

Vol. 2007, #12
December 2007



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



There will be no VE exam session in December. Exams will resume January 14, 2008. Please contact Lyle Hamilton at (513) 315-4032 or ab8sh@arrl.net to make an appointment.

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Dates to Remember:

- Dec 10 – NKARC/KY7ARET Christmas Dinner
- Jan 14 – 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.

Nets

NKARC Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

—WEB Site—

<http://www.k4co.org>

Membership meetings on the **2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd
in Edgewood

Board meetings: TBA

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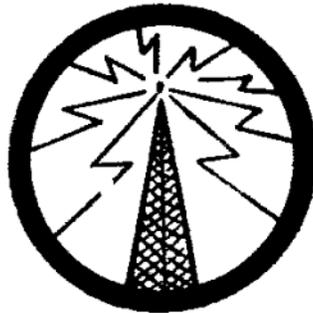
Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last day of the month prior to publication.

Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Mark

Volstad AI4BJ: 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 — Email: mvolstad@fuse.net

Top of the Tower

Top of the Tower was not received as of publication deadline.



November Net Report

If you are interested in helping the club out and expanding your Amateur Radio skill set, please take a turn at running one of our weekly nets! This is a great way to hone your radio, net control, and message handling skills in a friendly environment. If you are interested, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at (859) 426-5588 or n4ijs@insightbb.com.

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
11/06/07	N4IJS (Robert)	3	6	0
11/13/07	KG4SBG (Dennis)	5	28	0
11/20/07	N4IJS (Robert)	7	15	0
11/27/07	KG4SBG (Dennis)	11	41	0
TOTALS		26	90	0

Editor's Soapbox

The Future of Amateur Radio

Despite my better judgment, I often wander over to the eHam web site to see what the latest slugfest is about. (I'm not one to rubberneck at the scene of an accident, so I'm not sure what explains my behavior.) One central theme seems to constantly emerge, regardless of the original topic of conversation: Ham radio is dying.

I've only had my ticket for four years, but I get the sense that hams have been making this dire prediction almost since the hobby began some one hundred years ago! The reasons that are currently being put forth for our hobby's imminent demise include, in no particular order:

The Morse proficiency requirement was the only thing keeping our hobby alive. Now that it has been eliminated, the end draws nigh.

Ham radio cannot compete with video games, cell phones and iPods for the attention of young would-be hams.

Ham radio operators have become appliance operators who do not understand the technical side of our hobby.

Ham radio is obsolete.

Well! Where to begin?

I was ambivalent about the FCC's decision earlier this year to drop Morse Code proficiency as a prerequisite for HF operating privileges, but I am now convinced that it was the right thing to do. It was simply an unnecessary impediment to countless otherwise highly qualified individuals who wanted access to the HF bands. CW will remain a popular mode, since it has several distinct advantages over other modes.

It is true that ham radio does not appeal to the younger generation as it once did, but this is not

necessarily a bad omen. As I can attest from my involvement as a VE, there continues to be a steady influx of middle-aged newcomers. These people have the time, the patience and the money to invest in the hobby. We *do* need to promote our hobby as much as we can, so that the general public remains aware that we are "still out there".

It is also true that there is less emphasis on the technical side of our hobby than there once was. The availability of quality, relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf gear has taken away much of the motivation for home-brewing our own rigs. If it ever becomes difficult to purchase a new, manufactured rig, *then* I will become concerned that the hobby is dying, because it will mean that there is no longer a viable market for these products!

The final argument — *ham radio is obsolete* — is probably a technically accurate statement. But so what? Sailboats were made obsolete by the invention of the steam engine 150 years ago, but I'll bet that there are more sailboats afloat on the world's waters today than at any other time in human history. Why? Because, like ham radio, sailing is *fun*!

With that said, here are my brave predictions for the New Year:

- The same Henny Pennys who are predicting the end of ham radio will continue to contradict themselves by complaining about how congested the bands are with contesters!
- The sunspots will finally return!
- A Democrat or a Republican will be elected as our next president in November.

I wish you and those close to you a joyous and safe holiday season!

73, Mark, AI4BJ

November Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2007, MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Tony White at 7:35 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School.

Joe Stern led the group in the Pledge to the Flag. Tony gave a message of thanks to all veterans. Self introductions followed.

The treasurer's report was accepted as reported by Dan Fox.

The October minutes were approved as they appeared in the Feedline.

Lyle Hamilton reported that of the four people tested this evening, there were two upgrades and one new licensee.

Tony White reported that the KY7ET S. E. T. staged in October went very well. KY7ET also supplied a VE team on November 8, to administer test to students at Dixie Heights High School.

