



The Feedline

Christmas in June

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

I opened the front door and found on my porch a plain brown box, not much more than a cubic foot in size. It took several seconds for my brain to engage and make sense of what I was seeing. After all, I had not expected it to arrive for almost another week. But there it was, with a return address of Aptos, California that removed any doubt from my mind. I had been waiting for this particular box since late December, when I had ordered the precious cargo contained within. No: I had actually been waiting for this box since [Elecraft](#) announced the existence of their new K3 HF transceiver to the world's Amateur Radio community back in April of last year. If I could have afforded one back then, I would have ordered one immediately.

I carried the box to the kitchen, where I carefully disgorged its contents onto the floor. Unlike Elecraft's previous transceiver kits, the kit version of the K3 comes with all circuit boards fully populated and factory-tested. Building the K3 therefore consists mostly of mechanical assembly. The complexity of

the radio and the extensive use of surface-mount components would have made it impractical to offer the radio as a "u-solder" kit. Having previously built a K2 from scratch, I was quite happy to take an easier path this time. The K3 is also available fully factory-assembled. The fact that I saved several hundred dollars by ordering the kit version was a nice bonus.



I checked off each major assembly against the parts list as I removed them from the box: front panel, DSP module, main RF board, low power amplifier, high power amp, mixer board, noise blanker, reference oscillator, synthesizer, I/O main board, audio I/O module, remote I/O

module, transverter interface, general-coverage bandpass module, automatic antenna tuner. Then came the miscellaneous components: speaker, knobs, crystal roofing filters, enclosure panels, and bags of hardware fasteners.

As always, the Elecraft assembly manual leaves nothing to the imagination. The builder simply needs to follow the **See "Christmas", page 4**

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Dates to Remember:

- Aug 11 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Aug 23 – Ohio QSO Party
- Sep 8 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Sep 21 – GCARA Hamfest

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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, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

VE Testing: Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at ab8sh@arrl.net or tel. 513-315-4032

NKARC Web Site: <http://www.k4co.org>

NKARC Membership Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Due to construction at Turkeyfoot Middle School, the location of future meetings is TBD. Please monitor the Tuesday net or the club web site for further information.

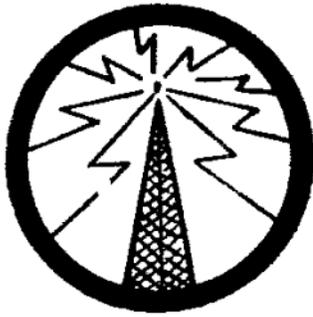
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ceived no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Mark Volstad, AI4BJ 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com

Top of the Tower

Hello Everyone,

The club is trying to make a decision on a new location to hold our meetings. Last month the meeting was held at Hilltop Christian Church in Taylor Mill. The August meeting will be held at the same location. However, the September meeting will be at the Free Will Baptist Church in Elsmere. Please try to attend a meeting at both locations to help you vote on which location you think is best for the club. We will be voting on the permanent location at the September meeting. Check the web site for the addresses of both locations.



Thanks,
Dann Fox
KI4AVO

August Program

The August 11 NKARC meeting will be a video night. First up will be a video on electrical safety. This will be followed by a showing of the video *The ARRL Goes to Washington*. A slide show of photographs taken during this year's Field Day event at Banklick Woods will close out the formal program..

August's meeting will again be held at Hilltop Church of Christ, at 5300 Taylor Mill Rd, Taylor Mill, Kentucky. From I-275, take exit 79 and drive south on KY 16 for 1.3 miles. The church is on the left.

Jenny Schmidt, KB4WJG (SK)

Virginia "Jenny" Schmidt, former NKARC member, passed away February 24, 2008 after a three-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband David KI4QH and three adult children.

July 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@k4co.org

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
7/1/08	AJ4DK (Don)	7	31	0
7/8/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	7	28	0
7/15/08	N4IJS (Robert)	9	22	0
7/22/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	6	24	0
7/29/08	AJ4DK (Don)	5	25	0
TOTALS		34	130	0

July Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2008 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order by Dann Fox at 7:33 p.m. at The Hilltop Christian Church. Dann led the group in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed. Twenty six people signed in.

Larry Stein offered free "Stolen from Larry Stein" pens to all.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Dann.

Dann reported that Field Day expenses will be split with KY7ET.

Old Business: Thanks to Harold Blocher, the 147.375 repeater is working well. Harold received a round of applause.

Tonight's meeting location can be permanent if the club so chooses. We can also meet at the Light-house Freewill Baptist Church in Elsmere. A motion was made and accepted to meet there in September. The club will decide then where to meet in the future.

