



The Feedline

Take a Virtual Tour of W1AW

From ARRLWeb, 01/31/2012

Join W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, on a virtual tour of W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, the Amateur Radio station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Carcia will lead this tour via a live webcast on Sunday, February 12 at 5 PM EST (2200 UTC). Anyone with an Internet connection will be able to watch the tour [here](#).

“We want viewers of this live Internet tour to feel as if they are actually at W1AW,” Carcia explained. “If you came to W1AW in person, you would see the same things that we are going to show on the virtual tour: The three operating stations, the W1AW workshop, the transmitter racks that we use to send out our bulletins and use for the code practice transmission, the control console and “[Old Betsy](#),” Hiram Percy Maxim’s personal spark gap transmitter.”

Al Petrunti, KA1TCH, of the [New Day Group](#), will follow Carcia as he leads viewers through the station. ARRL Staff members, including Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, and Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, as well as local television weatherman Geoff Fox, K1GF, will also be on hand at W1AW during the tour.

“Hams around the world know of W1AW, and thousands have made contacts with this impressive station -- but most hams never get to see it,” Pitts said. “Thanks to Al Petrunti’s group, we hope that folks enjoy seeing what’s at the other end of the signals. As in all live broadcasts, you never know just what might happen. We invite you to join us.” Pitts is producing the live web tour.

This is the second video that the New Day Group has made for the ARRL. In 2011, they created the [HR 607 video](#) that educated radio amateurs of a bill in Congress that addressed certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network using current Amateur Radio spectrum.

Learn How to Ground Your Station

The February meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club will feature a presentation on station grounding by Dave Core, K8WDA.

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, February 13 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

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Dates to Remember:

- Feb 18,19 – [ARRL DX Contest \(CW\)](#)
- Mar 3,4 – [ARRL DX Contest \(Phone\)](#)
- Mar 3 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- Mar 13 – NKARC membership meeting

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Repeaters (K4CO): 147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights. The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

NKARC Net: Tuesdays, 8:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

VE Testing: Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month, prior to the NKARC membership meeting. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at 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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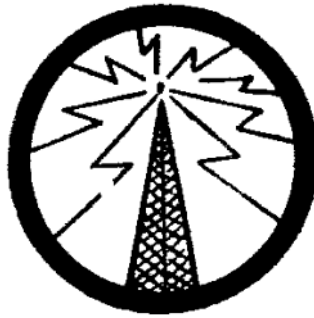
Top of the Tower

[The following was originally intended to be included in the January Feedline — Ed.]

Greetings everyone, I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season. I certainly enjoyed visiting with all of you at the Christmas Party (which was very well attended!) I would like to thank the club for the opportunity to serve as Vice President in addition to coordinating the VE Program.

Robert Kluck N4IJS suggested that I tell you a little bit about myself, so if you're having trouble sleeping, read on!

I became a Ham in June 2002. I had always been interested in the hobby but the opportunity and the funds were never available until I moved to Cincinnati. My first exposure to Ham radio came from having a CB radio when I was about 12 years old. I was fascinated by all aspects of radio communication and there was a Ham down the street from my best friend's house who not only had a very tall tower with a beam antenna, he really had a shack, i.e. an outbuilding purpose built as a Ham Radio station. One afternoon while my friend and I were observing through cracks in the fence, he popped



his head out of the shack and invited us in. He immediately started working European stations starting with Spain. To say my friend and I were in total awe was an understatement.

It took about 30 years for the seed of interest that got planted that day to grow, but it finally did. I found NKARC through the VE Testing program, and took my General, and then later that year, my Extra at NKARC sessions back in the library of the old elementary school. I decided to join NKARC because the people were so

friendly and helpful to me as a new ham. When John Meyers NB4K decided to concentrate on other things and asked me to continue the club's VE Program, I took his offer to coordinate the VE effort and "pay it forward".

