



The Feedline

Field Day!

Field Day is one of the oldest ham radio traditions. Each year on the fourth full weekend of June, hams set up temporary stations and operate in parks, shopping malls, farms, back yards, and all sorts of unlikely places. Ask a dozen hams why and you may get a dozen different answers: To have fun, to get out in the fresh air, to socialize with other hams, to test themselves, to test their equipment, to test their new-fangled antenna design, because they can't think of any better excuse for a picnic, to get away from the wife for a weekend, to have fun with the wife for a weekend, to get away from the kids for a weekend, to show the wife or kids what ham radio is all about, or just to be able to operate at all. This list is not complete, feel free to make up your own reason or excuse to join in. You won't have to tell us why you came, we understand. We all remember our first Field Day, and have been hopelessly addicted ever since.

NKARC and KY7ARET are joining forces this year for a combined Field Day effort at Shelterhouse #2 in Banklick Woods. This facility is on high ground with restrooms, running water,

a parking lot large enough for a motor home, and trees to serve as antenna supports. Tim, AG4XM, is bringing two telescoping masts. Dan, KI4AVO, is bringing hot dogs and hamburgers. Many of us will be bringing radios and antennas. We plan to have a Get-On-The-Air station at which new or out-of-practice hams can operate HF under the watchful eye of a control operator who has the proper license class. Even novices and technicians can operate this GOTA station.

We will start setting up antennas at 6PM Friday, June 22 and will operate for 24 hours from 2PM (1800Z) Saturday until 2PM Sunday. You can camp overnight Friday and/or Saturday night. Banklick Woods is on the north side of Independence Station Rd. about 1.8 miles east of Turkeyfoot Rd. and 1.6 miles west of KY17 (Madison Pike). You can see it in the upper right portion of Map 42 in the back of your Cincinnati Bell Yellow Pages [*and on page 9 of this issue of Feedline—Ed.*]. See you there.

73,
Joe Stern, KI4QG

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 11 –Membership Meeting
- June 23,24 – Field Day
- July 7 – Paddlefest
- July 9 – Membership Meeting
- July 29 – Flight of the Bumblebees!

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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

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members
of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

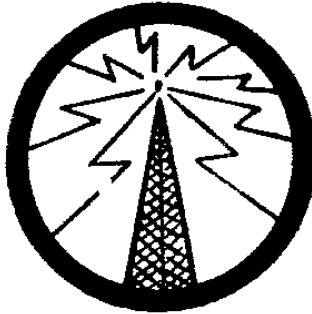
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Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publica-
tion. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor:

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

Top of the Tower

Fellow Hams: Is it really the beginning of June 2007? Have you finished any of your projects that you dreamed up over the winter? If you need help with any of your projects, ask a fellow club member. The KY7ET group was asked to help out on a recent public service event and their members and ours stepped up to the plate on short notice - thank you members! A special thanks to Brian, W4SOU for working with the American Diabetes Association as point man for our organizations. Brian overcame technical and time issues to make Amateur Radio shine. Thank you Brian!



Harold Blocher, W4YWH has been hard at work on our 147.375 repeater. His volunteer efforts have been welcomed this spring as our repeater continues to go through it's life cycle. Our repeaters have been going strong for years. It seems this may be the year the club has some expenditures to renew those items that wear out through use. Please continue to monitor our repeaters and inform any director of problems or concerns.

Field Day and Paddlefest are upon us. Joe KI4QG, Tim AG4XM and Dann KI4AVO are putting together another great Field Day. Try and stop by to operate or enjoy a meal with another member of our organizations (KY7ET and K4CO). While it is fun to operate during field day, if you want to learn something new, come during set-up. Whether it is learning how long to make an antenna, how high to position it, which direction to place it, which cable to use for what, this the event for hands on learning in relaxed environment. Lynn, WD8JAW has been keeping us up to date on Paddlefest. It is time to go the to Paddlefest official website and register as a volunteer.

A special thanks to Lynn Benjamin, WA4VAP for his help every month with the pop and ice and cooler during club meetings.

