



The Feedline

Field Day Revisited

"CQ field day, kilo four charlie oscar, Kentucky four commanding officer, field day."

"PzssEEssRRRRzzecho sierra."

"Ending echo sierra?"

"Kilo nine echo sierra."

"Kilo nine echo sierra, four alpha Kentucky."

"RepzzzssRRr section?"

"Four alpha Kentucky, four alpha kilo yankee, QSL?"

"QSL, please copy five alpha Florida from K9ES."

"Roger, thank you and good luck from kilo four charlie oscar, QRZed."

If you were at Banklick Woods on Field Day, you heard a lot of that. Quick contest type exchanges, over six hundred of them, with stations as close as Cincinnati and as far away as British Columbia, Honduras, and the Virgin Islands. Much time wasted trying to break the pileup on the Honolulu station. Getting many stations on the first try, some on the fourth try, some never. Learning that mosquitoes love your right ankle but won't touch your left ankle (I still haven't figured out

that one, but my right ankle still itches). Meeting the person behind that voice you heard checking in on the nets. Watching a new ham make his first HF QSO. Swallowing half a hot dog whole so you can call that station who just came on. Listening to the white noise in your radio spell out K4CO in CW. Pulling that QRP station out from under the noise and QRM. Finding a clear frequency right in the middle of all the mayhem and holding it for half an hour calling CQ and working stations one per minute. Going half an hour without a QSO and then working 6 in the next 5 minutes. Watching swallows do aerial acrobatics chasing insects through the aerials.

All this is half of what Field Day is all about. The other half is the people. Thanks to all who came, whether you operated, helped put up antennas, took them down afterward, loaned us your equipment, or just came to show your support, we thank you. A special thanks to Tim, AG4XM, who did most of the preparation and publicity, set up the logging computers and took care of the paperwork, and Dann, KI4AVO, who kept us well fed. Field Day is definitely habit-forming, and always the fourth full weekend of June.

73,
Joe Stern, KI4QG

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 7 – Paddlefest
- July 9 – Membership Meeting
- July 29 – Flight of the Bumblebees!
- Aug 13 – 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

N. KY. Amateur Club 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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Field Day 2007, in Pictures



Photos submitted by
Dann Fox, KI4AVO



June Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
6/05/07	KG4SBG	5	15	0
6/12/07	KB4VKS	4	12	1
6/19/07	KG4SBG	10	28	0
6/26/07	KG4SBG	10	25	2
TOTALS		29	80	3

Field Day 2007, in Pictures



Editor's Soapbox

What a Blast!

Field Day 2007 is now history, and from accounts from across the country, it was a great success. My own B1 (solar-charged battery) backyard operation went off without a hitch. The tent stayed relatively cool throughout, and I didn't have to resort to soaking my feet in a basin of ice water to stay conscious like I did in the 100-degree heat two years ago! The antenna I used was my tried and true 40-meter doublet, supported by a 33-ft fiberglass mast and fed with open-wire feedline. The ATU (automatic antenna tuner) in my K2 has no trouble matching it on all bands, even 80m. I managed to complete 239 QSOs, 197 of which were CW.



Perhaps it was due to the fact that 15 and 10 meters were essentially useless this year, but 40 and 20 were jam-packed from beginning to end. Field Day reinforces my belief that CW is a much more efficient communication mode, particularly in congested band conditions. It seemed to me that most Phone QSOs, with their endless requests for repeats, took twice as long to complete as CW QSOs. And I'm talking about contacts that I monitored between high-powered stations, not just QSOs that I participated in myself. With CW, you just crank down the crystal filter in your rig until the QRM disappears. It is not often that two CW signals end up so close to each other that they cannot be separated.



I operated exclusively in search & pounce mode. It's no secret that if you really want to ramp up your QSO rate, you need to be able to hold a frequency and call CQ yourself. On CW, this is not difficult to do with a QRP station, provided that you have an efficient antenna system. My goal for next year is to do exactly that, and reach 400 QSOs!

Judging from internet chatter and actual on-air activity that I've observed in the past several months, it seems that interest in learning and using CW is actually increasing now that the pressure of *having* to learn it in order to obtain HF privileges has been removed. Predictable, perhaps, but still a bit ironic, don't you think?

