



The Feedline

When All Else is Made to Fail

By Ward Silver, NoAX

*From The ARRL Contest Update,
February 2, 2011*

Ham radio has been making surprise media appearances here and there over the past couple of years and not just as a novelty story, either. In just the past couple of weeks, NASA asked hams to listen for the NanoSail-D solar sail (see the News section for more) and a variety of “media hits” find hams providing emergency communications and other useful services. Now there are rumors coming out of the Egyptian turmoil about using ham radio to communicate when a government decides to close off the usual information channels. (Information about use of ham radio in Egypt is [unsubstantiated](#).)

I have often characterized ham radio as “the world’s most powerful form of communications available to the private citizen” when asked why it is still relevant. It may not be the fastest or the most ubiquitous or have the ultimate convenience, but that is the source of its power - it must meet none of those requirements in order to survive. Let’s face it - ham radio does not compete with broadband data links carrying commerce and entertainment traffic! If that was its mission, we would long ago been off



the air.

We’ve all heard the slogan “When All Else Fails” and it has a certain truth but consider what happens when the communications outages to which we respond are intentional - when all else is made to fail. Back in the Soviet Union’s fading days of glasnost, a coup attempted to restore the old government structure. While not well-known, some Russian hams passed information around the country,

playing a game of electromagnetic cat-and-mouse with the would-be authorities trying to follow and jam them across the bands and modes. Months later, when the Lithuanian parliament in Vilnius was surrounded by Russian military forces, authority of the government was transferred to a minister outside the country via the ham radio club station inside the parliament building. Finally, there was the tale of the “[Last Voice from Kuwait](#)” as one ham kept transmitting even under occupation.

Continued on Page 4

Calling all Weather Watchers

Ron Malinowski, N9QGS, is a county coordinator and trainer for [CoCoRaHS](#), a nationwide grass roots network of volunteers across the nation taking precipitation observations in their own backyard. Ron will be presenting a program at the March meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. There is a need for observers in the Northern Kentucky area, and official gauges will be available for \$25 at the meeting, no other cost associated once you have the gauge... just an enthusiasm for watching the weather. 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:

- Mar. 14 – NKARC membership meeting
- Mar. 26,27 – [CQ WPX](#) Contest, SSB
- Apr. 2 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- Apr. 11 – NKARC membership meeting

NKARC Directory

Vice-President:

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

President:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Club Trustee & Historian:

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

k4bri@arrl.net

Director at Large:

Dave Core, K8WDA

daveacore@yahoo.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 VETesting@k4co.org 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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Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005
Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com
Tel: 859-689-4234

Top of the Tower

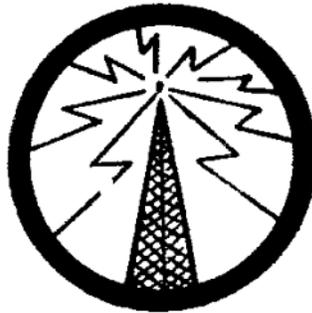
Hello Everyone,

Spring and Summer are just around the corner, soon the air will be filled with the sound of birds chirping, lawnmowers, and children playing — no, scratch that last one. Children don't play outside like they used to. Kids in general have completely different interests than us older folks. Take for instance radio, we all are interested in radio, the type that can transmit and receive. Otherwise we wouldn't be reading this right now. We all want kids to get interested in amateur radio. We like it when kids like the same stuff as we do. It makes spending time with them fun for us too. You know what I mean, when they want you to play a video game and you do not know what the controller buttons do. You want to go right but you go left, and they just keep winning over and over.

In the past few years I have noticed that a lot more kids in my life are getting between 6 and 10 years of age. Those years when they're old enough to work the push to talk button, but young enough not to have a cell phone. When the kids visit there is always some interest in going to talk on the radio. With me watching over closely to make sure nothing goes wrong after, I notice the look on their faces. The same expression I have when they ask me to play video games.

I gave some thought to the past, and what made me so interested as a kid in amateur radio as an adult. First there was my father, he was an amateur radio operator, there was a Ham station in the house. If I were to key it up or turn a knob

the FCC would be the least of my worries. The best I can remember it all started with a pair of Midland 3-channel CB Walkie-Talkies (yes I said CB). My brother and I each got one for Christmas when I was 9 years old. In those days you had to wait for a station license to use them and the pull up antenna was as big as me. But those radios went with our group of kids on many adventures for years. The fact that we were able to take them anywhere and use them anytime made them fun. They kept our interest in radios going.