73, Tony AI4IP

April Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
5/01/07	KG4SBG	8	26	0
5/8/07	KB4VKS	9	25	0
5/15/07	KB4VKS	5	9	0
5/22/07	KG4SBG	9	23	0
5/29/07	NO NET			
TOTALS		31	83	0

Editor's Soapbox

QRP vs. QRO

An expression that I see from time to time on Amateur Radio-related web sites is “*Life is too short for QRP*”. I've never understood this. To me, it's like saying that life is too short for baseball, or too short for a Mozart concerto. Life is never too short for engaging in an activity that gives you pleasure and causes no harm to anyone else.

It's not just QRO ops who can be so narrow-minded. When I was at Hamvention a couple of weeks ago, I saw somebody wearing a T-shirt that had this slogan printed on it: “*QRP — because power is no substitute for skill*”. So, if somebody operates QRO, ergo they must be an unskilled operator. Hmmm, I see. Why is it that some hams feel the need to belittle those who don't happen to share the same passion for a particular aspect of the hobby, whether that be CW, AM, SSB, RTTY, homebrewing, ragchewing, weather spotting, public service, QRP, contesting, DXing, county-hunting, etc., etc., etc.? It's a BIG hobby, with plenty of room for everyone!

While QRP is a quasi-religion for some hams, for me it's just another facet of Amateur Radio that I happen to enjoy. The satisfaction that comes with completing a QSO at low power is just one of the reasons I operate QRP. If I could figure out a way to get my little paperback-sized KX1 to put out 50 or 100 watts and still be able to run for several hours from a half dozen AA cells, I would probably go for it, especially considering the compromise antennas I am usually constrained to using! As the laws of physics are currently constituted, however, I wouldn't be able to enjoy HF ham radio at all during my backpacking trips if it weren't for QRP.

If you've never participated in a QRP-only contest, you don't know what you're missing! They

are a great way to improve your CW skills too. The CW that you hear will be slower than what you normally encounter in one of the “big” contests, and the general atmosphere is usually more relaxed. A great contest to get your feet wet with is the Spartan Sprint, which runs from 9 PM to 11 PM Eastern time on the first Monday of each month. Operations from interesting outdoor locations are encouraged, but many participants operate from their home shack. Just remember to crank your output power down to 5 watts! Rules can be found here:

http://www.arsqrp.com/ars/pages/pageone_material/events_idx.html

A Solo Field Day

This year will mark my fourth Field Day, my favorite operating event of the year. I seem to have settled into a pattern of participating with the club one year, and then doing a solo effort the following year. I really enjoy the camaraderie of the club event, and the opportunity it provides to learn new techniques from fellow club members. On the other hand, operating solo gives me the freedom of being able to switch bands whenever I want and to operate as *much* as I want, switching back and forth between CW and SSB as the mood strikes me.

So, this year I'll be operating Class B1B from a tent in my backyard, which hopefully will not be as brain-bursting hot as it was two years ago! My K2 will be powered by a solar-charged battery, running 5 watts of power. It will be just like one of my weekend radio backpacking trips, but with much easier access to food and a cold shower. I hope to put K4CO in my log!

73,

Mark, AI4BJ

May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tony White at 7:32 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School. Tony led us in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed.

Dan Fox presented the treasurer's report. The report contained the club's bank balance and the number of paid members.

A motion was made by Lynn Ernst, and seconded by John Foltz to accept the April minutes as they appeared in the Feedline. The motion passed.

Lynn Ernst asked for more volunteers for Paddlefest on July 7.

Tim Anderson reported that he and Joe Stern visited the Field Day site in Banklick Woods Park. Also, someone needs to gather ARRL material to have available for distribution at Field Day.

Brian Clark reported that the American Diabetes Bike Ride has asked for communication help during their event on June 2. Seventeen operators are needed. The event will start at about 6:30 a.m. at Big Bone Lick State Park and conclude at about 4 p.m.

Tony White reported that the 147.375 repeater is back on the air, but not working as well as we

would like. Thanks were given to John Meyer, Brian Clark, and Harold Blocher for getting it back on the air.

Lyle Hamilton reported that there was one new tech and one upgrade in tonight's VE session.