CW, anyone?

If any club members are looking for a "code buddy" to practice their CW with, let me know, and we'll set up a schedule! Nothing beats on-air practice for improving your skill.

For those of you who can't wait 12 months for the next Field Day, the Flight of the Bumblebees (my 2nd favorite operating event of the year) is coming up on July 29! For more info, see

<http://www.arsqrp.com> .

Dah-dah-di-di-dit, di-di-di-dah-dah,
Mark, AI4BJ

June Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tony White at 7:31 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School. Tony led us in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed. There were 23 names on the sign in sheet

Dann Fox presented the treasurer's report. Charles Samuel made the motion to accept the report. Lynn Ernst seconded. The motion passed. Paper copies of the report were available for those in attendance.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted with one correction: John Meyer led the pledge to the flag. The motion was made by John Bennett, and seconded by Harold Blocher.

Lynn Ernst reported that our participation in the ADA Bike-a-thon was a success and that we have been asked to participate next year on June 6, 2008. Thanks were given to Harold Blocher for his efforts getting the 147.375 repeater on the air for this event.

Lynn also reported that 5 or 6 more operators are needed for Paddle Fest on July 7. Please let Lynn know if you can participate. You must sign up to volunteer on the web site www.ohioriverway.org at least one week before the event. Volunteers should have a hand held and a cell phone. No special training is required to volunteer for this event.

Lyle Hamilton reported that 3 out of 4 passed their exams in the VE session tonight.

Dann Fox passed around a sign up sheet for equipment that anyone can bring to Field Day. Joe Stern added that rope, coax, jumper cables (coax), wire, and tuners are just a few of the items that are often needed at Field Day. Joe drew a map of the site and said that there is plenty of room for antennas at the site. All are welcome to participate in Field Day regardless of experience. A special "Get on the Air" station will be in operation for newcomers.

Harold Blocher explained how and why the 147.375 repeater kept shorting out, and how he fixed it.

Frank Austin will take over as Net Manager. We would like to have more net control volunteers. The net preamble is on the club's web site.

Mark Volstad had his Elecraft KX1 QRP transceiver available for a show and tell demonstration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. John Donnelly made the motion. Kim Blocher seconded.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Burns, AB4BK

Weaver's Words

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

Ham radio offers too many Options?

It can be argued that the most major problem facing Amateur Radio is that we have been too successful. We have been too successful at obtaining and developing frequency bands, and in developing and using a wide variety of modes to use in our operating.

To follow the logic, take a moment from reading this e-letter and think of the many operating options we hams have. Think, too, about the wide range of frequency bands from

160M through those that are miniscule in length. To name just a few, there are Morse code, AM, FM, RTTY, a variety of digital modes, FSK, AFSK, variations of TV, facsimile and then we have frequencies that range through much of the wide world of spectra. The bottom line is that each of us, if we wish, has many modes of operation and many frequency choices we can use and enjoy. So, what is wrong with this?

The problem is that in our nearsightedness, we have become extremely fragmented as hams instead of remaining a cohesive group. During the past few decades we have allowed ourselves in many instances to think our personal choices of operating styles, modes and frequency ranges are the only choices "real" amateurs could possibly make. We have, for example, many VHF aficionados who see no value in HF. We have many devotees of cutting-edge digital modes who see no value in CW or AM -- the older modes of communication.

There are SSBers who are so infuriated with AMers they would nearly commit murder to clear the bands of the AM clutter. But, it isn't always new mode vs. old mode. Some of our devoted CW ops think broadband digital should be banned because it is nothing more than a nuisance. Yes, indeed, we are equal prejudice individuals.

I could name additional ham-to-ham prejudices, but I think you get the idea.

So, who or what is hurt by these prejudices? Amateur Radio is. These prejudices divide us into splinter groups. We have become VHF hams, digital hams, anti-CW hams, anti-AM hams. We are Contesters or anti-Contesters. We are "its my frequency" ragchewers. Instead of pulling together for the benefit of all of hamming, all too many amateurs feel they

hold no stake when "the other guy's" idea of ham radio is threatened by attacks from the government or industry. As one example, many HSMM-hams couldn't care less if the FCC proposed abolishing all privileges for Morse code operating. Conversely, many CW ops would do little more than smile if broadband digital was ruled illegal on ham frequencies.

