



Jamboree On The Air

By Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

In early September I received an email from Sam Slayden, N4BRI, asking if I might help the scouts from Troop 228 in Hebron to participate in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) during the weekend of October 15 and 16. Of course I said that I would! I am registered as a counselor for the Radio and Electronics

merit badges, which is how Sam tracked me down.

To help set the stage and hopefully whet the appetites of the boys, we agreed that I should visit the boys

– *Continued on page 5*



Boy Scouts from [Troop 228](#) in Hebron receive last-minute operating instructions from Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, before making

their first Amateur Radio contacts, during the 2011 Jamboree on the Air in October.

Photo by Sam Slayden, N4BRI.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline

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Dates to Remember:

- Nov 12 – [Kentucky QSO Party](#)
- Nov 14 – NKARC membership meeting
- Dec 10,11 – [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)
- Dec 12 – NKARC Christmas Dinner
- Dec 3 – Deadline for Feedline submissions

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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 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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Top of the Tower

Thanksgiving

Hard to believe, but here we are again. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas will be here in less than two months. And, remember, our Christmas Dinner is a little over a month away. Wow, where has this year gone?

Thanksgiving is a time to stop and reflect on all of the blessings that we have. This is one of my favorite holidays for sure. From an Amateur Radio perspective, I feel blessed to be able to enjoy a hobby as much as I do with Amateur Radio that also gives back to the community. Certainly, not every hobby gives you that, but our hobby is built upon that foundation.

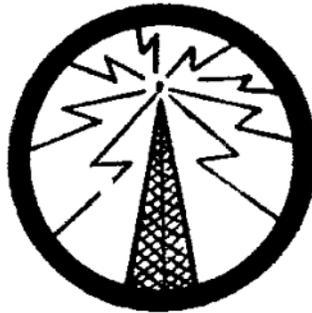
We need you!

There are many, many functions that take place in order to help our Club run every day. And, we could use your help! We need more Net Control operators, presentation Ideas and presenters, and the list could go on. And, of course, we also need volunteers to help run the organization. If you are interested in any of the above functions or positions,

please let me know.

D-STAR

If you are interested in purchasing any D-STAR equipment at a discounted price from Ham Radio Outlet, please let me know. This may be a great time to get some new equipment!



In closing...

I would like to hear from you as well. How are we doing? Is the Club meeting your needs? Do you have some ideas to improve the Club? Please let me know your thoughts and how we could make our Club the premier Amateur Radio club in the Cincinnati area.

May you and your family have a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

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October NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
October 4	KB4VKS (Mike)	6	19	0
October 11	KB4VKS (Mike)	6	14	0
October 18	N4IJS (Robert)	7	21	0
October 25	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	5	17	0
TOTALS:		24	71	0

October Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2011 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The October 2011 meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Vice President Dann Fox, KI4AVO, at 7:32 PM, October 10th, 2011.

Dann led the Pledge of Allegiance and the 17 members and friends present introduced themselves.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting as presented in the Feedline was made by Tony, AI4IT, and seconded by John, KY4JD. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, Dann went over the club officer positions that will be vacant at year end and encouraged anyone interested in running for any of the positions to contact the nominating committee at nominatingcommittee@k4co. The open positions will be Vice President, Director at Large, and Feedline Editor.

A report on the D-STAR repeater project was provided by John, KY4JD, and Tony, AI4IP. John said that the 146.895 repeater was now operational at the St. Elizabeth location in Edgewood. Performance and coverage is good except to the north. This is due to the fact that the antenna location available at St. E is shadowed by a building structure to the north. John again expressed appreciation to all those

who participated in the move including Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, Herb, WA4LTA, Roger, KY4RS, Don, AJ4DK, Dave, K8WDA. The new D-STAR repeater is operational, but still located in the basement of N4IJS. Tony said the necessary data line has been installed at the NKU location. Upon receipt of the final repeater frequency coordination, which should be soon, Harold will tune the cavities and the D-STAR equipment will be moved to NKU. Tony commented on the high level of professionalism and helpfulness of the NKU Information Technology staff in getting the data drop installed and expressed gratitude to all involved in the D-STAR project.

