: Carter Co. Hamfest, Olive Hill, KY - Jim, John
- 6 Jun: Chelsea Swap & Shop, Chelsea, MI
- 11 Jun: Central MI ARC meeting, Lansing, MI - presentation, Jim
- 19 Jun: Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - Jim, John
- 19 Jun: Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI
- 20 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI – Jim, John
- 23 Jun: Directors webinar - Jim
- 8 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, presentation – Jim
- 15 Jul: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim
- 16-17 Jul: Board of Directors, Windsor, CT – Gary, Jim
- 17 Jul: HOARSEST, Elyria, OH
- 18 Jul: Van Wert ARC Hamfest, Van Wert, OH
- 25 Jul: Portage Ham air, Randolph, OH
- 28 Jul: Directors webinar - Jim
- 7 Aug: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI
- 15 Aug: Warren ARA Hamfest, Cortland, OH
- 15 Aug: Central KY Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim, John
- 15 Aug: Lapeer Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI
- 21 Aug: SARA Inside/Outside Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI
- 22 Aug: Cambridge Hamfest, Cambridge, OH
- 25 Aug: Directors webinar - Jim
- 11 Sep: Grater Louisville 'fest, Shepherdsville, KY

Return to:
Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1062
Covington, Ky. 41012

**FIRST
CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**



**NKARC Feedline June 2010
Volume 2010 Issue 6**