Regardless of the misconception by one "side" or another, all of Amateur Radio loses any time the FCC begins to withdraw privileges -- modes or frequencies -- from another phase. Clearly, I won't now or in the future vote in favor of any proposals to have the FCC "modernize" Amateur Radio (as some hams would view it) by banning AM or by limiting the privileges of Morse or other forms of operation preferred by anyone.



Unfortunately, Amateur Radio has become a marginally functioning, if not nonfunctioning, family in many instances. We find brother ham fighting brother ham, and sister ham bad mouthing sister ham merely because their operating preferences are different. This is no way to develop a winning team whether it is baseball, football, doubles tennis, an army . . . or a strong lobbying (advocacy) team.

Actually, I will correct my initial supposition. We hams don't have too many choices. Worse than this, we have too little maturity in thought to manage the privileges we have been given for our common good.

The real question is, "Why don't we all act like emotionally stable people and work together to our mutual benefit?" Just think what a formidable force for each other's good we would make if we would speak and act in unison.

Coming soon

In a few days, I will send you a "proper" questionnaire. I hope you will take the few minutes required to answer it. It will provide me with information on topics that may be discussed while I am in Newington for the Board of Directors meeting later this month. This questionnaire is "proper" because it is a click-on-your-answer, automatically-tabulated one. This questionnaire is being sent to three Divisions.

While the new questionnaire is open, I will be working to review the previous, low-tech one sent you a few weeks ago.

Congratulations Blossomland Youth ARC

Congratulations to the Blossomland Youth ARC, W8BYC, of Berrien County, MI. A relatively new club, it is formed of

young amateurs who largely came into Amateur Radio through the fine efforts of Matt Severin, N8MS. Matt, a teacher at Coloma Junior High School in Coloma MI, has incorporated Amateur Radio into his classes thanks to his personal drive and the support of his principal and a grant through the ARRL Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive program.

As of June 20, Matt had 17 students who had participated in ham club and Amateur Radio activities. Ten of these students had become Technician licensees through the school program. Six of the Techs are working toward upgrading to General.

Matt, in turn, is planning for a new freshman class this fall and the challenge of introducing it to the wonderful world of hamming.

Great job, Matt. Thanks and continued success with your program.

US House and Senate bills would kill Amateur Radio

This is what lead stories in QST back in 1910-12 would have read, if there had been a QST back then. It was in these years that some dozen and a half bills were presented in the US House and the US Senate to outlaw Amateur Radio. These bills were backed by the US Navy. The Navy wanted full charge over the use of ham-free radio waves. Hams and their spark gap transmitters caused disruptive QRM to military and important civilian communication. One 1912 bill would have placed the ownership and control of all transmitting stations under the Navy.

With such a political force behind ban-the-ham legislation, why didn't one of the bills make it through Congress and become signed by the President?

Hams, themselves, came together to lobby their US Representatives and Senators so heavily and successfully that each of the bills died. Even back in the early days of Amateur Radio, individual amateurs, banded together in advocacy (lobby) efforts successfully to beat overwhelming odds against them.

There was no ARRL in 1912, but there were a few relatively large local organizations. Among these were the Harvard Wireless Club, Rhode Island Wireless Association, Wireless Association of Pennsylvania and Junior Wireless Club which became better known as the Radio Club of America. The clubs in their individual ways worked nearly as one to lobby successfully against anti-ham legislation. No "no-ham" bills made it through Congress thanks to the lobbying effort of the burgeoning Amateur Radio fraternity.

Finally, a modified bill passed Congress and was signed by President Taft who signed it into law. This first US radio law became best known for making frequencies longer than 200 meters off-limits to hams. The phrase, "200 meters and

down" grew out of this feature of the law. The feature also relegated amateurs to supposedly-useless frequencies -- frequencies that subsequently proved to be the most useful on and surrounding earth.

Division Convention

Don't forget the Great Lakes Division Convention on September 22 in Cleveland. This is the day before the Cleveland Hamfest. For full information, go to <http://www.2007gldc.com/>. One can even make reservations for a hotel room from this site.

