

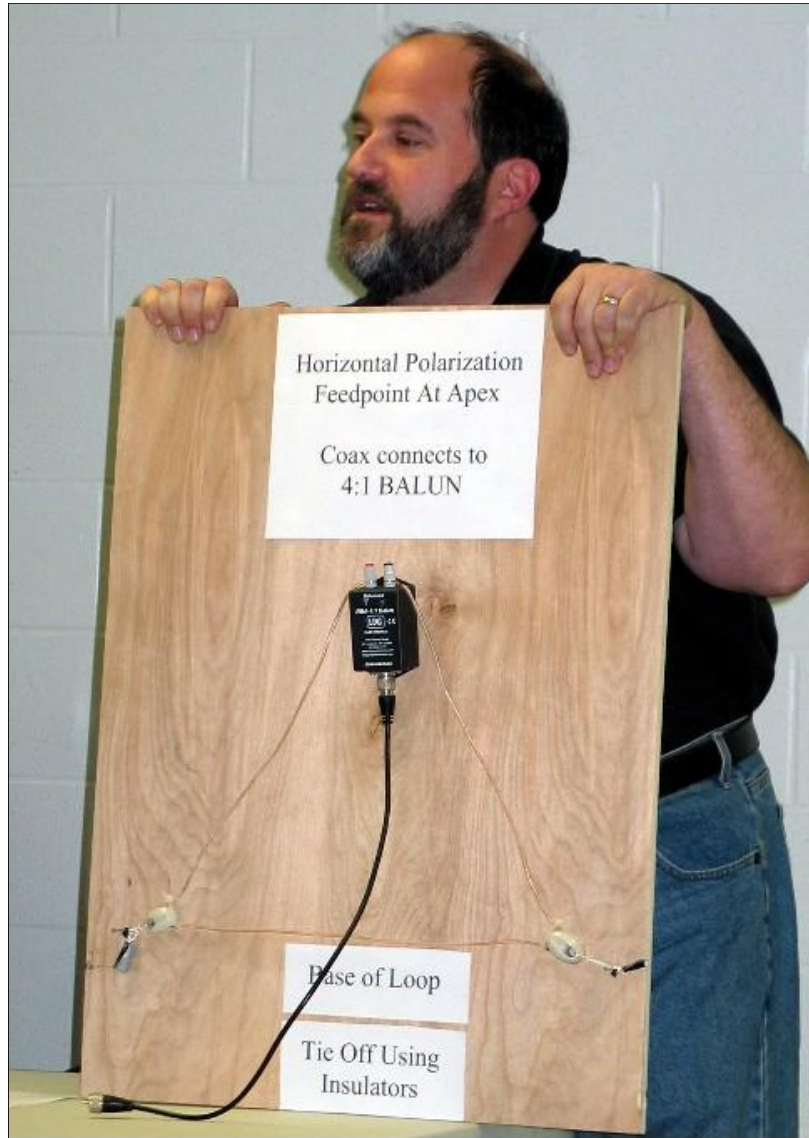
Vol. 2009, #5

May 2009



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Robert Gulley, AK3Q, describes a 20-Meter delta loop antenna he built, at the April 13 NKARC meeting. This was followed by a presentation by

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, who demonstrated how to model antenna systems using available software for the PC.

Upcoming Programs

May 11 is ARRL night. Long-time NKARC member and Great Lakes Division Vice-Director **Gary Johnston, KI4LA**, will bring us up to date on happenings within the ARRL and will answer any questions you may have about how the League has been representing its members.

The **June 8** meeting will be devoted to preparations and planning for Field Day.

Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
April Meeting Minutes	4
Mark's Mutterings	5
Weaver's Words	7

Dates to Remember:

- May 11 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Jun 1 – Dixie Heights VE Session
- Jun 6 – NKARC Antenna Building Party
- Jun 8 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Jun 27–Paddlefest
- Jun 27,28 – Field Day!

NKARC Directory

President:

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

Vice President:

Robert Gulley, AK3Q

ak3q@arrl.net

Club Trustee & Historian:

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

k4bri@arrl.net

Director at Large:

Don King, AJ4DK

kingdl19406@msn.com

Feedline Editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

mvolstad@insightbb.com

Webmaster:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

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, 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 June

2009 Feedline must be received no later than May 29. 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

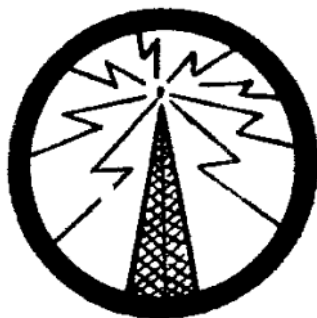
Tel: 859-689-4234

Top of the Tower

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to give an update on membership. We have a total of 44 members signed up for the year so far of which 8 are new members. 14 members from last year have not yet renewed.