After much discussion, Tony White said that the Board of Directors will take under advisement whether or not Echo Link will be turned on or off during the club's Tuesday evening net.

Robert Kluck reported on his and Toni's trip to ARRL headquarters and the operation of W1AW.

John Meyer suggested that anyone who earns a first time amateur radio license at one of our VE sessions be given a complementary membership in NKARC until the end of the calendar year. Brian Clark put the idea into a motion. Ken Rood seconded, and the motion passed.

Greg May presented a program on various projects of interest to our hobby.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burns, AB4BK

*Have you volunteered for Paddlefest? Contact Lynn Ernst, WD8JAW, at
wd8jaw@arrl.net*

Weaver's Words

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

Your Help, Please

Within just a few days, all members will receive a request to write to your US Representative in support of a bill designed to protect Amateur Radio frequencies from interference. This request will include LACs and LAAs as well as all other members.

I will send a draft letter for you to modify or to use as it is. To learn who this should be sent to, go to the Members Only site of www.arrl.org. When this site opens, the name and address of your US Representative will appear on the left side of the screen. The names and addresses of your US Senators will also appear; however, please do not write to them at this time. It is too soon to contact them.

Please limber your writing hand and be ready to write. I'll include further information along with the draft letter.

Updated Graphics

By now, everyone who reads QST with at least one eye open has seen the tremendous upgrading in graphic appearance this journal has undergone. The changes began a few months ago with a rather major change. They have continued on a lesser scale.

In addition to the positive changes in QST, the WAS and 5-Band WAS certificates have also been modernized. The new look should definitely have greater appeal to all of us -- young or old -- who like to collect and show our wallpaper.

Already have a WAS or 5-Band WAS, but would like to have the new look? You may order a new one based upon your existing record, or why not earn a new award?

Legislative Action Update

I thought it would be interesting to many of you to have a full update on the Legislative Action Program (LAP) in our Division. The LAP is the program the Board enacted to help influence Federal legislation that affects Amateur Radio. We still have plenty of room for interested appointees in several districts.

Where do we stand with appointing at least two Legislative

Action Assistants (LAAs) in each Congressional District and for each US senator? Here is the run down:

Kentucky --

Districts 1, 2 & 5 = Two LAAs, each.

District 6 = One LAA. We need a volunteer, please contact me for information (k8je@arrl.org).

District 3 = None. We need volunteers, please contact me.

We also need a volunteer to coordinate the activities in Kentucky. This volunteer will be the Kentucky Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) and will report to Division. Please contact me.

Michigan --



State LAC = Bob "Scotty" Wright, KB8APS, kb8aps@arrl.net.

District 3 = Three LAAs -- fully staffed.

Districts 1 & 7 = Two LAAs, each.

Districts 2, 5 & 9 = One LAA each. We need additional volunteers. Please contact Scotty for information. The 9 remaining Districts = There are no volunteers. Please volunteer to help with this critical task in these Districts. Contact Scotty, please.

Ohio --

State LAC = Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, wd8pnz@arrl.net.

District 1 & 3 = Three LAAs -- fully staffed.

Districts 6, 8 & 17 -- Two LAAs, each.

Districts 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 & 16 -- One LAA each. We need additional volunteers. Please contact Brent for information.

The seven remaining Districts = There are no volunteers. Please volunteer to help with this critical task in these Districts. Please contact Brent.

To put all of this in perspective, we have made considerable progress during the short time the LAP has been active. Obviously we need to do more if we are to come close to accomplishing the great amount of good that is our potential.

This brings me to a perplexing situation. Wherever I go, members unanimously tell me they want Federal legislation that permits erecting antennas where they are now prohibited, they want our frequencies to be protected from an FCC giveaway to commercial interests, they want the FCC rule that give unlicensed Part 15 transmission the right to QRM licensed services reversed and they want more recognition for the tremendous public service we perform.

My question is, "With seemingly everyone eager to get these

bills passed, why has it been so difficult to recruit the volunteers we need to help us get these jobs done?"

As the old saying goes, we either are part of the solution or part of the problem. I realize that many hams already devote most of their time to voluntary, appointment positions in ARRL. Most members are not doing this, though. If you are among the "most," please become part of the solution and join the Legislative Action Program.

