



The Feedline

My Path to Amateur Radio

By Dave Core, K8WDA

As I was growing up, two things happened that set me on a course to Ham Radio. The first was a Christmas present. In the late 1950's my parents gave me a 10-in-1 Electronics Project Kit. This kit included a single 6SN7 vacuum tube and a handful of other parts that could be assembled in various configurations. Among them were a code practice oscillator and an AM receiver. The receiver was magic! Previously, I had tried to build a crystal set with no success. This single tube receiver could pull in dozens of AM broadcast stations. One night I heard XERF in Mexico City. Wow! It couldn't have been any more exciting if that station had been on the moon.

Not long after that the second event was, as a Boy Scout, I decided to go for a Morse Code Merit Badge. The Scout Master suggested a local gentleman who might help. That person turned out to be Bob King, W8FTV.

I remember going to Bob's house the first time. He was in his shack, talking to friends on 160 meters AM. Tubes were glowing, transformers were humming, electronic parts, wire, and magazines were everywhere. It was wonderful! Bob handed me the mike to say hello to his friends. Of course, I was overcome by mike freight, but I was hooked!

My first shortwave radio was a Knight Span Master by Allied Radio. This was a regenerative receiver with only 2 tubes that covered the AM broadcast band up through 30 MHz. I built it from a kit



with a few of Dad's tools and a Weller 100 watt soldering gun.

With this radio I was able to listen to the Ham bands and *attempt* to copy CW. It also became an education tool as I immediately started looking for modifications to try to improve the performance. It didn't take long to learn that there was only so much you could do with a Span Master. Most of the modifications I wanted to try, including a Q Multiplier to improve selectivity, would not work on a regen circuit.

My next receiver was a Hallicrafters S-40B. This was an 8 tube, superhetero-



dyne model that I bought second hand through mail order. It was only a single conversion design so it had some image

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Dates to Remember:

- Apr 13 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- May 11 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- May 15-17 – Dayton Hamvention
- Jun 8 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Jun 27,28 – Field Day!

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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, 7:30 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 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 for the May

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German AMSAT Team Transmits, Receives Signals from Venus

From The ARRL Letter, April 3, 2009

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet. According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Guelzow said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus. This was the first German success to receive echoes of other planets. In addition, this is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections)."

The EVE experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the well-known "HI" signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

For receiving the EVE reflections, Guelzow said that the team used a fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis with an integration time of 5 minutes. "After integrating for 2 minutes only, the reflected signals were clearly visible in the display," he said. "Despite the bad weather, signals from Venus could be detected from 1038 UTC on until the planet reached the local horizon."

Guelzow explained that with the EVE reflections, the high power amplifier "has therefore passed this crucial test as a final key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. By receiving generated echoes from Venus, the ground and command station for the Mars probe has been cleared for operational use and the AMSAT-DL team is now gearing up for building the P5-A space probe. AMSAT-DL wants to show that low-budget interplanetary exploration is possible with its approach."

Development, design and construction of this first German Mars mission have been achieved by AMSAT-DL and its partner organizations, Guelzow explained. "Already a third of the total project costs were performed. More work shall follow during the mission. AMSAT-DL would like to demonstrate that their approaches to low-cost space missions are feasible." — *Information provided by AMSAT-DL*

March Net Report (Robert Kluck, N4IJS)

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
3/3/09	AJ4DK (Don)	2	11	0
3/10/09	KB4VKS (Mike)	5	25	0
3/17/09	N4IJS (Robert)	9	28	0
3/24/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	7	23	0
3/31/09	N4IJS (Robert)	9	23	0
TOTALS:		23	87	0

March Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9,
2009 MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN KENTUCKY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

-- Meeting opened 7:35 with pledge
-- No treasurer's report but Greg May raised \$70 and change for the club from donations to the club from business people he knows
-- Motion carried to accept Minutes from previous meeting
-- Old Business: location secured in writing for Field Day; Mike (KB4VKS) to head Field Day Committee; Robert Kluck II is working on QSL card ideas will submit April Meeting; Dann's brother to provide radio for Field Day
-- New Business: Sign-up sheet passed around for Field Day Radio/Logging hours; suggestion made to post a sign-up sheet for block of hours on Website (likely on KY7ET site with link on K4CO site); Don (AJ4DK) proposed weather net to aide NWS in relaying severe weather for counties not able to contact 146.880 net; net would run under the call-sign of KY7ET; passed sign-up sheet for net control operators and advised the need for weather-spotter training for those who function as net control; rules for Field Day discussed with ideas to build an antenna on site and to encourage teens to participate
-- Business meeting adjourned at 8:10; break for Pizza; presentation on designing electronic projects

with PIC controllers by Greg May (W2ORO)