This year we are going to have an antenna building party. We would like to invite the old pros and the newcomers to the antenna building event. The primary goal of this event is to bring together people that are interested in building antennas, building antennas for Field Day, and getting some planning done for Field Day. If you have questions about antenna building this would be the place to bring them. I am sure you will be



able to find someone that can help you find the answers that you need or confuse you more. Feel free to bring the materials to assemble your own antenna at the event.

This event will be on Saturday, June 6th starting at 10:00 am at the Hill Top church of Christ at 5300 Taylor Mill Rd. Taylor Mill, KY. This is the location of our monthly club meetings. I hope to see a lot of you there.

73,
Dann, KI4AVO

April 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
4/7/09	KB4VKS (Mike)	5	19	0
4/14/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	6	19	0
4/21/09	N4IJS (Robert)	9	22	0
4/28/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	16	0
TOTALS:		28	76	0

April Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2009 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

--7:35 Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance.

--Dann Fox presented the treasurer's report:

Beginning balance: 2,407.74
expenses 95.61
income 223.00

Ending Balance 2,539.09

--Motion to accept treasurer's report approved

--Old Business: Dann asked for volunteers to "adopt a letter" from the stack of returned club letters mailed out in January. It is hoped members may know or be able to find out correct addresses for those returned posts

--Sign-up sheet for field day operators and loggers passed around; sign-up sheet should appear on the KY7ET site shortly, with a link on the NKARC site as well

--Several radios have been secured for Field Day

--New Business: antenna day

planned for club around the first weekend in June-details to follow

-- Fall trip to ARTEMIS Center tentatively schedule for August/September club meeting depending on availability ARTEMIS staff: ARTEMIS is the major traffic communications hub for the Greater Cincinnati area
--Business portion of the meeting adjourned 8:00

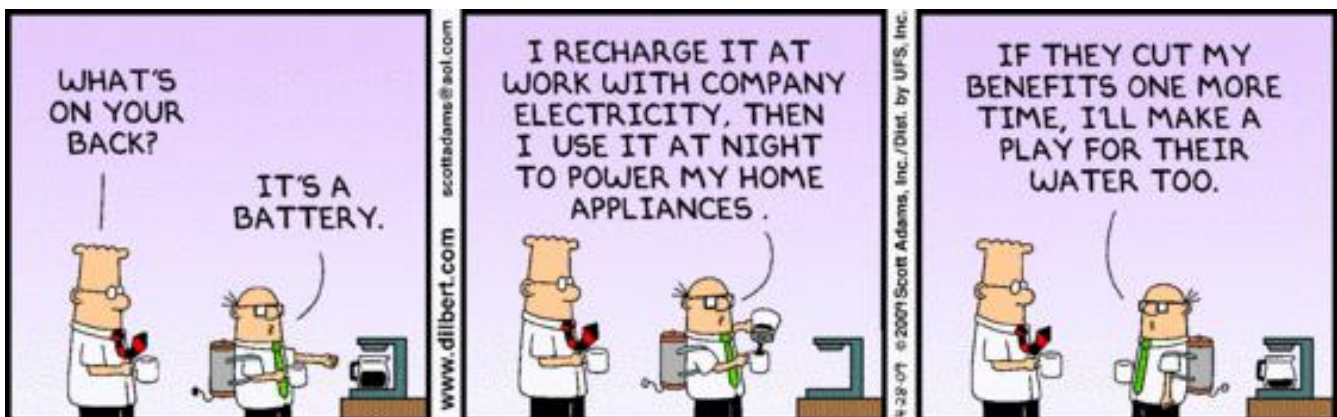
--Three (3!) drawings were held for 100 ft coax cables donated to the club by Mark Volstad. Winners were Tony (AI4IP); Rod (KJ4IAM); and Lyle (AB8SH).

--Congratulations to the winners, and a really big "Thank You" to Mark for donating the cable! Raffle ticket purchases totaled \$107 for the club, so a big "Thank You" also goes out to those who were able to buy tickets!

