



# The Feedline

## Montana Ham Assists in Rescue of Fellow Amateur 600 Miles Away

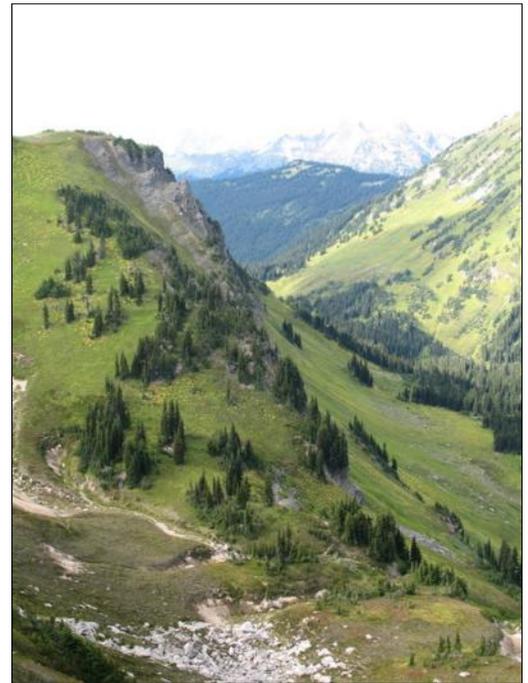
*From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 38*

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

“He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, ‘N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,’ so I answered,” Williams told the ARRL. “I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance.”

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. “Russ really had his act together,” Williams said. “Before he even called

for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me.” Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.



Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. “I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish.

See "Montana Ham", page 9

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### Dates to Remember:

- Oct 13 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Nov 8,9 – [Kentucky QSO Party](#)
- Nov 10 – NKARC Membership Meeting

# NKARC Directory

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[n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto: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, prior to the NKARC membership meeting. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at [ab8sh@arrl.net](mailto: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 at the Hilltop Church of Christ, 5300 Taylor Mill Rd (Ky. 16), Taylor Mill, KY. Visitors are always welcome!

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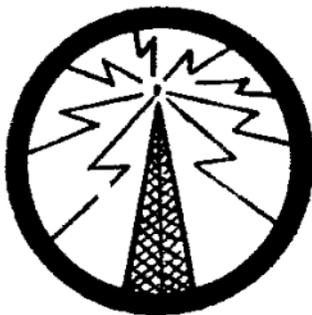
ceived no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Mark Volstad, AI4BJ 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 Email: [mvolstad@insightbb.com](mailto:mvolstad@insightbb.com)

# Top of the Tower

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Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone came through the September wind storm o.k. (And we thought we were safe from Hurricanes). Just about everyone that I talked to was missing a few shingles or had some damage to surrounding trees. Some were without power for a whole week. While things are getting back to normal this may be a good time to check the old antenna to make sure it doesn't need attention before the cold weather gets here. Wind can damage the antenna supports and can lead to major damage down the road.



We will be settling into our new location in the months ahead. I hope to turn our attention back to some club business and enjoying amateur radio. In future meetings I would like to discuss some planning for next year such as presentations, activities, applications, and a club flyer to be mailed out in December to recruit more members.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting at our new location.

Dann Fox  
KI4AVO

## September Net Report

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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](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org)

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
9/2/08	AJ4DK (Don)	5	23	0
9/9/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	7	27	0
9/16/08	N4IJS (Robert)	8	25	0
9/23/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	38	0
9/30/08	N4IJS (Robert)	7	21	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>

# September Meeting Minutes

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## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order by Dann Fox at 7:30 p.m. at The Lighthouse Church. Dann led the group in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Dann. The audit conducted by Lynn Ernst and Fred Eastabrooks concluded that the club's books were in order.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as they appeared in the Feedline.

Tony White and Lyle Hamilton previously volunteered to be the nominating committee. Anyone interested in serving as President, Vice President, or Chairman at Large should contact Dann or a member of the nominating com-

mittee. The election is in November, we should have a slate of potential officers by October.

Dann led a discussion on the club's meeting place. The vote was delayed until after tonight's program.

Lynn Ernst reported that four people took VE exams this evening. One upgraded to General, and two passed the Tech exams.