-- Meeting ended 9:35 with 21 in attendance

Minutes Respectfully Submitted
by Robert Gulley AK3Q, Vice
President

ATTENDEES

Dann Fox KJ4AVO
Don King AJ4DK
Fred Eastabrooks KE4ESN
Robert Westbrook KJ4FZS
Mark Volstad AI4BJ
Judy May W1ORO
Greg May W2ORO
Tony White AI4IP
Dave Core K8WDA
Rob Ziegler KI4YWJ
Lynn Ernst WD8JAW
Robert Gulley AK3Q
Dave Schmidt KI4QH
Bob Pentz K4DMA
Brian DeYoung K4BRI
Brian Clark W4SOU
Lyle Hamilton AB8SH
Lou Schweitzer KJ4JNQ
Chuck Stacklin KU4ZV
Ron Riley KG4HMO
Joe Stern KI4QG

Upcoming Programs

In April, Robert Gulley, AK3Q, will talk about a **20M Delta Loop** antenna he built, and Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, will provide an introduction to **modeling antenna systems on the PC**. Learn how to take much of the guesswork out of antenna design!

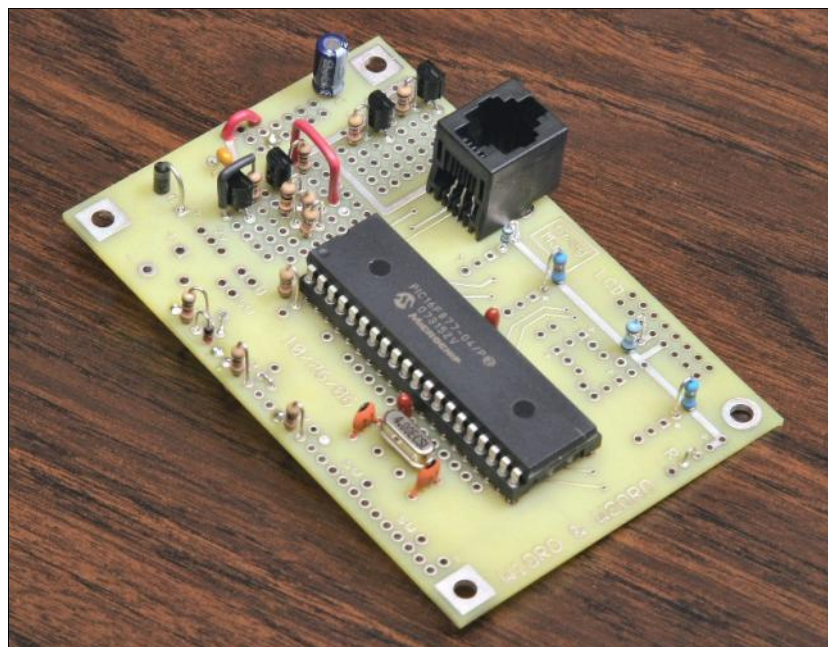
May 11 is ARRL night. Long-time NKARC member and Great Lakes Division Vice-Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, will bring us up to date on happenings within the ARRL and will answer any questions you may have about how the league has been representing its members.

Special Raffle at April Meeting!

Three 100-foot rolls of new, high-quality [LMR-400](#) coax will be raffled off at the April NKARC membership meeting. These cables are valued at approximately \$100 each, but could be yours for just a few dollars if you are lucky! They are terminated with male "N" connectors, and are suitable for either HF or VHF applications. You must be present to win — no "proxies" will be permitted.



At the March NKARC meeting, Greg May, W2ORO, presented a program on how to design an electronic circuit from scratch using a PIC microcontroller. As an example, he described a set of programmable timing lights he built for his wife Judy, W1ORO, as a Christmas present. No, Judy doesn't race dragsters in her spare time — she belongs to [Toastmasters](#), an organization that helps people to improve their public-speaking skills.