Tony pointed out that the location of the .895 repeater at St. E is temporary. Ultimately, it is the hope of the repeater committee to find a location for the D-STAR repeater further south in the Northern Kentucky region and move the .895 repeater back to NKU.

Lyle, AB8SH, reported that there were 3 candidates present for VE testing prior to the meeting, 2 of whom passed.

For new business, Mark, AI4BJ, said that he had been recruited by Sam Slayden, N4BRI, to set up a temporary station in connection with the Boy Scouts of America "Jamboree-on-the-Air." Mark will be using his equipment to set up and operate a station at the Hebron Lutheran Church on Limaburg Rd. on Saturday, October

15th from 9am – 2pm.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Tony, AI4IT, and seconded by Greg, W4TSA.

Split the Pot was won by Randy, W4RTT.

Dann, KI4AVO, presented an informative program on Electrical Safety.

Respectfully submitted by Dave, K8WDA.

November Program

At November's meeting Greg May, W2ORO, will conduct a presentation on battery charging. In 2002, Greg constructed his first battery charger using a PIC microcontroller. Recently, he has designed and built two more chargers using PIC chips, one for lead-acid gel cells and another for a nickel metal hydride battery pack. He will cover the basic parameters behind the science of charging, showing that nothing more is needed than a proper power supply to get the job done manually. The concepts of homebrewing with PIC microcontrollers will be discussed, demonstrating how they can add automation to projects.

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, November 14 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

JOTA, cont'd from Cover

during one of their regular weekly meetings and talk to them about Amateur Radio.

So I came in and did my "Amateur Radio from A to Z" presentation. Several of the boys expressed an interest in earning their Radio merit badge, so we agreed that we would incorporate that into the JOTA activities.

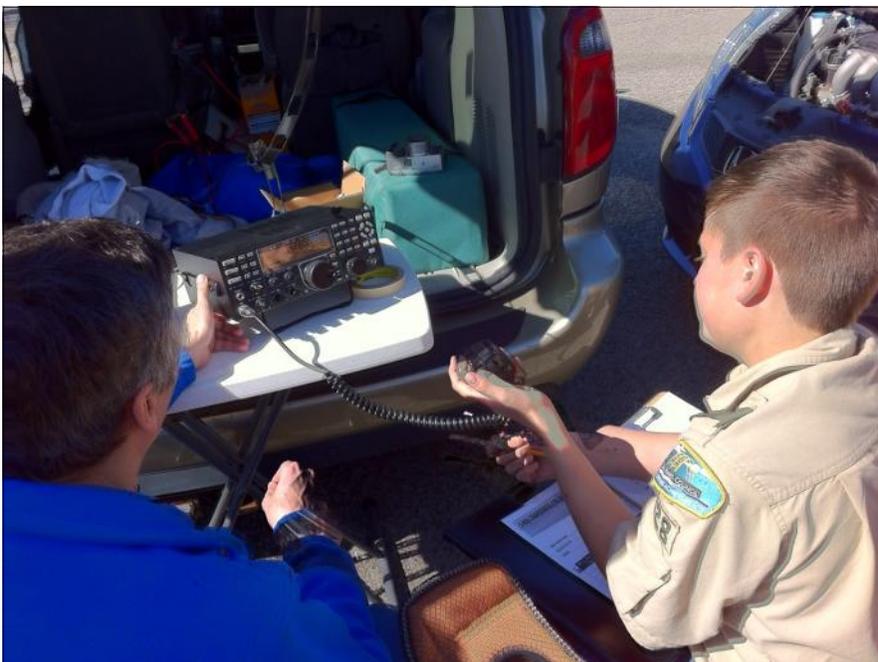
Saturday morning dawned clear, cool and very windy. Six boys showed up at the Hebron Lu-

theran Church, their normal meeting place. I went inside with the boys to work on the merit badge requirements, while Sam began setting up our station in the parking lot. It took about two and a half hours to cover all the requirements for the merit badge. The boys were interested and attentive, but I could sense that they were itching to get back outside and on the air. So was I!

After a brief lunch break, we headed back out to the parking lot. We didn't have a generator, so we decided to power the HF transceiver from the battery in

Sam's car. The antenna we used was my vertical loop (the one I used for the first time during Field Day this year), mounted on a 33-ft fiberglass mast and fed with window-line so we could use it on multiple bands. Sam pointed his car into the wind, and with the lift raised, it provided a nice sheltered operating position.

