

Vol. 2011, #9  
September 2011



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# The Feedline



John Donnelly, KY4JD, installs the antenna for the 146.895 repeater on the roof of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood on a hot August afternoon. The repeater is being relocated from its previous location at NKU to make room for

the new D-STAR repeater. Herb Anderson, WA4LTA, Don King, AJ4DK, and Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, look on from below. — Story on page 5.

*Photo by Dave Core, K8WDA.*

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### Dates to Remember:

- Sep 10 – [Ohio State Parks on the Air](#)
- Sep 11 – [Great Lakes Division Convention/Findlay Hamfest](#)
- Sep 12 – NKARC membership meeting
- Sep 18 – [GCARA Hamfest](#)
- Oct 1 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- Oct 10 – NKARC membership meeting

# NKARC Directory

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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](mailto: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

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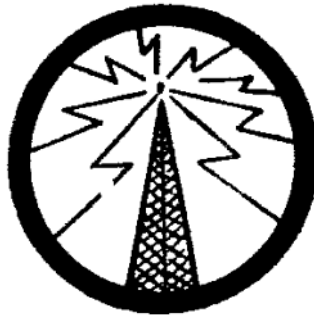
## *Fall already?!?!*

Wow, hard to believe but summer is just about over and fall is around the corner. It is a beautiful time of the year for sure! But, before you know it, winter will be upon us as well. Are you ready?

Fall is a great time to finish up any outside work. For example, is your antenna ready for winter? Or, do you have a new antenna you want to try out? If so, this is a perfect time to get out there and see what you can do!

And, with our D-STAR repeater in the final stages of the project, do you have a D-STAR radio? If so, why not put up an outdoor 2M antenna? They are usually easy to make and put out. And, you can play around with orientation (horizontal, vertical, and/or circular) and location. It is fairly easy, fairly inexpensive, and certainly a lot of fun and very rewarding.

If you take the time now, you can sit back and enjoy the warm glows of the radio as you watch the snow falling!



## *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, a Field Day chair, Presentation Ideas and presenters, and the list could go on. If you have some time and want to help out, please let me know. I promise you, we will have an opportunity for you to help out the Club and explore some of your own interests at the same time. Also, if you are interested in holding any of the elected positions, it is that time again! Please send an email to [nominatingcommittee@k4co.org](mailto:nominatingcommittee@k4co.org) and let us know what you are interested in.

## *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.

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS  
[n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org)  
(513) 919-6672 (cell)

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## August NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
August 2	AJ4DK (Don)	6	17	0
August 9	KB4VKS (Mike)	11	35	0
August 16	N4IJS (Robert)	8	16	0
August 23	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	4	10	0
August 30	W4TSA (Greg)	9	16	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>0</b>

# August Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2011 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of attendees followed. A sign in sheet was circulated with a total of 19 people present.

A motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting was made by Dave, KI4QH and seconded by Lyle, AB8SH. The motion passed with all in favor.

A motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting was made by Tony, AI4IP and seconded by Greg, W4TSA. The motion passed with all in favor.

Tony, AI4IP, gave an update on D-STAR. All is progressing well. The NKU (146.895) repeater will be moved to a site close to the 147.255

repeater at St. Elizabeth's in Edgewood. Once that is completed, the D-STAR repeater can be moved out to the NKU site. We are working with SERA to coordinate the frequency for the new repeater, but that has not been accomplished yet due to various issues which should be resolved shortly.

VE Update: We had one candidate for this session and they passed!

Field Day Chair for next year. Greg, W4TSA, stepped forward to help with this cause. We will ask Mark, AI4BJ, to help Elmer Greg for this role.

Nomination committee: Tony, AI4IP, volunteered to lead this committee. If you are interested in serving any of the positions within the Club, please send an email to [nominatingcommittee@k4co.org](mailto:nominatingcommittee@k4co.org).

Net Control Stations: We need more Net Control operators! If you are interested, please contact Robert, N4IJS, at [n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org). Greg, W4TSA, and Todd, KY4TS, have both volunteered to NCSes. Thank you!

Christmas Dinner: A discussion was held concerning where to have the Christmas Dinner this year. The decision was the Golden Corral in Florence as it offers a private room and everyone seems to enjoy themselves there. Robert, N4IJS, will make the necessary arrangements. It will be held on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars!

A \$100 donation to the Church was made for the use of the facilities. Thank you to everyone who helped cover that expense!

If anyone has ideas and/or would like to present to the Club, please see Dann, KI4AVO. We need ideas and people for the presentations!

