



The Feedline

Hamvention: Always a Blast!

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

It's Friday afternoon, and I've just returned from the 2008 edition of the Dayton Hamvention. I decided to write about my experience while the memory of the event is still fresh in my aging brain! For a while, I was actually debating whether or not to go this year, but I decided that I needed a day off from work to relax, and couldn't think of any better way of spending the day. As with each previous visit, I'm glad I went.



The weather didn't look too promising — it was drizzling when I left the house — but by the time I reached Dayton 90 minutes later, the sun was starting to peak from behind the clouds.

As usual, I parked in the field across the

road from Hara arena. It wasn't too muddy, considering all the rain we've had in recent days. The parking fee had increased from \$8 to \$10. I think that next year I will park at Salem Mall and take the shuttle bus.

I arrived at 9:30, by which time the line-up for purchasing tickets was quite short. I then headed straight to the ARRL Expo area to drop off a batch of

QSL cards to be checked for my Worked All States (WAS) award. I bumped into John Myer NB4K and Gary Johnston KI4LA and chatted briefly with them. Next stop: the main arena. This is my least favorite area of the hamfest, so I like to get it out of the way early. The problem is that the crowds in that area are so thick that it is very difficult to

move around and see anything. R&L Electronics were at their usual corner location in the arena and seemed to be doing gangbuster business. One of the few companies that downsized their presence this year was Cushcraft, who

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Dates to Remember:

- June 9 — NKARC Membership Meeting
- June 28 — Paddlefest
- June 28,29 — Field Day
- July 14 — NKARC Membership Meeting

NKARC Directory

President:

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

Vice President:

Greg Hatton, KG4ZTG

Club Trustee & Historian:

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

k4bri@arrl.net

Feedline Editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

mvolstad@insightbb.com

859-689-4234

Webmaster:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Director at Large:

Don King, AJ4DK

kingdl19406@msn.com

Secretary:

Bob Burns, AB4BK

b.burns@fuse.net

Net Manager:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

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 Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/k4co/>

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.

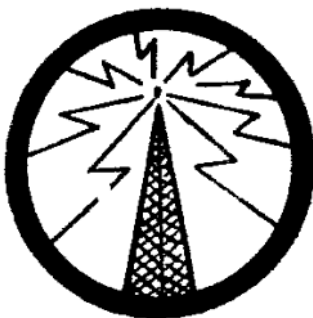
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ceived no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Mark Volstad, AI4BJ 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com

Top of the Tower

Hello Everyone,

I have some bad news — the club is faced with a big problem. For the next year or more we will not be able to use the Turkey Foot Middle School for our monthly meetings, as the school is starting a large construction project. We were told that it would be a liability to the contractors and school, to come and go after hours. We will have to check when the construction is completed to see if we will be able to use the school again. We were just made aware of this Friday, May 30, so this does not give us much time to come up with a new meeting spot for the June Meeting. Several people are trying to come up with a temporary location for the June meeting as well as a long term location for future meetings. We will communicate the location for the June meeting as soon as we have a spot. We should have the information for the June meeting posted by this Thursday on the web-site. Until we have a long term location, tune into the nets and check the Web-site for updates.



420 Independence Station Rd., Independence, KY 41051. Please see web site for directions.

During The June Meeting we are going to discuss the logging software for the laptops. We will also be doing a test run with the networking of laptops. If you plan on using your laptop on Field Day, please bring it to the meeting to be set up. Just before Field Day we will need to set the number of stations to be used. If we have some people that plan on setting up their station and working them through out Field Day we would like to get some advance notice. We do not want to set the number too high and not have enough stations and operators. Or too low and have more people wanting to operate, and have a low number of stations listed. Please let us know if you are planning on bringing a complete station, and are planning to operate it through out Field Day. If you have any comments or suggestions e-mail me at dfox03@fuse.net

I hope to see everyone at Field Day!

Thanks,

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

Field Day Update

Address: Banklick Woods Park, Shelter House # 2,

May 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
5/6/08	AJ4DK (Don)	15	47	0
5/13/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	6	21	0
5/20/08	N4IJS (Robert)	16	36	0
5/27/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	30	0
TOTALS		46	134	0

"Hamvention", cont'd from Cover

went from a large booth with many of their popular antennas on display to a small booth with just a few brochures. Perhaps this was a cost-cutting measure resulting from their acquisition by Laird Technologies last year.