Lynn also asked for volunteer operators for the Bad to the Bone Race in Boone County on September 20 from 8 a.m. until noon. Three more operators are needed at this time. High power mobile rigs will be required to reach the repeater from the race's check points.

Robert Kluck presented a video on Digital Voice Modes.

Hilltop Church in Taylor Mill was chosen as the club's permanent

meeting spot.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Burns

## ATTENDEES

Bob Burns AB4BK  
Robert Kluck N4IJS  
Bob Pentz K4DMA  
Don King AJ4DK  
Robert Gulley AK3Q  
Dennis Leach KG4SBG  
Andrew Houston KD4MGE  
Paul Swanson KF8WZ  
Jeff Cropper  
Robert Westbrook KJ4FZS  
Mark Volstad AI4BJ  
Lynn Ernst WD8JAW  
Dave Schmidt KI4QH  
Scott Reinhart W8SER  
Joe Stern KI4QG  
Greg Hatton KG4ZTG  
Alan Cohen KA9GRY

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## October NKARC Meeting

The October NKARC membership meeting will be held at our new permanent location, the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill. Robert Kluck N4IJS will present the second part of a program on digital voice modes.

## Help Needed for Dixie Heights VE Testing

Volunteers are needed to help out with VE testing at Dixie Heights High School on Thursday, October 30 at 9:00 am. It is not necessary to be a certified Volunteer Examiner. Please contact Robert Kluck N4IJS at [n4ijs@k4co.org](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org) for further information.

# Mark's Mutterings

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## Surviving Ike

Well, wasn't that interesting? My first inkling that we were in for a bit of a blow came while I was hiking in Gunpowder Creek Nature Park in Burlington, around Noon on Sunday. The winds were gusting pretty good at the start of my hike, but within an half an hour wrist-sized branches were hitting the ground around me, and I decided to cut short my hike and head back to the car.

We lost power around 2:00, and a quick survey revealed numerous large trees down in the neighborhood. Fortunately, the damage to our house was limited to the loss of about a dozen roof shingles.

I turned on a battery-powered AM/FM radio, and tuned around the dial looking for news of what was happening around the tri-state, but all I could find was baseball, football and political talk radio shows. I finally found a Louisville station that was reporting widespread damage and power outages, so I knew that this was not a just a local event.

I turned to my VX-6R (yes, that's the same HT that I disparaged in last month's Feedline!) and tuned to the Boone County Sheriff dispatch frequency. I quickly learned that there were trees and power lines down everywhere, and that the power outage was widespread.

By Sunday evening it was apparent that we could be in for quite a lengthy power outage, and I began to inventory our resources. We had plenty of batteries and candles. One of our two cars had a full tank of gas. The deep freezer in the basement was nearly full, so the contents should have remained frozen for quite a few days. Our gas grill can be easily modified to handle pots and pans,

but I knew that the propane tank was running low. I have a spare tank, but (you guessed it) it was empty. That meant that cooking and hot water for washing and bathing might be a problem.

I didn't get much sleep Sunday night. I did a lot of tossing and turning in bed, wondering if we might have to leave the house and check into a hotel. Fortunately there was enough hot water left in the electric water heater Monday morning that we could each take lukewarm showers.

Before I could worry myself into a deeper state of gloominess, our power came back, almost exactly 24 hours after we had lost it.

Cell phone service remained operational throughout the event, once again making me wonder just what role is left for Amateur Radio during emergencies. My Elecraft K2 had a fully-charged gel-cell battery that I could have kept topped up with my solar panel, but I didn't even turn it on.

Lessons I learned:

- Make sure that at least one car always has enough gas to be able to evacuate a hundred miles if necessary.
- Keep a full spare tank of propane for the grill.
- Get an adapter for charging cell phone from the car.
- Seriously consider acquiring a gas-powered generator. A quick search of Amazon.com showed me how cheap these now are. A 4,000 watt generator can now be had for as little as \$330 with free shipping. (Made in China, of course.)