I'm looking forward to beginning my second decade with NKARC, and to continue working with the VE's who support the monthly exam program, and to keep it going to bring new Hams to the Amateur community and to the club itself.

73 DE AB8SH

Lyle Hamilton

January NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
January 3	AJ4DK (Don)	5	17	0
January 10	KB4VKS (Mike)	19	48	0
January 17	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	7	22	0
January 24	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	6	10	0
January 31	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	6	13	0
TOTALS:		43	110	0

January Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2012 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President Robert Kluck, N4IJS, opened the meeting with the pledge, followed by introductions of attendees.

Treasurer's report not available. Detailed report will be presented next month.

Motion by W4TSA to accept Minutes of November meeting as published. Second by KJ4VKV. Approved

Old Business:

AI4IP reported that the duplexers for the D-Star repeater have been tuned (our thanks to WB4VOA and W4YWH). We need cables and connectors and it will be read for installation. N4IJS to program.

N4IJS said there were no takers for the HRO discount on D-Star radios. The Christmas dinner meeting was a success.

Membership Dues for 2012 Now Due

Club membership dues for 2012 are now due. Payment may be made at the February meeting, or can be mailed in with a membership renewal form, which can be found here: <http://k4co.org/Membership.htm>

New Business

AB8SH reported that the VE session was cancelled. There were no candidates. ARRL did not post our schedule. Lyle has called ARRL.

Field Day Chairman, W4TSA, called for operators for this event. Greg reminded everyone that Paddle Fest will be the same weekend. However, the timing is such that both can be attended.

Robert said that Feedline editor, Mark, AI4BJ, has held this position for a number of years and is requesting a replacement.

AI4IP presented split-the-pot (once again, AJ4DK did not win).

Business meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Following the break, Lyle, AB8SH gave an informative presentation on APRS.

Meeting closed at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Don King, AJ4DK.

Wanted: Feedline Editor

After wearing my editor's hat for more than 5 years, I would like to pass the reins to someone who can bring some fresh ideas to the table. No previous experience is necessary — I will provide training if necessary. All you need is a PC and an internet connection. If interested, please contact either myself or Robert Kluck, N4IJS.

— Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

A Ham for 75 Years

by Paul Elliott, Jr.

[The following was found on the [Topband Mailing List](#) — Ed.]

Seventy five years ago today, 19 January 1937, I was issued a Class C Amateur Radio Operator License and my Station License W5GGV by the FCC. At the time I was 14 years old and a sophomore in high school in Kingsville, TX. My code test was given by a Class A Operator who worked mainly 160 m phone. I still have in my mind a very clear image of his end fed antenna being clipped directly (no blocking capacitor!) on the output tank coil (1500 volts). The antenna exited the room by going thru a one inch hole in a window screen.

My first rig, built with parts from defunct Atwater Kent radios, consisted of a UX45 tube in a TNT circuit (maybe three or four watts output on 40 m) and a 2-tube regenerative receiver. My antenna, clipped on the output tank (200 volts), also went out through a hole in a window screen — but I did use a blocking capacitor. My key was made from a hacksaw blade.

I did not get on 160 m until I moved to Hobbs, NM, after retirement in the late 1980s (Hobbs was chosen because of my other hobby—glider pilot).

Trying to work 160 m DX from an electrically noisy 120 x 120 foot city lot in SE NM is not for those who are easily discouraged. I have managed to confirm 183 current entities on 160 m and have the credits, cards, and LOTW for 9-band DXCC and 321 total current countries overall. I have two antenna tuners and two transmitting antennas: one bent piece of wire and one slanted piece of wire.

