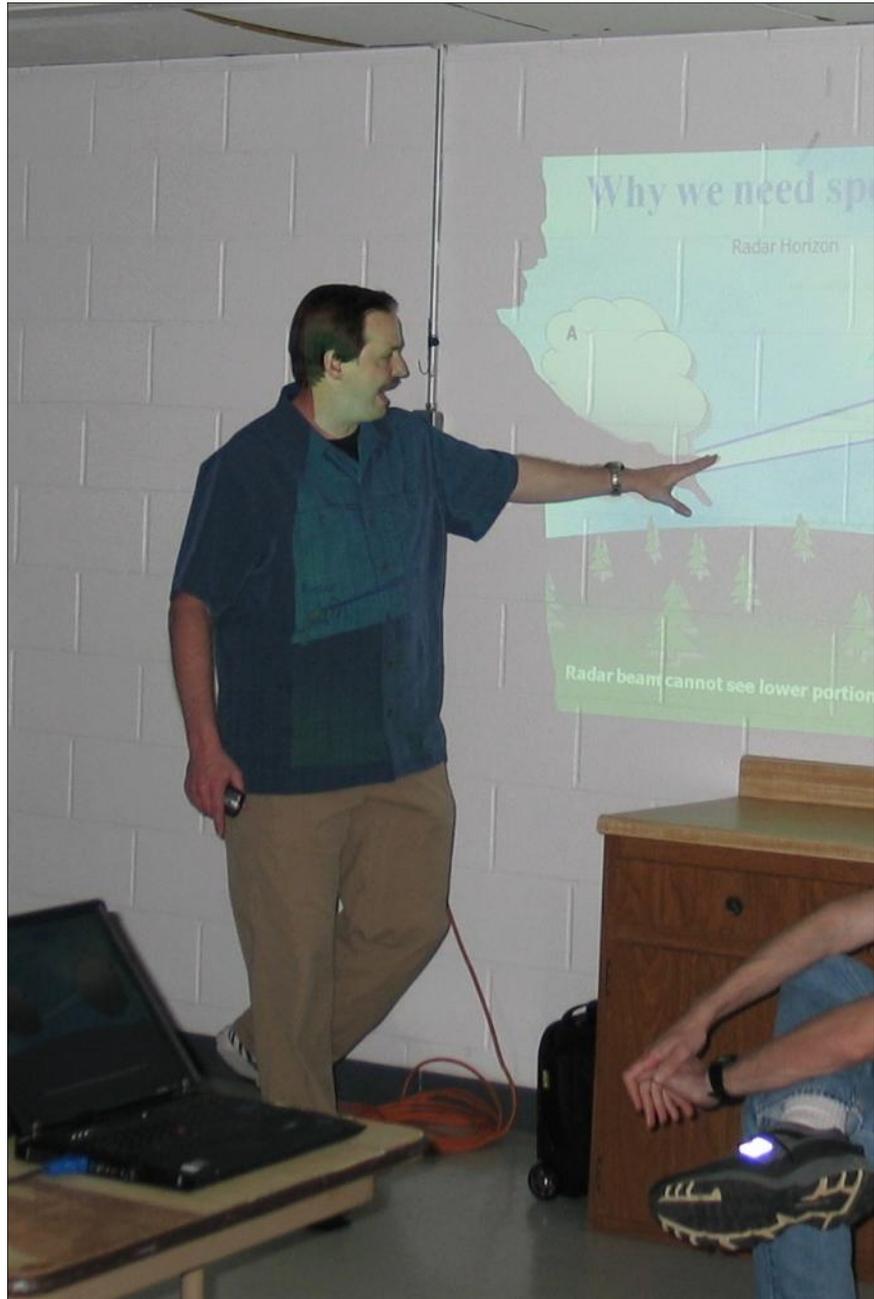


Vol. 2010, #5  
May 2010



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# The Feedline



Mike Nie, W8VMX, Public Information Officer of WARN, gave an interesting presentation

about this organization at the April meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

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## Dates to Remember:

- May 10 – NKARC membership meeting
- May 14-16 – Dayton [Hamvention](#)
- May 19-23 – [National ARDF Championship](#)
- June 14 – NKARC membership meeting
- June 26 – [Paddlefest](#)
- June 26-27 – ARRL Field Day

# 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](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!

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 in good standing 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, ad-

dress or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

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# Top of the Tower

## Weather Watch!

It's hard to believe May is here already! Seems it was only last week that there was a foot of snow on the driveway. So far we've enjoyed a comfortable spring (although as I'm writing this it is 34 degrees outside). We have also avoided any damaging weather. However, storms and the possibility of tornadoes are all too common in our area.

