

Vol. 2009, #7
July 2009



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Alan Cohen, KA9GRY works the mic while John Bennet, WD9NMV, logs contacts, during the joint NKARC/KD7ARET Field Day exercise at Lincoln Ridge Park on June 27th and 28th. Additional photos can be found on page 8.

Upcoming Programs

At the **July** meeting, Robert Kluck, N4IJS, will present a program on D-STAR. If you are interested in learning about this protocol for the transmission of digital voice and data via radio, you won't want to miss this meeting!

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, will demonstrate his solar-powered portable HF station at the **August** NKARC meeting. This will include the all-band 66-ft doublet he has described in recent issues of the Feedline. Weather permitting, we will try to make a few solar-powered contacts!

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Dates to Remember:

July 13 – NKARC Membership Meeting
Aug 10 – NKARC Membership Meeting

NKARC Directory

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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, 8:30 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 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!

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed via direct email to current NKARC members. **If you are a member but are not receiving your copy, please notify the Feedline editor.** 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 for the August

Feedline must be received no later than July 31. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

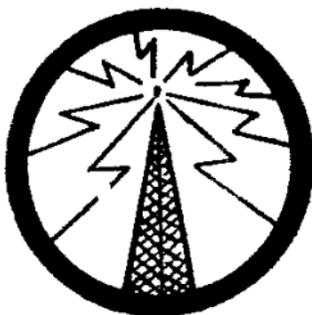
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
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Top of the Tower

Hello Everyone,

Set up for this year's Field Day was filled with challenges just as Field Days in the past have been. Just as in the years past, we managed to work together and get everything set up in the nick of time to start at 2:00 p.m.

KY7ET brought their trailer again this year. They have really brought the trailer a long way since last year. They have built shelves and a desk for the radios and had the antennas mounted.



Throughout the day club members and guests came and went. A few members still found time to come out even after being available for Paddlefest. I believe everyone enjoyed the time there. We accomplished everything that we had planned. We really appreciated the late night delivery of White Castles.

Please enjoy the photos in The Feedline and I encourage anyone who took pictures to bring them in to let everyone see at our next meeting.

73,

Dann, KI4AVO

June 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
6/2/09	N4IJS (Robert)	8	23	0
6/9/09	AJ4DK (Don)	7	25	0
6/16/09	KB4VKS (Mike)	12	29	0
6/23/09	KB4VKS (Mike)	11	34	0
6/30/09	N4IJS (Robert)	11	22	0
TOTALS:		49	133	0

June Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2009 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

- Meeting called to order by Don King AJ4DK at 7:35, followed by pledge of allegiance and self-introductions
- No treasurer's report this month
- VE report by Lyle: 2 candidates successfully upgraded to General
- Report on VE testing at Dixie Heights (15 of 18 students plus one teacher passed the Tech, and one student passed the General)
- Tuesday night net has moved from 7:30 to 8:30

- New club contest announced: 1 point awarded for each check-in to net. At end of year, prizes will be awarded to those with the 3 highest scores.
- New contest to encourage members to offer programs for monthly meetings (Don was not sure of details)
- Next month's presentation will be on D-STAR, by Robert N4IJS
- Report on successful antenna-building party. Several dipoles were built for club use during Field Day.
- Motion was approved to empower Board to make a cash donation to Hilltop Church of

Christ. It has been almost a year since we began holding our meetings here.

- A technical net will be starting up (Don did not have details)
- Mark Volstad reported that Bob Burns is no longer able to make it to meetings regularly, so club needs a new secretary.
- Plans for Field Day were discussed.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:18 (no formal program this evening)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ.

Paddlefest Wrap-up

Paddlefest 2009 took place as scheduled on Saturday, June 27. The weather was perfect and the Ohio River current was ideal for those experiencing the fun of canoeing/kayaking the 8.2 miles from Coney to the Cincinnati Public Landing. According to the event sponsor: 1750 paddlers plus 49 dogs, 1100+ canoes/kayaks, 3 row boats, 4 paddleboards, 1 pirate peddle boat, and 44 breast cancer survivors in pink dragon boats (very large canoes!). The float was incident free and on schedule. See www.ohioriverway.org

There were eleven (11) amateurs

from Kentucky and Ohio representing the NKARC using the K4CO call and working the W4YWH, 146.79- repeater.

AG4XM – Tim,
KD4PYR – Rick,
KI4SRF – Harry,
W4SOU – Brian,
KD8BNS – Greg, KI4ZWC –
Matt (1st time), WD8JCT – Greg
(1st time), KI4QH – Dave,
KB4VKS – Mike (NCS),
KC8YDM – Dave (1st time),
WD8JAW – Lynn. W4SOU was
Safety Director shadow and got a
helicopter ride!