Some thoughts that tell me that I might be getting to be an old 160 m DX chaser:

1. I remember that I talked to Civil War veterans when I was a child.

2. I remember the Great Depression.
3. I remember that every kid who was building a crystal set KNEW that he couldn't use any old oatmeal carton for his coil form -it had to be a Quaker Oats carton or his set wouldn't work.
4. I remember what happened when I tried to make a galena crystal because I didn't have a dime to buy a piece of galena. The dictionary said galena was lead sulphite, an ore of lead. I had access to lead, sulphur, and a small gas-fired heater. Nuff said. What I got didn't appear to be galena-but it worked.
5. I remember that, when I became a ham, there were no 60 m, 30 m, 15 m, nor 6 m bands. There was a 5 m band. There was no phone on 40 m. There was no SSB nor FM on any band. There were three classes of Operator License: A, B, C.
6. I remember WW II (The Pacific Ocean is very big).
7. I remember that I was the first ham in South Texas to operate SSB in the 1950s.
8. I remember I have had a pilot license over 70 years.
9. My CW speed has dropped from 35-40 wpm to 25-30 wpm.
10. I still log on paper by hand.
11. The size of any amplifier I have is limited by the weight that my XYL can lift.

Kind and knowledgeable people on this forum have, at times, provided me with help and information. To them I express my deepest thanks and appreciation.

Now it is on to the next 75 years (and how I can improve reception on 160 m at my QTH).

73 Paul W5DM

Mark's Mutterings

Kentucky a Rare State?

Over the Christmas holidays, I was browsing the forums on QRZ.COM when I came across one that I hadn't noticed before: [SKED — QSO Scheduling](#). Hams come here to try to schedule a QSO on a particular band and mode, often to try to complete a contact with a hard-to-work state like Delaware to earn the Worked All States (WAS) award. One of the first messages I spotted was from a ham in Virginia, Jay, KD4BPZ who was missing only Kentucky to qualify for WAS on 20 Meters. I contacted Jay via email, and we agreed to meet on 20 M at noon on the following Saturday. I was a bit concerned that he was too close to work on 20, but as it turned out we could hear each other reasonably well and we had a nice SSB QSO. We exchanged QSL cards to seal the deal.

Our Future is in Good Hands

I get so sick of hearing old farts complaining that "today's hams are just appliance operators, the hobby is doomed, blah, blah, blah..." (I'm verging on old fartdom myself, so I have no compunction about using the pejorative.) Anyway, if we

needed yet another example of how the future of the hobby is safe in the hands of a new generation, one has only to watch [this YouTube video](#) uploaded by Erin, AK4JG. It's an entertaining look at how this talented young woman launched her MIT acceptance letter to the edge of space with a balloon and [tracked it with APRS](#).