Predicting the severity of a storm, or the path of a tornado, is a difficult task. Certainly, with new technology and more accurate data, the National Weather Service is better able to keep the public informed. Still, they rely on trained spotters in the field to provide information which is used to support the data they are observing. This information can, and does, allow for warnings which can help to save lives.

Amateur radio continues to be vital in providing such information in real time. Locally, the Cincinnati Sky Warn group has, for many years, been taking reports and relaying them to the NWS in Wilmington. This activity provides a valuable service to the NWS and is one that they continue to support.

The Cincinnati Warn group has responsibility for counties in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, using the 146.88 (W8NWS) repeater as their primary frequency for taking reports. Due to limitations of the .88 repeater, reports from the Southern KY counties (Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Owen, and Pendleton) are difficult to get.

A couple of years ago, NKARC and KD7ARET made the decision to sponsor a weather net in support of Cincinnati WARN. This net operates as "The Northern KY Weather Net" under the call of KY7ET on 147.375.

The purpose of this net is to support WARN. Specifically, by taking severe weather and/or damage reports from the KY counties outside the 146.88 area of coverage and relaying them to WARN on 146.88 (if you can access 146.88, reports should

be taken there). If needed, we will take reports from any area. Our net does not report directly to the NWS.

In addition to the obvious occurrences that are to be reported, the basic criteria are: hail 1/2 inch in diameter, rain one inch in one hour (measured only), and winds 50mph or higher (measured preferred). The NCS (KY7ET) will be responsible for screening field reports before they are relayed to W8NWS. Unless there are some extreme conditions, the KY7ET net will only be activated when W8NWS is in session.

This season, the net has been in session on two occasions. Fortunately, there has not been a major event. The concern is that we do not have many stations, in the counties of interest,

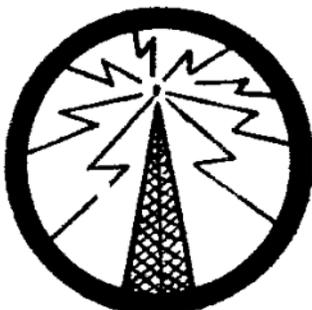
checking into the net. As a result, we are unable to collect the necessary information. Certainly, this may not be the case should the weather conditions be more severe than we have recently experienced. However, unlike the WARN net, we request check-ins. There are relatively fewer stations available in these counties and it is good to know you are there. Please check in. Additionally, you may have access to another repeater or be able to contact another station in the area for a report. This would expand our coverage and provide additional critical information.

This effort is supported by both NKARC and KD7ARET. It is a public service and the reports received do provide valuable information to the NWS. Our reports help in the decision making regarding warnings, particularly, as to the severity and direction of a storm.

Your participation and support is appreciated. Also, comments and suggestions as to the net operation are solicited. During a weather event check 147.375 for the net. This allows us to provide a public service and gives us training and experience in net operations.

The next NKARC meeting is May 10, 2010. Hope to see you there.

Don, AJ4DK



## April NKARC Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
April 6	AJ4DK (Don)	14	27	0
April 13	KB4VKS (Mike)	13	30	0
April 20	N4IJS (Robert)	14	28	0
April 27	KG4SBG (Dennis)	6	15	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

# April Meeting Minutes

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## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2010 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting called to order – 1930

Allegiance to the Flag / Roll call

### Treasurers Report

Details of last month not on handout as Dann has been tied up with other issues.

Monies started at \$2,209.15. \$40 in dues have come in, electric has been paid (\$95.18), cash on hand is \$83.41. Total for the end of the report - \$2,153.97.