Greg, W4TSA, made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Seconded by Tony, AI4IP. Motion passed. The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 20:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS.

## Radio Ops Needed for Bad to the Bone Event

Radio operators needed to provide communication and safety support for the 2011 [Bad to the Bone Duathlon](#), September 17th at Big Bone State Park in Boone county KY. Meeting time is tentatively set at 7:30am. We need approximately 15 operators. If interested, please contact Todd Schutter, KY4TS at [ky4ts@yahoo.com](mailto:ky4ts@yahoo.com). You will need at minimum, a 2m HT with tone capability in good working order. An extra battery would be a good idea. A bright shirt, jacket or vest is recommended for operators assigned to road course positions.



## September Program to Feature WSPR

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, will present a program and live demonstration of WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) at the September meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. Find out how far you can communicate with just one watt of RF energy!

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, September 12 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

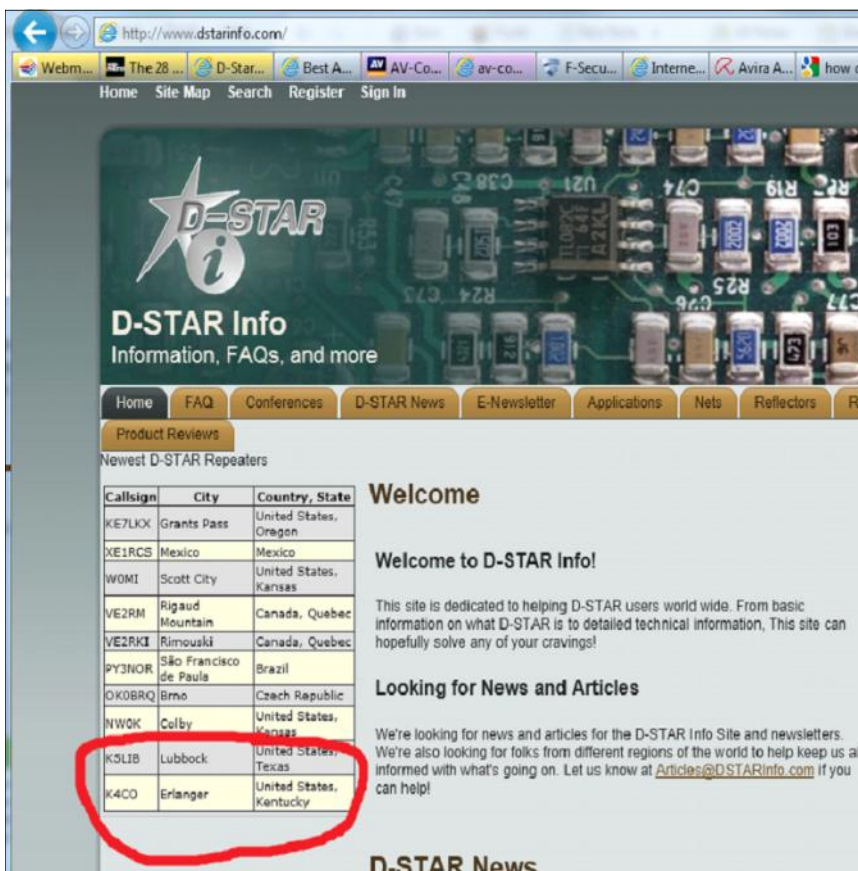


# D-STAR Repeater Update

As you are probably aware, NKARC was approved to obtain a D-STAR repeater directly from ICOM. We now have the repeater in our possession and are beginning the process to get it up and running. What an exciting time and opportunity!

There are two sides to this repeater project – the radio side and the computer side.

The computer component is complete. We now have a fully functional and running D-STAR Gateway! (See picture below of the D-STAR info page that shows recently added Gateways. You may see a familiar call sign! And, notice how many new ones are coming on... I took this screen shot about 2 hours after getting confirmation of our registration on the US Root server of the D-STAR network.) It is registered with the US Root and our first 10 new D-STAR users have already been added to the network (you should have received an email if you signed up at our last meeting. If you have not, please email Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at [n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org) or [dstar-admin@k4co.org](mailto:dstar-admin@k4co.org)). If you are interested in seeing the status of the Gateway and recent users, etc., please check out [www.k4co.org/DStar.htm](http://www.k4co.org/DStar.htm) (the capital D and S are important!). Please note that if you have already registered with either our Gateway or any other, you DO NOT need to register again! Doing so may cause you to be unable to access the D-STAR network. With one registration, you can access the Network from any Gateway. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at



[n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org).