All the Way to China

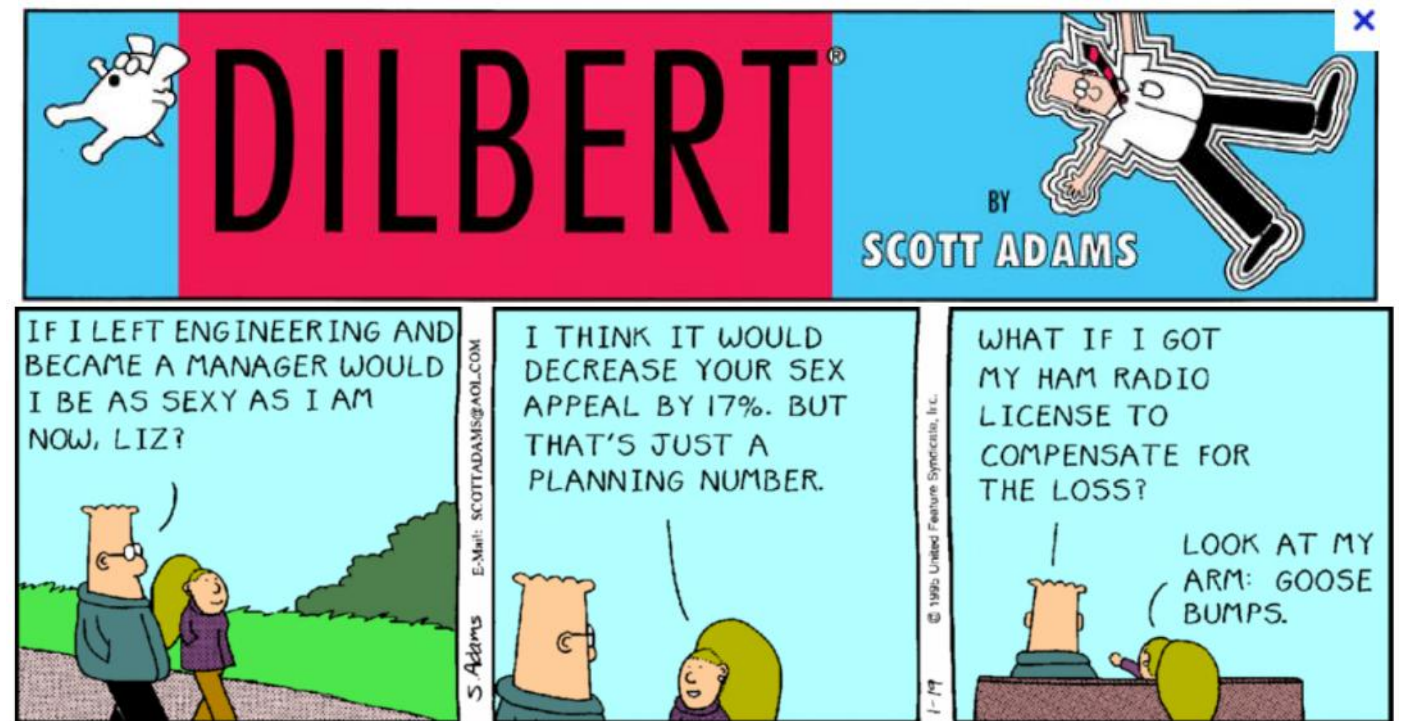
Have you ever wondered where you would end up if you started digging a hole for your new tower and forgot to stop? [This tool](#) makes it easy to find out. Hint: Make sure you bring a raft and a one-month supply of crackers and fresh water!

Science Friday Tackles Space Weather

Whenever I can, I enjoy listening to NPR's Science Friday. Last week, they had an interesting segment on space weather and how it affects human activities. You can listen to the episode here:

<http://www.npr.org/2012/01/27/145990089/how-space-weather-affects-planes-and-power-grids>

73, Mark Volstad, AI4BJ



Weaver's Words

Back On the Air

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

Board Meeting Over

As I start this item, I am sitting in Bradley Airport that serves the Hartford (Newington) area in Connecticut, The Annual meeting (of the year) of the ARRL Board of Directors (BoD) ended yesterday (Saturday) afternoon. I am awaiting the flight back to Cincinnati. Included in the pleasant duties I performed was officially welcoming former Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK as the new Vice Director for the ARRL Great Lakes Division. Dale's seating in this position became official at noon on January 1; however, I was honored to present him with the certificate of office at the meeting.

Welcome aboard, Dale. I look forward to working with you as a member of the GLD team.



The just-completed meeting covered topics ranging from naming the recipients of awards for exemplary services through protecting large segments of frequencies currently available to ham use from being diverted to use for commercial broadband operation. In essence, the Board, as usual, addressed topics that ranged from those associated with the fun or hobby aspects of ham radio to protecting the very existence of our Amateur Radio Service. The information reviewed in our discussions ranged from that which is available to any individual to information of a highly confidential nature obtained through sources that are accessible only on occasionally.

ONE TOPIC MANY members will appreciate is a free, digital version of QST via the Internet. This version offers the ability to read our membership journal online in a manner quite similar to that in which we read the hard-copy version. It also offers the ability to include full schematics and other information that sometimes

can merely be referenced in the print edition, as well as direct links to items contained in the ads.

Becoming accustomed to the online version may require a little familiarization, but I believe it will become a welcome enhancement to membership.