73, Mark AI4BJ

# Statements From Candidates for Vice Director of ARRL Great Lakes Division

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*Editor's note: ARRL members in the Great Lakes Division should be receiving their voting ballots for the position of Vice Director any day now. The following statements from the three candidates were received via email.*

## Statement from Gary Johnston, KI4LA:

I love Amateur Radio, and I believe Amateur Radio deserves quality leadership.

Amateur Radio is a true passion for us all. There is no other hobby quite like it, and there are no friendships like ham radio friendships.

I have been licensed since 1973, devoting most of my efforts to public service: providing communications support in several disasters over the years, including tornados, floods, hurricane Marilyn in the Virgin Islands, and with the FBI and NDMS during the 1996 Atlanta Olympic bombing - [www.nku.edu/~johnston/atlanta.html](http://www.nku.edu/~johnston/atlanta.html). I have worked as an EC, then DEC, then Assistant Director to 5 Directors before being elected Vice Director and serving as Director and then as Vice Director again.

I have chaired three financially solvent Great Lakes Division Conventions (2003, 2005 and 2007), created the Division Awards program, served as Division webmaster, served on the League's national Volunteer Resource Committee and Public Relations Committee, and chaired the ARRL Historical Committee. I have received EC-1 certification. I've traveled from Sault Ste. Marie and Lupton, Michigan to Murray and Louisa, Kentucky, and throughout Ohio promoting Amateur Radio.

I pledge to work to improve communication between your League and you, improve spectrum protection advocacy, actively promote recruiting future

hams, and bring YOUR concerns before the League's leadership.

I enjoy working CW and DX as well as APRS and high speed multimedia. I've traveled the world with my FM rig, receiving reciprocal licenses from Austria to Australia.

In 1997 I was voted NKARC Ham of the Year for my efforts in helping the club to secure a grant and repeater site on an AT&T cellular tower.

Professionally, I'm a university professor and computer consultant. In my community I serve as President of the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Northern Kentucky, and on many committees, including the NKU Dean of Informatics Advisory Council.

I am fully prepared to continue serving as your Vice Director and would be honored to again receive your vote.

73 de Gary KI4LA

## Statement from John Meyers, NB4K:

Hello,

I am concerned about the future of the Great Lakes Division of the American Radio Relay League. I am sending you this e-mail so you will be better informed about me and my abilities to make a good Vice-Director. Please read it, and if you agree with me, then I would appreciate your vote when you receive your ballot.

My name is John D. Meyers, NB4K. I am 61 years old and a graduate of Princeton High School (1966) in Sharonville, Ohio. I'm married to Shirley A. (Oaks) Meyers with three children, two girls and a boy (who is in the United States Air Force and sta-



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tioned in Tucson, AZ), four grandsons and one great granddaughter and one great grandson. Shirley and I live in Pendleton County with a Butler, Kentucky address. I am retired and enjoy my hobbies and my church (Grassy Creek Christian). We like to travel in our motor home and over the last 30 years we have been in 40 of the 48 contiguous states.

Here are some of my qualifications for this position. I have been an Amateur since 06-81 as a Novice KA4UZN, Technician in 02-82 N4GNL, General in 04-87 N4GNL, Advanced 01-89 N4GNL and Extra 03-2001 NB4K. I have been a League member since 1983. In 1981 I accepted the position of Emergency Coordinator of Kenton County Kentucky, although not a League member I remained in this position for two years then assumed the duties of District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) as a League member and after 27 years I retired from on December 31, 2007.

As a DEC I played a very large part in helping the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club (NKARC) (which I was President of three different times) receive over \$125,000 worth of amateur equipment and a heated/air-conditioned hut from AT&T for use in emergency related incidents and regular amateur communications. Before retiring as DEC I managed the Kentucky District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team (KD7ARET) amateurs to new levels in the nine counties we served. With the county, hospital or the ham organization support there were 2 meter/440 radios, antennas, power supplies and coax installed in each of the 9 EOCs, District office and 2 hospitals. Three of the EOCs have complete HF stations also. Forty-six members of KD7ARET have been certified in IS-100, IS-200, IS 300, IS-400, IS-700 and IS-800. Over thirty were trained in damage assessment and the same amount in basic first-aid. Many other forms of training and educations were afforded these 88 members. I have never asked any member to do something that I haven't already done or completed. I have completed sixty-one FEMA EMI courses.