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

There was no new business.

John Meyers NB4K talked about his duties as District Legislative Action Coordinator for the ARRL.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burns

"Christmas", cont'd from Cover

instructions. It helps that the K3 is designed like a Swiss watch. All parts fit together very precisely, and I certainly got the sense that I was building a high-quality instrument. Only standard hand tools and a multimeter are required. When assembly is about two-thirds complete, a few basic resistance checks are performed, and then the initial power on check.

When the top cover has finally been screwed on, a series of calibration and set-up steps are performed, using the built-in software. I estimate that my total assembly time was about 12 hours. I encountered no problems during the build.

My expectations for this radio were very high from the beginning, and they have all been met or exceeded. Two weeks after completing construction, the rig had its trial by fire at Field Day, and it came through with flying colors. No one radio can please all hams, but to me, the ergonomics of the K3 are just about ideal. It doesn't have a flashy multicolor display like

some rigs, but the display that it does have is very legible from the darkest room to the brightest sunshine. The noise-fighting tools it possesses are amazing. It includes both a hard-



"Some assembly required..."

ware *and* a DSP-based noise-blanker, as well as a noise-reducer that works better than any I have previously used.

The K3 can decode CW, RTTY and PSK31 and display the text in a scrolling 7-character display. You can send PSK31 or RTTY using a CW paddle, a handy feature when operating from the field without a PC. The built-in soundcard interface is fully isolated, so if you *do* connect your K3 to a PC, you can do so without having to use any third-party interfaces in between.

The K3's down-conversion architecture, which it shares with the Ten-Tec Orion, enables it to take advantage of extremely narrow roofing filters -- as narrow as 200 Hz! It is the first rig tested by the ARRL Lab to achieve a close-in IMD dynamic range of over 100 dB. This means that it excels at pulling out very weak stations in the presence of extremely strong stations on nearby frequencies.

Everything it does, it seems to do very well. Many owners claim that it has the best VOX of any rig they've owned. I plugged in a cheap headset designed for PC use, and received excellent audio reports. Operators who are fussy about their audio quality can tailor their transmit and receive audio with independent 8-band equalizers.

On the CW side, the DSP filter can be narrowed to a razor-thin 50 Hz with almost no detectable ringing, and the CW auto-spot feature is extremely effective.

What I really like most about the K3 is that it keeps getting better every month — literally! Elecraft is continuing to add new features and refine existing ones, and all that I have to do is visit their web site and download the latest code to my PC and load it into the K3. Elecraft provides an easy to use utility to facilitate this.

Long before I ever earned my ham ticket, I was

an avid shortwave listener (SWL). The same characteristics that make the K3 a superb ham rig also make it a top-flight SWL receiver, and I have been enjoying shortwave and AM broadcast band DXing for the first time in years. Elecraft have promised to add synchronous AM detection in a future software upgrade. Synchronous detection eliminates much of the audio distortion caused by signal fading.

Elecraft are renowned for their excellent customer service, and they sponsor a very active [email reflector](#). The members of the design and engineering team are very accessible and willing to answer questions about the K3 and other Elecraft products. In fact, they get many of their ideas for new products by listening to feedback from their customers.

Can you tell that I'm a satisfied Elecraft customer?



Weaver's Words

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

July Board meeting

The July meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is over without providing any major surprises. Much of the action involved the League web site, the Section organization and a National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention(r) for 2009.

As a result of the meeting, the ARRL web site will be totally reworked. The goal is to make it much more user friendly, to add many new features and generally to increase its value to members. The web site project is expected to take about two years to complete. Some improvements have already resulted from early discussions with the site development company.

A two-year review of the Field Organization (FO) was completed at the meeting. This review involve evaluating three surveys taken of the 73 Section Managers. The surveys obtained the SMs opinions and suggestions of FO operation and organization.

The Board decided to keep SM terms in office just as they have been and to continue the practice of SMs appointing Section Government Liaisons and Section Emergency Coordinators.

Also related to SMs, the Board directed staff to develop a nomination package that describes the duties of SMs and lists resources available to them. This package will be given to persons who submit a nomination petition to run for the Section Manager post.

Moving to the Official Observer program, the Board instructed staff to implement an online system for OOs to file reports with HQ. When put into place, these reports will be reviewed by staff to determine if any apparent pattern develops regarding poor operating practice or rules violation.

The Board also addressed a recently-developed concern over publication of contest and DX logging informa-

tion. It instructed staff to adopt a rule that would disallow QSOs of stations that publish log information in sufficient detail as to permit construction of information needed to obtain credit for a QSO.

