



The Feedline

D-Star Net Launched

Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group Launches the Ohio Wide Area D-STAR Net

/Press Release/

Lorain County Ohio – In an effort to further amateur radio and the exciting mode of D-STAR the Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group along with amateurs in Greater Cleveland, Akron, Columbus, Cincinnati and Michigan have joined forces to form the Ohio Wide Area D-STAR Net.



This net will operate in conjunction with many existing D-STAR repeaters on the newly formed Reflector 38 Alpha (REF038A), along with several planned sites, to form a reliable network of communication to be used for training in the operation of D-STAR. It will also allow for a platform to test communication links in the event of an emergency or natural disaster within the state or surrounding areas.

D-STAR technology offers the unique abil-

ity for amateurs all over the state to educate each other & build friendships while testing equipment. This infrastructure could be used to provide a valuable service to the community. Whether it is communication for a multi county marathon, friends chatting from Akron to Cincinnati or relaying tornado damage from a stricken town across the state D-STAR has something for everyone.

Please join the weekly Ohio Wide Area D-STAR net Sunday January the 9th at 8:00 PM local time. Connection via repeater, dongle or

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February Program

Dave Core, K8WDA, will be presenting a program titled **Amateur Radio - 1936, A Brief Look at Ham Radio 75 Years Ago** at the February meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, February 14 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

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Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 14 – NKARC membership meeting
- Mar. 5 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- Mar. 14 – NKARC membership meeting

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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-

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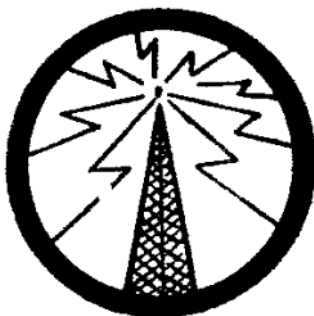
Top of the Tower

Are you ready to upgrade?

Hard to believe that the first month of January is almost over, isn't it? Time sure flies. And, as the saying goes, time seems to go by faster when you are having fun. And Amateur Radio really makes the time fly!!

I was reading the January edition of QST recently and they opened the magazine with a note about upgrading. That started me thinking about our Club and its' members. We are very fortunate to have a monthly VE Testing session, provided by a very dedicated group of our members. Are you at the license class that you want to be? If not, why not upgrade? There are so many ways to study; it makes the task of learning the material much easier than ever before. The pool of questions for the General test will be changing in July, so if you have purchased the General books, this would be a great time to take advantage of them.

Amateur Radio has been, and continues to be, a lot of fun for me. Hard to imagine many hobbies that you can have literally for a lifetime and always find something new to do and/or try. And, you can add to the fun by upgrading to General or Amateur Extra. This provides you not only with a lot of new frequencies to play with, but also spurs a considerable amount of studying and discovery of all things technical. After all, who doesn't like to learn something new, right?



The upgrade process is fairly straightforward. The cost is \$15 per session and, if you pass the General test, you can take the Extra right then and there as part of that \$15. Can't beat that!

Just contact Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH, at VETesting@k4o.org to schedule a session to take the test. And, if the fee is preventing your upgrade, please let me know. The Club can help out with the fee for our members!

We will be building up a library for our Club members this year (more on that in the coming months) and part of that library will be upgrade study materials. If you are interested in obtaining these to study with, please let me know and I will check out the material to you. And remember, if the fee is a barrier to your taking the test, the Club can help. Just drop me an email or give me a call. We want to see all of our members reach their Amateur Radio goals and will do what we can to help!

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

(513) 919-6672 (cell)

D-Star Net, cont'd from Cover

DVAP can be made directly to reflector REF038A. All amateurs regardless of location or affiliation are encouraged to join in.

The Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group was formed by D-STAR users and enthusiasts from Lorain, Lake, and Cuyahoga counties to advance the technology by expanding D-STAR coverage in Northern Ohio.

Contact: Jeff Evans / KB8ZUN

DXLabs Tip

During my January presentation on the DXLab software suite, I stated that it was necessary to have a paid subscription with QRZ.com in order to enable the logging program, DXKeeper, to perform automatic lookups. Dave, K8WDA, has discovered that this is not the case. The trick is to install Pathfinder and configure it for QRZ.com. Then, in the DXKeeper configuration, under the Callbook tab, select "QRZ.com via Pathfinder".

Thanks for the tip, Dave.
You saved me \$30!

Mark, AI4BJ

Paddlefest Info

Paddlefest is an event sponsored and promoted by The Ohio River Way. Information can be found at www.ohioriverway.org.

The 10th anniversary of Paddlefest will take place on Saturday, June 25, 2011. Anyone interested in working Paddlefest this summer can contact Lynn, WD8JAW or Dann, KI4AVO.