Knowing that turning my amateur handheld radios over to the kids to roam the yard with was not an option, I started thinking of ways to re-create the same fun that I had with the radio with younger generations. In the last few years, I have made a point when buying gifts for our younger family members to get a family radio walkie-talkie. I have fixed up some old CB radios that I can let them play with at my house or take home. You may have some old ones in the garage, or you can pick them up second hand very cheap. Take some time to make an activity out of making an antenna and battery pack with the kids. Hopefully the exposure the kids get to the world of radio will lead to interests in amateur radio as they grow. Just remember not to electrocute them, the parents usually object to that. I hope this gives you some fun ideas for the children in your life.

73

Dann Fox

KI4AVO

When All Else... cont'd from cover

Regardless of how Amateur Radio is used in response to extraordinary circumstances, the keys to the utility of Amateur Radio are two-fold; our flexibility and our independence. Amateur Radio is the only licensed service that assigns no channels and encourages operators to use any frequency available to them. Amateur Radio also offers the ability to communicate completely independently of any other communications service or infrastructure. Amateurs may choose to channelize operations and combine their operation with other communications services if that is what most suits the need or preference, but it is critically important that we maintain our flexibility and independence for when direct point-to-point communication is the only answer.

Amateur radio is a broad hobby or service - and getting broader all the time. Yet along with all the many novel constructs that make up ham radio today, that we can make contacts unassisted and independently remains a core element of who we are and what we do. Contesting and radiosport exercise the skills that support those abilities. In our zeal to explore the game we should always remember and make room for the elemental aspects of Amateur Radio "know-how" unique to our service, fulfilling our Basis and Purpose in the most fundamental, necessary, and yes, enjoyable ways. Let us not ever take the essential "amateur" out of Amateur Radio.

Need a Cable or Component?

Have you ever gone to your local Best Buy or Radio Shack store to buy a cable, and been so shocked by the high price that you walked out of the store without buying it? There is so little profit in TVs and other consumer electronics that stores look to accessories such as cables to make their money. If you don't need that cable *today*, then I highly recommend CableWholesale.com. They carry a very wide range of cables for consumer electronics, at the lowest prices I've seen anywhere. I've been buying from them for years, and have never been disappointed. They don't carry much in the way of RF cables, but they are currently soliciting suggestions for new products on their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CableWholesale) page. If your suggestion is accepted, they'll give you a \$25 Amex gift card. Maybe if enough hams pipe up, we can convince them to expand their offering of RF cables!

They also produce monthly [technical articles](#) relating to various cable technologies. You can sign up to receive them via email, or simply read them on their web site.

While I'm shilling for my favorite vendors, I have to put in a good word for [Jameco Electronics](#). I remember reading their ads in Popular Electronics back in the 70s, and they seem to be going stronger than ever. What I like about them is that they cater specifically to hobbyists. Their inventory of discrete components may not be as large as Digi-Key or Mouser, but they sell all kinds of neat kits and assemblies, from a hydrogen fuel-cell [car](#) to Parallax [Boe-Bots](#) to kits for building your own solar panels. Unlike most suppliers who have gone to cheap newsprint catalogs, Jameco still puts out a nice glossy color catalog. They also publish interesting how-to articles and a wide range of electronic [projects](#). When I was mentoring a group of boy scouts working on their electronics merit badge last year, I needed to find a simple project they could build. I selected a Velleman voice-changer kit from Jameco. They were cheap, and the boys loved building and using them.

Mark Volstad
AI4BJ

February NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
February 1	AJ4DK (Don)	8	21	0
February 8	KB4VKS (Mike)	9	20	0
February 15	KI4QH (Dave)	4	5	0
February 22	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	24	0
TOTALS:		30	70	0

February Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2011 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Dave, K8WDA, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with pledge, followed by introductions of attendees.

(sign-in log circulated)

Motion by WD8JAW to accept minutes of January meeting as published. Second: AK3Q. Minutes approved as published.

Treasurer's report was not available.

Committee Reports

AB8SH reported on VE testing. There was one upgrade to General and one passed both elements and upgraded to Extra.

Fund Raising not discussed.

Old Business:

Club membership forms distributed.

Dave stressed the need for program ideas and presenters.

Brian, K4BRI, commented on a recent repeater issue. His attempts to shut down the repeater were unsuccessful as his access codes did not work. Brian said someone had changed the codes and it was now necessary that new codes be created. After discussion, Lynn, WD8JAW, made the following motion:

The NKARC authorizes Brian, K4BRI, and Harold, W4YWH, to change the codes on all of the NKARC repeaters as they deem necessary. These new codes will be held by Harold and Brian and, (2) given to the current President of NKARC. The NKARC Board, with Brian's input, will decide who has access to these codes to insure (1) the

compliance of the repeater operation and, (2) that these codes are available to the Club should both Harold and Brian not be in position to provide them.