Finally, for you who need to have a challenge to meet, the Board established the Triple-Play Award. Winning this award will require working WAS -- one using voice, another using CW and the third using digital modes. Each of the 150 QSOs required to achieve the award must be processed by LoTW. The rules and beginning date of the award will be announced by staff at a later date.



Special study

Potentially of great importance, the Board voted to establish an ad hoc study committee to review Part 97 of the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. This study is to determine if there are changes in FCC rules that would promote wideband digital modes and at the same time minimize potential interference to narrow-band modes.

Awards

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, received the prestigious Technical Merit Award for his exceptional work in quantifying and measuring interference caused by poorly-designed BPL systems. Ed is the first person to receive this award in the past several years. The award is open to staff and non-staff, alike.

Ed's work was far greater than would be expected of someone who was "doing their job" that the Board decided his exceptional effort should be recognized.

ARRL offers a variety of awards to recognize extraordinary contributions of amateurs to the ham community. Other awards approved at the meeting are:

The 2007 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for public relations was given to Walter Palmer, W4ALT, Delaware.

The 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim Award was given to the young amateur who best exemplifies the characteristics of H. P. Maxim, W1AW. It was given to Jim Fagan,

KE7IDC, Assistant SM for Youth in Arizona.

The Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award for 2007 was given to John Stanley, K4ERO of Georgia.

The Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award for 2007 was given to Doug Loughmiller, W5BL, of Texas.

The ARRL Technical Innovation Award for 2007 was given to Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ of Massachusetts.

Division Web Site

Thanks to the fine effort of our new Webmeister, Gary Osborne, W8XS, the Great Lakes Division web site has a new look. It also has a few new features that we will begin to use in the near future.

There appeared to be incompatibilities between the site and the programs a few members are using to access it. These incompatibilities are displayed as overlaps. If you are still experiencing a problem in viewing the site, please let Gary know (osborne@fuse.net). He is working to correct this issue.

You asked

A couple of amateurs have asked the reason US non-members are not given the same use of Logbook of The World (LoTW) as is given to members. I've given incorrect answers to this question in the past, so let me correct the record.

There is no prohibition against US non-members using Logbook.

LoTW is the computer program ARRL developed to allow amateurs to confirm QSOs for credit toward operating awards without investing the expense and time in exchanging QSLs. LoTW differs from other online QSL services in that it is the only program that maintains the high degree of security DXers demand for the DXCC program.

All amateurs may enter QSOs into LoTW. All amateurs may use Logbook to match QSOs for awards credits provided two criteria are met. The first is that the award must be linked to LoTW. This involves developing an interface between Logbook and the award program.

The second requirement is that the applicant must be eligible to receive the award. This requirement is dictated by the rules of the award and is unrelated to Logbook.

At present, DXCC and WAS are the only awards serviced by Logbook. We are working to expand the awards that can be serviced through it.

Only ARRL members and foreign non-members are eligible to obtain DXCC and WAS. US non-members are not eligible to obtain these awards. Therefore, with US non-members have no reason to use Logbook.



It is the long-standing rules of the two awards serviced through LoTW that prevent US non-members from using the program, not the rules governing Logbook. If awards that do not require ARRL membership become linked with Logbook, US non-members will be able to use this program to confirm QSOs provided they are eligible to receive these awards.

Legislative contacts

Many of you probably recall that the ARRL Legislative Action Program is divided basically into two phases -- visits to home offices and writing letters. You, the ARRL members, have been asked to write letters in the past. For the first time, Legislative Action Assistant teams in the Division will spring into action to call on our US Representatives and US Senators in their home offices for the first time.

Division Legislative Action Coordinator John Meyers, NB4K, has distributed guidelines for our LAA teams to use in lobbying our Federal legislators asking their support of S1629 or HB463. These US Senate and House bills would require the FCC to give detailed reports to Congress on the interference capacity of BPL to Amateur Radio operations and measures needed to avoid interfering. In visiting the lawmakers, the LAA teams will also introduce them to Amateur Radio and its crucial value in emergencies.

We continue to need member volunteers to carry the message in several Congressional districts in Michigan and Ohio. Anyone interested in becoming a member of an LAA team should contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, wd8pnz@arrl.net for Ohio or Lou Gembolis, KG8NKI, lgembolis@chartermi.net for information.

Division convention

Organizations in the Great Lakes Division that are interested in hosting the next Great Lakes Division Convention are requested to let me know of this interest. E-mail me at k8je@arrrl.org. The convention would occur in 2009.

To host the next GLD convention, please understand that we will need a facility that will hold 150-200 attendees, and include facilities for a dinner and rooms for seminars and attendees. During recent years, GLD Conventions have been associated with hamfests that attract attendance of about 1,800. The convention has been held the day before the hamfest.

