



# The Feedline

## What's With Knobs, Anyway?

Ward Silver, NoAX

*Extracted from the ARRL Contest Update newsletter, July 9, 2008*

Somewhat lost in all the hue and cry about software-defined radio (SDR), CW decoding, and robotic contest stations is the gradual change of a radio's "front panel in the mind". As technology changes the way a radio operates, so, too will it change the way we interact with the radio and even the way we think about the radio spectrum and signals that occupy it.

For example, the first radio receiver we owned strongly colors our imaginations. Depending on whether that first receiver had a dial whose numbers increased clockwise or counterclockwise, you may imagine signals higher in frequency as being to the "left" or "right" of your signal. My first rig was an HW-16, so I turned the tuning knob clockwise to make the frequency increase and the dial rotated counterclockwise. To this day, signals higher in frequency I imagine as being off to my left. All four combinations of knob turning and dial direction exist somewhere in historical radios, so there are probably four populations of us that think about the spectrum in different ways.

Even deeper, almost all HF operators rotate a circular knob to tune the radio. Keyboard frequency entry is possible, but not commonly. What this means is that we think of the spectrum as a linear object. To get from frequency to fre-

quency, we have to visit all of the intervening frequencies sequentially. Oh sure, we can hop around, but our basic conception is of a big ruler with the various frequencies ticked off along it.

These basic concepts have held sway since the 1920's. Radios have knobs. A big one changes the frequency (to the left or right) and little ones change the characteristics of the signals received. The model is very, very hard to change. Yet it is changing.

What if a ham learned to use a radio without using a tuning knob - like VHF FM users do? Perhaps they were trained in the military or commercial channelized services and don't think of the spectrum as continuous, but rather discrete, disconnected channels. How do they imagine their radios - as directionless lists of frequencies or users?

The new types of displays that are becoming common - especially the waterfall - have the potential to erode the linear model's dominance. The Digipan PSK31 display simultaneously shows all the contacts within its received bandwidth - in parallel! SDR displays can show an entire band and when coupled with Skimmer software, the station call signs, too. Freed from the linear model, operators are free to simply "click around the band", instead of

See "Knobs", page 3

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### Dates to Remember:

- Sep 8 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Sep 21 – GCARA Hamfest
- Oct 13 – NKARC Membership Meeting

# NKARC Directory

**President:**

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**Net Manager:**

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

[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. 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>

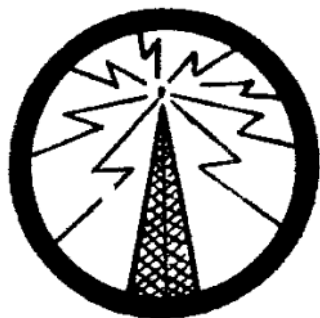
**NKARC Membership Meetings:** 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome! Due to construction at Turkeyfoot Middle School, the location of future meetings is TBD. Please monitor the Tuesday net or the club web site for further information.

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given. Submissions to The Feedline must be re-

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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Editor's Note: Because this month's Top of The Tower was received after publication deadline, it had to be inserted in page 11.

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## "Knobs", cont'd from Cover

tuning from one station to the next.

What does that mean for hams and radio in general? This reminds me of an old joke: When the horse was asked, "When you walk, do you move both legs on one side or the diagonally opposing legs, front and back?" The horse thought for a minute and said, "I'll never walk again!" This can get awfully deep when our goal is simply to fool around on the radio, but it does have implications.

Someday soon, a developer will release a radio dis-

play that doesn't need a knob or keypad at all. The operator-cum-user will enter a visual world in which signals appear in different colors, different sounds, in different directions. They may be spikes, icons, photos, patterns - anything that contains the necessary information for us to accomplish our goals of using the radio. Perhaps you'll even be able to see other stations that are "tuning". This will be a brave new world of radio, enabling a whole new way of interacting with the RF spectrum. It won't be long before operators will be asking, "What was with the knobs, anyway?"