Motion to accept: Lynn, WD8JAW

Seconded by: John, KY4J

All in favor: All

All opposed: None.

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Motion by: Tony, AI4IP

Second by: Dave, KI4QH

All in favor: All

All opposed: None.

### Old Business

#### Donation to church

Collected \$60 to donate to the church from members. Thank you! Total contribution to the church \$75.

Tony, AI4IP, mentioned that NKARC made donation last year around July.

#### QSL cards from Special Event

Idea submitted by Ben Jenkins, KG4NMH, to place images of cards on our web site.

Robert, N4IJS, is working on this.

#### Dayton Hamvention

Use 146.895 simplex (with a tone of 123.0 Hz) for talking to other Club members while there.

#### Raising membership was discussed.

No new membership applications came in. Total new members for 2010 so far – 5 or 6.

#### Field Day

Currently Joe, KI4QG, is the Chair and Mark, AI4BJ, is the assistant Chair.

Mark is not sure how to get a hold of Joe, KI4QG, to discuss preparations.

May meeting will be devoted to Field Day preparations.

Tony, AI4IP, volunteered to help dismantle FD setup.

Will need more help!

PS – The KY7ET trailer will be there as well. (AC!!)

Point for discussion next month – do we use an electronic method to sign up for FD?

Robert, N4IJS, registered our location with the ARRL Field Day locator.

### PaddleFest

Happening same weekend as Field Day (last weekend in June). Please see Lynn, WD8JAW, for more information.

Starts at 7:00 am and ends around 12:30 PM on Saturday, 6/26.

### Fund Raising Committee

The LaRosa Buddy cards were not available for this meeting.

Dave, KI4QH, gave his R&L Gift Certificate award back to the Club. The committee will be looking at how to use this gift. Thank you Dave!

Need more members on the Committee. (Currently, the committee is Dann Fox, KI4AVO, as Chair and Tony White, AI4IP, as a member).

### Insurance

The insurance payment is due.

Lynn, WD8JAW, asked if this was necessary since we no longer have a Ham Fest. Dann will look into it.

### New Business

#### Net Contest

Reminder – The NKARC Net Contest is under way! Make sure to check in as often as you can to the weekly net!

#### Other information

Next month, the meeting will be devoted to Field Day planning.

#### Adjournment

Motioned by Dave, KI4QH, and seconded by Tony, AI4IP.

Meeting adjourned at 2000.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS

# Mark's Mutterings

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## Hooked on Hamvention!

Last year was the first year that I failed to attend [Hamvention](#) since becoming a ham in 2004. I figured that, having attended the four previous events, I probably wouldn't miss much. I began regretting my decision almost immediately, and I almost certainly will be attending this year, barring an act of God.

If you frequent ham radio discussion forums on the internet, you know that it is easy to find critics of this venerable event. Old-timers claim that it is a shadow of what it was during the 80s and 90s. Not having attended one prior to 2005, I can't say if this is true or not. All that I know is that a hamfest needs to achieve a certain critical mass to be successful, and Hamvention continues to draw 20,000+ visitors from around the world, making it the most popular hamfest in North America by a country mile.

Other critics disparage the condition of the facilities. Yes, Hara Arena has certainly seen better days, and it wasn't until my second visit that I started to figure out the odd layout of the buildings and corridors. But you know what? I think the place has a lot of character! Now when I go, it feels like I am visiting an old friend. Frankly, if it were moved to a cavernous, sterile modern convention center, I would be disappointed.

Some hams try to argue that if it would only relocate to [insert name of favorite city here], attendance would double! I seriously doubt this. When you look at the geographic distribution of hams across the U.S. and Canada, I doubt that you could name many other cities that are within one-day driving distance for so many people. For proof, you only have to look at other regional hamfests around the country. Some have become quite popular in their own right, yet the largest of these draws less than half the attendees that Hamvention does. As they say in the real estate business: Location, location, location!

Then there are the mean-spirited individuals who moan about having to share the aisles with hams riding motorized carts. Perhaps there are a few who ride them out of laziness, but I'm sure that the great majority do so because they *have* to. The only thought that crosses my mind when I encounter a cart-bound ham is one of gratefulness for being still able to get around on my own two feet!