I served as Kentucky (KY) Section Manager (SM) for 3 consecutive terms from 2001 thru 2007. Kentucky being the smallest of the three Sections in the Great Lakes Division was a real task at hand. I enjoyed every year I had the position as each and every member of the Kentucky Section made it a delight to have the position. As KY SM I meet or talked to: two different Governors (Patton and Fletcher) Representative Rocky Adkins, Tom McKee, Alecia Webb-Edgington, Arnold Simpson, Thomas Kerr and Senator Katie Stine. I have either talked about Amateur Radio or the lives of an amateur to each of the individuals. As SM I worked with the Ky League of Cities to secure the fact that PRB-1 is not an issue in Kentucky. Over the years there became a poor turnout for NTS in KY on the phone bands so, I had all NTS traffic moved to the CW nets and any emergency traffic taken to the Kentucky Emergency Net, which worked really well as NTS is alive and well in KY. When assuming the duties of SM there was 11 clubs and 4 SSC clubs. When I left office there were 33 clubs and 11 SSC clubs. As SM I visited each and every club in KY at least once and some two and three times as requested.

Since the first of this year I have volunteered with the Pendleton County Emergency Management as a Special Projects Officer in cooperating Amateur Radio. In April I was appointed to Chair the Great Lakes Division Legislative Action. As a team all of us the Legislative Action Coordinators of each section their group of Legislative Action Assistants and the members of the section can and will make a difference in Washington. Now, I want to serve the Great Lakes Division in the same manner as I did as a DEC, SM and DLAC asking that you vote for me this October to make this come true. My door, phone and e-mail will be open to each of you if you have any questions or comments. I look forward to meeting and seeing each and everyone one of you.

Sincerely,

John D. Meyers, NB4K

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## Statement from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU:

Fellow Hams:

Amateur Radio is a great hobby and a real public service. Amateur Radio has given me a lot, and I have tried to give back to this great institution:

- I have served as the Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator for the past four years.
- I have served as president, and currently am on the board of directors for ARROW, our Amateur Radio club in Ann Arbor, MI.
- I teach both Technician and General Class license courses. In addition to teaching, I've written study guides that have helped many pass the Technician and General Class written exams. These study guides are available for free on my website.
- I helped organize and have participated in "Radio Merit Badge Day," an event jointly sponsored by our club and the local Boy Scout council. Over the past two years, nearly 300 Boy Scouts have earned their radio merit badges at these events.
- I am spearheading a project called Ham Radio at the Hands-On Museum. The goal of this project is to set up a permanent Amateur Radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. This station will be in operation by the end of October 2008.

If you vote for me for Great Lakes Division Vice Director, I'll use the experience that I've gained with these activities to help even more people obtain their licenses, make Amateur Radio more enjoyable for those of us already licensed, and work to ensure that Amateur Radio continues to serve the public interest. Here are some of the things I would like to get the ARRL to do:

- Increase ARRL membership. Currently, less than 25% of all licensed amateurs are ARRL members. If the ARRL wants to truly call itself the "National Association for Amateur Radio", that number must be higher. Let's set a goal of

30% or more and devise plans to get us there.

- Get hams more involved. We need to find a way to get hams more involved, both with the hobby in general and with the ARRL in particular. Hams who are not active and committed do not write letters to their congressmen, do not participate in emergency communications and public service activities, and do not see any reason to belong to the ARRL. An active, committed membership is key if we are to reach the goals we have set for ourselves.
- Support clubs and educators. Clubs are often the first point of contact that people have with ham radio, and successful, thriving clubs will encourage more people to become active Amateur Radio operators. We need to improve the Affiliated Clubs program so that there's more incentive to become an affiliated club and provide more support to those currently teaching ham radio classes or who want to teach ham radio classes.
- Act in accordance with all five "purposes" of Amateur Radio. Part 97 spells out five different purposes for the existence of the Amateur Radio Service. These include "advancing the state of the radio art" and "enhancing international goodwill." I would like to see the ARRL devote more time and energy to these endeavors. This is another reason to get more hams involved. These are not small undertakings and we'll need every ham we can get, first to define programs and then to execute them.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail or by phone about any of these issues or issues that you think need addressing.