Nearly any amateur who can talk in front of the local ham group, who can read and who is willing to work as a member of a team has the ability and skills to serve as an LAA.

Some of you may have noticed I did not mention the Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC). Val Rose, N8EXV has had a change in his employment and is on a leave of absence. Until he sorts his situation out, please contact your State LAC or me with any questions or comments.

MetLife Promotion

Most of us will receive literature from MetLife promoting insurance. I thought I'd let you know how this works. First, let me assure you ARRL is not selling your personal information to outside organizations.

What happens is that MetLife has signed a very secure privacy agreement with ARRL that permits them, and them only, to use the mailing information we provide. MetLife is prohibited from providing it to anyone else. If they violate this contractual agreement, MetLife will suffer serious legal penalties.

Why does ARRL allow these mailings to occur? The money we get from this mailing and from any policy action resulting from it goes to support your organization. This is money we don't need to get from you members.

It is totally up to you whether you buy insurance from MetLife. It also is totally up to you whether you receive any possible future promotions such as this from additional companies. If you choose, you may opt out by advising ARRL HQ that you do not wish to have your information released for secure promotional purposes of this type.

If you choose to purchase insurance from MetLife, you will be dealing with a solid, long-established company and you will help ARRL a little, in addition. The decision is entirely yours.

GLD Scholarship Winners

Winners of ARRL Foundation scholarships were announced on Friday at the Dayton Hamvention. Fifty nine scholarships were awarded in values ranging from \$2,500 to \$500. The

winners were from all 15 ARRL Divisions. Winners from the Great Lakes Division area

Michael Volz, W8KAR, East Lansing, MI -- The Earl I. Anderson Scholarship, \$1,250. As directed by the donor, applicants for this scholarship must be a licensed radio amateur, live in Florida, Illinois, Indiana or Michigan, be enrolled in an Electrical Engineering or related program and be an ARRL member.

Timothy Little, W8LBO, St. Louis, MI -- The Zachary Taylor Stevens Scholarship, \$750. As directed by the donor, applicants for this scholarship must hold a Technician class or higher license, live in the 8th Call Area and be enrolled in an accredited 2-year or 4-year college, university or technical school.

Congratulations to Michael and Timothy!

The ARRL Foundation awards scholarships annually. Applications are solicited via QST, the ARRL Letter, the ARRL web site and, usually, Weaver's Words.

Code Proficiency Pilot Field Test

The field study of the Code Proficiency Program begins in June as I reported in the last issue of Words. The encoded text has been received as has the decoded written text. These have been distributed to the VE teams that will conduct the pilot testing. There is no charge for this testing. Eight code speeds of 5 through 40 wpm, in steps of 5 wpm, are offered. Keep your eyes on your local club newsletters and special e-mail announcements for further details.

Now that developing Morse code proficiency is totally a matter of personal choice, why not challenge yourself to learn this "old" modern method of communicating.

The Code Proficiency program is totally unrelated to FCC licensing. It also is available only at the four test locations in the Great Lakes Division.

Data Communication

If you don't use data communication, you might want to give it a try. One of the easiest and most readily gratifying ways to go is PSK-31. Check it out. Go to www.arrl.org and search for PSK31. You will find excellent introductory articles as well as information on ARRL's Digital Handbook.

ARRL Membership Growing

Membership in ARRL has hit its highest level in recent years. At the end of April, 150,895 hams belonged to the League. This exceeds the membership of 148,329 at the conclusion of April 2006. This represents a 1.7% increase in membership over the year.



There are about 655,000 FCC licensees. Current amateur licenses have durations of 10 years. A review of statistics suggests only about one-half (less than 330,000) of all licensees are active or even alive. Based upon this statistical assumption, approximately 45% of active amateurs belong to ARRL.

It Was Nice to See You

Thanks to the many of you who stopped by the Great Lakes Division booth at the Hamvention. I enjoyed taking with everyone. I apologize to you who came by the booth when I was gone.

No Results from Poll, Yet

I've not yet been able to review the answers many of you sent me in response to the poll I distributed. I'll share the results when I have these.