The only purchase I am planning to make at Hamvention this year is the material for building a W2DU choke balun that I intend to use at Field Day. Of course, there are always the unplanned "purchases of opportunity" that make Hamvention something to look forward to! My best purchase in this category was the brand new 100 MHz oscilloscope that I found in the flea market a few years ago and paid only \$100 for.

## The Ham's Bible

In my view, there is no greater bargain in Ham Radio than the [ARRL Handbook](#). For less than \$50, you get a comprehensive electronics reference that covers everything from Ohm's Law to advanced signal processing theory. It also includes tons of practical information and projects that make this a must-have book on every ham's bookshelf. Year-to-year changes are usually fairly minor, but the 2010 edition is a major overhaul from previous editions. I compared it to my 2004 Handbook, and could find very little common material. Santa brought me the hardcover version for Christmas, and I'm glad she did, because it quickly sold out and is now only available in the softcover edition.

If you join or renew your ARRL membership for three years at the [ARRL Expo](#) at Hamvention next week, you will receive a free copy of the 2010 Handbook! It's also in circulation in the Boone County Public Library.

73, Mark AI4BJ

# Weaver's Words

## Howdie Hamvention (TM) Time

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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**

### Urgent Message to All Radio Clubs

Changes made three years ago to the federal tax laws could cause many radio clubs to lose their tax-exempt status this year. To protect themselves, clubs that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code must file the required IRS annual returns or reports before the deadline, which is May 15 for those with calendar years.

Many clubs have, at some time in the past, applied for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) [charitable organizations], Section 501(c)(4) [civic leagues] or Section 501(c)(7) [recreational clubs].

Years ago, any club with gross receipts averaging less than \$25,000 per year was not required to file annual returns with the IRS. However, after 2006, such clubs had to file a Form 990-N, a simple "electronic postcard" with minimal information, by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the close of each fiscal year. Some clubs may not have been aware of this new requirement or didn't bother to comply. Even those that filed in a prior year may have neglected to keep up with the required filings as officers changed from year to year.

Section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date for the third return. That filing date for calendar year 2009 is less than two weeks away. If you are a club officer and are uncertain who is responsible for IRS filings or whether such filings are current, you should determine your filing status as soon as possible and take immediate steps to file the current and any missed prior-year IRS forms. Going forward, your



club's board should assign the responsibility for compliance filings with a designated officer and document that responsibility in the written "job description" for the position so that subsequent holders of the office are made aware of the requirements. If you have questions about your club's status, you may wish to consult a CPA or other tax advisor.

(Thanks to Marty Woll N6VI, CPA-retired, Vice-Director, ARRL Southwestern Division)

### Did You know?

Did you know:

- That if you are away from your home for lengthy absence . . . And will live in a single location during this absence, ARRL will send mail such as QST directly to your temporary address. You can even schedule the change in addresses ahead of time so that QST and other League mail will automatically be redirected to your vacation home and then directed back to your permanent home on schedule. No missing QSTs or ballots for Section Manager, Vice Director or Director. You will still be a member of your home division.

That to make address changes of this type it currently is necessary to contact the Membership office at ARRL HQ by telephoned. However, in about a week, a form will be added to the new ARRL web site to let you do this on line.

- That if traveling outside the US . . . in one of seven popular countries you can take an FCC Amateur Radio exam while there. Go to <http://greatlakes.arrl.org/index.htm>, click on Library then on Ham License Exam Locations under Misc. Data of Interest. Search under Select Exams by Country. At this time, exams are given in Germany (4 locations), Great Britain (1 location), Italy (1 location), Japan (7 locations), Mexico (1 location), Panama (1 loca-

tion) and the Philippines (1 location).

- That there are . . . 10,045 members of the Great Lakes Division (GLD) that we know have Internet access. Of these, 8,726 receive ARRL e-mail and 7,264 receive e-mail from their SM and the Director.

- That there are . . . 12,440 ARRL members in the GLD. The breakout of these by location section is: Ohio = 6,167, Michigan = 4,647, Kentucky = 1,598 and Foreign = 1.