We had 11 operators and could have used 15+. Are you ready to help Paddlefest 2010?

73 Lynn, WD8JAW

Mark's Mutterings

Field Day 2009: Several Firsts, and Lessons Learned

I began planning for my Class 1B backyard operation a month before Field Day, when I stopped at Art's Tool Rental to reserve a generator. From their web site, I knew that they had the amazing little Honda EU1000i 1 KW generator. If you've never seen one of these beauties, or it's 2 KW big brother, you have no idea how the state of the art in generator technology has advanced in the past decade. The [EU1000i](#) weighs a mere 29 pounds, and is so quiet that you can barely



hear it running from 10 feet away. It features inverter output, which means it produces power that is almost as clean and stable as that which the power company delivers to your house, while running for up to 15 hours on a single gallon of fuel!

Alas, when I arrived to pick up the generator on Saturday morning, I found that they no

longer had the EU1000i, and they instead offered me a cheap no-name knock-off. Not having any alternative, I took it home with me. The first thing that I discovered was that it was heavy — nearly twice the weight of the Honda. And despite what the salesman at Art's tried to tell me, it did not have inverter output, which meant that it ran at a constant 3600 RPM, regardless of load. I could hear it running in the driveway on the opposite side of the house! It had a lot of trouble maintaining speed, and would surge even under a constant load. It actually stalled several times when the load was no more than 50 watts! I did manage to negotiate a substantial discount on the rental fee when I returned the unit Monday morning.

I was not aware that there is a “commercial power” category in the 1B class. I'll give serious consideration to operating in this category the next time I spend Field Day in my backyard.

K3: A Real Champ

Fortunately, this was the only equipment problem I experienced over the weekend. My Elecraft K3 worked flawlessly. I decided to run at a full 100W this year, betting that the loss of the 5x point multiplier for running at 5W would be offset by being able to complete more

contacts. In the end, I didn't quite meet my objective of making 400 contacts, but my final result of 365 QSOs was still a big improvement over my previous best of 239. Exactly 300 of these were on CW, with the remaining 65 on SSB.

I probably operated for 16 or 17 hours in total, stopping only for meals and four hours of sleep early Sunday morning.

My strategy is to stick with CW on Saturday, and only stray into the phone sub-bands on Sunday morning when total anarchy has usually subsided into mere chaos. I honestly don't know how some operators are able to operate phone for the whole weekend — what a zoo compared to CW! When I did operate phone, the foot pedal I've previously mentioned worked like a champ — I'll never operate phone without one again!

Another new piece of equipment that survived a baptism by fire was a [Koss SB-45](#) communication headset that I only paid \$27 for. (I could never quite bring myself to spend \$150 for a Heil headset.) This headset looks and feels rather cheap, and comfort is only so-so, but you can't beat the price, and they work just fine.

I had hoped to be able to hold a frequency on CW and “run”, but after trying this for an hour,

I decided that I could maintain almost the same QSO rate with less stress by searching and pouncing. Part of the reason for this is that the K3 has a very effective built-in CW decoder. This means that I was usually able to pick up the exchange of any station I tuned to on the first attempt, regardless of speed. This contrasted with previous years when I usually had to listen to several exchanges with other stations before I felt comfortable enough to jump in.

The K3 can also decode RTTY, which made it a snap to copy the ARRL Field Day bulletin for 100 bonus points.

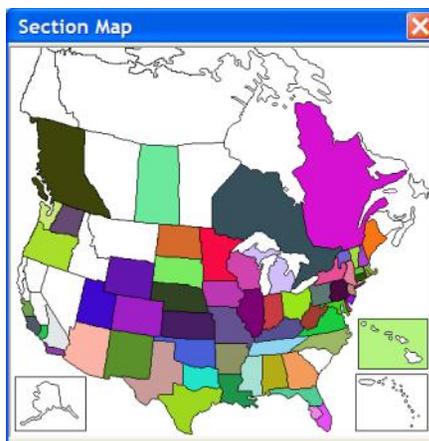
Conditions seemed much improved over last year, when I only heard a handful of stations west of the Rockies. This year I was able to work most of the West Coast, and even worked three separate KH6 (Hawaii) stations, thanks to a great 15M opening Saturday night.

As you can see from the section map at right, I managed to work every section east of the Mississippi with the exception of South Carolina (what's up with that!?) and Puerto Rico.