Tony announced that the Christmas dinner will

be held on December 10 at the Golden Coral on Houston Road in Florence at 6:45 p.m. (**Note:** This is a different Golden Corral restaurant than last year's.)

The following members were voted into office: Dann Fox, KI4AVO, President; Gregg Hatton, KG4ZTG, Vice President; and Don King, AJ4DK, Director at Large.

Greg May had sensors that detect light and dark available for the asking.

Tony White reported that Dixie Heights High School now has an amateur radio club. They have applied for the call KY4DH. This is a unique class because the students receive high school credit for successfully completing the course.

After pizza and kit building, the membership drifted away without a formal adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Burns, AB4BK

The NKARC/KY7ARET Christmas dinner will be held Monday, December 10, 2007 at 6:45, in lieu of the usual monthly club meeting. The QTH will be the Golden Corral on Houston Road in the Turfway Park area. Golden Corral is in front of the Lowes and Biggs stores. Attendees will be expected to pay for their own dinners. Please join us for good fellowship and good food!

Weaver's Words

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

First and foremost, I hope you each had a great Thanksgiving. It was a pleasant day in SW Ohio. I hope yours was at least as nice.

International Humanitarian Award

Nominations are still open for the 2007 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. If you know of a ham who has provided extraordinary service to others and this service has involved Amateur Radio on an International basis, please submit a nomination by December 31 to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111. Details of the award are at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>.

AM Privileges -- Under Attack?

Definitely not! A few members contacted me with questions about the possible impact on US hams of a bandplan adopted by Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union -- IARU. The answer to the question is that the Region 2 bandplan has no impact on US hams.

For background, the IARU is the International organization of national Amateur Radio societies from around the world. These societies include the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and the ARRL. Region 2 of the IARU covers the Western hemisphere. IARU cannot issue legally-binding rules or regulations.

There are three regions in the IARU. Each of the regions has a voluntary bandplan. The Region 1 and Region 3 bandplans preceded the Region 2 plan. IARU Region 2 held a conference a few weeks ago. Among other actions, it adopted its new recommended bandplan during this conference.

It is critical to understand that this recommended bandplan has absolutely no relevance to countries such as Canada and the US which have federal agencies (e.g. the FCC) that define and regulate Amateur Radio bands. In addition, IARU bandplans are merely recommendations to amateurs in countries that do not have such government agencies. There is no force of law behind the voluntary bandplans.



The concern of some amateurs seems to be that the FCC will adopt the Region 2 bandplan; thereby reducing the US's frequency allocation for AM. One writer from the GLD said the FCC has previously adopted a number of practices recommended by the IARU. To this moment, he has not responded to my request to identify just which IARU recommended actions were picked up and adopted by the Commission. Similarly, a writer from outside the GLD has accused IARU President Larry Price, W4RA of a written attempt to manipulate International Treaty to reduce AM privileges. To date, he too, has not responded to my request for a reference to the source of his accusation.

Finally, CQ Magazine has jumped into the fray by accusing ARRL of using the recent IARU Conference to further regulation by bandwidth. I enjoy reading CQ; however, as much as I enjoy reading it I equally strongly assure you that its editor has gotten caught-up in bad journalism. The basis for the editorial appears merely to be ARRL's publicly-acknowledged support of regulation by bandwidth and the fact that the Region 2 bandplan specified bandwidths. This logic is similar to claiming $1 + 1 = 6$.

The fact is that ARRL did not participate in developing this bandplan. We had no representation on the bandplan committee. Could it be that in reality, the plan was developed in its present form because the delegates who drafted it believe this is the way it should be and that there was no dastardly conspiracy after all? Or is it too hard to believe in this day of ever-present conspiracy theories is it too much to expect that some things are done in a fully responsible manner?

The bottom line to this small flurry of concern by some AM colleagues is that the Region 2 bandplan represents nothing to worry about. The IARU has no impact on US FCC regulations . . . the FCC has no apparent intent to act against AM in the foreseeable future . . . the ARRL has no thought of recommending the FCC take action against AM . . . and I will vote against any effort to get ARRL to recommend action against AM.

My recommendation to AM operators is to relax and enjoy your favorite form of Amateur Radio . . . for a long time.

BPL and Related Issues

You will recall that the ARRL has brought suit against the FCC in Federal Court in the District of Columbia. Although BPL is listed as the prime issue in the suit, it is far from the only issue. The issue that is at least equal to BPL is FCC's ruling that give Part 15 devices (including BPL) precedence over licensed radio services such as Amateur Radio under some circumstances. Part 15 devices are not licensed and have previously been allowed to radiate signals only provided they did not cause interference to licensed services.