Northern Kentucky Weather Net Established

Finally, Spring has arrived. The calendar announced it on March 20th. More importantly, the warm temperatures are confirming it may really be here. Time to get the mower ready and find the gardening tools. (Now is the time to repair that antenna that was damaged by the ice only a few weeks ago).

Spring brings a renewing of our spirits and helps us to accomplish those things we couldn't find time for in the cold Winter months. It also provides the opportunity for severe weather in our area. Storms and the possibility of tornadoes are all too common as we transition from Winter into the Summer season.

Predicting the severity of a storm, or the path of a tornado, is a difficult task. Certainly, with new technology and more accurate data, the National Weather Service (NWS) is better able to keep the public informed. Still, they rely on trained spotters in the field to provide information which is used to support the data they are observing.

For a number of years, amateur radio has played a vital part in providing such information in real time. In particular, the Cincinnati Skywarn group has, very effectively, been taking reports and relaying them to the NWS in Wilmington. Reports of severe conditions and storm damage follow the criteria as established by the NWS. This activity provides a

valuable service to the NWS and is one that they continue to support.

The Cincinnati [WARN](#) group has responsibility for counties in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, using the 146.88 (W8NWS) repeater as their primary frequency for taking reports. Due to limitations of the repeater, reports from the southern counties in KY (Grant, Owen, Pendleton) are difficult to receive. Last year Cincinnati WARN requested, and was granted, permission to use the K4CO 147.375 repeater as a means to solicit reports from these areas. This has helped in getting information from the areas not covered by 146.88.



At the most recent KD7ARET board meeting, it was decided to put in place a weather net to support the Cincinnati group. With the approval of the NKARC board, this weather net is now being established. It will operate on 147.375 as KY7ET. We will be taking reports, primarily, from those Counties that are outside the 146.88 coverage area, and relay them via 146.88 to Cincinnati WARN. We will, of course, take reports from any area, if necessary, due to the need and conditions. Any reports relayed to W8NWS must be in agreement with the criteria as established by the NWS and defined during

spotter training. In addition to the obvious occurrences that are to be reported, the basic criteria are: hail 1/2 inch in diameter, rain one inch in one hour (measured only), and winds 50mph or higher (measured preferred). The NCS (KY7ET) will be responsible for screening field reports before they are relayed to W8NWS. Unless there are some extremely rare conditions, the KY7ET net will only be activated when W8NWS is in session.

As of now, we have eight individuals assigned as a net control. Both the NKARC and District 7 are represented. Requirements to act as a NCS include current weather spotter training and a commitment to activate the net when needed. Access to 147.88 is obviously needed. Since we can't schedule a net for severe weather occurrences, it will be up to one of the NCS to be aware of the conditions and open the net (only when W8NWS is operating).

Members of both boards felt this net would not only provide a public service, but would be a good activity for the members of both organizations. (If you are interested in being a NC, or have questions and/or comments please contact AJ4DK).

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

73,
Don, AJ4DK

"My Path to Amateur Radio", cont'd from Cover

and sensitivity problems on the higher bands, but still a vast improvement over the Span Master.

During the summer of 1960, at the age of 15, I passed the Novice exam and impatiently waited for the FCC to send my license. In the mean time, I purchased and assembled my first transmitter, a



Heathkit DX-20. This was a crystal controlled, 80 through 10 meter rig that ran 50 watts input on CW only.

KN8WDA was issued on September 16, 1960. I was on the air with the DX-20, S-40B and a folded dipole antenna. CW never was one of my strong points. From the moment I became a Novice I was intent on passing the General exam so I could get on AM. CW was just something I had to do in order to move on. I worked stations, mostly on 80 meters, and listened endlessly to a code practice



record to get my speed up.