One feature of these biannual conventions is the special awards that are made to Division amateurs. Topping the list is the George S. Wilson, III, W4OYI, Lifetime Achievement Award. For you who don't recall, George is the only ARRL President to come from our Division. He continues to live in Owensville, KY and is a strong support of ARRL. The Convention features interesting and informative seminars on several aspects of Amateur Radio topics. These are given by top-notch hams in the respective areas. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN will speak at the Convention dinner on Saturday evening. At other times, he will be available for casual discussion. Watch for further information. Remaining, prestigious awards that will be given are the Amateur of the Year Award, the Technical Achievement Award and the Newsletter of the Year Award.

Nominations for all but the newsletter award are made by GLD ARRL members. Nominations need to reach the Awards Committee no later than 5 PM, August 17. They may be e-mailed or sent by US Mail. The addresses are on the nomination forms. If you know of a deserving nominee, please go to the Convention web site and print out or complete the nominating form. The winning newsletter is selected by an independent member of the press from among the winners of each Section's newsletter contest.

HR 462 alive; needs support

There is still time to write your US Representative urging his or her support of HR 462. If you haven't done this, yet, please write, soon. If you need me to send the boilerplate draft letter to you, again, just send me an e-mail and I'll get it to you right away. We cannot afford the luxury of remaining mostly an indifferent group if we want the FCC, Congress and the public to respect Amateur Radio and support its legitimate needs. Each of us who are concerned about Amateur Radio needs to demonstrate this concern and do what we can to support it. As I see it, the least we each can do is to send a letter, an e-mail or a FAX.

Just a reminder: Do not write to your US Senator at this time. The time to urge support for the Senate version of HR 462 will come in the future. Don't write to a US Senator about Hr



462, either. This bill is in the House, only. Generally, Senators are not even aware of bills that are in the house.

One of the many ARRL services to members

George A. Guerin, K8GG, of Ceresco, MI, reminded me of one of the fine services ARRL offers to members. Members are eligible to receive notices when it is time to renew their ham licenses. The notice also give direction on a quick and easy way to renew them online.

George said it took only 12 minutes for him to renew, even though he uses dial up. George is all set for 10 more years.

If you haven't signed up for this free ARRL member service, go to the Membership Modification Form (Member Data Page) in Members Only on www.ARRL.org. Make certain the box in front of "Notification of license expiration" is checked. Just as George received an e-mail reminding of his pending license expiration, HQ will e-mail a reminder of this to you.

Thanks for the fine comment, George.

Got a Patch?

A police department shoulder patch is the type being discussed. It seems that the head of the ARRL DX Department, Bill Moore, NC1L was a military police officer. In his life-after-the-military he collects patches from police departments around the US. Retired-but-still-consulting Blue Ash, OH detective Rick Burdick, K8WWA recently learned this and sent a Blue Ash patch to Bill for his collection.

I am fairly certain we have still additional police officers among the GLD membership. I am more certain that Bill would appreciate receiving a patch from each of your departments. If you can come up with a patch, please mail it to Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Bill is a great guy, a top-notch ham; an excellent worker devoted to Amateur Radio and fires-up a mean grill at cook outs.

Our Letter Writing Campaign is Showing Success

We haven't won the war, yet, but our letter writing campaign on HR 462 is showing success. Success, of course, can be judged in many ways. The ultimate in success in this instance is to have a Congressman/woman pony up and co-sponsor the bill. The next level is to receive a reply to your letter that demonstrates the Congressman read, understood and supports the basic premise that licensed radio services -- including Amateur Radio -- must be protected from callous QRM from unlicensed services (Part 15).

I haven't seen that any of our Division's Congressmen have become co-signers, yet, but feedback from Janet Worthington

of Chwat & Company is there are a few who are considering becoming co-sponsors. In addition to these Representatives, others are replying to Chwat and to Division members with quite intelligent comments that show they are pro-Amateur Radio. This is all good, of course.