The only new HF rig I spotted this year was the ICOM [IC-7200](#). It seems to have pretty basic features, but in a ruggedized, water-resistant form factor.

Leaving the main arena, I headed to the Elecraft booth in the North Hall. With all the buzz over the K3 in the last 12 months, it was no surprise to find the booth packed with curious hams. Eric and Wayne (the company founders) were busy demonstrating the rig, but a booth volunteer approached me and asked if I had any questions. "Yes", I replied, "When is my K3 going to be delivered?" He laughed, as though he had been hearing that question quite a bit. I ordered my K3 in late December, and he told me that I should be receiving a shipment notification "very soon". Elecraft has delivered over 900 K3s since last August, but they *still* have a 5-month order backlog!

It seemed to me that the indoor exhibits were just as popular as ever, and the crowds just as thick. Heading outside to the flea-market area, I was happy to discover that the sun had come out and the temperature quite pleas-



ant. This is where I noticed a bit of impact from our higher gas prices, in the form of more empty flea-market spaces than last year. Still, there was a LOT to see, and by the time I had finished strolling down every aisle two hours later, I felt thoroughly whupped!

I headed back to the ARRL area to pick up my QSL cards, and was shocked to be told that I was missing a card for Arizona! I had spent hours double and triple-checking my cards, so I could not figure out how that could have happened. I asked for my stack of cards back, and lo and behold, there was the AZ card, right between AR and CA! The card-checker apologized profusely, and signed the certification form. Whew!

I did not come to Hamvention with a shopping list in hand, but by the time I headed back to my car, the following items had found their way into my backpack:

- Temperature-controlled soldering station
- *Passport To World Band Radio* 2008 edition
- Magnifying glass
- 18" BNC/BNC cable
- Parts to build a 9-pin serial cable
- Nifty! quick-reference card for my Yaesu VX-6R handheld
- 100ft spool of 3/32" Dacron rope for antenna projects
- 4ft ground rod for Field Day
- Stereo mini-plug to stereo 1/4" plug adapter (to plug my CW paddle into my K3 when it arrives)

Total cost of the above: \$65.75

Did I mention that I love Hamvention?

Minutes of the May 12, 2008, NKARC membership meeting are not available.

Weaver's Words

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

Red Cross: Good news; not-so-good news

The good news: As announced in the ARES forum at the Hamvention(r), National Red Cross (RC) sent a letter to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, saying it will limit its demand for background checks of ham volunteers to criminal background checks only. RC said it is directing Mybackgroundcheck.com to remove the demands that volunteers agree to having credit and mode of living checks done.

This letter seemingly meets the requests made by ARRL when it protested RC's demand that all volunteers agree to having widespread background checks (criminal, credit, manner of living) performed.

The not-so-good news is that aspects of the letter are confusing if not contradictory. This includes the discussion of the changes in wording RC says it will make. The fact that RC did not involve ARRL in a dialogue to resolve the issue doubtlessly contributed to the confusion that still exists.

The League continues to attempt to open communication with RC to clear the issues. In the meantime, there still is no Memo/Statement of Understanding (SOU) between RC and ARRL. The previous SOU expired at the end of 2007 when RC failed to respond to our offer to begin discussions to develop a new SOU.

The RC letter offers promise for resolving the issues between RC and ARRL, but it does not resolve them. ARRL remains eager to join in discussions with RC to help relieve the concerns of both parties.

Another blow to BPL

In spite of the unabashed hype the FCC continues to give BPL, the effort to use power lines to connect consumers to the internet just isn't doing very well. The latest example of BPL's frailty as a consumer product is the announcement that the Current Group is selling the system it has been building in Dallas to the Oncor Electric Delivery Company. Oncor emphasized it is not in

the entertainment or telecommunications business and that it does not want to get into these. The company will use the system solely to control the distribution of electricity to its customers. Electric power companies have routinely used signals transmitted over their power lines to manage the flow of electricity through distribution systems. Power companies are becoming deeply involved in developing Smart Grids that will enable consumers to become much more efficient in using electricity.

The BPL system that was being built in Dallas had previously been touted as the largest system in the world for delivering broadband to businesses and homes. As we all know, nothing is small in Texas. I suppose this includes failures.

FCC to raise vanity call fee?