73, Lynn WD8JAW

January NKARC Net Report
By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
January 4	AJ4DK (Don)	10	21	0
January 11	KB4VKS (Mike)	10	23	0
January 18	AK3Q (Robert)	11	37	0
January 25	KB4VKS (Mike)	7	20	
TOTALS:		38	101	0

January Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2011 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RA- DIO CLUB

I. Call to order

II. Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll call

IV. Thanked Don King, AJ4DK, for all of his work as the Director At Large.

V. Welcomed Dave Core, K8WDA as the new Direc- tor At Large.

VI. Approval of minutes from Nov. meeting

Motion by: Tony, AI4IP
Second by: Dave, KI4QH
All in favor: All
All opposed: None.

I. Old business

Need to raise membership in 2011. We will be looking into ways to accomplish this and have a plan in place to achieve the goal.

Fund raising committee update
Tony, AI4IP, is looking into options.
Will have an update for February meeting.

Rob, KI4YWJ, volunteered to help getting the Club to be recognized as a non-Profit. Dann, KI4AVO, is working with Rob to get this accomplished. With our monthly presentations, we are able to satisfy part of the requirement. More to come!

I. New business

- New meeting framework:
 - Start 7:30.
 - Business to conclude at 7:50 at the latest (could be later depending on the items to discuss).
 - Pizza will be here around 7:50.

- Presentation to start at 8:15.
- Meeting will conclude at 9:00 at the latest (could be later depending on presentation).

- VE Update – 1 candidate from UK. Passed his Technician. At UK, he is part of a team creating a new Amateur Radio satellite. Lyle, AB8SH, will look into getting him to put on a presentation for us.
- Need presentation ideas. Please see Dann, KI4AVO, if you have any ideas.
- Treasurer Report: While we still lost money in 2010, we lost considerably less than in previous years. Thank you everyone and let's keep that momentum going!!

Motion to accept: Dave, KI4QH
Second: Lynn, WD8JAW
All in favor: All
Opposed: None.

- Lynn, WD8JAW, asked about our current insurance. Dann, KI4AVO, will be getting together the information we have at this point and then the Directors will look into options.
- Lynn, WD8JAW, also discussed Paddlefest. This will be held the same weekend as Field Day. It is the 10th anniversary of the event and there will be much more publicity this year than ever before. Their new web site will be up and operational in January and Lynn will provide an update in our next meeting.
- Split the Pot. Greg, W4TSA, won and gave the Club his portion of the pot. Thank you Greg!

I. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS

Weaver's Words

Baseball Season is Coming!

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

Kentucky School Contacts International Space Station

The Foster Heights Elementary School in Bardstown, KY successfully contacted the International Space Station by Amateur Radio at 14:04 UTC, January 28. The QSO was made through K4SSA, the amateur station of the Kentucky Space Science Academy in Bardstown. Reports are that the audience totaled about 100, including an observer from the Kentucky Department of Education. Older students served as control operators for younger students.

Students have been studying frequency and wavelength, radio waves, electrical circuits, electricity and magnetism, the electromagnetic spectrum, how to measure voltage and resistance and the Global Positioning System. Also studied are satellite orbiting, Amateur Radio satellites, radio communications, Morse code, and crystal and shortwave radio.

The contact was made as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. The program is sponsored by AMSAT, ARRL and NASA.

Canton, OH, School Receives ARRL ETP Grant

Five schools throughout the US have received Education and Technology Program (ETP) grants from the ARRL. Among these is Crenshaw Middle School in Crenshaw, OH. This brings the number of schools that have received grants since the program began to over 525. The grants are to support obtaining equipment, curriculum development and resources to teach wireless technology in schools. Many of the schools, including Crenshaw Middle, also provide VE examina-

tions to license students as radio amateurs.

A major goal of the ETP is to develop a foundation of wireless technology among America's teachers and students. It employs Amateur Radio to explore radio science and electronics, and to provide hands-on activities that engage students' minds and imaginations. Doing this opens doorways into math, science and technology, as well as other core curriculum areas such as geography and languages. The program at Crenshaw has progressed to the ham radio component in it. School station, AK8CC, has been using borrowed equipment.

Congratulations to Pamela S. Kalafice, KD8MUC teacher at Crenshaw Middle School, and to local amateurs who assist in her work.



Applications for equipment and resource grants for the ETP are accepted twice each year; application deadlines are May 1 and November 1. Applications for 2011 summer sessions of the Teachers Institute are currently being accepted. Full information on the Education and Technology Program can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/education-technology-program>.

Great Lakes Division Convention September 11

Being an odd-numbered year, 2011 is a year for a bi-annual Great Lakes Division Convention. It will be held concurrent with the Findlay Hamfest in Findlay, OH on Sunday, September 11, 2011. The Convention will be held on the Hamfest grounds as a coordinated activity with the Hamfest. A series of interesting seminar topics and speakers is being developed for this event.