Antenna Mystery

One curious observation I made was that my 66-ft doublet behaved much differently in my backyard than it did at Banklick Woods last year. For example,

on 40 M my K3 would shut down when I keyed the transmitter, until I installed a 1:1 current balun between the rig and the feedline. Last year I did not need the balun. Also, I was not able to get a good match when I configured the doublet as a top-loaded vertical on 80 M, yet I obtained an excellent match when I used the antenna as a (too-short) dipole. This is exactly the opposite of what I experienced last year! I guess this just demonstrates how much of an influence the environment the antenna is used in can have on its behavior. Last year it was in a largely open environment while this year it was near some large trees and a two-story house clad in aluminum siding.



Highlights of the Weekend

I made my first-ever contact on 6 Meters, with a station in Indiana. Then again, we didn't exchange grid squares, so perhaps I shouldn't count it as an official contact!

Favorite call sign heard: W1MOO, in (where else?) Vermont. When I looked it up on QRZ.COM I found that it belongs to "The Udder Club"!

At one point, I replied to a station calling CQ on CW. I recognized the call sign, N3FJP, as belonging to Scott Davis, creator of the N3FJP logging software that is famously used by most Field Day groups, and which I happened to be using myself. As soon as I entered his call sign into the program, a window appeared with something along the lines of "Hey, that's Scott Davis, creator of this software! Say Hi to Scott!", displayed within it. I said Hi to Scott. I also had the pleasure of chatting briefly with a YL at the microphone of W1AW Sunday morning. She was booming in with a signal that was 30 db over S9.

One of my post-Field Day pleasures is reading all of the [soapbox comments](#) that appear on the ARRL web site. It's always fun to see how and where other groups and individuals operated, and how they dealt with any adversity they may have faced. The comments often continue to trickle in until Christmas, which speaks volumes about the widespread popularity of this annual event. I can't wait to do it all again!

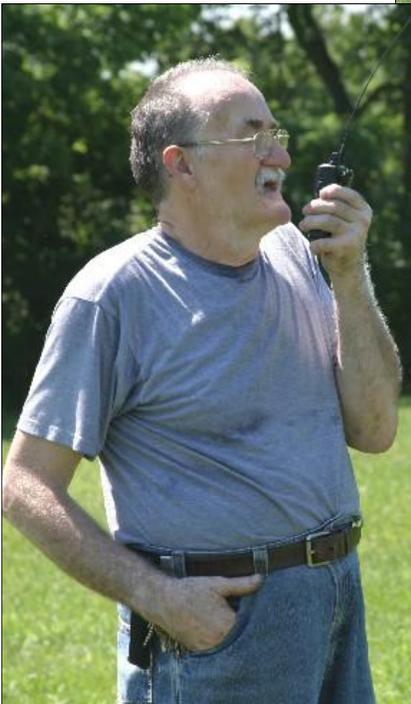
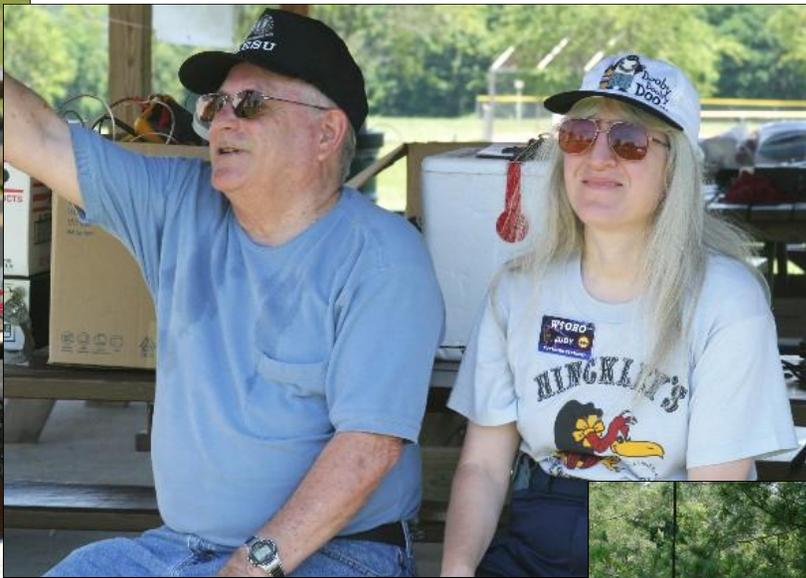
73, Mark AI4BJ

Antenna Building Party



Greg May, W2ORO, captured these photos of a well-attended Antenna-Building Party held on Saturday, June 6th. The wire antennas that were built were put to good use three weeks later during Field Day.