I gave the boys a final briefing on how to conduct their QSOs, and when I asked who wanted to go first, six hands shot into the air. I tuned the rig to the suggested JOTA frequency on 20M,



Photos by Sam Slayden, N4BRI.



and we heard lots of ongoing QSOs between other scout troops around the country. We found ourselves a clear frequency, and the first scout, Stephen, started calling “CQ Jamboree”. After calling CQ for a couple of minutes without success, I decided we should try 15 Meters, but we had no better luck there. On a hunch, I swapped out Sam’s rig with my Elecraft K3, which has a built-in voltmeter for monitoring the input voltage. Sure enough, as soon as Stephen started speaking into the mic, I saw the voltage drop to less than 11 volts! “Sam, why don’t you try starting your car?”, I suggested. “Click, click, click”, came the response. Apparently Sam had run down the battery while using the radio during the morning. Oops!



We switched to the battery in my car, and, learning from experience, I left my engine running. Now we were cooking, and it didn’t take long for Stephen’s CQ to be answered by N6CLV in San Diego. The copy was a bit rough, but we managed to exchange the essentials, and our first QSO was in the log!

The boys took turns sitting in the operating position, and in short order they logged contacts with other scouts and hams in Texas, Florida, Arkansas, New Mexico and New York. They talked about their favorite sports teams, scouting activities, and hobbies. After they had each logged one contact,

fulfilling the final merit badge requirement, they sat down for more! After a couple of hours, each boy had logged at least two contacts.

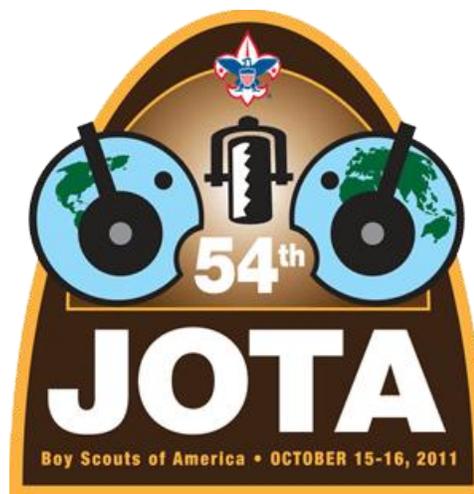
We called it a day at 2:00 p.m., and a very successful day it had been. All six scouts earned their Radio merit badge, and made their first Amateur Radio contacts!

Sam has since informed me that at least two of the scouts, including his son, Kevin, may have picked up the ham radio “bug”, so we may be seeing them at a VE session some day down the road. As a bonus, it has also re-kindled Sam’s own interest in the hobby. Though licensed since 1977, he has been inactive in recent years. Now he is talking about building a [RockMite](#) QRP transceiver!

I have already received a QSL card from N6CLV, the ham in San Diego, and have asked Sam to pass it along to Stephen at their next meeting. It will make a nice souvenir of the 54th Jamboree on the Air!

73,

Mark, AI4BJ



Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech (www.twit.tv), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says “Zero!” and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don’t take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don’t make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, “OK, here’s the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month.” Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don’t get on the air?

Making time for ham radio

So, if you’re a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, “making time for things you love.” I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled “make time for hobbies” and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar

advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you’re going to do ham radio. Don’t let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a “shack” and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it’s a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you’re a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you’ll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There’s so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that’s one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you’ll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

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When he’s not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. Make some time to e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Weaver's Words

Autumn Leaves are Falling

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How ARRL Operates: Thanks to our Three Great Section Managers

The way in which ARRL operates seems to continue to be a mystery to many members. It doesn't need to be this way. I'll try to explain who does what in a manner that will help most people understand the principles better.

First, let me say that the confusion probably comes from the fact that many members assume ARRL is organized and operates the same way as their local club. It doesn't. Somewhat like the US Government, ARRL has three branches of its organization. These are the Board of Directors, the Field Organization and the HQ Staff.

To define this a little further, the Board of Directors is headed by the ARRL president who along with the other officers of the Board is elected by the Directors. The Field Organization is headed in each Section by the Section manager and the Staff is headed by our Chief Executive Officer. The CEO is hired by the Board and reports to the Board.