Tentative Travel Schedule

Jun 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - Jim
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
Aug 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL - Jim
Sep 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI - Jim
Sep 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim
Sep 16: Cincinnati Hamfest, Cincinnati, 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
Nov 19: Southern Ohio ARA Christmas Dinner, Russell, KY - Jim
Dec 1: Motor City RC 75th Ann., Wyandotte, MI - Jim

Tnx, 73,

Jim, K8JE

RILEY REITERATES RECOMMENDATION TO “LIGHTEN UP” ON HAM BANDS

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No.22

FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth's main message at the Dayton Hamvention® 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating — at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

“Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to church instead,” Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. “I've got you now.”

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio



community needs to “lighten up” on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. “All of you can learn from each other,” he said, “and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio.”

As radio amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important — the best interests of ham radio or their ego, pride or perceived “rights.”

“I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative — and I need you to take this message with you

See “Lighten Up”, page 9

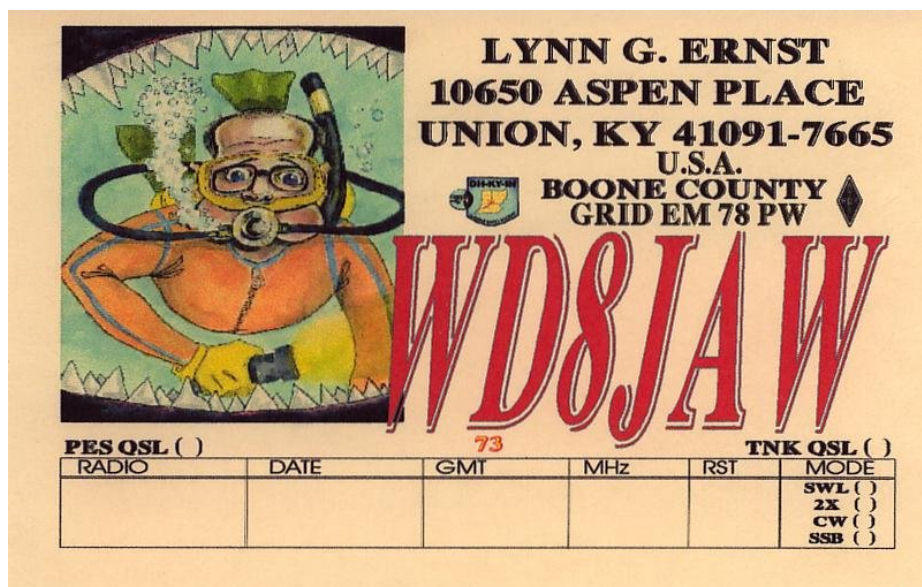
QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Lynn Ernst, WD8JAW

Comments

I was attending a company safety dinner in Nashville honoring the employees for working the past year without a lost time injury. The facility manager was interested in having his son come to work for the company when he got out of school so he asked if he could bring his son to the dinner. I welcomed the chance to talk to the young man. Our conversation covered many subjects including a recent scuba diving trip I made to Cozumel. On my next trip to the facility I was presented with a water color painting of me in scuba gear staring into the mouth of a shark. It turns out the young man was a gifted artist. For a one time meeting I feel the young man captured the essence



of the potential experience! Naturally with my call I had to use the painting to create the qsl card. This combination has kept me from pursuing a vanity call sign.

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.

“Lighten Up”, from page 8

when you go home,” he continued.

As a “homework assignment,” Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the “It Seems to Us . . .” editorial, “Most Effective Use”, by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 QST. In his

commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands “is simply a fact of life” and that it’s “unfair to your fellow amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act.”

Hollingsworth offered good news

and bad news. “The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio,” he allowed. “It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis.”

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to “road rage,” is “that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally.”