- That in April . . . there were 38 operating contests listed by ARRL. Non-ARRL (but US sponsored) = CW (13), phone (10), Digital (7) and VHF+ (4) contests. European sponsors held contests on CW (6), phone (4) and digital (3). There were two CW and one phone contest from Asia. A Middle Eastern group sponsored one CW and phone contest and a non-US north American sponsor held a CW and phone contest. ARRL? It sponsored one contest. It was on phone. Numbers will most likely vary from month to month.

### Dayton Hamvention (TM) Forum Schedule

The complete schedule of forums for the Dayton Hamvention (TM) can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/forum-schedule-announced-for-2010-dayton-hamvention>.

One forum that should be of particular interest to ARRL affiliated clubs is ARRL, Resources for Radio Clubs. This forum is at 9:15-10:15 Sunday morning in Room 2. A forum of special value in our effort to promote Amateur Radio to the public as well as to recruit new amateurs will occur at 9:15 Friday morning in Room 2. This is the ARRL, Public Relations Forum. Want to learn how to deal with power line noise?

Room 2 Friday afternoon at 2:30 -- ARRL Lab, Power line Noise.

FCC, Emergency Communications will be in Room 3 at 9:15 Saturday morning and the ARRL, Member Forum will be in Room 3 from 1:15-2:15 in the afternoon. This will be an opportunity to meet, hear and talk with local, regional and national ARRL officials including new ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN.

Of course, there are many additional forums on many additional interesting topics.

While at the Hamvention, be sure to come to the ARRL Expo area where there will be several booths, each on interesting topics to clubs and individual amateurs. Booths include ARRL Youth Activities and Youth Lounge, Ham Radio and Scouting, ARRL Radio Clubs, Amateur Radio in Education, ARRL Project Building, On the Air, 2011 ARRL National Convention, Legislative Action and the New ARRL Web Site.

Where else but the Hamvention could one have so much to do in a short 3-day period?

### Ontario Cell Phone Law

Marsha Fleming, N8FE and Milt Dzodin, N8AYD appear to have dug deeply enough to learn the skinny on the new Ontario distracted driving law as it relates to amateurs. The question had been if the new law applied equally to US hams visiting Ontario and Ontario amateurs alike. The concern was that the grace period for applying the law would not apply to visiting amateurs. The answer Marsha reports is that US hams and Ontario hams both are covered by the limited stay in enforcement. The section of the law that outlines the grace period is:

"13. (1) Until January 1, 2013, drivers who hold a valid radio operator certificate issued under the Radiocommunication Act (Canada) may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a two-way radio.

"(2) This section is revoked on January 1, 2013."

### W1AW operates from Division

As an addition "did you know," did you know that local clubs can apply to operate as W1AW under a number of circumstances. They can, and the SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) did . . . and will. The operation will be during the IARU HF contest later this summer. The club will operate on 160M through 10M (excluding WARC bands, of course) with 13 stations. Of course, the call that will be used is W1AW/8.

To use W1AW the event must be particularly notable and consistent with the objectives of ARRL and the



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operation well designed.

### **Sanctioned Hamfest Freebies Process is Changed**

When a club applies to have its hamfest/swap sanctioned by ARRL, it enters into a two-way contract with the League. In this contract the club agrees to perform certain actions for ARRL and Amateur Radio in exchange for being sanctioned and ARRL agrees to perform other actions to benefit the club. Two of the perks ARRL agrees to provide the hamfest are prizes and free giveaway material. Hamfest committees need to be aware of these changes so they can obtain the greatest benefit possible from ARRL.

**Prizes:** ARRL HQ no longer sends specific publications as prizes. Instead, hamfest receive gift certificates to be awarded to prize winners. These certificates can be used toward any League publication by their winners. The certificates can be redeemed for ARRL merchandise directly with a local dealer or can be sent to ARRL HQ and applied toward a purchase. When used by sending a certificate in to ARRL, the merchandise selected is shipped at no cost to the certificate winner.