73, Ward N0AX

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## August 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](mailto:n4ijs@k4co.org)

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
8//08	AJ4DK (Don)	5	17	0
8/12/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	4	13	0
8/19/08	N4IJS (Robert)	4	12	1
8/26/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	26	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>

# August Meeting Minutes

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## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2008 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The meeting was called to order by Greg Hatton at 7:35 p.m. at The Hilltop Christian Church. Greg led the group in the pledge to the flag. Self introductions followed.

Lyle Hamilton reported that one person passed both the Technician and General tests in this evening's VE session.

Jack Thompson congratulated Mark Volstad, Feedline editor, for a job well done.

Lynn Ernst presented the club with a plaque from Paddle Fest thanking the club for its help during this year's Paddle Fest.

Greg May commented on Tuesday morning's meteor shower. Its

peak will be at 3 a.m.

Dennis Leach distributed maps with directions to the site of the September meeting. The meeting will be held at the Lighthouse Church in Elsmere. The church is on the corner of Main Street and Bedinger Avenue.

The club will vote at the September meeting on a permanent meeting location.

Tony White suggested that the club might want to start thinking about forming a nominating committee for 2009 officers.

The July minutes were accepted as they appeared in the August Feedline.

The business meeting closed at 7:51 p.m.

Mark Volstad presented videos on electrical safety, and the ARRL's lobbying efforts in Washington

D.C. and a slide show of this year's Field Day.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Burns

## ATTENDEES

Greg KG4ZTG  
Tony AI4IP  
Mark AI4BJ  
Greg W2ORO  
Judy W1ORO  
Dave K8WDA  
Bob K4DMA  
Ken KZ5KR  
Lynn WD8JAW  
Robert AK3Q  
Jeff (no call)  
Lyle AB8SH  
Dennis KG4SBG  
Jack KA4RKS  
Bob AB4BK  
Rob KI4YWJ  
Fred KE4ESN  
Mike KB4VKS

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## September NKARC Meeting to Decide Permanent Meeting Location

The September 8 NKARC meeting will be held at the Lighthouse Freewill Baptist Church, at 401 Main St., Elsmere. Click [here](#) for directions.

During this meeting, a vote will be taken to decide whether to hold future club meetings at this location, or at Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill, site of the previous two meetings. If you have a strong preference for one site over the other, please be sure to attend this meeting and cast your vote! After this important vote, Robert Kluck N4IJS will present a program on digital voice on HF.

# Mark's Mutterings

## Feature-rich, or Feature Overload?

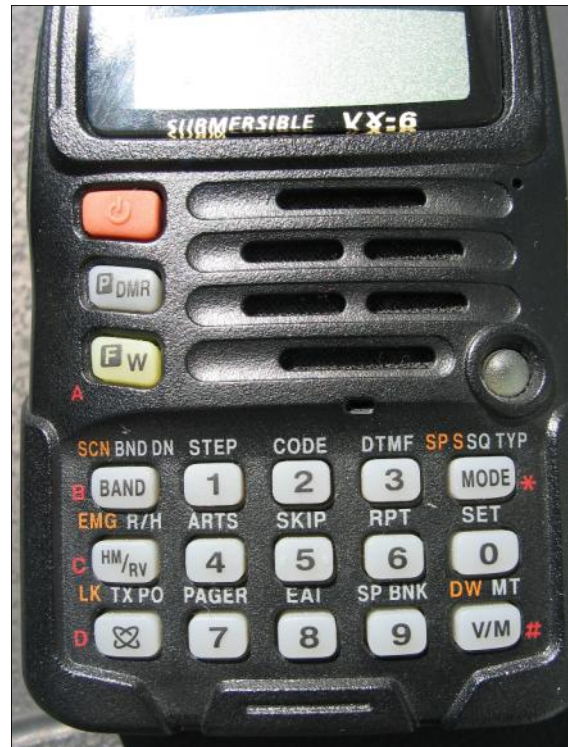
I *want* to like my Yaesu VX-6R, I really do! It would seem to be the ideal HT to bring along on my backpacking trips. It is compact, rugged and waterproof. It transmits on 144, 220 and 440 MHz, and has a wideband receiver that allows me to listen to National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and warnings, AM and FM broadcast stations, as well as HF shortwave stations. It has so many features that if I attempted to list them all they would fill up the rest of this page. Incorporating so many features into such a tiny package was truly a feat of engineering. Unfortunately, I find the user interface to be highly non-intuitive, and so this amazing little rig usually sits unused in the drawer of my night table.