Even the Representatives who reply with "bonehead" letters help us. They help when you share their replies with Chwat and me. In these situations, Janet Worthington and John Chwat are able to forearm themselves with the knowledge they need in making calls to Congressional offices on Capitol Hill most effectively. They know before they walk into the offices just what form of information will likely be most effective in bringing our legislators on board with us. In terms of tennis scoring, this means -- advantage, Amateur Radio.

To the many of you who haven't yet written to your US Representative on behalf of HR 462 . . . why not? Even if you take a pessimistic point of view, there is nothing to lose by writing and their certainly is potentially a lot to gain.

FCC Dismisses RM 11306 without Prejudice

The FCC announced it was dismissing ARRL's RM 11306 petition as we Directors had requested. This was done "without prejudice," which means someone could review the petition and re-file all or part of it at some future time.

Interestingly enough, before ARRL requested the Commission to dismiss RM 11306, nearly everyone who commented on it expressed strong opposition. However, just as soon as we requested the dismissal, we began to hear from significant numbers of members who strongly favored it.

This raises the question, "Where were these "fors" when they may have made a difference?"

Tentative Travel Schedule

Jul 12: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown, OH - Gary
Jul 19: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim
Jul 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT - Gary & Jim
Jul 28: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI - Jim
Sep 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI - Jim
Sep 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim
Sep 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH - Gary & Jim
Sep 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH - Jim
Oct 2: OH-KY-IN ARRL Night, Cincinnati, OH - Jim
Oct 8: Portage County ARS, Kent, OH - Jim
Oct 16: Branch Co. ARC, Coldwater, MI - Jim
Nov 14: Hazel Park ARC, Hazel Park, MI - Jim
Nov 19: Southern Ohio ARA Christmas Dinner, Russell, KY - Jim

QSL Card of the Month

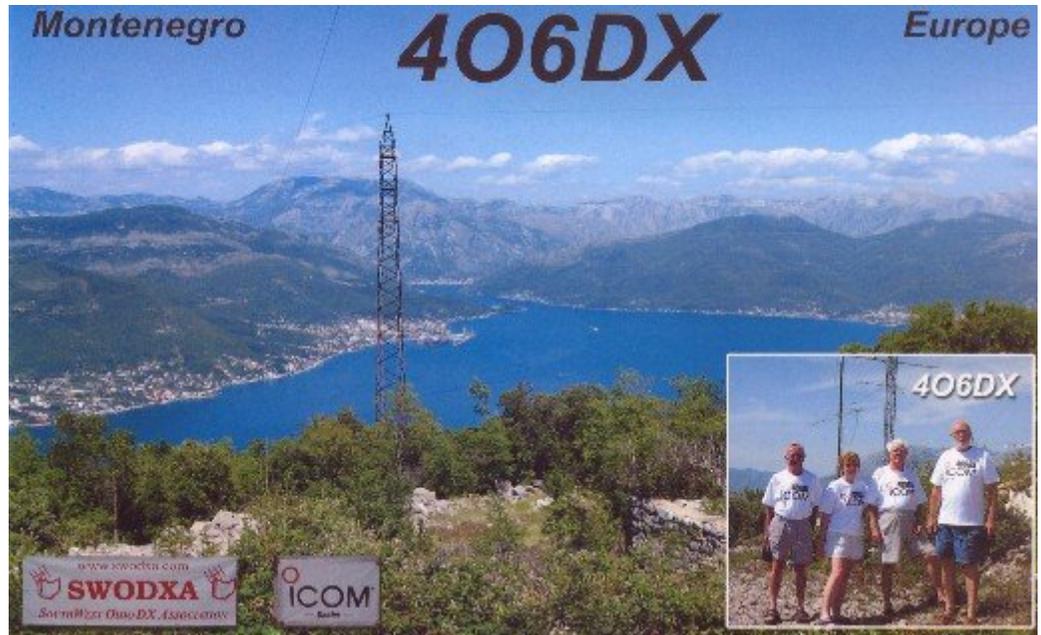
Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments:

I was fortunate to have been able to work 4O6DX last August, just two months after Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia. I didn't have to go too far for the QSL card, as the QSL manager (K8LEE) lives in Lawrenceburg, Indiana!

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.



The July NKARC meeting will include a recap of Field Day and Paddlefest – what went right, and what we can improve on next year. Please join us Monday, July 9!

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