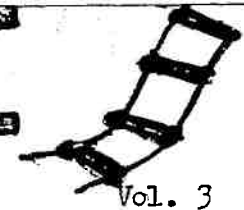


THE  
NKARC

# FEEDLINE



KENTUCKY HAMS IN ACTION  
NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - K4CO  
P.O. BOX 31, FT. MITCHELL, KY. 41017

Vol. 3  
Num. 2

FEB. 1976

**CLUB MEETING:** First Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. Meeting location given below.  
Summer meetings held at members' QTH.  
**CLUB NET:** Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on 146.58 mhz fm.  
**CLUB TRAILER:** Located in Erlanger, Ky.

## COMING EVENTS

JAN. 24-25 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST  
FEB. 3 NKARC MEETING  
7-8 DX PHONE CONTEST  
10 WIAW QUALIFYING RUN (9:30 pm local; 7.08, 14.08 mhz)  
21-22 DX CW CONTEST  
MAR. 2 NKARC MEETING  
6-7 DX PHONE CONTEST  
20-21 DX CW CONTEST  
APRIL CANCELED DRIVE  
23-25 DAYTON HAMVENTION  
MAY 30 KENTUCKY HAM-O-RAMA  
JUNE 12-13 VHF CONTEST  
26-27 FIELD DAY  
SEPT 4-5 VHF CONTEST

## BICENTENNIAL CRUISE

The state of Washington has equipped a bicentennial sailing ship named the EXPLORER to sail down the West Coast, through the Panama Canal, and up the east coast to Boston. ETA is set for the bicentennial celebration in Boston July 4. Joe Rice, W4RHZ of Covington, has applied for the job as radio operator aboard this ship. W4RHZ is 59 years old, and has almost as many years in radio.

## DX CONTEST

NKARC members will begin participation in the ARRL International DX Competition starting February 7. The object is for U.S. amateurs to try to work as many stations in other parts of the world as possible. There are a number of entry classifications, depending on bands operated, number of station operators, and number of transmitters operating simultaneously.

ARRL affiliated clubs (NKARC included) may participate in the club competition. A member must be listed in the regular score listings before he can be counted for a club. The member's score, as INDICATE CLUB NAME ON SUMMARY SHEET published in QST, will be the number of points contributed to the club. And at least three entries from members of the club must be submitted.

The contest period consists of 4 weekends, each 48 hours long (2 for phone, 2 for cw). THERE IS NO MINIMUM OPERATING TIME. So if you only get time for a couple of hours operation, still send your logs in - it will count for the club.

The complete contest rules appear in December QST on page 61. Also, better send for log and check sheets - write to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, Conn. 06111 and include a s.a.s.e.

## NEXT MEETING

\* TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1976 at 8 p.m.  
\* at  
\* FRISCH'S RESTAURANT - COVINGTON  
\* Located at 5th and Philadelphia St.  
\* Basement meeting room - enter back  
\* employee entrance and down stairs.  
\* Note: Please park behind the Texico gas  
\* station part of Frisch's parking lot.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
MEETING PROGRAM: Discussion on antennas.

## MEMBERSHIP TALLY

License breakdown	1975	1976 *
no license	4	4
novice	3	1
technician	14	12
general	11	5
advanced	12	8
extra	2	2
no indication	3	-
total	49	32

If you haven't yet sent in your membership form, please do so as soon as possible. Or better yet, come to the next club meeting and join.

\*The 1976 membership tally to the left includes those paid as of Jan. 18, 1976.

Club president Roger Troy, WB8WHS, called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