Let me give you an example of its non-intuitive interface. One of the most basic functions you need to perform with an FM rig is to adjust the squelch. When I am at home, I must set the squelch quite high to overcome the ambient suburban noise levels. When I am hiking in the backcountry, I can usually reduce the squelch to its lowest level, and thus hear very weak stations that would otherwise be masked. There is no squelch button or knob on the radio, so a visit to the 108-page operating manual is required. The manual has no index, so I must search through the table of contents. Ok, I finally locate "Squelch Adjustment" on page 13. The instructions state:

1. Press the [F/W] key, then press the **MONI** switch on the side of the radio.
2. Rotate the **DIAL** knob to set the squelch to the desired level.
3. Press the **PTT** key momentarily to save the new setting.

Note that I have to use *four* separate controls and not one of them is labeled "Squelch"! Do you

suppose that I can actually remember this sequence of steps the next time I have to adjust my squelch? No sir, I cannot. I might have been able to during the bloom of my youth, but now that my gray hairs outnumber my brown hairs, this is asking too much! And this brings me to my next



gripe. The [F/W] key seems to be an important key, as it comes into play when activating many of the features of this radio. Now, it is not unusual to abbreviate text on a button when space is limited. I'm quite OK with that, as long as the abbreviation is obvious. But what exactly does F/W stand for? I've scoured the manual from one end to the other, and it doesn't say. Does it mean "Forward"? "Firmware"? "Funkwagen"? I simply think of it as "Function", but then why didn't they just label it "Func" or "F"? I can't escape the feeling that the W stands for something important, and that if I just knew what it was, operating the radio would suddenly become much simpler!

See "Mutterings", page 9

# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**  
**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**  
**E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org); Tel.: 513-459-0142**

## **You asked: study of FCC rules**

A few members asked the purpose of the study of FCC rules the ARRL Board authorized. It is to determine if ARRL should consider recommending a petition to change improve the rules regarding wideband transmissions. Any petition that would be considered would provide a win-win situation for everyone. The study will determine if changes in rules might possibly facilitate greater use of broadband digital operation while simultaneously reducing interference to other modes.

A problem with operating on the ham bands is interference between two or more QSOs. It happens all the time. There may be no QRM as a QSO begins but often creeps in as propagation changes. It also happens as we try to squeeze "too many" signals into "too little" space. The situation is further complicated especially with digital operation because of the difficulty in simultaneously monitoring the frequency for other modes.

QRM can result even though all stations involved operate legally. There is no FCC rule that prohibits all forms of interference — just intentional interference.

I'll make certain you have the opportunity to cuss, discuss and comment on any proposal.

## **You Asked: IARU Region I Bandplan**

I've been asked to explain what is going on with reported proposals made at the IARU Region I Conference to give the entire the new 100 kHz segment of 40 Meters to SSB. The frequency segment in question is the 7.1 to 7.2 MHz segment the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) allotted to Amateur Radio at it's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) in 2003 (WRC-2003).

The IARU Region I conference in question has not yet been held; therefore, there are no official proposals to discuss. Rumor that the conference has already been held and the proposals have been made are incorrect.

It is important to remember that IARU decisions, regardless of region, have no impact on FCC regulations. Another fact is that the US is in IARU Region II. Finally, it is important to remember that CW is permitted throughout the bands in Region I just as it is in Region II and in the US. Therefore, the

potential question really is, "On which frequencies will Morse signals have protected status?" and not "Which frequencies will be available for Morse signals?"

Precisely how IARU Region I national organizations will decide how their new 100 kHz segment will be used won't be known at least until the Region's conference in Croatia in November.

Why the question at this time? Some hams in Europe are saying that three of the regions national Amateur Radio member organizations have proposed that the new 7100-7200 band expansion will not include special assignments for CW. Whether any of this talk translates into formal proposals at the coming conference remains to be seen.