On May 8, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) designed to increase fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The Commission proposes to raise the fee to \$12.30. This is a \$.60 increase over the current fee of \$11.70. As is true of regular call sign licenses, vanity call licenses are good for 10 years. Vanity call fees have varied from a high of \$50.00 to the current low of \$11.70.

The FCC expects to receive about 15,000 vanity call applications during the coming fiscal year.

A brief poll

I've received a few letters from a non-GLD member who is highly concerned over a practice that is common particularly during Contest and DX operation. This is the apparent practice of many operators routinely to give signal reports of 59 or 599 rather than give reports that "accurately" depict the received signal. The writer of the letters contends this is a dishonest practice and that ARRL not only condones this dishonesty but also encourages it. He is so concerned over this practice that he wants ARRL to outlaw it.

I'd like to know how you feel about this concern.

My question to you is simple. Do you believe ARRL should ban the practice of automatically giving 59 and



599 signal reports?

If you believe the practice should be banned, send me an E-mail with YES in the subject line. In addition, if you believe the practice should be banned, tell me in the body of the message how you suggest ARRL could enforce this ban. A ban is not useful if cannot be enforced.

If you do not believe the practice should be banned, send an E-mail with NO in the subject line. There is no need to explain this vote.

Send your E-mail answer to me at k8je@arrl.org.

Practicing what I preach

Most of you may remember seeing my pleas for help with the ARRL Legislative Action Program. In addition to asking you occasionally to write letters to your US Senators or Representative, I've asked you to volunteer to make infrequent visits to their home offices.

Being a person who believes I should practice what I preach, I accepted an opportunity to do essentially what I've asked you to do. The difference is that Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE asked me to call on my Ohio State senator. This was a request I could not refuse.

My request to meet with the Senator was readily granted. Rather than wait until he was back home, I met with him in his office in the Statehouse in Columbus.

Typical of what I have suggested you would experience, the senator was very personable. He was attentive during our conversation and sincerely appreciated that I drove from the Cincinnati area to meet in his office.

Not so typical of what one might expect in meeting with US senators and representatives, my meeting lasted for 45 minutes. This was 45 minutes of friendly, interesting and relaxed discussion. Most important, the discussion provided valuable and welcomed insight to the senator.

Thanks to Ohio SM Phillips for allowing me to participate in this Section project.

John Haungs, W8STX

Former Ohio SM John P. Haungs, W8STX died on May

10 while working in his garden in Springdale (Cincinnati), OH. John was Assistant SM to Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE as well as Special Assistant to me as the Great Lakes Division Director. John was also a long-time officer of the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association, a former officer of ARES and a leader in many additional amateur organizations in Ohio.

In addition to being a major force in Amateur Radio, John was a kind and just man -- and a good friend.

John's funeral was May 16. Because so many of his friends had firm commitments at the Hamvention(r) for this date, Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE, has arranged a special memorial service for Amateur Radio operators on June 17.



Conducting business via Amateur Radio

I recently commented on the acceptability of using Amateur Radio to support commercial activity during certain forms of emergency. Bruce Moyer, KI8GR, reminds me of an additional type of business activity that is legal for hams to practice on a daily basis. This involves using Amateur Radio to purchase personal items.

First, let me point out that the FCC did not change its rule against using ham radio for pecuniary interest. Instead, the Commission clarified what is and what isn't financial interest as regards hamming. Examples of the clarification are two people talking by radio (simplex or by repeater) to order a pizza or to pass along a list of items to be bought on the way home do not represent prohibited activities.

On the other hand, it would not be permissible for a pizza shop to take orders directly off the air with a rig set up in the shop.

FD statistics obtainable

In response to an inquiry from a member, Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI of the New England Division wrote the following concerning the availability of data from Field Day operation:

"Field Day results are posted (on the ARRL web site, 'JE) in a format that can be downloaded and imported into a database. These are at:

<http://www.arrl.org/members->

only/contests/scores.html?con_id=133

"I just downloaded the 2007 results, imported them into MS Excel, and calculated a couple of totals:

Entries - 2333 FD groups
Participants - 34,933
QSOs - 1,214,113

"Wow . . .!"

If you ever want to fiddle around with FD numbers, you know where to get them. There are two requirements for obtaining this information. First, the person who will obtain it must be an ARRL member. Second, this member must sign up to access the Members Only page of the League web site. There is no charge to do this.

You asked

Evan, K9SQG wants to know: "Why does the FCC give complete latitude to the illegal CBers, illegal linear amplifier builders and sellers including Ebay, while putting ham operators under the legal microscope and letting any and every commercial interest infringe upon the ham bands?"