Motion seconded by Joe, KI4QG

After a short discussion, the motion was presented to the membership for vote. Motion passed with no "no" votes.

New

Dave reminded all that Field Day (June 25th and 26th) is approaching and called for volunteers for the FD Committee.

QCEN has purchased new duplexers and will be returning those the Club loaned them. Brian, K4BRI will coordinate return.

WD8JAW is looking for operators for Paddlefest (same weekend as FD). This is the 10th anniversary and will be a large event.

Motion to adjourn business meeting by AB8SH. Second: AI4BJ. Passed.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Following the break, Dave Core presented an interesting look at Amateur Radio circa: 1936.

Respectfully submitted by Don King, AJ4DK

Weaver's Words

Spring is in the Air

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

Boy Scouts & ARRL Sign New MOU

The Boy Scouts and ARRL have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Through this MoU, the two organizations agree to cooperate in activities of mutual interest. The Boy Scout Jamboree On-the-Air and the Radio merit badge are among these activities. To see the new BSA-ARRL MoU video go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izkzuD2MJ-o>.

Hamvention Selects Amateur of the Year

The winners of the 2011 Hamvention(tm) awards have been announced by awards committee chairman Frank Beafore, WS8B. Selected Amateur of The Year was Shirley Roberts, N8LX of Dayton Ohio. Beafore explained the this prestigious award is presented to an amateur who has demonstrated significant contribution to amateur radio as well as related public service. Shirley exemplifies all of the deepest aspects of this award.

Beafore said, "I want to thank everyone that submitted nominations. The choice was difficult and we wished that we had an award for everyone nominated." Information on the Hamvention as well as the awards can be found at <http://www.hamvention.org>.

Content of News Stories

A note from ARRL Public Information guru, Allan Pitts, W1AGP causes me to note that one of the most important rules of writing announcements of events is the all-important 5 Ws rule. This rule says that nearly

all news stories related to events should include What (is happening), When (it is happening), Where (it will happen), Who (is making it happen) and Why (it will happen). Imagine an announcement of coming licensing classes without including the location of the classes, when they will begin, etc? Unfortunately, such stories are released all too often. The lesson is that we need to keep the 5 W's rule in mind when writing event announcements.

Your Help Urgently Needed

Help save 440 MHz -- fight HR 607.



You have probably heard that our 440 MHz band is being attacked by a bill introduced into the US House of Representatives. In its current form, HR 607 would take away the 420-440 MHz segment presently allocated to Amateur Radio on a secondary basis as our 70 cm band. Along with certain other segments not allocated to Amateur Radio, the 420-440 MHz segment would become part of a spectrum "give back" involved in allocating 758-763 and 788-793 MHz for a Public Safety broadband network.

The concept of this network has merit. Everyone wants first responders to have the radio systems they need in order to protect themselves and us. However, there is absolutely no need to take our 440 MHz band in making it happen. We need to let our US Representatives know we oppose the current form of HR 607.

To let your US Representative know you oppose the present bill, go to <http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm> and follow the simple instructions. All that is needed is for you to insert your call sign where indicated and follow the simple instructions. The name and address of your US Representative will automatically be put into the letter, as will your name and address. It will be ready to be printed and signed.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to observe the following once you have printed your letter:

- Be sure to sign it. Letters without a handwritten signature are not effective.

- Signed letters can be sent by fax or postal mail. They can also be scanned into PDF format and e-mailed as a file attachment. Please send the signed letters to John Chwat. Mr. Chwat is our legislative spokesman in Washington. His addresses are: US postal mail: John Chwat, Chwat & Co., Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail: john.chwat@chwatco.com. Fax number: (703) 684-7594.

- Do not send this letter or any letter about HR 607 to your US Senators at this time. The bill is only in the US House of Representatives. Letters sent on HR 607 to US Senators will merely waste their time and demonstrate lack of knowledge of how our system of government works.

Why should the letter be mailed to John Chwat? There are two reasons. First, all postal mail to members of the US House (and other government bodies) is delayed 6 to 8 weeks in being searched for hazardous materials that may be included in them. Second, Mr. Chwat will increase the value of your individual letter by combining it with others and delivering the stack of letters directly to your Representative's office. This manner of delivery makes a particular impact on our Congressmen.

If you feel it necessary to mail your letter directly to your Representative, do it. However, please also send a signed copy of it to Mr. Chwat for the reasons outlined above.

For your information, the letter generating utility will be open for use by any US amateur for at least a couple of weeks.

Thanks for your help and support in this important effort. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Numbers = Strength

When dealing with governments, regulations and laws, the number of people who voice their viewpoint vs. those who remain silent is often very important. This is one of the reasons I encourage non-member amateurs to join and support ARRL. The axiom, "the more the merrier" is true. Each of you who read this note have already taken the step of joining ARRL and adding to the "strength" the organization has in facing the FCC and our local governments. I thank you for doing this. I have two additional comments for your consideration.