The next Spring my dad took me to Columbus, OH, to take the General exam. In those days, all the tests for Technician and above were administered by FCC examiners. The exams were only given a couple times a year at various locations around the state. If you failed the test it was either a 3 to 6 month wait for the next exam date, or a long drive to another location. The examiner who usually gave the tests in Ohio was renowned throughout the 8th call district for being – let's just say – unfriendly. On that day in Columbus he sat behind a big desk in a large room in the Post Office building and growled at us as we filed into the room. There were at least 100 there to take the exam. Heaven help anyone who didn't have their Form 610 filled out properly! The first element of the exam was the code test. The examiner played the tape, we turned in our papers, and then we just sat there while he graded the papers. When he was done he started calling out names - a lot of

names. Mine wasn't included so I was sure I had failed. Finally he announced that all the names he had called had **failed** the CW test and were to leave the room. What a relief! There were only about a dozen of

us left to take the theory portion. I was lucky. All the questions were multiple choice. A few years earlier, applicants had to write out the answers and draw schematics.

After the exam, it was another waiting game. The theory exams were not graded immediately as they are now. We had to wait and wait for a letter from the FCC. If you failed, the letter would usually come in a few weeks. If you passed the wait was longer, sometimes as long as 12 weeks. Finally, my General ticket arrived and I could drop the "N" from my call and operate phone as K8WDA.

My first phone rig was a converted military surplus ARC-5 with a homebrew AM modulator and power supply. SSB was some new thing that sounded like Donald Duck. Transistors were showing up in construction articles. A personal computer was a slide rule - wireless and no batteries required.

Nearly 50 years later, I'm happy to hold the same call sign. Amateur Radio has been a major influence in my life and a source for many great friendships and opportunities. Thanks to my parents and W8FTV for starting me on the path.

73,
K8WDA



Weaver's Words

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

Division Convention September 12

After careful consideration it was decided to go ahead with a biannual Great Lakes Division Convention this year. The 2009 event takes place in Findlay, OH on September 12. This is the Saturday immediately before the Sunday Findlay Hamfest. The date had been tentative the past few months until the recent decision on the convention was made. The Findlay Radio Club is sponsoring each event.

Previous conventions had been in 2003, 2005 and 2007. These were in Findlay, Toledo and Cleveland in order. sites for future conventions continue to be sought in Kentucky and Michigan.

With the economy straining to recover, concern had been expressed that holding a convention this year was too much to ask of members. It was decided to pursue a no-frills approach while maintaining the high quality of seminars that have come to characterize GLD conventions.

Former astronaut Tony England, W0ORE will headline the convention as its principle speaker. OM England served with NASA FOR many years and spent 8 days aboard the (spacecraft). A premier representative from ARRL is being arranged as this is written.



As in the past, Division Awards for special service to Amateur Radio will be available. These are the George S. Wilson III, Lifetime Achievement Award; Amateur of the Year; DX Achievement Award, Technical Achievement Award and Newsletter of the Year. Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA is chairing a committee to develop the criteria for a new, young amateur achievement award.

Please read the Call for Papers, immediately below.

Call for Papers -- 2009 GL Division Convention

The Great Lakes Division Convention will be in Findlay, Ohio on Sept. 12, 2009, the day before the Findlay Hamfest. The Convention is being organized and sponsored by the Findlay Radio Club.

When the opportunity to have the Convention in Findlay came up, the Club decided that to sponsor it, but to try a few things different than in the past.

We know that hams are thrifty, so we decided to keep the cost of admission low. In fact, we decided we would pick up the cost of the convention so the admission charge will be \$0.00. (This is correct — nada, nothing, free! — Jim)

We also decided that we would not have a standard convention banquet. There will not be a \$30 per person sit down dinner banquet at the end of the day. Instead, we are looking into doing a chicken barbecue at the fairgrounds. Tickets for the barbecue would be available for purchase at the Convention or at the barbecue. For lunch we will take orders for box lunches that will be brought in, or you can eat at a local restaurant of your choice. The Findlay Radio Club can not take credit for any of these ideas. We are modeling the convention format after the very successful SW Ohio Digital Conference and a picnic meal the day before the Lake Placid NY Hamfest!

Our "theme" for the Convention will be attracting new hams through "Elmering-like" activities and re-interesting existing amateurs through ground-up discussions of newer technologies. We would like to provide seminars and demonstrations to help a new ham get on the air (especially on HF) and also show new and old hams alike some of the hobbies within ham radio like homebrewing, satellite, digital, ATV, ballooning, APRS, etc. In addition, we plan to showcase methods people have found that work well introducing people to our hobby. Obviously there is not enough time to really cover everything in detail, but we hope to spark interest in these areas for new and old hams alike. Attendees will learn where they can go to get detailed information and more help to get started.