Thanks for your time. I appreciate your vote.  
73, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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**"Montana Ham", cont'd from Cover**

When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at

about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

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# 1 Day AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

For Entry Level Technician License  
**Saturday, November 8th**  
8am - 4pm

IN

***BLUE ASH***

For more information:

**513-382-3979**

OR

**classes@ohkyin.org**

EXAM: NOVEMBER 15th at 12 NOON  
in Western Hills

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# QSL Card of the Month

## Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

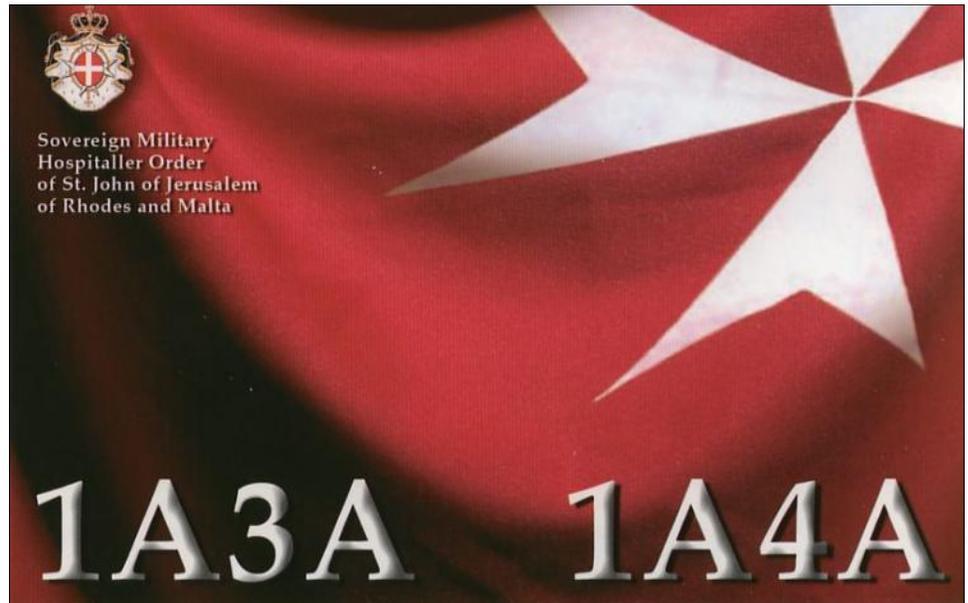
## Comments:

I'm always amazed at how much history and geography can be learned by collecting QSL cards, and this month's card is a prime example. The DXCC entity's full name is **Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta**.

Whew! No wonder that it is usually abbreviated as Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), or just Knights of Malta.

According to [Wikipedia](#), SMOM has its origins in the Knights Hospitaller, an organization founded in Jerusalem in 1050 to provide care to poor and sick pilgrims to the Holy Land. Following the loss of Christian territory to Islamic conquerors, the Order operated from Rhodes and later from Malta, until evicted by Napoleon in 1798. Today the Order is based in Rome.

The international status of the Order seems to be the subject of considerable debate. Other than a few properties in Italy, SMOM has no sovereign territory. The United Nations classifies it as one of the "entities and intergovernmental organizations having



received a standing invitation to participate as observers." The 1A prefix was not granted by the ITU — it is an unofficial prefix used for DXCC purposes.

SMOM has formal diplomatic relations with 101 states (the United States is not one of these).

Today the order has 12,500 members, 80,000 permanent volunteers and 13,000 medical personnel including doctors, nurses, auxiliaries and paramedics. The goal is to assist the elderly, the handicapped, refugees, children, the homeless, those with terminal illness and leprosy in five continents of the world, without distinction of race or religion.

Through its worldwide relief corps, [Malteser International](#), the Order is also engaged to aid victims of natural disasters, epidemics and armed conflicts.

SMOM's official web site is found at

<http://www.orderofmalta.org/english>

*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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Volume 2008 Issue 10**