ARRL's day in court was a couple of weeks ago. We don't expect to hear anything from the judges for up to six months. If we win, we expect the Court to direct the FCC to review its decisions concerning BPL. In this situation, we would expect FCC to develop BPL regulations that are more realistic and consistent with the historic action of the Commission. It is not a guarantee either that we will win or that our expectation will be fulfilled if we win.

Still on the topic of BPL, we may be seeing the early stages of its novelty wearing off. The FCC reported there has been a sharp decline in the number of homes using BPL for the past year. Consistent with this observation, Duke Energy announced it will not expand its current use of BPL. Duke also said it has no plans to discontinue BPL in present markets such as Cincinnati.

The final comment on BPL is that the new installation for the Lansing, MI, area is reported to use a "non-interfering" version of BPL. The BPL provider has worked with the ARRL laboratory in developing its system.

ARRL Committee Studying Field Organization

Many of you may be aware that the Programs & Services Committee of the ARRL Board has been tasked with studying the governance of the Field Service organization. As a member of this Committee, I can say that we are reviewing the present design and operation of Field Services to see if changes or improvements should be made.

As one phase of the Committee's search for information, a survey was taken of the 73 Section Managers in ARRL. Similarly, Board members and officers were surveyed.

Nothing in the study has been predetermined. The study has not been set-up to obtain pre-designated conclusions and actions. All aspects of the field organization are being reviewed.

Director - Vice Director Elections Ahead

Elections for the Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director will be held next year. Even though the call for nominations will not be made until July and August, it is not too early for members to consider making a run for either of these offices.

As usual, I encourage eligible members to run for office. I especially encourage members who are dissatisfied with the way I have been performing the duties of the director to toss their hats in the ring. Similarly, I encourage people who feel they can perform the duties of the Vice Director to run for this office.

ARRL is a democratic organization. I firmly believe that members who do not run for office or do not vote in ARRL elections have no right to complain about decisions elected officials make. Although the topic at this moment is the election of directors and vice directors, I hold the same opinion regarding the election of section managers.

The following excerpt from the ARRL By-Laws addresses most aspects of elections for Director and Vice Director. I thought everyone should have the opportunity to become aware of this important information.

17. Each director shall keep himself informed as to conditions and activities in his territorial division and as to the needs and desires of the members therein in order



that he may faithfully and intelligently represent the true interests of such members. He shall attend all meetings of the Board. At least 14 days prior to each annual meeting of the Board of Directors each director is encouraged to file with the Secretary a written report on the status of the affairs of the League in his division, together with a statement of his recommendations as to any actions required for the effective administration of the objectives and affairs of the League.

18. In the July and August issues of QST, the Secretary shall solicit nominations for the office of Director in each division in which the term of the incumbent is to expire on the subsequent January 1, in a notice that shall include the name of the incumbent. On any date between the appearance of the first solicitation for same in QST and noon Eastern Time on the second Friday of August of any election year, any Full member of such division may request official nominating petition forms. To constitute a valid nomination, the original copy of such an official nominating petition form as provided by the Secretary must name a Full member of the division as a candidate for Director; must be signed by ten or more Full members of the division; must be accompanied by a statement signed by the candidate attesting to his eligibility, willingness to run, and willingness to assume the office if elected; and must be filed with the Secretary no later than noon Eastern Time on the third Friday of August of that year. Only original documents shall be accepted by the Secretary, and he is not authorized to accept facsimiles of any kind. The Secretary shall immediately acknowledge the receipt of nominations to the candidate, and shall forward the nominations to the Ethics and Elections Committee.

19. The Ethics and Elections Committee shall delete the name of any nominee who may be ineligible to election and the name of any who may withdraw by written communication. The remaining names shall be listed on a ballot, in alphabetical order. If there be but one eligible nominee, the Ethics and Elections Committee shall declare him elected without balloting by the membership. If there be more than one eligible nominee, then on or before October 1 of each year the Secretary shall send by mail to every person who on the tenth day of September of that year was a full member of the League in the divisions in which elections are being held, a ballot listing the candidates for director in his division, and a return envelope, soliciting a vote for one name.

The ballot shall contain a copy of By-Laws 18 and 20.