On the radio side, the 146.895 repeater site will be used to house the new D-STAR repeater. The new antenna for the 895 repeater has been erected at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood. We will be moving the 895 repeater soon to that location. The D-STAR repeater is operational in a temporary location. Although not official as of yet, the coordinated frequency for the repeater is 144.820(+600). We are just awaiting official confirmation of this frequency, but it has been conveyed to us that we have that frequency pair.

That's it for now - more to come

soon – the process is moving along and the excitement is building. If you are interested in signing up on the D-STAR network, please let Robert Kluck, N4IJS, know ([n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org)) and we will get you signed up as soon as possible.

And, again, a big thank you goes out to our Repeater Committee - they have been keeping this project moving along and on target. Great job!

If you have any questions, please let me know. Talk to you soon!

73,

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

# Weaver's Words

## There is a Chill in the Air

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**  
Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL  
E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org); Tel.: 513-459-0142

### Division Convention is Sunday

The Great Lakes Division Convention will be this Sunday — 9/11. It will occur concurrent with the Findlay Hamfest on the Hamfest grounds. Registration will begin at 8 AM. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP will give the keynote address at the 9 AM session. On this 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Allen's remarks will include ways in which amateur radio has improved its ability to respond to major man-made and natural disasters during the past years.

Two series of excellent seminars will begin at 10 AM with new seminars starting at 11 and noon. Major Division awards will be presented at a luncheon beginning at 2 PM.

The complete program is available at <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/convention.htm>. Please note that the D-Star discussion had to be cancelled. A discussion to be led by the Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio Section Managers will take its place. In addition to the program and luncheon, Matt Tinker, AA4XA will be on hand to check QSL cards for ARRL and IARU awards.

We hope to see you there.

### Congratulations to the First 100

The first 100 graduate of the ARRL PR-101 course have been announced. A scan through the list shows six members in the Great Lakes Division are among the successful amateurs. These are:

James Duram, K8COP, Twin Lake, MI, Cindy Ebner, K8CJE, Springfield, OH, Robert George, KB8QYJ, Clinton Twp., MI, Pat Mullet, KC8RTW, Shepherd, MI, Emily Wells, KC8RAL, Warren, OH and Scott Yonally, N8SY, Mansfield, OH.

PR-101 is a course that will transform people who are untrained in public relations into skilled Public Information Officers. The skills graduates of the course develop are highly needed to bring Amateur Radio and its benefits to public view.

Thanks and congratulations to the graduates for their effort and desire to serve Amateur Radio so well. If I failed to identify anyone on the list as being from the GLD, please let me know. The list was issued as of August 30.



### Division will have new Vice Director

Congratulations to Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK for becoming Vice Director-elect for the Great Lakes Division. Dale was unopposed in his bid to become the Vice Director. Following ARRL rules, he was named to the position. He will take office for a three-year term that begins at noon on January 1, 2012. He will succeed Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA who decided not to run for re-election.

Being unopposed for re-election, I will continue as Director for the Division for an additional three-year term that similarly begins January 1.

### Winlink 2000 to be Introduced

The following invitation is from Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Enrollment by Great Lakes Division members is open for as long as space remains.

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interesting and timely seminar.

"Join us for a Webinar on September 21

"Winlink 2000 is a voluntary world-wide digital messaging system providing through Amateur radio, and various government contingency communications services, enabling communications where Internet e-mail and other messaging services are not normally available, or appropriate for use.

"Winlink 2000 provides a variety of solutions for the Amateur radio operator including VHF/UHF Packet, HF Pactor and Winmor, which come in different bandwidths, reliabilities, and speeds. Winlink 2000 is used a link to family, friends and weather information for the remote Amateur radio operator. In addition,

"Winlink 2000 has proven itself as an effective emergency communications options for various non-commercial and government organizations, as well as Amateur radio operators, when normal emergency communications infrastructure is not otherwise available. Attendees will learn what Winlink is, catch up on the latest developments and get a look at some real world Winlink installations as well as some field examples.

"Title: Winlink 2000 Intro

"Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2011

"Time: 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM EDT

"After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

"System Requirements

"PC-based attendees

"Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

"Macintosh®-based attendees

"Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer

"Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/359652552>"

Thanks to Bill for graciously inviting us to join in this

## Committee will review UHF Band Plan

From ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN:

"In a move designed to demonstrate amateur utilization of the 33 cm. through 9 cm. amateur bands, the ARRL Board established a UHF Band Plan Committee at its July 2011 meeting. This committee, described in Minute 39 of the meeting minutes, has been populated. Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR will be its chair. Remaining members are ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, retired ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI Central Division Vice Director Rod Blocksome, K0DAS and Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI.