The current Region I IARU allocation can be seen at [http://www.iaru-r1.org/05%2010%2009%20Region%201%20HF%20Bandplan%202006%20\(Amended\).pdf](http://www.iaru-r1.org/05%2010%2009%20Region%201%20HF%20Bandplan%202006%20(Amended).pdf).



## **Michigan ACC to present Webinar**

Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, will present a Webinar titled Kit Building. This Webinar will be on Monday, September 22 at 8 PM. This online session will provide an excellent introduction to kit building even for hams who are convinced kit-building is beyond their ability.

GLD members will receive an official invitation to the Webinar shortly. It will be hosted on Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar's (N3LLR) Webinar system that is graciously made available for Great Lakes Division use. Additional details of the Webinar content will also be distributed in coming days.

## **GLD Members in QST**

Congratulations to Glenn Brown, NN8G of Mount Victory, OH and Bob Booher, K8JPM of Hartville, OH for having feature articles published in the August issue of QST. Glenn described the history and recent updating of a homebrew, 12-tube receiver that was designed and built in 1955 ... in Afghanistan. Interesting story, Glenn.

Bob described a remote system he developed for lowering a mobile antenna. For those of us who have mobile antennas that reach higher than our garage doors are tall, thanks Bob.

The August QST apparently was something of a Great Lakes Division issue. In addition to the articles, letters-to-the-editor from Michigan-turned-temporary Marshall Islands resident Neil Schwanitz, WD8CRT/V73NS and Ohio member Steve

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Bellner, W8TER of Toledo were also in the August issue.

Speaking of publishing in QST, I just received the September issue. Jim Welt, KI8BV of Sandusky, OH has a fine article about a dipole antenna with a powered controller.

Want still more GLD in print? Mike VanVoorhis, N8VIQ and children Lauren and Kaitlin are pictured in Up Front in QST. They are shown in the Edison Depot Museum in Port Huron.

Please also note that one GLD native is always in QST. This is Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

### Happy landings, George

As mentioned in “Weaver’s Words” last fall, Past Director George Race, WB8BGY of Albion, MI was building his own airplane — to fly — with himself aboard. The construction has been completed and he made his maiden flight with the “experimental” craft on August 20 — from his side yard. The plane is an STOL (short take-off and landing) designed in Europe.

You can see photos of the first flight at <http://www.mykitairplane.com/chat/>. Photos of the plane as it progressed from kit-form to a real airplane are at <http://www.mykitairplane.com/MyCH701>.

Of his first flight, George said, “Building and flying your own airplane is an experience of a lifetime, and a life long dream coming true for me.” He also reported that “Barb, my wife, says I can’t seem to get the smile off of my face!”

The registration letter/number of the plane is N73EX. As you can guess, the N is for the US. From this point on, I had to ask George how he got the registration number.

Registration numbers that are not in use are posted by the FAA (Federal Aviation Association). Registrants such as George may choose any of the unused letters. He chose 73 for its use by hams as well as its general meaning. X (for experimental), itself, was unavailable so he chose EX.

Congratulations, George. Many happy landings and 73, indeed.

### Dumbing down?

I continue to hear amateurs say FCC licensing exams have become too easy. This increased easiness is blamed for a “dumbing down” of Amateur Radio.

I don’t believe the licensing exams are the cause of any current problems and I’ll tell you why. First, though, let’s look back about 50 years ago.

Back when the Novice license was introduced, many older hams believed it would lead to the dumbing down of Amateur Radio. (Sound familiar?) In spite of their predictions, hamming continued to prosper for decades. Adding the Novice license simply made things different ... not worse. It was a change. Many people resist change.

People who currently bemoan the dumbing down of Amateur Radio are largely the same people who benefitted from the supposedly “dumbed down” Novice license. Obviously, the dumbing down waited until after they — and I — were licensed.