Directors (and Vice Directors) are elected by members of the Divisions they represent. In the case of the Great Lakes Division, these members are from Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

Section Managers (SMs) are elected by members of the Sections they represent. In the case of the GLD, the Sections each consist of entire states -- Kentucky Section, Michigan Section and Ohio Section.

It is the 15 Directors who vote to establish policy for

ARRL. Section

Managers head activities in their Sections to put League policy into effect at the field level. The CEO is responsible for putting Board policy into action at headquarters and, through the services HQ performs, for the members.

Even though many members believe their SM reports to their Director, this is incorrect. Dale Williams, WA8EFK (MI), Jim Brooks, KY4Z (KY) and Frank Piper, KI8GW (OH) do not report to me. They report at this time to Dave Patton, NN1N at HQ. Dave heads the ARRL membership services department which covers the Field Organization.



The SMs are responsible for several Field operations in their Sections. These include the Section Emergency Coordinator (Amateur Radio Emergency Service tm -- ARES tm), the Official Observer Coordinator, the Affiliated Club Coordinator, the Public Information Coordinator, the State Government Liaison, the Section Traffic Manager and possibly additional department heads who in turn oversee additional activities. Of these substantial activities, the most gargantuan effort is required by the ARES. Coordinating the activities of this single branch of ARRL in each Section involves hundreds of people, at a minimum.

Being an effective SM means a person must be willing to dedicate great effort to the job and must be an excellent, skilled leader.

The three Sections in the Great Lakes Division are extremely fortunate to have members who care enough for Amateur Radio and the ARRL to be willing to devote the extensive amount of time and effort to doing the job and, finally, who have the skills and knowledge to be successful, top-notch SMs.

It is obvious from their successes that Dale, WA8EFK, Jim (KY4Z) and Frank (KI8GW) have all of the characteristics needed to be the excellent SMs they are. Their past successes are indisputable evidence that they have everything needed to do the job. We in the GLD are indeed fortunate to have quality SMs leading our Sections.

An expanded discussion of the operations of the Board and Staff will be presented in following issues.

Personal Note

Some of you have commented they have not heard me on the air for quite a while. The last of the reasons for this will be corrected within the coming few weeks.

Initially, I was QRT as the result of my wife's long illness. Then at the end of February my tower and associated antennas came down in a strong wind storm. A bracket at the top of the tower had broken. I now am the proud father of a new, 70 ft, Rohn 45G tower with new M2 5X 6 M beam and new Hy-Gain TH-11 5-band beam. The Carolina Windom will go back up very soon as well.

The antennas still need to be connected to my rigs. This will require an additional couple of weeks to accomplish because I have decided to move the shack from the "club" level of the house into a first floor bedroom. Wiring changes are needed to accommodate this move.

I am looking forward to getting back on the air to talk with many of you, and to join in state QSO parties and other on-air activities.

Busy Times

I apologize for being late with this issue of WORDS as well as for it being so brief. Brevity is a blessing in

many cases, of course, so the shortness of this issue may not be bad. I've been extremely busy with personal items the past several weeks. Look for the return of the familiar, verbose person you've become accustomed to by the December issue, if not before.

Sanctioned Hamfests and Tentative Activity and Travel Schedule



As of press time, hamfests in the following list have received ARRL sanctioning. Hamfests and other events for which a Great Lakes Division representative is scheduled to attend are identified with the representative's name.

For information on sponsoring and sanctioning a hamfest or convention, *go to www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events. To have your hamfest sanctioned, go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application> <<http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application>> to apply on line. Please be sure to read the requirements for having an event sanctioned before submitting a request.

Please remember to order free brochures from ARRL for your hamfest. These brochures are to be displayed on the table you provide for ARRL use per your agreement to become a sanctioned hamfest. The procedure for obtaining these free goodies is described in the letter you received along with the free prize certificates sent from HQ. There is no shipping charge for the freebies provided the simple procedure for ordering them is followed.

- 5 Nov: Grant ARC Hamfest, Georgetown, OH - Jim
- 4 Dec: L'Anse Creuse ARC Swap/Hamfest, L'Anse Creuse, MI

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