In addition to the seminars and speakers, Great Lakes Division Awards will be presented. An announcement requesting nominations for these awards will be made soon. In the meantime, the awards that are available

and the criteria for them may be found by going to the GLD website, <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/> and clicking on Awards in the column at the left side of the opening page. It is time to begin to think of possible nominees and gathering supporting information for these.

Attendance at the GLD Convention is free with the purchase of a Findlay Hamfest ticket.

Michigan D-Star Net

Last month when I mentioned a new D-Star net in Ohio I asked if there were additional similar nets in the Great Lakes Division. Bob Wilcox, K8OMS of Owosso, MI took me up on my request and told me of the Michigan D-Star Net.

“The net meets at 8:00 PM every Monday on Reflector 024 Node A (The Michigan Reflector). Please visit the Shiawassee D-STAR website at <http://www.w8shi.net> for more information,” Bob said..

Tnx, Bob.

Survey Results

The results of the survey concerning the possibility of having an electronic version of QST have been very gratifying. A total of 1161 members responded. I thank each of you who participated. You provided very timely and useful information. You've also given me a lot of work still to be done!

I will not go into the numbers that relate to questions 1, 2 and 3. You can see these by going to the Great Lakes Division website, <http://arrl-greatlakes.org> and clicking on Results for the Current Director's Survey. What I will say is that most GLD members prefer continuing to have paper copy QST available. I am still reading through and replying to the hundreds of the written answers that were mad in the space provided at the end of the survey. Unfortunately, my messages to a few members have been returned as undeliverable. I regret this.

A couple of points I wish to emphasize are that there is no thought of discontinuing hard copy QST. My question regarding such an option was intended to determine just where Division members fit into the full spectrum that ranges from hard copy, only, through electronic copy, only. A number of responders to the survey automatically assumed the reason for the survey was to prepare members for dropping hard copy. This is not the case. Although many members found an e-QST to be quite acceptable, hard copy QST will be around for a long time.



A second misunderstanding relates to a presumed, inherent increase in profit for ARRL if QST went fully digital via the Internet. A financial gain would not be a “given.” The fact is that QST is underwritten by the advertisers. We do not know how they would respond to a digital-only version.

So, what is being considered? Something must be.

This is correct, the Board and staff are reviewing the possibility of adding an e-version to the existing paper version. Possible platforms being evaluated include those that could be read on iPad, Kindle, etc. e-readers much the same as paper journals are read. All this remains in the early phases of exploration so don't run out and buy an e-reader with the expectation that e-QST will be available by the time you get home and power up.

I will add only that I've seen demonstrations of e-reader platforms that mimic reading paper publications very closely. For those among us who are eagerly awaiting an e-QST, the prospects are exciting.

Thanks to each of you who participated in the survey. Thanks as well to you who added specific comments and suggestions to your survey answers. A number of interesting suggestions have been forwarded to staff for review. Your participation in “your ARRL” is greatly appreciated.

Two New Webinars Announced

-- 501(c)(3) Webinar --

Thursday, February 24, 2011 – 9:00 pm through 10:30 pm (EST) This webinar will give basic information about why clubs may want to file for a tax exempt non-profit status; how to file and how to keep your status good once having been issued your tax exempt status. Speakers include Chris Imlay W3KD - ARRL General Counsel; Marty Woll N6VI – Southwestern Division Vice Director and CPA; and Larry Keller AB3ER – Western Pennsylvania Section Emergency Coordinator. Larry is former Skyview Radio Society board member who was active in that club applying for and receiving their tax exempt non-profit status.

To register for this webinar, please go to the link below and complete the registration page at least one hour prior to the webinar start time. Technical requirements for participating in the session will be available at the log-in site.

To register:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/380546793>

-- NBEMS Update Webinar --

Saturday, February 26, 2011 – 10:00 am through 12:00 pm (EST). This NBEMS webinar will cover advanced features such as the use of NBEMS FLWRAP and FLMSG for the use of sending and receiving spread sheet/database data and form-based messages such as the ICS-213 and NTS/Radiogram forms. We will also be covering HF digital net procedures and protocols and hope to incorporate a live HF demonstration that will be viewable by all those attending the webinar.

Our speakers for this session will be Harry Bloomberg W3YJ – Western Pennsylvania Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, and Dave Kleber KB3FXI. Harry and Dave are the developers of this program

To register for this webinar, please go to the link below and complete the registration page at least one hour prior to the webinar start time. Technical requirement for participating in the webinar will be listed on the long-in site.