Just how tough was this Novice (entry level) license so many say was harder than the current Technician exam? The Novice exam required four simple things. It required us to learn: how to use Ohm’s law, how to calculate power, how to calculate the proper lengths of wire antennas, how to apply FCC rules pertaining to the Novice license, enough about electrical safety to avoid being electrocuted and just enough electronics theory to enable us to learn more if we wanted to learn more. This was far from being enough to earn an associate degree in electrical or electronics engineering.

We also learned how to draw the schematic for a Colpitts and a couple of other extremely simple oscillators. How many of us can still draw one of these? Moreover, who cares?

We didn’t need to learn much to obtain an amateur license 50 years ago, did we?

Back then, the training manuals for the Novice, Technician and General licenses, each, were less than 1/4" thick with pages about 5 1/2" by about 7 1/2". These study guides were far from being encyclopedic in content. They contained relatively few study questions.

Compare the study guide of about 50 years ago with the study guides of today and a huge difference immediately jumps up and hits one in the face. Modern study guides are thicker than 1/2" with pages of about 8 1/2" x 11. This means even at first blush, that there is about four times as much material to study today than there was in “the good old days.” A review of the contents of current and old study guides confirms this first-blush impression is accurate.

For sake of discussion, let’s assume Amateur Radio is dumbing down. Who is at fault? In my view, the main problem newbies face is a lack of knowledge of proper operating procedures, not a lack of technical knowledge (as compared with the requirements of 50 years ago). How did we OMs and OWs (Old Men and Old Women) learn proper operating? We learned them from experienced hams who took the time to guide us. We called these people “Elmers.”



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Elmering of newbie or wanna-be amateurs is largely a lost practice. The most unfortunate thing is that the FCC in its infinite wisdom has done nothing to help the situation under its newer rules. Still worse, too many of us old times do no more than sit back and complain about newly-licensed amateurs instead of reaching out to help them.

Rather than being a dumbing down of Amateur Radio, I suggest what we see today is a “letting down” — a letting down of new people by us more experienced hams.

Adhering to the license manual is fine. Having 1-day crash courses for licensing is fine. I believe that what we ought to do, though, is to take the extra step needed to develop these book-taught amateurs into rounded operators.

If we do this, new inexperienced operators who have no concept of operating courtesy and ethics will become the type of new operators who had been coached by Elmers. The new people will still make mistakes, but so did we. We still do. The difference is that they as did we will understand they don't know everything and will be eager to continue to learn.

This is my opinion. What is yours?

### **Fee for Vanity Calls going up**

The cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase effective September 25. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

### **WRC-11**

The next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) is set to be held the third quarter of 2011. This will be the first WRC since 2007. If you are unfamiliar with WRCs, they are conferences of representatives from the world governments that develop details of international treaties governing the use of radio frequencies.

As usual, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is planning ahead to develop proposals to submit to the Conference through their Federal delegations.

### **New Canadian band plan**

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has adopted a new band plan for Canada. The new plan and rationale for adopting its provisions are at [http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband\\_e.php](http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php).

### **Replacement for Riley**

When Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired from the FCC,

Amateur Radio and ARRL lost a good friend in a key position. It isn't that Riley did anything for us that he would not have done for anyone else, but that he was dedicated to doing it — i.e., the right thing. He also had the support of his supervisors in the Commission to do his job. Riley nearly single-handedly oversaw cleaning house of the truly bad actors in Amateur Radio.

FCC advertised for applicants for Riley's former position. Apparently, there was considerable interest in the position and several applications have been received. Evaluating the applicants is said to be in progress.

Incidentally, Riley remains very interested in Amateur Radio. He was and is a true amateur operator.

### **MiQP Party results**

I jumped the gun a bit when I announced the results of the Michigan QSO Party had been posted on the Internet. They are there, now. Go to: <http://www.miqp.org>.

The contest committee reported, “... 2008 was a record-setter for MiQP in many ways.”

### **Michigan Section Convention**

Final arrangements for the Michigan State Convention are coming into shape quite nicely. The ARRL HQ representative will be one of ARRL's crucial staff leaders, Dan Henderson, N1ND our Regulatory Information Manager.

The Convention and Hamfest will be October 12 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairground. Forums, food, DXCC QSL checking, VE testing, door prizes and free parking. A Convention banquet featuring awards and a presentation by Mr. Henderson will be at 1 PM.