Ohio QSO party

The 2008 Ohio QSO Party will be from 1600Z - 0400Z, August 23. Operation will be on the non-WARC band from 10M-80M using CW and SSB. For the rules and list of prizes, go to www.oqp.us/.

As is true of most contests, OQP is in the mood in which it will graciously consider adding new sponsors to its list of awards.

Michigan QSO party

Speaking of QSO parties, results of the Michigan QSO Party held April 19 are posted at www.miqp.org/.

Scholarships awarded

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) has awarded 55 scholarships to Amateur Radio operator applicants. Five of the scholarships went to three recipients from the Great Lakes Division. They are:

Michael Volz, W2NRL, East Lansing, MI -- The Rose Ellen Bill Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 and a Radio Club of American Scholarship of \$1,000.

Stephen M. Sciarini, KC8IDJ, Dover, OH -- A QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 and the Robert E. True Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000.

Jacob Wagner, KD8CDC, Rocky River, OH -- A 10-10 International Net Scholarship of \$1,000.

Congratulations to the recipients.

FAR consists of approximately 50 Amateur Radio organizations in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. It is an affiliate of ARRL.

What to do?

A glance at the Tentative Schedule below shows I plan to be in Flint, MI on August 15 and in nearby Lapeer, MI on August 17. Although it is generally considered to be nice to have a day off, I will welcome any suggestions on how I can be of service to amateurs in the general Flint area on Saturday. If anyone knows of an activity that would be useful for me to attend, please let me know.

A Board meeting surprise

One pleasant although relatively minor surprise I received at the Board meeting are lists of the standings of Board members and staff in DXCC entities and the DXCC Challenge. If nothing else, this listing shows that the Board and staff are active on-the-air.

At the top of the list for DXCC is Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG with 369 entities. Topping the DXCC Challenge list is Second Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR with a score of 3092. I fell in at tenth place in the Board/staff Challenge list with 1359 point and nineteenth place in entities with 313. I obviously have a long way to go.

Tentative schedule

1 Aug: Massillon (OH) RC - Jim
Noon 8 Aug: Nominations close for Director/Vice Director election
10 Aug: Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg - Jim, John
15 Aug: Genesee County RC, 75th Anniversary, Flint, MI - Jim
17 Aug: Ham & Computer Swap, Lapeer, MI - Jim
13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim, Gary
21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim, Gary, John
23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed
7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim, John
12 Oct: Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo - Jim

QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Bob Pentz, K4DMA

Comments:

(by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ)

I love looking at other hams' QSL cards, and when Bob K4DMA invited me into his shack recently, my attention was immediately drawn to the many cards displayed on the wall. He allowed me to take several home with me. The one that you see here is one that Bob received from a Russian ham in 1979.

I was curious who the person depicted on the card was. It seemed obvious that the card was commemorating the life of a famous person — but who? One of my favorite TV programs is *History Detectives*, so I was determined to find out!

I googled “RAEM”, and one of the first hits returned was *Ernst T. Krenkel, callsign RAEM, Hero of the Soviet Union*. The story that this led to was a fascinating one indeed.

Following the 1917 revolution, Ernst Krenkel served as a telegraph operator in the Red Army. In 1924 he spent the winter at the Novaya Zemlya Polar Station as the radio operator. Thus began a lifelong interest in polar exploration.



In the winter of 1930 Krenkel and six others were on Franz Josef Land and used the northernmost shortwave station ever. On January 12 he made radio contact with Admiral Byrd's Antarctic expedition, setting a record in long-distance radio communication.

In 1934, Krenkel was serving as chief radio operator of the icebreaker S/S Cheluskin when it became trapped in ice along the Siberian coast and sank. From a makeshift shack on the ice, Krenkel was able to transmit a distress message and coordinate the air rescue of all 104 passengers. “RAEM” was the ship’s callsign, and Krenkel later was to use it as his personal, distinctive amateur callsign.

In 1937 Krenkel was the radio operator of the first North Pole station — callsign UPOL. He and three others spent 274 days on a

drifting ice floe, and he made many contacts with fellow hams, including many Americans. They drifted all the way to Greenland, a distance of 1600 miles! He was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, a rare honor prior to WWII.

Later in his life he became chairman of the USSR Central Radio Club, with hundreds of thousands of members.

For much more on the life of this famous ham, check out these links:

<http://goto.glocalnet.net/sm5iq/raemeng.html>

http://hamgallery.com/qsl/country/European_Russia/upol2.htm

http://www.qsl.net/vu2msy/vipnet/Ernest_Krenkel_my_article.pdf

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