- WA8OGS reported on the VHF contest operation. All operators were asked to check that their call appeared on the contest tally sheets.
- WB8WHS suggested a roundtable introduction, as a number of new faces were seen.
- Harold Blocher, WB4VOA, reported that the trailer wiring needs redoing. Charles Sweet, K4MEE, will help rewire the entrance cable.
- WB4VOA reported that two 2 meter rigs cannot be run at the same time at the trailer without interference using about 100 watts and the 'Big Stick'.
- Bill Martin, K4JBV, questioned emergency call-up procedures of our club by the Red Cross. It was stated that Jack Reith, Gary Miller, or other Red Cross personnel will contact club officers. Dick Johnston, WA4KUB, has sent the Red Cross a list of officers.
- K4MEE questioned the voting procedure during club meetings. It was agreed that the club constitution requires a "for" vote of the majority (over  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the attendance to pass a motion.
- The motion on placing the N.Ky. Rptr. Assn's repeater at the club trailer (as stated in December minutes) was agreed to be voted upon again. Dave Heil, WB4KTR, made the motion (as in Dec minutes, but added "the club antenna at the site will be used until a repeater antenna is installed"). The motion was seconded by WB8WHS. The motion carried, 13 for, 11 against, 2 abstentions.
- Gary Johnston, WB4FAT, MADE THE MOTION that the club appoint a parliamentarian, whose job should be to study club bi-laws, the ARRL affiliation bi-laws, and Roberts Rules; coordinate the three and advise the club president thereof. WB4KTR seconded the motion. The motion carried (none against). Bob Pentz, K4DMA, accepted the position.
- K4MEE reported on the S.E.T. The date is January 25. He is trying to coordinate the event with the Cincinnati groups and the Red Cross.
- WB4KTR suggested members operate in the DX contest for a combined club score.
- WA4KUB accepted net control for the month.

NKARC member Dennis Lampe, WA8KIY, has "worked all states" in 17 days. He started his endeavor on January 1, 1976 using his newly authorized prefix -AA. Den had 48 states worked in 5 days, making most of his contacts on 20 meters. The states of Wyoming and Alaska took a little doing, but a cw contact on Jan 17 gave him his 50th. Now he has to wait on QSL's confirming the 50 states. He has 40 confirmed at present.

Dave Heil, WB4KTR, and Roger Troy, WB8WHS, are also working to get the bicentennial WAS. As of Jan 17, Dave had 47 states worked, and Roger about 37.

BICENTENNIAL WAS AWARD

WA8KIY says this is the best time to "work all states". And the ARRL has authorized a special U.S. Bicentennial WAS Award.

The FCC is permitting the use of special prefixes on a voluntary basis by its amateur licensees from 0500 UTC January 1, 1976 to 0500 UTC January 1, 1977. No special approval is required. Following is a list of the present prefixes, followed by their special prefix:

W	AC	WB	AB	WR	AF
K	AD	WD	AE		
WA	AA	WN	AK		

70 plus MPH WINDS

Those high winds last week played havoc with a number of area hams. The antenna system of Father Ci, W4SMU, was one of those. His antenna mast snapped right at the top of the tower - bringing down a tribander, a pair of 11 element beams (2 mtr), and a Ringo Ranger. The antennas landed on the grass, so at least there was no roof damage.

Fr. Ci had one of the 11 element beams operational again within a week, chasing 2 meter dx with it. The 2 meter beams had many bent elements, and the stacking harness was pulled apart. The Ringo Ranger was a total loss, and the tribander had some element ends broken and at least one broken trap.

W4SMU's system was covered by insurance. Is yours? It may require a special rider on some policies. You'd better check your policy before the spring storm season arrives.

Does your license expire in the next six months? If so, send in your renewal now.

CHEAP (?) COAX

If you operate two meters (144 Mhz) or higher frequencies, you miss a lot of contacts because of loss in your transmission line. Most club members are aware of the difference now - we made comparisons using 8214 coax and 7/8" 'hardline'.

What's available in 'hardline', and what are the prices? First off, hardline can come with aluminum or copper sheild, with or without a vynal jacket. Costs and loss for various sizes of 50 jacketed hardline are listed below:

1/2" alum.	1 db/100' @ 150 Mhz	.359/ft
7/8" alum.	.68 db	.83/ft
7/8" copper	.55 db	\$1.69/ft
(RG-8 about 2.3 db/100' at 150 Mhz)		

Here's the hitch! The above prices are for quantity orders only (1250' for 1/2"; and 500' for 7/8"). A quantity purchase might be made this spring. If you're interested, contact WA8OGS or K4JBV.

A quantity of 8214 coax was purchased recently by the club - some is still available to members (ask about it at the meeting) at 18 1/2¢ a foot.

JAN. MINUTES  
(cont.)

- The following committee appointments were made:

Engineering chairman	WB4VOA
Activities "	K4DMA
Audit "	WB8WES
Disaster "	WB4VOA
Public Relations "	WB4KTR

- A committee was set up to organize the code and theory classes. Those on the committee include: WB4FAT, WB4VOA, WA4KUB, WB4KTR, W4JYS.

- WB4VOA reported that the ~~W4JYS~~ GE commercial rig should be shipped about January 13.

- K4DMA reported that the contract for the fairgrounds for the Ham-O-Rama should be sent to us soon. Bob also reported that we are still waiting on our insurance claim.