Admission is \$5.00. Camping as well as hotel housing is available. Information is available at [www.KalamazooHamFest.com](http://www.KalamazooHamFest.com).

### **Great Lakes Division candidates certified**

The ARRL Elections & Ethics Committee has reviewed and certified nomination applications for four candidates. I was certified to run for Director. With no opposition, the Committee declared me elected per ARRL rules. I look forward to serving the members of this Division for another three years.

Three candidates have been certified for the Vice Director position. In call sign call sign order, these are John Meyers, NB4K, of Butler, KY; Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, of Ann Arbor, MI and Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, KY.



Gary is the current Vice Director. John is former Kentucky Section Manager and is the current Division Legislative Action Chairman. Dan Romanchik is the current Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator and is a member of the Board of Directors of the ARROW Communications Association of Ann Arbor.

Ballots will be mailed about the end of September (see below).

Tentative Schedule:

- 7 Sep: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH
- 13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim
- 17 Sep: Delaware ARA Meeting, Delaware, OH - Jim
- 21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim, Gary, John

- 23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed
- 6 Oct: Carroll County ARC, Carrollton, OH - Jim
- 7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim, John
- 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 current office holders.

### "Mutterings" cont'd from page 5

Ok, I just turned on my radio, and I find that it is tuned to a weather station, which is where I last left it. Now I want to tune to the K4CO Edgewood repeater, which I have previously programmed into one of the memories. Hmmm. I press the **BAND** button, but I find that this just cycles me through the NWS, Marine and Shortwave bands. How do I get to the 144 MHz band?

I notice the [V/M] button in the lower right hand corner of the keypad, and I remember that this toggles the radio between VFO and Memory mode. What the heck — I'll give it a try. I press it and find myself listening to the Four Tops on 103.5, WGRR FM. Oh well, this thing has a tuning knob, so let's start tuning. I get as far as 107.9 and then it suddenly wraps around to 59.0. It doesn't look like I'll be able to get to 147.255 this way! Let's try the **BAND** button again. Eureka — 111.11 MHz! At least I'm getting closer! I press **BAND** one more time and as if by divine intervention, 147.255 appears on the display. I'll probably never be able to find that weather station again, but at least I am back "home" — for now.

Of course, if I actually used this radio more than once every couple of months, I might actually start to learn some of its quirks. But I come from the

school of radio design that says that you should be able to use the basic features of a ham transceiver without having to study a manual. The VX-6R has 18 buttons, which should be more than enough to achieve this goal. Unfortunately, most of the buttons are tasked with functions that I will never use, such as ARTS (I have no idea what it is), EAI (ditto), PAGER, DTMF, EMG, etc., etc. Are these really more important than "Squelch"?

73, Mark AI4BJ



"Yes! That was very loud Sir, but I said I wanted to hear your HEART!"