Good question. However, it is one that only the FCC can answer. I will try to add a little perspective, though. Please understand I am not in any way attempting to defend the FCC.

Regarding illegal equipment, the Commission does take action against these. The fact is that the problem is so large as compared with the policing power of FCC that it cannot hope to prevent this illegal activity totally.

As to infringement on ham bands, one needs to recognize that much of our band space is allocated to us on a secondary or shared basis. In these cases we must learn to enjoy the frequencies that are open to our use while not interfering with others that share the bands. The decision to have us share the bands with others can come from the FCC or the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) through International treaty. The type of sharing we experience on our bands with US government communication is largely because of the FCC and its intra-government counterpart. The type of

sharing we see in the 75M band results from the ITU through international government treaty.

To be honest, we have not experienced the loss of much of our spectrum though having it reassigned by the FCC to another service. This occurred with part of the 220 MHz band. It is always a possibility with other frequencies. However, these losses have been offset with the acquisition of the 5, 10, 18 and 24 MHz bands.

The bottom line on this is that some non-amateur transmissions in the amateur bands are there legally because of band-sharing. Other non-amateur transmissions are fully illegal.

ARRL eligible for Combined Federal Campaign gifts

"I am pleased to report that ARRL has received official notification from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management that ARRL has once again qualified to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. For 2008 the code for donors to use in designating contributions to ARRL is 10099."

"Since the Combined Federal Campaign was first suggested by Vice Director Woolweaver several years ago, ARRL has been the recipient of thousands of dollars in contributions from federal employees who are radio amateurs. Pledges have been made by these donors to Spectrum Defense, Education, W1AW and the Diamond Club."

From Mary Hobart, K1MMH

Federal Non-Profit rules changed

(As reported in the Monthly Michigan Monthly News Summary)

"Hank N8XX calls the following to our attention: "The IRS has new rules for charitable organizations...it would appear that ALL 501c3 organizations must file a 990-N, or more complicated 990 or 990-EZ regardless of income level or asset amounts. 'Details are at <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html>.

'A very important point on that page is: Late Filing or Failure To File the e-Postcard. If you do not file your

e-Postcard on time, the IRS will send you a reminder notice but you will not be assessed a penalty for late filing the e-Postcard.

However, an organization that fails to file required e-Postcards (or information returns -- Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year. So, you're not financially penalized for not filing, except that after three years the organization loses its non profit status, which could affect contributions.

'73 de N8XX''

Hamvention is over for another year

There is less than a year to before the 2009 Dayton Hamvention ®.

I don't know about others who attended the 2008 Hamvention, but I had a ball. Nearly all of my time was spent in the ARRL Expo area talking with fellow amateurs from the Great Lakes Division. As usual, the weekend experienced its allotment of rain, but this didn't seem to dampen the spirits of being in Dayton.

My congratulations to the Dayton ARA and the Dayton Hamvention Committee for another great event. The Hamvention, indeed, is the largest hamfest in the world regardless of the yardstick one uses to measure it.

Congratulations to MARA

I congratulate and thank the Mound ARA, Miamisburg, OH for becoming an ARRL Affiliated Club. I was very pleased to present the club with the Certificate of Affiliation at its May meeting.

Director candidacies announced

Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, announced his intended candidacy for Great Lakes Division director at the Hamvention ®. Dan has served Michigan Section clubs well as ACC.

I will be a candidate for re-election to the directorship also. I welcome Dan as a competent competitor. As I've said repeatedly, competition for ARRL elected positions is good for the organization.

Good luck, Dan. I promise to compete in a friendly, fair manner.

Tentative Schedule

30 May: Dixie Heights HS ARC (KY), Present Certificate of Affiliation
- SM Brooks, Gary, Jim
21 Jun: Milford (OH) Hamfest - Jim
29-30 Jun: Field Day - Jim
Jul QST-noon 8 Aug: Nominations open for Director/Vice Director
10 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown - Jim
11-13 Jul: Michigan Summer Outing, Lupton - Jim (Attempting to arrange)
17 Jul: A&F Meeting, Newington - Jim
18-19 Jul: Board Meeting, Newington - Jim, Gary
22 Jul: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
1 Aug: Massillon (OH) RC - Jim
10 Aug: Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg - Jim
15 Aug: Genesee County RC, 75th Anniv., Flint, MI - Jim
13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim, Gary
21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim, Gary
23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed
7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim
12 Oct: Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo - Jim
28 Oct: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
21 Nov: (Noon) Deadline for return of ballots; ballots counted
22 Nov: (By end of day) Candidates notified of election results