Hollingsworth urged all radio amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

“We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over

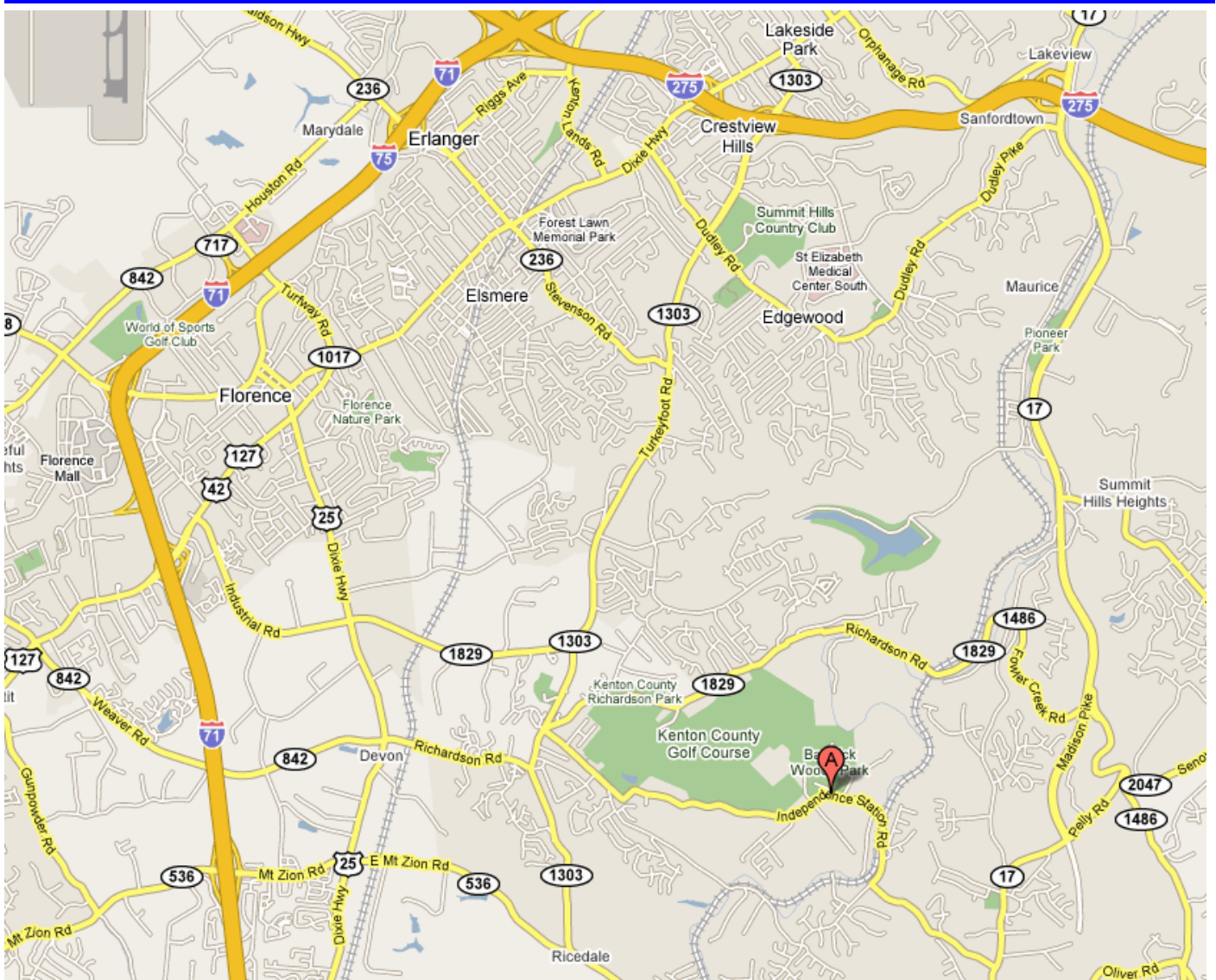
into the ham bands,” he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the “big knob” on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the “thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any given time of day or year” as necessary to avoid problems. “The world is ugly enough — don't add to it,” Hollingsworth advised.

“We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense,” Hollingsworth concluded. “And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my

See “Lighten Up”, page 10

Location of K4CO/KY7ET Field Day Site: Banklick Woods Park



“Lighten Up”, from page 9

left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN — Ed] once told me: ‘You can’t regulate stupid.’ If we could, we’d be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC.”

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically con-

trolled digital stations would overwhelm the amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a “listen-before-transmit” protocol.”

When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control

point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: “Your call sign, your responsibility.”

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