20. The Ethics and Elections Committee shall appoint a committee of three tellers including at least one director and shall arrange to have a certified public accountant present to certify the results of the balloting; but any member of the League who shall deliver to the Secretary on or before the first day of October of election year a written petition signed by at least ten full members of a division, stating their desire that he witness the counting by the committee of tellers of the ballots from that division, shall be permitted to do so and shall be accorded reasonable opportunity to satisfy himself of the correctness of the count reported by the committee. Ballots, to be counted, shall reach the mailing address established for their return no later than noon Eastern Time on the third Friday of November of election year. No outer envelopes marked as containing ballots shall be opened until the meeting of the committee of tellers held for the purpose of counting the ballots. The committee of tellers shall meet at the headquarters office of the League as soon thereafter as possible and in the presence of each other shall open the envelopes containing ballots and shall count the vote, after first eliminating the ballot of anyone disqualified from voting. They shall forthwith prepare and sign in the name of the Ethics and Elections Committee a report of the results of the vote, declaring duly elected as new directors the candidate in each division receiving the greatest number of votes therein; and they shall turn over all their records and ballots to the Secretary for presentation at the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

In addition to other considerations, a candidate for director or vice director must have been a licensed amateur and a full member of ARRL for four continuous years. Licensing and membership must continue throughout the elected term of a successful candidate.

A Poll - Your Input, Please

The ARRL Letter is published weekly throughout the year with only a couple of exceptions. This past week (Thanksgiving) is one of the exceptions to this regular publication schedule. There is no ARRL Letter during Thanksgiving week. One of our GLD members feels rather strongly about this.

What I want to learn is how you feel about interruptions of this type in the publication schedule. To make it easy to express your general opinion, please send an e-mail to

me and include two pieces of information. These are the number (listed below) that expresses your feeling about this issue and your call sign.

The number: Please use one of the following three numbers to express your opinion -

3 - Drop other things at HQ to get the ARRL Letter out every week -- no exceptions.

2 - I'd prefer the Letter comes out every week, but occasional lapses are no big deal.

1 - I really don't care if an occasional week is missed.

Don't forget to add your call sign. Also, if you wish to discuss your choice, feel free to add the discussion below your numeric vote. Thanks.

Tentative Travel Schedule

Dec 1: Motor City RC 75th Ann., Wyandotte, MI - Jim

Dec 8: Programs & Services Committee, Newington, CT - Jim

2008

Jan 17: Programs & Services Committee, Houston, TX - Jim

Jan 18-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Houston, TX - Gary & Jim

Apr 14: PCARS (OH) Meeting - Jim

October 18 Tornado Responses

Extracted from The ARES E-Letter, November 29 2007 (Rick Palm, KICE, Editor)

On October 18, a strong low pressure system centered over Minnesota touched off major thunderstorms throughout Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and to the panhandle of Florida. These storms produced about 35 tornados.

In Kentucky, SKYWARN was activated for the largest October tornado outbreak ever seen in the region. Eight tornadoes spun across the area. The strongest was an EF3 that destroyed homes in southeastern Clark County, Indiana. Fortunately no lives were lost. Tornado warnings were issued throughout the state, and SKYWARN activated a net at the Louisville NWS using the call sign WX4NWS. Ten counties in Kentucky were affected, with 50 ops activating. The KY4KY net handled 50 mes-



sages for the Louisville National Weather Service. - EC Stu Kratz, WX4ME, wx4me@msn.com

In Kentucky's District 3, four separate tornado tracks flew through Daviess County. SKYWARN was activated there, with 18 participants. The Henderson County ARES responded with communications support and damage assessment after the EF3 tornado went through downtown Owensboro. ARES provided communication between the Red Cross shelter and the Red Cross headquarters in the days following the event. All of the counties in the district communicated during the event via the District's 145.330 MHz repeater in Owensboro to relay information to each other as the storms passed through. -- Kevin Simmons, KI4JXN, simmonskm@owensboro.org

QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments:

Normally, a QSO with a station in New York would hardly be considered “rare DX”, but if that station happens to be United Nations Headquarters, then it is indeed a QSO worthy of note. That’s because the station has not been very active in recent years. It can only be used by UN staff, or by their invited guests.

The May 2004 issue of QST magazine (pg.87) contains an interesting article about the station. It is situated in the penthouse above the 39th floor. Current antennas include a multi-band dipole and a vertical. When not in use, the station forms a part of the NCDXF [beacon network](#) which can be used to check real-time propagation to different parts of the world. Having an antenna up that high must be great, but can you imagine what the local noise level must be like in midtown Manhattan!?



If you have a special QSL card you would like to share, submit it to the Feedline editor, along with any comments you would like included.

Return to:
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Covington, Ky. 41012

**FIRST
CLASS**



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