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Robert Gulley AK3Q, Vice President

ATTENDEES

Dann Fox KJ4AVO
Robert Kluck N4IJS
Robert Kluck II, W4XBX
Don King AJ4DK
Fred Eastabrooks KE4ESN
Robert Westbrook KJ4FZS
Mark Volstad AI4BJ
Judy May W1ORO
Greg May W2ORO
Tony White AI4IP
Dave Core K8WDA
Rod Villari KJ4IAM
Lynn Ernst WD8JAW
Robert Gulley AK3Q
Dave Schmidt KI4QH
Alan Cohen KA9GRY
Chuck Stacklin KU4ZV
Brian DeYoung K4BRI
Lyle Hamilton AB8SH
Dennis Leach KG4SBG
Mike Wagoner KB4VKS



Mark's Mutterings

Field Day Cometh!

As this is an odd-numbered year, I will be participating in Field Day by putting on a 1B effort from my backyard. (In even-numbered years, I join the club wherever they happen to be spending Field Day.) Two years ago I operated QRP using a solar-charged battery. This year I think will operate QRO (100 watts), which means I will need to find a generator. After the outages due to the wind and ice storms of the past year, I've been seriously considering buying one, but I also have the option of renting one. I love those ultra-quiet Honda inverter generators, but I don't love the price tags that are attached to them!

I expect to spend most of my time on CW, but I may spend a bit of time on the phone bands as well. To this end, I intend to order a PTT foot switch. The foot switch will make it easier for me to log calls on my laptop while completing the QSO. (I tend to avoid using VOX, as allergies cause me to frequently clear my throat.)

The other upgrade that I want to make is to add a 400 Hz CW roofing filter to my K3. If you're confused about what a roofing filter does (as many hams seem to be), here is an excellent explanation by Wayne Burdick, N6KR, the chief designer of the K3: <http://www.elecraft.com/K3/R>

[roofing Filters.htm](#)

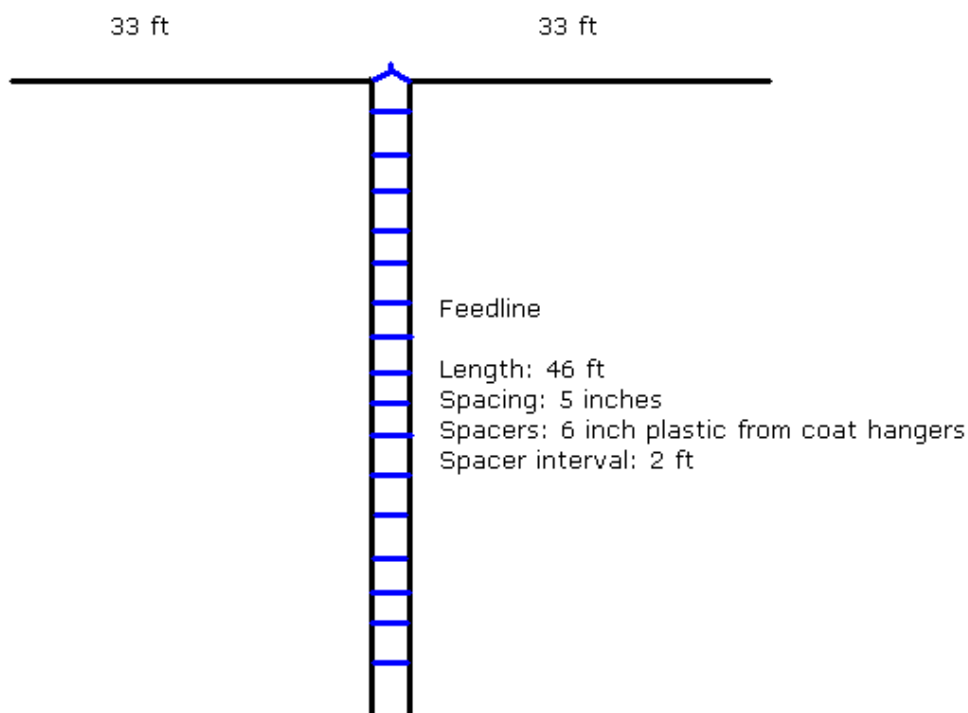
My antenna will be my usual inverted-V doublet, fed with open-wire feedline and supported by a single 33-ft fiberglass push-up [mast](#). I've mentioned this antenna so often that I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, but I cannot imagine a better antenna for portable use. It is ultra-light, and I can erect it by myself in 15 minutes. It works well on 40 through 10 Meters, and by tying the ends of the feedline together and adding one or more ground radials, it works well as a top-loaded vertical on 80 Meters. Of course, on several bands it requires the use of an antenna tuner. The use of a balun at the

transceiver is optional. If you omit it, the feedline is likely to radiate. I'm fine with this. I would rather have my Tx energy radiated from the feedline than wasted heating up a balun!