"This committee will work in cooperation with the National Band Plan Threat Assessment committee chaired by International Affairs VP Jay Bellows, K0QB."

As outlined in Minute 39, the committee shall present a preliminary report containing recommended Band Plans at the 2012 ARRL Board of Directors Second (July) Meeting. The general charges to the Committee are:

1. To determine current band usage in the United States.
2. To seek input and comments from the amateur community.
3. To consider international issues.
4. To look toward emerging technology and projected future usage.
5. To keep the ad hoc National Broadband Plan Committee apprised of its progress.
6. To, above all else, be conducive to increasing amateur usage in these bands.

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The primary purpose of this committee is to map the use of the 33 cm through 9 cm. band segments by amateurs and to determine how best to expand this usage. As directed in item 2, the committee will obtain input from amateurs on current use as well as of any steps that may be developed to increase our use of these frequencies.

### **Ohio State Parks on the Air**

The Ohio State Parks on the Air is a contest that is unique to Ohio. It is sponsored by the Portage County ARS and will occur on September 10. The contest involves working as many portable or mobile stations operating from Ohio State Parks as possible. Stations operating from Ohio State Parks work any other station. Stations outside Ohio State Parks work only stations operating from these parks. The operation runs for 12 hours from noon to midnight.

QSOs may be made using AM, SSB, CW and Digital on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands.

Full details are at <http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/index.php>. Certificates and plaques are available in six categories.

### **FCC to Raise Fee for Vanity Call Signs**

On August 10, the FCC announced via a Final Rule in the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 90 cents, from \$13.30 to \$14.20. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 9, 2011, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

### **US Officially Proposes New Amateur Band**

The World Radio Conference (WRC 2012) will address Agenda item 1.23 that will "consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services . . ." The US proposal to this agenda item is a proposal to make the frequencies from 415-526.5 kHz to secondary amateur use.

This is a simplification of the technical wording of the US proposal; however, amateurs have demonstrated the ability to co-exist in harmony with primary uses such as currently exist on this proposed band. The bottom line is that our Department of State will recommend that amateurs receive a new amateur band just below the AM broadcast band.

### **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](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events). To have your hamfest sanctioned, go to <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



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provided the simple procedure for ordering them is followed.

10 Sep: Louisville Sunrise Hamfest, Shepherds-ville, KY

10 Sep: GRAHamfest 2011, Wyoming, MI

11 Sep: Great Lakes Division Convention/Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH

(QSL Checking) - Gary, Jim

17 Sep: Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY - Jim

18 Sep: GCARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH (QSL Checking)- Jim

18 Sep: Adrian ARC Hamfest, Adrian, MI

25 Sep: Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Berea, OH - Jim

4 Oct: OH-KY-IN Meeting, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

16 Oct: Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI (QSL

Checking)

23 Oct: 26th Annual USECA Hamfest, Sterling Heights, MI

29 Oct: Hazard Hamfest, Hazard, KY (venue change: <http://www.kmarc.net>

<<http://www.kmarc.net>> )

30 Oct: Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, OH:

5 Nov: Grant ARC Hamfest, Georgetown, OH - Jim

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## Heathkit Returns to parking. the Kit Business

*From the ARRL Letter, 8/25/2011*

A notice on the Heathkit [website](#) announces that the venerable kit manufacturer, well-known to all Amateur Radio operators of a certain age, will be reentering the kit business in late August. The notice states, in part: "Heathkit will debut their new line of Do-it-Yourself kits for common around-the-house items. The first kit will be a Garage Parking Assistant (GPA). The Garage Parking Assistant kit lets you build your own system that uses ultrasonic sound waves to locate your car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for

"The GPA-100 kit consists of two primary assemblies -- the LED Display in kit form and the pre-assembled ultrasonic range module. The kit will include everything you need to complete the project except a soldering iron and hand tools.

"Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit followed by many more. Heathkit wants to continue to bring to its customers interesting, unique Heathkit products. Heathkit is interested in learning what types of products kit builders would like to build. Kit builders can submit their suggestions through this website using the Contact Us email."

Although there's no indication that Heathkit Educational Systems is

planning to reenter the Amateur Radio market, the St Joseph, Michigan-based company is actively looking for kit suggestions.

After several decades of successful kit manufacturing, Heathkit left the kit business in 1992. Heath sold Amateur Radio equipment, at first only kits and later its own line of non-kit products, from 1954 to 1992. The company has been sold a number of times since its founding back in 1912 as an aircraft company.



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