- 26 attended the January meeting. This was larger than any 1975 turnout!

The response to the possibility of having code and theory classes has been overwhelming. Plans are now in the making. No date yet on when the classes will start.

...AND CHEAP ALUMINUM TUBING

Quantity discounts are available on aluminum tubing - for lightweight yet strong antenna masts. This tubing is 1/4" wall and comes in 24 foot lengths. It's available in 1 1/2 and 2 inch O.D. Be sure to specify 6061 T-6 type alloy.

2" O.D. 1/4" wall, 24 foot (about 39 lbs)	approx. price ... \$105 (1 only)
per piece ... 50 (3 or more)	
<hr/>	
save	\$ 55 per piece

Aluminum can be purchased from Williams and Co., Reinhold Drive (Cin.). You must place your order by phone, unless you're buying only scrap (usually scrap is pieces shorter than 6 ft. in length and sometimes includes tubing, pipe, angle, channel, and plate - all at 50¢ a lb.).

Tubing for antenna boom is available from Oldfield Equipment Co., 430 W. Seymore (Cin.). They stock 30' lengths of aluminum irrigation tubing in the following sizes:

1 1/4" O.D. .050 wall	6.3 lb	\$11.60 ea
2" O.D. .050 wall	10.5	15.60
3" O.D. .050 wall	18	21.00
(prices effective 12-75)		

ALUMINUM MAST: 2" O.D., 1/4" wall. 6061 T-6 alloy in 20 foot lengths. Weight: about 34 lbs. U-pick-up price, \$35 each. Contact Joe Burke, WA8OGS, at 385-4198.

The above bargain price is due to the purchase of 2300 lbs at an auction. Two weeks prior to this purchase, WA8OGS bought three pieces of 2" at \$50 each. You never know what tomorrow might bring!

WANTED: SIX METER CONVERTER for a Drake TR-4C. Call Dick, WA4KUB, at 341-8759.

WANTED: LOW BAND RIG. I am presently a law student and recently received my General class license. I would like the use of a low band rig. Will appreciate any assistance. Contact: Steve Starke, WB4CTP, at 261-2976.

NET TIME YET ?

Gordon Hughes, WA4LPC, suggests using a long tone burst (1/4 to 1/2 minute) prior to starting the net at 7:30 p.m. to alert those monitoring from a distance. It might also help to give a call on local repeaters just before the net.

VHF SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

NKARC outperformed all other area stations on two meter fm during the Jan. ARRL VHF contest. Racking up 120 contacts on 146 mhz simplex frequencies, the "Big Stick" ground plane earned its nickname.

BIG STICK ... BIG SUCCESS

It competed against local arrays as large as stacked 11 element beams. The Big Stick's height (150 ft) and the low loss feedline (7/8 inch heliax) accounted for its excellent hearing ability.

Club members also operated on six meters ssb, using an 11 element spiral array at 50 feet. Six meters had been open three days during the week prior to the contest - but didn't open during the event. Nevertheless, club operators still managed an impressive 86 contacts, including 19 ARRL sections. Best DX included Colorado to the west, VE1 to the northeast, and Florida to the south.

All distant contacts were made using scatter type propagation - a new technique to the 1st time six meter ssb operators.

THANKS TO ALL WHO VISITED THE TRAILER DURING THE CONTEST.

Preparation for the contest started the preceding weekend. About eight club members assisted in the antenna work. The 11 element spiral array was removed from WB4HDW's tower and transported with K4JBV's pickup truck (in one piece-27 foot boom-with elements dangling from the front, rear, and sides) to the club trailer.

The tribander was taken off the 40 ft. tower, a new 24 ft. aluminum mast installed and the six meter beam was raised up. (The tribander will be raised back up to 10 ft below the six meter beam.) All this was done during snow-mixed-with-freezing rain. They say hams are crazy!

Equipment used during the contest was WB4NXD's 2 meter commercial Micor with a 19 SECTIONS - NO BAND OPENING

GLB synthesizer, running 100 watts output. WA4RUO and K4MEE worked together to come up with a 12 volt power supply for the rig. Six meter equipment was WA8OGS's Drake TR6, with WB4NXD's Heath SB-110 as backup. No high power amps were used.

The contest wasn't yet over and operators were discussing improvements for the June contest. The date is June 12-13.

COMMITTEE FOR AMATEUR RADIO  
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

P A I D

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