Additional strength is added to ARRL's effort related to influence national and state regulation and legislative action when individual amateurs join in a coordinated letter-writing campaign. The letter-writing campaign that ARRL members have recently been requested to join (and is repeated, above) is one example of such an effort. Each letter sent during a campaign period multiplies the impact of the letters written during the same campaign by other members. Question: Do you write letters when requested?

Another way to increase ARRL power to influence legislation is to gain more members. The typical way of thinking of this is to encourage a friend to join. For many members there is still a different opportunity to increase League membership. This is to be certain that each licensed amateur in the house is a member. Membership for second, third, etc. members in the same household is only \$8.00/additional member. Question: Are you in position to add to ARRL membership so readily?

What would this mean in the Great Lakes Division? According to information provided by members, there are at least 60 non-member hams in households with an ARRL member in Kentucky. In Michigan, this number is at least 128 non-members in member households.

Ohio has 190. By having non-member spouses and children join, ARRL membership would be increased by 378 in this Division, only. There are 15 divisions in ARRL.

Please think about this. Family memberships can be ordered at <https://www.arrl.org/join-arrl-renew-membership/>.

ARRL Membership through Local Club

Club officers and members are reminded that Affiliated Clubs can retain part of any ARRL dues paid through the club. Clubs may keep \$15.00 of the first year's dues for new ARRL members or returning members whose membership has been lapsed for two years or longer. Clubs may keep \$2.00 for each regular ARRL renewal handled through it.

This is one benefit you can bank on. It makes recruiting ARRL members very worthwhile financially as well as philosophically.

To learn about the benefits of being an Affiliated Club of ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>. The dues management benefit mentioned is described under Club Commission Program.

Another Teacher Promotes Amateur Radio

During the past several years, I have mentioned a few teachers in this Division who promote Amateur Radio in the classroom. I have learned of another. He is John Snowden, WB8OSU of Plain City, OH. John teaches the Criminal Justice Program at Tolles Career & Technical Center near Plain City, Ohio.

John said, "Part of my course of study includes emergency communication. I have a small amateur radio station in my classroom, which has HF/VHF/UHF capabilities. You can see us on the APRs map as WB8OSU-1. In the past two years 11 of my students have earned their license. Hope to have more by May."

Tnx for the good work, John. I hope you exceed your goals.

Great Lakes Division Convention September 11

As previously reported, the 2011 Great Lakes Division Convention 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. Allan Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager will be the principal speaker. Allan is very knowledgeable in emergency communications and, of course, in media relations. 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.

State QSO Parties

State QSO party organizers are encouraged to provide me with information on these parties. As before, I will publicize your event in this e-newsletter. The information is needed by about the 25th of the month before publication. Send information to k8je@arrl.org.

Survey Results

I want members who added specific comments to their

QST survey to know that I am still answering these. There are not too many that remain unanswered. I apologize for taking so long to finish this task.

Again, thanks to each of you who took the survey.

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.

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 Falls, OH

9 Apr: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim

16 Apr: Milford Swap and Shop, Milford, MI

16 Apr: OH-KY-IN/QCEN 1- Day Licensing Class, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

23 Apr: Jackson Co. ARC Swap, Jackson, OH

30 Apr: River Cities ARA Hamfest, Ashland, KY

1 May: Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH

7 May: Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI

20-22 May: Dayton Hamvention(TM) w/ARRL Expo, Dayton (QSL Checking), OH

- Gary, Jim

4 Jun: "Good Old Days" W8IRA/R Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI (QSL

Checking)

4 Jun: Fulton Co. ARC Hamfest, Tedrow, OH

5 Jun: Chelsea Radio Swap n Shop, Chelsea, MI

11 Jun: LARS Hamfest, Newberry, MI

10-11 Jun: ARRL National Convention/Ham-Com, Plano, TX

18 Jun: Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - Jim

19 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - Jim

14 Jul: A&F Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim

15-16 Jul: ARRL Board Meeting, CT - Gary, Jim

17 Jul: Van Wert Hamfest, Van Wert, OH

31 Jul: Portage Hamfair 11, Randolph, OH - Gary

6 Aug: Voice of Aladdin Hamfest, Columbus, OH - Jim

6 Aug: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI

14 Aug: Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim

21 Aug: Warren ARC Hamfest, Cortland, OH

28 Aug: Cambridge ARA Hamfest, Cambridge, OH

10 Sep: Louisville Sunrise Hamfest, Shepherdsville,

Return to:
Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 18215
Erlanger, Ky. 41018

**FIRST
CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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