The key to this antenna is to use 24 AWG Teflon-insulated wire for both the elements and the feedline. The diagram below shows the construction details. The mast is light enough (3 lbs) to be supported by three kite strings at a single guy point. If anybody is interested, I can provide details on the support system.

73,

Mark, AI4BJ



80m - 10m Doublet

Name that Ham!

Can anybody guess who the young ham is in the photo below? Hints: He is a current member of NKARC, and the photo was taken during

Field Day in 1961.

If you have a photo (old or new) of yourself at your station that you would like to share, please forward it to the Feedline editor.



Copyright © 1999 by Greg Trook



"Yes I really am running just 5 watts QRP...although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."

Weaver's Words

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

ARRL Convention at the Hamvention

The 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention will be Friday through Sunday, May 15 through 17. The Hamvention is the greatest ham radio show on earth. As always, it will showcase nearly every product and service available to radio amateurs. Attendees are expected to include most of the World's leaders in essentially every aspect of Amateur Radio. Always a great event, the Hamvention holds even more significance when it and the ARRL National Convention are combined.

Great Lakes Division involvement --

This year there is a particularly interesting forum and an especially useful display that many Division members will doubtlessly want to patronize. These are the ARES(r) forum and the ARRL Legislative Agenda booth.



ARES Forum: The forum title, "The Maturing of ARES in this decade of 911 and Katrina," can only suggest the significance of the discussions it will generate. Mark Hamvention Meeting Room 3 at 2:30 PM Saturday on your calendar. Be there to see the exciting and challenging changes that will happen to ARES in coming years. As Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE has said, "This isn't our grandfather's ARES."

We amateurs have always prided ourselves with the thought that we are on hand to pick up the pieces when all other forms of communication fail. Those who attend this ARES forum will get a good view into what is needed if we are to continue to meet this self-portrait into the future.

The forum panelists will be: Charles Miller, AE4UX Section Emergency Coordinator for South Carolina; Southeast Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK and Rob Macedo, KD1CY Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net. Director Sarratt was Alabama Section Manager at the time of Hurricane Katrina. He was a major organizer of the post-Katrina Amateur Radio relief operation. Ohio SEC Jack Sovik KB8WPZ of Youngstown, OH will moderate the forum that he organized.

Legislative Agenda at Dayton Hamvention: This will be the first year for an ARRL Legislative Agenda booth at the Hamvention. It will be located in the ARRL section. Along with myself, NB4K, there will be many other Division Legislative Action Chairmen, Coordinator's and Assistant's. We have had nine of the 15 Division Directors also say they would be looking forwards to the information given out and taken in at this booth for further education in the Divisions. This is not just a Great Lakes Division endeavor but a coordinated agenda among the many Divisions.

We will have handouts and information for those not yet familiar with our agenda along with folks who will be able to answer any of your questions. Stop by and see us as we will be looking forward to seeing you.

73,
John D. Meyers, NB4K
Great Lakes Legislative Action Chairman

Scholarship Winners in the Division

The ARRL Foundation has announced scholarship winners for 2009. Of the 52 scholarships awarded, six went to amateurs in the Great Lakes Division. Division recipients are:

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association Scholarship - \$1000

Thomas Fielitz, KC8YAK, Smiths Creek, MI.
The K2TEO Martin J. Green, Sr. Memorial Scholarship - \$1000
Jacob Wagner, KD8CDC, Rocky River, OH
The David W. Misek, N8NPX Memorial Scholarship - \$1500
Janet Ruminski, KC8WGT, Beavercreek, OH
The Thomas W. Porter, W8KYZ Scholarship Honoring Michael Daugherty,
W8LSE - \$1000
Robert Garfield, W8BOB, Cincinnati, OH
The YASME Foundation Scholarship - \$2000
Kathryn Ankenbauer, KD8AHA, Portage, MI
Andrea Hill KD8FJS, Bellefontaine, OH

Congratulations to the winners. All the best to them in their studies.

Telephone numbers

Several recent situations have come up that suggest many of us overlook keeping our contact information up-to-date with ARRL. Most often, this involves not updating telephone numbers when new numbers are obtained or when one retires. At other times, e-mail addresses and even street addresses may go for years without being kept current.

Overlooking keeping data up-to-date by clubs usually happens when new officers are elected. It is surprising that officers for some very active clubs that are proud to say they are affiliated with ARRL have failed to update their information annually are really years out of date.