# QSL Card of the Month

## Submitted by:

Ken Rood, KZ5KR

## Comments:

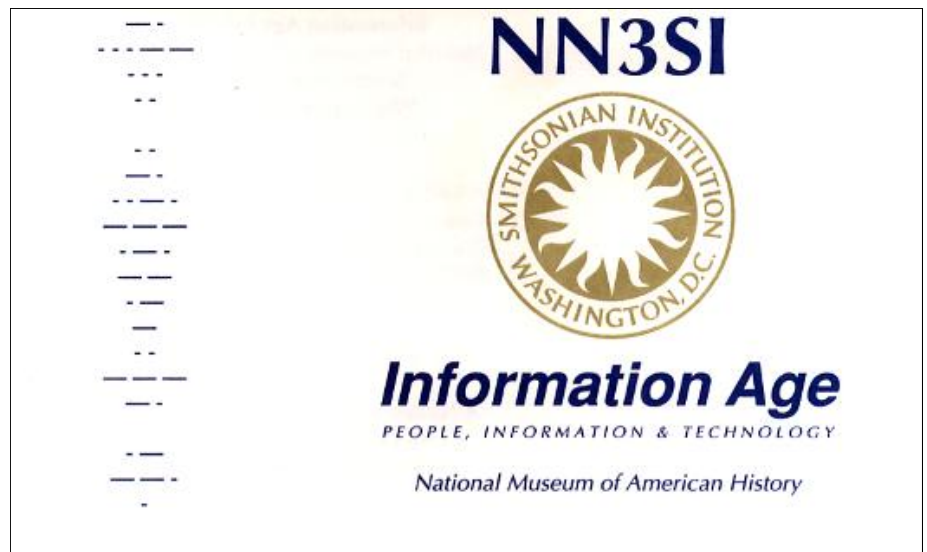
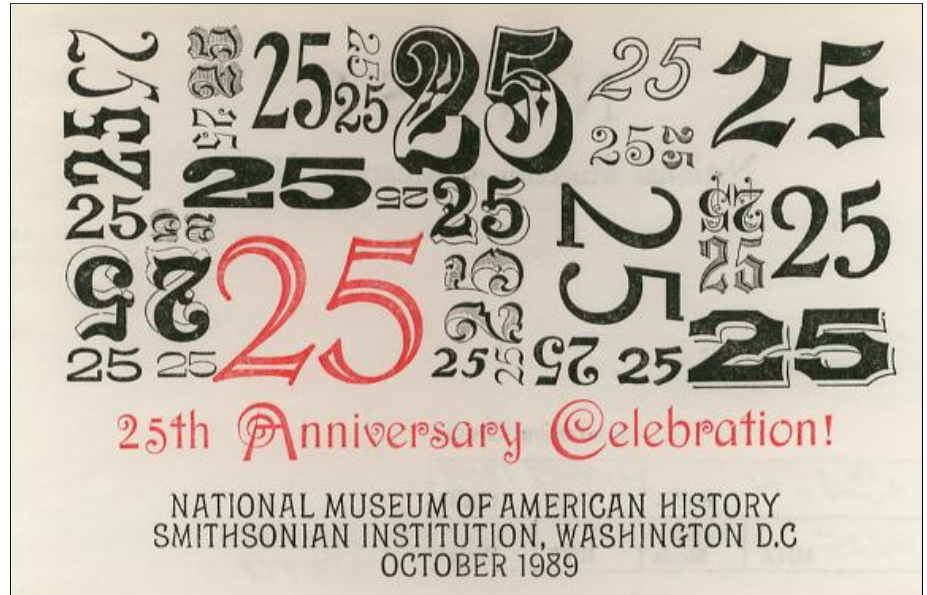
(by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ)

Ken states that one of these cards was from his KD4PN call and the other from his MARS call during a MARS special event.

For 32 years, Amateur Radio station NN3SI operated from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History (NMAH) in Washington. Due to building renovation, it no longer had space in the museum and went QRT on July 31 of this year, as reported in an ARRL news item.

NN3SI first became active during the museum's 1976 bicentennial exhibit "A Nation of Nations". The call sign was derived from "Nation of Nations — zone 3 — Smithsonian Institution". Museum visitors learned about ham radio by watching and talking to the volunteer hams who operated the station.

The station's equipment is now in storage, but if a suitable location can be found elsewhere within the Institution, the station may be reactivated.



Hello everyone,

This month we will sample a new location to consider for a meeting site, and vote on the permanent location for future club meetings. I will be glad to be able to put that behind us and settle into our new location, it has been a large shake up for the club this summer losing the meeting location. I would like to thank every one who has helped in resolving the problem and commend the patience of the club members while we were working out the problems.

Fall is fast approaching and we will need to turn our attention to nominating candidates for club offices, this is when the club can use the democratic process to either keep the same officers or make changes. I

would like the club members to take some time to think whether or not they would like to run for an office, or take on some of the business portion of the club. Please let us know at upcoming club meetings. It is important for me to encourage the club to think and talk about the officer positions, and elect the best people available for the different positions. My intent is to help the club whether it is serving as an officer or supporting someone who would like to give it a try, the important thing is that the club is ok with the people that it has in office for the next year and will give them their support.

Thank You,  
Dann Fox  
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