It is inevitable that two questions regarding digi-QST will arise. The first is if a member can opt-out of receiving the hard-copy version.

The answer: yes. The second question is: Is there a reduction in dues for members who opt-out of the print version. The answer to this is no. The hard-copy version is financed largely by advertisement, not by membership dues.

Digi-QST should be unveiled yet this winter or early spring.

A SECOND TOPIC many members will want to utilize is a direct, field entry system for DXCC. This system will accomplish two goals. It will greatly speed the processing of QSL submission to the DX Desk and it will do this in a manner that will by-pass the need to mail QSLs to HQ for processing. Watch for this new system to be rolled out later this year.

From the Vice Director

Greetings everyone. I asked Jim if I might be able to provide you all a brief introduction as I step up to the new challenges as Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division. I am pleased to be able to assist Jim in representing everyone in the Great Lakes Div. and really look forward to being able to make more friends and share ideas throughout our three states.

While my Michigan compatriots probably have a good handle on me; for my new friends in Kentucky and Ohio, here is a quick bio.: Most recently, I have been

serving as Section Manager in Michigan. I obtained my ham license in 1962 and have been fairly active since that time. I have held positions as Assistant EC, EC and SEC as well. I have also had the pleasure of recently serving on the ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee as its chairman. I am currently an Amateur Extra, operating 80 Meters through 450 MHz both at home and mobile. My home station is equipped for packet, PSK 31, Digital Slow-Scan, and several of the other current new digital modes and I recently installed a couple of antennas for amateur satellite operation. Sometimes I actually have time to operate and must admit to considering myself a “casual DXer.” My all time favorite non-contest-contest is Field Day.

I grew up and live in Dundee, a small community of about 4,000 in the southeast Michigan. I retired in 2002 after 30 years with a major communications equipment manufacturer. I worked as a field project manager responsible for the implementation of multi-site wide area RF systems and Central Dispatch Facilities for utilities and government agencies. I am currently chairman of the Dundee Village Planning Commission, serve on the Monroe County Emergency Planning Team and The Southeast Michigan Urban Area Security Initiative’s Communications Inter-operability Committee. My secret hobby (don’t we all have one?) is caring for a vintage Corvette. My wife is Judy and she actually puts up with all of this stuff. I think it keeps me out of her way.

Jim and I hope to be sharing a schedule for some active club and hamfest visits and we are in the early planning stages for doing this. Most assuredly, I’ll ask you to indulge me a little as I get oriented to this new routine and the interesting future ham radio holds for all of us.

73,

Dale WA8EFK

Michigan has a New Section Manager

With Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK moving on to become Great Lakes Division Vice, Larry Camp, WB8R, has been appointed as the Interim Michigan Section Manager starting. This appointment was made by Membership & Volunteer Pro-

grams manager Dave Patton, NN1N consistent with long-standing existing ARRL rules. Camp is a lifelong resident of Coldwater, Michigan and has been an Amateur Radio operator since 1978. He has wide experience in the ARRL Field Organization as Emergency Coordinator for Branch County, as a past Section Traffic Manager and as a past QMN Net Manager. He is also a past multi-year president of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club and enjoys teaching Amateur Radio licensing classes for new hams.

The GLD in Print

Great Lakes Division (GLD) members are frequent contributors to QST. The February issue is no exception. Congratulations to Dee Logan, W1HEO of Mentor, OH for his feature-length article “Avoiding Problems in the RF Chain” that begins on p. 30. Similarly congratulations to Ron Wagner, WD8SBB of Troy, OH and to Mark Pogany, WB8ZTP of Pataskala, OH whose questions were addressed by the Doctor beginning on p. 60.