We intend that the Convention will expand your horizon. Perhaps that should be the theme of the Convention - "Expanding your Ham Radio Horizon"

We need speakers. K8JE has arranged for a top notch main speaker—former astronaut Tony England W0ORE - and is arranging for a quality speaker from ARRL. All I have to do is get a dozen or so speakers to talk on topics like:

- 1 Getting On HF -- Your First Station
- 2 Getting On HF -- Your First Antenna
- 3 Homebrew -- It Is Still Being Done
- 4 Contesting -- Getting Started
- 5 The Digital Modes -- An Introduction
- 6 Getting on the Air with Satellites
- 7 The QSL Bureau -- What Is It, and How Do I Use It?
- 8 Emergency Communications -- What Can I Do to Help, And How Do I Start?
- 9 Amateur Radio in the Local Schools

-
- 10 Getting New Hams Through the Boy Scouts, Using Radio Merit Badge
 - 11 Mobile Operation
 - 12 VHF/UHF/Microwave Operation
 - 13 Triple Play Award
 - 14 Echolink/ILRP
 - 15 Winlink
 - 16 PSKmail
 - 17 Other

(Please tell us the number your top four favorite ideas for seminars through the survey described below. If you click on 17 on the survey, please go to the Forum area to add your suggestions for topics as well as for speakers.)

You get the idea. If you can speak at the Convention on any of these topics or something similar to these, please contact me (n8et@arrl.net). We have a good internet connection at the Convention site, so if you can do a talk remotely, let me know and we will see what we can work out.

Our tentative plans are to start the talks at 9 AM, and go to 5 with an hour for lunch. Sessions will start on the hour, with the initial 5 minutes for speaker set up, and the last 10 minutes of the hour as a break between sessions. We have the room to do two concurrent tracks, so we should be able to get 10 or 12 speakers. If you have a topic that needs more than an hour (for example -- a panel discussion on attracting new hams or building club membership), we can combine sessions and make a two or even three hour session.

There is a huge parking lot at the Convention site. If the weather is good we can do demos in the parking lot at lunch, like erecting and trimming a dipole or working a satellite, and there is room in the hall for displays if you have something you would like to display.

Feel free to contact me if you have an idea that you think would fit in the 2009 Convention. We want to make this new, different, and the best convention ever!

Hope to hear from a lot of you soon!

73 -- Bill -- N8ET, Convention Chairman
n8et@arrl.net

A Survey is on the Division web site

There is a survey on the Great Lakes Division web site. It requests your input about the coming Division Convention. Your initial views and opinions will be very helpful in our planning for the convention. To take the simple survey, please go to www.greatlakes.arrl.org/. At the web site, click on the Survey/Feedback link to go to the survey.

The survey is in a click-on-the-answer format. If you wish to leave comments about the survey, the convention or anything else, mark the statement at the bottom of the survey, then click on the Enter My Forum icon and add your comments.

Thanks for your help with this survey.

Is a Repeater a Repeater?

FCC needed 15 months to decide the thorny question, but it has concluded that a repeater is a repeater. The question that was posed to the Commission was whether digital repeaters are repeaters as analog repeaters are repeaters. The issue was that there is a brief delay in digital repeaters from the time they receive the input signal until they transmit the output signal.

Technically, of course, there is a very slight delay between receipt and retransmission of a signal for analog repeaters as well. The delay in analog repeaters is generally slightly less than with current digital repeaters.

The result of the FCC clarification of the definition of a repeater means that digital repeaters need to operate in the subbands designated for repeater operation. Some amateurs had argued the delay in relaying signals by digital repeaters qualified them for use outside of these subbands.

Michigan QSO Party

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 1200 EDST to 2400 EDST (1600Z Saturday until 0400Z Sunday UTC). Stations may operate the full twelve hours. The general objective of the MiQP is for amateurs outside of Michigan to operate

The objective of the Party for stations outside of Michigan is to work Michigan stations, only. For Michiganders, it is to work anyone. The objective for everyone is to have fun.