Field Day 2009



Photos by
Greg May,
W2ORO



Weaver's Words

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

Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE, SK

For members in the Kentucky and Michigan Sections who may not have heard the sad news, Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE became a Silent Key on Saturday, June 20. His funeral was on Saturday, June 27. ARRL made a very appropriate remembrance has been in Joe's memory.

In addition to members in Ohio, Joe was well-known and loved by many members in Kentucky and Michigan. He is missed.

H.R. 2160

Members told the ARRL Board of Directors they want us to do something to overcome the effect of Codes, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&Rs) in private contracts. CC&Rs are the part of property contracts that prevent a great many hams from putting up outdoor antennas. ARRL has taken the first step toward this goal. Now it is time for members to do their part.

What has ARRL done? We have worked with members of the US Congress to introduce and co-sponsor US House Bill H.R. 2160. This bill is the first step toward nullifying the effect of CC&Rs on amateur antennas.

We need you to help yourself and your fellow amateurs . . . now. Please write letters to your US Congressman. For information on writing, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> . A draft letter is available through a link at this site as is special information concerning where to

send your signed letter (to the ARRL Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC, please).

The name of your US Congressman -- or Congresswoman -- is shown on the left side of the Members Only opening page (click on Members Only at the top of the www.arrl.org web opening screen).

Use your US Representative's name and address on the letter, but please be certain to send a signed copy of the letter to John Chwat in DC. He will hand carry the letters he receives to the offices of your US Representatives. Doing this will make your letter more effective.

HR 2160 is titled the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. It is sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas. It has eight co-sponsors at present. Co-sponsors from the Great Lakes Division are Mary Jo Kilroy of Ohio District 15 and Brett Guthrie of Kentucky District 2.



Division Symposium Update

September 12 is approaching more rapidly than we may realize. This means you'll hear more about the Great Lakes Division Symposium that is on the 12th. Here is the current run down:

Highlights of the program include a presentation by former astronaut Tony England, W0ORE. Tying in with the presence of England will be a discussion by Charles Sufana, AJ9N on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Charlie is an ARISS.

The remainder of the program is still being developed; however, a few more program highlights are:

-
- QRP -- A remote audio/video presentation by G3RJV
 - New Designs for Getting Started on VHF -- a remote audio/video presentation by KK7B
 - QSLing -- 8th Area QSL Bureau Manager, K4ZLE
 - A Successful Radio Merit Badge Class for Boy Scouts by KD8AVT
 - Emergency Communications -- N8IJ
 - Radio Clubs -- WB8LCD

There is no registration fee; however, attendees will be requested to sign up in advance so the Symposium team can obtain an estimate of the attendance.

Lunch will be available at a modest price or attendees may go to nearby restaurants. A chicken barbecue is planned for Saturday evening. The cost will be announced later.

ARRL Annual Report Available

The Annual Report of the ARRL can be read online at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/annualreport/2008/2008-Annual-Report.pdf>.

Cost of Vanity Calls Increases

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The cost of a vanity call sign will go from \$12.30 to \$13.40 for 10 years.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs involved in the program. The fee is payable when applying for and when renewing a vanity call sign. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

Vanity call signs issued before 1996 are exempt from this fee. These "heritage" vanity call signs are not listed as vanity licensees in the FCC database.

ARRL Board of Directors will meet

The 2009 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be July 17-18 in Windsor, CT. Standing Committees meet July 16 at ARRL HQ.

"CQ" names Great Lakes Division Members two of the Best

Writing in the June issue of CQ magazine, Uncle DX identifies 11 DXers from around the world who excel in one or more phases of the skills needed to star in the search for DX. His article, "Let's Improve Our DX Pileup Act," begins on p. 44. Two of the amateurs he mentions live in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

The two amateurs are Jay Slough, K4ZLE of Lebanon, OH and Wayne McKenzie, K8LEE -- a Cincinnati who moved to Lawrenceburg, IN for antenna space. Both men are members of the Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA).

I am pleased to say Jay is the fine Manager of the 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau. He is also known for going on several DXpeditions, headed Hamvention(r) DX Forums and SWODXA DX Banquets at the Hamvention. He is in the happy job of building an antenna farm at his new home.

WRC 11 now WRC 12

This won't affect our schedule, but the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has been delayed until 23 January to 17 February 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.

GLD Hams place high in ARDF Contest

Ohio and Kentucky were well represented at the 2009 ARDF National Championships in Boston. To be precise, three amateurs and one budding amateur from the GLD won medals. Medals were awarded to the top three overall finishers in each class.

Complete info is available at www.bostonardf.org.

80 Meter Results:

M13 Class - Addison Bosley, 12 year old grandson of Dick Arnett, WB4SUV took 1st Place Overall, the Gold Medal and US National Champion.