To register:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/497568192>

Thanks to Director Edgar for his continuing willingness and devotion to making these webinars available. Questions related to the webinars should be directed to him at n3llr@arrl.org.

This Month's Final

I often hear amateurs — members and non-member alike — complain about the price of membership in ARRL. I agree that \$39 is not just a bit of change that I could lose and not notice. On the other hand, what is Amateur Radio worth to each of us? What value do we place on our great avocation?

How many of us have other hobbies? What do these cost relative to Amateur Radio? What magazines do you subscribe to? How much do these cost? Incidentally, ARRL members do not subscribe to QST. It is an inherent benefit of membership.

Lets examine a few relative facts.

ARRL dues are \$39/yr. This figures out to just under 11 cents/day for a year. For comparison, a subscription to CQ magazine is \$36/yr. This figures to be just under 10 cents/day. I am a long time subscriber to CQ. I am also a bit of a Civil War buff and subscribe to Civil War Times. It costs \$39.95/yr for only 6 issues. This means it costs essentially the same as ARRL membership. Monitoring Times in paper version is 32.95/yr x 12 issues — just over 9 cents per day.

In addition, I recently received an invitation from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to extend my membership. The regular cost for a two-year extension is \$60. The special offer was for \$55. These prices aren't bad. The cost to extend membership for two years (just over 7 cents/day) is somewhat less than that for ARRL.

These comparisons are very superficial, however. What members get in return for their dues or subscriptions differs quite a lot.

With CQ, subscribers receive the magazine and can enter into a few CQ-sponsored contests each year. Very nice contests I will add. With my Civil War Times I receive six issues of a thinning, but quite nice,

magazine. With Monitoring Times one receives the magazine which is devoted to many aspects of “wireless” communications only one of which is Amateur Radio. It is a nice magazine.

NRA membership brings a monthly magazine and representation on gun-related issues in Congress. The NRA does a good job with its legislative action efforts. Of course, it has many more members than ARRL which increases the likelihood of success and also helps hold the cost of membership down.

What about ARRL? What do members receive through membership in it? First, there is QST. It is a top-notch journal — i.e., much more than merely a magazine. There also are the several contests that take place on nearly every amateur band. And, the awards — DX, WAS, VHF/UHF — and many more. ARRL sponsors the Education & Technical Project (ETP), otherwise known as the Big School project. We've discussed this Project earlier in this issue. Along the lines of education, ARRL also manages numerous grants and scholarships for amateur radio causes and operators.

What about ARES(TM). This program is the true gold for radio amateurs in presenting us as providing critical support to our fellow citizens. Add to this the Official Observer program that helps keep many amateurs on the right side of FCC rules and regulations. There is the VE Program. The ARRL VEC is the largest Volunteer Examiner Coordinator in the country and is responsible in many respects for there being a VE Program.

How many of you have contacted the ARRL Technical Department for assistance with a sticky problem? Maybe you have contacted the ARRL Regulatory Information Department to ask questions about FCC regulations and International communications laws? How many other organizations provide these services?

Even though there are numerous additional services provided by ARRL, I will stop the litany of member services with the above. My point is that \$39/year is truly inexpensive when compared with everything ARRL makes available to us members. Finally, ARRL is the most major developer and publisher of ham radio technical, instructional materials and Amateur Radio promotional materials in the world.

I have no doubt that any amount of dues may be too much for some people. For the vast majority of us, though, the total value ARRL membership offer for \$39 in dues is a true bargain! Think about it.

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 from time to time.

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 on sponsoring and sanctioning a hamfest or convention, go to www.arrl.org/hamfest-sponsor-support. To have your hamfest sanctioned, go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application> to apply on line. Hamfests are already being sanctioned for 2012!. Please be sure to read the requirements for having an event sanctioned before submitting a request.

Hamfest Chairmen, please remember to order your free handouts that are available from ARRL. These handouts are to be displayed on the ARRL table you provide. These replace the box of assorted goodies HQ previously sent automatically. The reason for the change is to allow you to select only the materials you believe will be of value and interest to your attendees.

- 12 Feb. Cherryland ARC Swap-n-Shop, Traverse City, MI
- 13 Feb: IARC Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH (QSL Field Checking) -Jim*
- 20 Feb: Livonia ARC Swap-N-Shop, Livonia, MI - Jim
- 5 Mar: Cave City Hamfest, Cave City, KY - Jim
- 12 Mar: MOVARC Hamfest, Gallipolis, OH
- 19 Mar: Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI - Jim
- 20 Mar: TMRA Hamfest/Computer Fair, Perrysburg, OH - Jim
- 2 Apr: Lincoln Trail ARC Hamfest, Elizabethtown, KY
- 2 Apr: ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell, MI - Jim
- 9 Apr: 55th Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest, Cuyahoga

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