Rules are at <http://www.miqp.org/Rules/htm>. These include a description of operating categories, bands to use and multiplier factors.

ARRL Legislative Agenda

There is an old saying that goes, "The Lord helps those that help themselves." This cannot be more true when it comes to the Legislative Agenda the ARRL Board of Directors adopted for the current, 111th Congress. Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chair John Meyers, NB4K offers the following poignant comments related to what will be needed to move the agenda forward:

"With the changes in Congress and the House of Representatives we have our job cut out for us no matter how you look at it. With the changes in seat holders this means that a number of our Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) will need to establish relations with the freshman Representatives or Senators or their aides who have taken over the offices. This will need to be done as soon as possible. The time is now to start making contact with these freshman Legislators and Congressman or their aides.

"Incidentally, you are not expected to travel to Washington to perform your duties. Instead, the following discussion assumes your visits with Congressmen or their aides will occur 'back home' in a local office.

"Be aware that we often are unable to meet directly with a Congressman. Instead, we may meet with one of his/her aides. This is fine. The fact that you met and the legislative position you supported during your meeting will be forwarded to the Congressman. The support you show during your meeting will provide much assistance to the ARRL Legislative Advocate in Washington, DC. Your meeting will prove to the Congressman that voters back home are interested in the legislation.

"If you have the opportunity to drop in to meet your Congressman's aide in a local office, consider introducing yourself. Tell them that later on you will doubtlessly contact them to make an appointment to visit the Congressman while he/she is at home, or to visit him (the aide) to discuss legislation that relates to Amateur Radio. Leave your Legislative Action business card and, if possible, a brief introduction to what Amateur Radio is and how it benefits the public."

By John Meyers, NB4K
Division Legislative Action Chair

ARRL Legislative Agenda Booth

Stop by the ARRL Legislative Agenda Booth at its national convention at the Hamvention(r). You will be able to discuss the ARRL legislative agenda and learn how easy it can be to promote the actions the League intends to initiate during the current, 111th, US Congress. The booth will be in the ARRL convention area at HARA.

Incoming 8th Area Bureau QSL Factoids

Jay Slough, K4ZLE the very competent Manager of the very effective 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau reported the following activity for the bureau for the years 2003 through 2008. The year and the number of incoming QSLs handled during it follow:

2008 -- 80,248 QSL cards
2007 -- 89,028 cards
2006 -- 111,734 cards
2005 -- 110,905 cards
2004 -- 138,236 cards
2003 -- 154,054 cards

Does anyone want to take a guess where we are in the current sunspot cycle?

KYSAT-1

Kentucky's first orbiting satellite - developed in part by students at Western Kentucky University - has been selected by NASA to take flight in mid-2009. Students at WKU teamed with students at other Kentucky universities to design and build KySat-1.



The satellite has Amateur Radio capabilities along with a camera and cell phone. Students in K-12 across Kentucky will be able to use the features of KySat-1 to take photos, see the temperature and check the status of satellite components. The intent is to interest youngsters in mathematics and the sciences.

The satellite project cost about \$850,000. It is expected to remain in orbit for 18 to 24 months. KySat-1 is said to be unique because it was developed in conjunction with several universities and is NASA's first launch of a university-built satellite.

What does ARRL do for Me?

Members and non-members alike have occasionally asked me what ARRL does for them that the beneficiary doesn't need to pay extra to get. It seemed to them that nearly everything the League does for members requires them to pay extra to obtain. The prevailing attitude among non-members also seems to be that unless they DX or contest, ARRL membership offers nothing to them.

Once one knows the facts, it is obvious that neither of these contentions is correct. With this issue of Words I begin a series of discussions of what ARRL really does. In these discussions you will learn which member benefits have fees associated with them and which member benefits are not associated with fees.