Nominations for ARRL Awards Sought

Four ARRL awards are open for nominations. These are:

- The Herb S. Breier Instructor of the Year Award is open to a volunteer or professional ARRL Amateur Radio instructor who is creative in teaching and who demonstrates the highest value in pursuit of our great radio service. Nomination deadline = March 15 for 2012.
- The Hiram Percy Maxim Award is open to an ARRL member under age 21 for contributions to and accomplishments in Amateur Radio. Nomination deadline = March 31 for 2012.
- The ARRL Microwave Development Award is available to one or more licensed Amateur Radio operators who contribute to the development of microwave communications. Deadline = March 31 for 2012.
- The ARRL Technical Service Award. Open to one or more Amateur Radio licensees who provide technical assistance or training to others. Deadline = March 31, 2012.

- The ARRL Technical Innovation Award. Granted to one or more licensed radio amateurs who develop or apply new technical approaches in Amateur Radio. Deadline = March 31, 2012.

Additional information on these awards and on submitting nominations for them is available at www.arrl.org/arrl-award-nominations.

It is Great to be Back On-the-Air

My tower went down during a storm in late February this past year. Strong wind coupled with a failure in a tower bracket caused the crash. A series of succeeding events that included moving my office-shack kept me off the air until a few days ago. Today I finally became truly re-immersed in hamming.

Some work remains to tie the ribbons on the package (hooking up my amp as well as getting a wire antenna up for 160 through 30, but I have had a ball today. For the first time since my 6M rig was a Lafayette HE-45a in the days of 6M AM, and later during the days when 6M FM was all the rage, I am back on 6 — SSB and CW. In spite of the current, generally-iffy usefulness of propagation, my 6M DX count jumped from just one entity to five in only an hour or two. During the same period I was able to add totally “new ones” on 20M-10M.

All this is good, and it is great to be active on the bands one again; however, operating is just one of the refreshing breezes that struck me this weekend. Logbook of the World (LoTW) was another of these.

It had been over two years since I had used LoTW last. It was a tremendous service back then, but between the improvements made in its operation and the updating of the logging program I have, Logbook is a great pleasure to use. It was easy to load and activate thanks to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ at ARRL HQ. It was equally simple to scan my log, translate the information into the ADIF format and upload the file to Logbook. Once the file had been uploaded, it took only about a minute for Logbook to review the 1,200+ QSOs in the file and ready the new credits for addition to my DXCC file. (Thanks to long-time friend Kirk Swallow, W8QID for

helping me over a glitch in activating a new version of the logging program.)

I look forward, once again, to seeing you on the bands.

Scheduled Hamfests and Travel

The following is the current hamfest schedule for the Great Lakes Division as well as travel plans by pending Vice Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK beginning January 1, 2012. Travel plans for the coming year are being made. If you would particularly like to have Dale or me attend your hamfest of other event, please contact us.

- Jan 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH
- Feb 4 - HARA Swap & Shop, Negaunee, MI
- Feb 5 - NOARS Winterhamfest, Lorain, OH
- Feb 12 - Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH - Dale
- Feb 19 - Livonia ARC, Livonia, MI - Dale
- Mar 10 - MOVARC Hamfest, Gallipolis, OH
- Mar 17 - Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall - Dale
- Mar 18 - Toledo Mobile Radio Hamfest/Computer Fair, Perrysburg, OH— Dale, Jim
- Apr 7 - Lincoln Trail ARC Hamfest, Elizabethtown, KY
- Apr 7 - ARGYL Hamfest & Computer Show, Lowell, MI
- Apr 14 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Apr 14 - Milford Swap & Shop, Milford, MI
- Apr 29 - Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH
- Jun 2 - IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI
- Jun 7 - Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council Meeting - Dale
- Jun 14 - Mahoning Valley ARC Meeting - Jim
- Jun 17 - Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, OH - Dale
- Jul 19 - Programs &
- Jul 20-21 - ARRL Board of Directors Meeting, ARRL HQ - Dale & Jim
- Jul 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH
- Aug 4 - Ohio State Convention, Columbus, OH - Dale & Jim
- Sep 23 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Berea, OH
- Oct 21 - Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI

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NKARC Feedline February 2012
Volume 2012 Issue 2