2009

1 Jan: (Noon) Newly elected/re-elected Director and Vice Director replace the present Director and Vice Director.

QSL Card of the Month

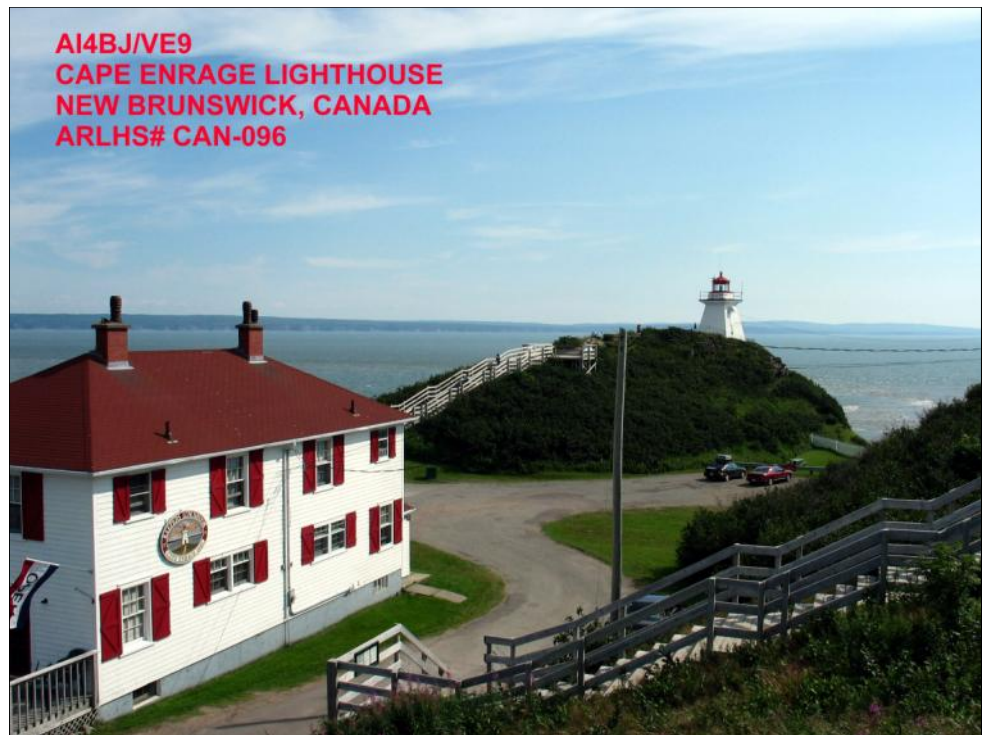
Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments:

Not long after earning my ham ticket, I learned of the existence of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS). The purpose of this group is “to promote public awareness of both ham radio and lighthouses, preserving lights that are in danger of extinction, and paying tribute to the role that hams and lighthouse keepers have played in contributing to maritime safety”. I enjoyed working lighthouses that were being “activated” by hams in North America and Europe.

When planning to visit my parents in New Brunswick, Canada in the summer of 2004, I decided that this would be a great opportunity to activate a lighthouse myself. I found that there were several lighthouses within relatively easy driving distance of my parents’ place, and I settled on the one at [Cape Enrage](#) on the Bay of Fundy, home of the [world’s highest tides](#). The lighthouse, built in 1848, is no longer in use, having been re-



placed by a huge automated fog-horn.

I set up my station on a picnic table outside the restored keeper’s dwelling, which now functions as a restaurant. My Elecraft K2 was running 15 watts to a 66ft doublet at about 30 ft (the portable antenna I’ve written about previously). Unfortunately, propagation was not great, and the small internal battery in the K2 began to run low after one hour of calling CQ. (This was the event that prompted me to add a solar panel and charge controller to my station!) Still, I man-

aged to make half a dozen contacts on 20M. When I returned home, I made up the QSL card shown above from a photograph that I took. The land visible across the bay is Nova Scotia.

If you are interested in working or activating a lighthouse, check out the [Calendar of Events](#) and [FAQ](#) on the [ARLHS web site](#).

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:
Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1062
Covington, Ky. 41012

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