Members can update their addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses by going to Members Only on the ARRL web site. Club updating is done on the Club page of the web site. If you need help, let me know or, for clubs, contact your Section Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Speaking of telephone numbers, members who have stored my telephone number may not have noticed it has recently changed. The number to use in reaching me at home is 513-459-1661. This number now appears in QST.

Incidentally, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of Vice Director Johnston, KI4LA and me are always on p. 15 of QST. The counterpart information for SMs Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Dale Williams, WA8EFK and Jim Brooks, KY4Z are always on p. 16. We may be "shakers," but we aren't "movers" when it comes to these two pages.

What does ARRL do for me?

Last month I began this series of discussions on the benefits members receive from membership in ARRL. I provided a simple listing of services and noted which were available with no fee associated with them. I also referred to a number of the best-known services (e.g. DXCC, contest) as being superficial. By superficial I mean they are great activities that provide many of us with needed relaxation and a lot of fun (admittedly, with a little frustration at times), but they don't do much of earthshaking consequence for Amateur Radio or the public.

ARRL is the only ham radio organization in this country that can mount a sustained, full-scale effort to achieve the regulatory and legislative action Amateur Radio deserves. Through this effort, Amateur Radio, and you and I benefit.

What other ham organization in the US could have brought a successful lawsuit against the FCC in Federal Court? None.

However, because of ARRL, the FCC has been prevented from putting an ill-conceived regulation into effect. A US Court has required FCC to suspend implementing it and to go back to the drawing board. The Commission is required to follow its own operating rules in developing a new regulation, provided it wants to develop a new regulation.

ARRL successfully showed the Court the Commission ignored its own rules when it paid no attention to relevant data it had received in developing rule-making. The resulting rule would give unlicensed transmitters dominance over licensed transmitters. In other words, Part 15 unlicensed devices could interfere with license radio services (including Amateur Radio). The most notable Part 15 device at this time is BPL.

When one considers only BPL, if you operate from 160 through 2 meters, you have benefited from the League's fight to keep Part 15 devices, including BPL, to operate free of interference to ham operations.

Next month I'll feature another aspect of something ARRL "Does for Me."

DTV Presentation Still Available

I've received e-mail that praised the Alliance (OH) ARC's switch-to-DTV PowerPoint presentation. If your club plans a similar presentation, feel free to contact Frank Sanor, WA8WHP, wa8whp@arrl.net to obtain a free copy.

Time for Antenna Work is nearly Over

It is my unfortunate duty to remind everyone the time to install and repair antennas has nearly passed for our part of the world. The next opportunity to ensure the value of this work will not come again until early winter.

The Law of Mass Inclemency clearly states that the worse the weather when antenna work is done, the better the antenna will perform. Conversely, the less uncomfortable the weather when this work is performed, the less well the antenna will perform.

Fred Jones, WA4SWF

On May 2, Fred retires as Lawrence County, Kentucky EC after 35 years. I don't typically become

involved in recognizing work done in individual ARRL Sections. The Section Managers take care of this quite adequately. I'm making an exception in this instance because the person involved is an exceptional individual and has performed exceptional service for ARRL and Amateur Radio that goes beyond the Kentucky state line.

Fred thanks for your tremendous work and the outstanding effort you have devoted since before you became EC until now. Knowing you and your devotion to our great service, you will remain in an active role in Amateur Radio for many years to come.

Congratulations and thanks.

Travel Schedule

The following is the travel schedule for Division staff for the 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)

SCHEDULE

- 2 May: Louisa, KY Hamfest -- Jim
- 8 May: Miami County ARC, Troy, OH -- Jim
- 11 May: Northern KY ARC -- Gary**
- 15-17 May: Hamvention(r)/ARRL National Conv. - Gary, John, Jim
- 6 Jun: Grand Rapids, MI; Independent Rapt Assoc. 'fest -- John, Jim
- 6 Jun: Olive Hill, KY; Little Sandy RC -- Gary
- 7 Jun: Chelsea, MI; Chelsea ARC 'fest -- John, Jim
- 20 Jun: Midland, MI; Midland ARC 'fest -- Jay, Jim
- 21 Jun: Monroe, MI; Monroe Co. RCA 'fest-- Jay, Jim
- 9 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA Meeting -- Jim
- 16 Jul: A&F Committee meeting, Newington -- Jim
- 17-18 Jul: ARRL Board meeting, Newington -- Gary, Jim



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

**FIRST
CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**



**NKARC Feedline May 2009
Volume 2009 Issue 5**