First, let me give a brief listing of services provided by ARRL. After doing this, I'll expand on one item that I believe is of interest to many members. The listing is below. No fees are charged to take advantage of the services marked "(n/c):"

- QST, Your Monthly Membership Journal
- Members-Only Web Access (n/c)

- Technical Information Service (TIS) (n/c)
- Outgoing QSL Service
- ARRL Field Organization including ARES® and several additional, important services(n/c)
- Operating Awards
- Representation of your Amateur Radio interests in Washington, DC to the FCC and Congress (n/c)
- Representation of your Amateur Radio interests in International Government Treaty negotiations. (n/c)
- A Regulatory Information Branch that provides information on FCC and regulatory questions; problems with antenna, tower and zoning restrictions; and reciprocal licensing procedures (n/c)
- Volunteer Counsel Program (n/c)
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator program (n/c)
- Registered Amateur Radio Instructor program (n/c)
- WIAW broadcast bulletins and code practice (n/c)
- Preferred subscription rates for QEX, the ARRL Forum for Communications Experimenters
- Discounts on Continuing Education Program courses.

This listing is generally available at www.arrl.org/benefits.html#awards.

It is a fact that a number of what I consider the superficial services provided by ARRL, require the recipient to pay a few cents to several dollars. In most instances the fees are to pay for certificates and optional plaques — the well-known and hard-sought "wallpaper" with which so many of us paper our shack walls.

Look, through the list of services for which fees are not assessed. These very importantly include the tough work ARRL does. As I will discuss later, these services relate to keeping our amateur frequency allocations, obtaining new frequencies, protecting our frequencies from invasion by interfering individuals or services, protecting amateurs' rights to pursue the Amateur Radio Service and generally protecting the value of the Amateur Radio license.

I ask you, first, to review the frequencies you use during your personal operating. The basic fact is: None of us would have use of these frequencies if it was not for ARRL. There is no charge by ARRL for the services that resulted in obtaining these frequencies.

Triple Play Certificate

A long-time friend and member in southwest Ohio wrote me saying he thought the quality of the TPA certificate he earned was subpar. I forwarded the comment to HQ. Staff noted the certificate looked fine in proof copies and that a respected commercial printer had printed them. On checking through the standard run of certificates they, too found it to be below League standards. A new run of the certificates was made and replaced

the original batch.

Everyone who received one of the earlier, off-quality certificates will automatically receive a replacement from the new run.

Communications from members do receive attention.

DTV Presentation Available

With the switch from analog TV (ATV) to digital TV (DTV) having been delayed from its initial February deadline, an offer by Frank Sanor, WA8WHP of the Alliance (OH) ARC remains very viable. Club members developed a presentation that includes a PowerPoint show based on FCC DTV pages.

If you would like to receive a copy of the PP presentation for possible use with the pending switch to DTV, please contact Frank at wa8whp@arrl.net. Alliance ARC members who made and have given the presentation are Tom Steele KD8JRK, John Myers KD8MQ and Frank. John developed the power point from the FCC web site.

Congratulations to all clubs that helped educate the public on the switch to DTV. With the deadline for switching to DTV delayed until June, there is still time to help educate the technologically-deficient members of the public.

Travel Schedule

The following is the schedule of travel by Division staff for the coming weeks. In addition to Vice Director Gary Johnson, KI4LA, Division Legislative Action Chair John Meyers, NB4K and 8th Area QSL Bureau Manager Jay Slough, K4ZLE will visit the events shown below.

SCHEDULE

- 19 Apr: Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Cuyahoga Falls ARC 'fest -- Gary, Jim
- 26 Apr: Athens, OH; Athens Co. ARA 'fest -- Gary
- 15-17 May: Hamvention(r)/ARRL National Conv. -- Gary, John, Jim
- 6 Jun: Grand Rapids, MI; Indpdnt Rptr Assoc. 'fest -- John, Jim
- 7 Jun: Chelsea, MI; Chelsea ARC 'fest -- John, Jim
- 20 Jun: Midland, MI; Midland ARC 'fest -- Jay, Jim
- 21 Jun: Monroe, MI; Monroe Co. RCA 'fest-- Jay, Jim
- 9 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA Meeting -- Jim
- 16 Jul: A&F Committee meeting, Newington -- Jim
- 17-18 Jul: ARRL Board meeting, Newington -- Gary, Jim
- 26 Jul: Randolph, OH -- Portage ARC 'fest -- John, Jim
- 12 Sep: Findlay, OH -- GLD Convention -- All
- 13 Sep: Findlay, OH -- Findlay ARC 'fest -- All

Return to:
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