M40 Class - Matt Robbins, AA9YH of Cincinnati captured 1st Place USA, US National Champion and 4th Place overall.

M60 Class - Bob Frey, WA6EZV, Cincinnati copped 2nd Place USA and captured 3rd place and the Bronze Medal overall. Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, Erlanger, Kentucky finished in 3rd Place USA.

2 Meter Results:

M13 Class - Addison Bosley excelled again by taking 1st Place overall, the Gold Medal and US National Champion. I bet grandpa was very happy!

M40 Class - Cincinnati's Matt Robbins, AA9YH took 2nd Place overall, Silver Medal, 1st Place in USA and US National Champion.

M60 Class - Dick Arnett, WB4SUV of the Bluegrass State and Bob Frey of the Queen City were

very strong in the class once again. Dick grabbed 1st Place Overall, Gold Medal and 1st Place USA, US National Champion with Bob walking off with 3rd Place USA.

Bob and Dick are perennial favorites to be among the top DFers whenever they compete. Addison may just be the "young find" for the future. This will be especially likely if Dick helps makes certain there is a new ham licensee in the family.



PRB-1 type bill is in the Ohio House of Representatives

Ohio Hams are asked to Write in Support of Ohio House Bill 212.

The state legislation we have known as Ohio PRB-1 is now known officially as Ohio House Bill No. 212. This bill will essentially place the provisions of FCC PRB-1 into Ohio State Law. As part of Ohio law, it will be more visible to townships, cities and other government organizations. Just as PRB-1 applies only to government ordinances, HB-212 will apply only to ordinances. Nonetheless, with some government organizations attempting to ignore the partial pre-emption from PRB-1, it is important that HB-212 is passed.

HB-212 is sponsored by Ohio State Representatives Gerald Stebelton and Mark Okey. It is co-sponsored at the time this e-letter is being written by 11 additional Ohio Representatives.

Ohio State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP, is the leader of this effort, with District 7 DEC Steve Katz, N8WL, serving as project manager.

Pittner commented, "We need to have hams contact the remaining 86 members of the Ohio House to possibly be co-sponsors but at least be supporters of HB No 212."

Go to www.arrl.org to see full information about HB-212 as well as to learn the identity of your representative.

Michigan PRB-1 bill Eminent

Michigan amateurs lead by Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK and his PRB-1 committee will soon introduce a PRB-1-like bill into the Michigan Legislature. Michigan hams are requested to be on the alert for announcements concerning the new bill and what they can do to support it. At deadline time, the bill is being put into "Legislature style" before it is assigned a number and introduced for action.

EC of 35 years Retires

Fred Jones, WA4SWF of Louisa, KY has always had the reputation for doing everything at the 100%+ level. He did this when he served as Emergency Coordinator for Lawrence County, Kentucky for 35 years and he continues to do this. Fred retired as EC at the Big Sandy Hamfest in Louisa, KY on May 2. I thought I was pretty sharp by having Assistant Director John Meyers, NB4K present Fred with a special recognition from the Great Lakes Division at the hamfest.

Once again, Fred has done us all one better. He received the mother of all awards at the Little Sandy Hamfest in Grayson, KY on June 6. Dubbed the Award for Receiving the Most Awards, it was presented to Fred by Bill Eldridge, KD4DZE of Grayson.

Way to go, Fred.

Travel Schedule

The following is the travel schedule for Division staff for coming weeks. In addition to Vice Director Gary Johnson, KI4LA, Division Legislative Action Chair John Meyers, NB4K and 8th Area QSL Bureau Manager Jay Slough, K4ZLE will visit the events shown below.

Date.....Event.....Division Representative(s)

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

- 9 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA Meeting -- John, Jim
- 16 Jul: A&F Committee meeting, Newington -- Jim
- 17-18 Jul: ARRL Board meeting, Newington -- Gary, Jim
- 26 Jul: Randolph, OH, Portage ARC 'fest -- John, Jim
- 1 Aug: Columbus, OH, Voice of Aladdin ARC - Gary
- 7 Aug: Massillon ARC 75th Anniv. of ARRL Affiliation -- Jim
- 9 Aug: Lawrenceburg, KY, Bluegrass ARS -- Gary
- 16 Aug: Cortland, OH, Warren ARA -- Jim
- 12 Sep: GLD Symposium, Findlay RC -- Gary, Jim, John
- 13 Sep: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay RC -- Gary, Jim, John
- 19 Sep: Reynoldsburg, OH, Ohio Sec. Conf. -- Jim
- 20 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest, Gr. Cincinnati ARA -- Gary, John, Jim

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