**Freebies:** Similar to the situation with prizes, ARRL no longer sends a boxful of free handouts. Instead, an envelope that contains a list of hamfest-oriented goodies that are available to clubs is sent along with a pack of WAS mats/frequency charts and one or two additional items. The important thing here is that someone on the hamfest committee reviews the sheet of goodies. If the committee wants to buy some of the items on this sheet, this is fine. If they do not wish to buy anything, this also is fine

The important thing is that a committee representative look over the list of free good (box in upper right of sheet) to see which of the dozen or so items available would be useful to the hamfest crowd. Order these from HQ and indicated on the sheet at least three weeks before the hamfest.

There is no charge for the free material or for shipping it to hamfest committees.

The new procedure avoids hamfests receiving items of no particular interest to their anticipated attendees. It also saves ARRL money by minimizing after-hamfest throw aways.

To order free materials, follow the directions on the list of hamfest-related materials. One may also telephone the ARRL Publication Sales Department toll free at 1-888-277-5289.

The gift certificate prizes are sent in an envelope that is stapled to an ARRL publications catalog. Do not mistake these for freebies. One hamfest I attended this year had the prize certificates laying out on the ARRL table as freebies. Valued at a total of \$100, I don't think any hamfest committee would like to have the prizes given them used as pick-up items.

Incidentally, when a hamfest committee applies to have it's hamfest sanctioned by ARRL, it agrees to have a display table dedicated to ARRL materials and any ARRL official who may be able to attend the hamfest.

### **Dumbing Down?**

We've all probably heard the claim that Amateur Radio is being "dumbed down." I know I receive-mail notes that make this assertion every now and then. What I occasionally wonder is just what is proved in the occasional instance in which the writer misspells "dumbing."

### **Search Function on New Web Site**

Google has finally finished indexing the new ARRL web site. The Site Search function is now working very.

### **Tentative Travel, Hamfest and Activity Schedule**

Hamfests in the following list have received ARRL sanctioning as of press time. Hamfests and other events for which a Great Lakes Division representative is scheduled to attend are identified with the representative's name. The schedule can be expected to be fine-tuned in the future.

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Patronize ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. Hamfests, conventions, symposia and similar events sponsored by ARRL-affiliated clubs may be eligible to be sanctioned by the League. For information, see <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/Sponsors>

. Please have your event sanctioned soon.

Support our Division hamfests and swaps:

14-16 May: Hamvention), Dayton, OH - Gary, Jim, John

26 May: Directors webinar - Jim

5 Jun: IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI

5 Jun: Mid-Ohio Valley ARC Drive-In 'fest, Gallipolis, OH

5 Jun: Fulton Co. ARC Hamfest, Ted row, OH

5 Jun: Carter Co. Hamfest, Olive Hill, KY - Jim, John

6 Jun: Chelsea Swap & Shop, Chelsea, MI

11 Jun: Central MI ARC meeting, Lansing, MI - presentation, Jim

19 Jun: Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - Jim, John

19 Jun: Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI

20 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI – Jim, John

23 Jun: Directors webinar - Jim

8 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, presentation – Jim

15 Jul: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim

16-17 Jul: Board of Directors, Windsor, CT – Gary, Jim

17 Jul: HOARSEST, Elyria, OH

18 Jul: Van Wert ARC Hamfest, Van Wert, OH

25 Jul: Portage Ham air, Randolph, OH

28 Jul: Directors webinar - Jim

7 Aug: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI

15 Aug: Warren ARA Hamfest, Cortland, OH

15 Aug: Central KY Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim, John

15 Aug: Lapeer Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI

21 Aug: SARA Inside/Outside Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI

22 Aug: Cambridge Hamfest, Cambridge, OH

25 Aug: Directors webinar - Jim

11 Sep: Greater Louisville 'fest, Shepherdsville, KY

11 Sep: GRAHam fest, Wyoming, MI

12 Sep: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim, John

18 Sep: Central KY ARES Hamfest, Richmond, KY - Jim, John

19 Sep: Greater Cincinnati ARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

19 Sep: Adrian ARC Hamfest, Adrian, MI

22 Sep: Directors webinar - Jim

26 Sep: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH - Jim, John

16 Oct: Ohio Section Conf., Columbus, OH - Jim

17 Oct: Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI

27 Oct: Directors webinar - Jim

30 Oct: Hazard Hamfest, Hazard, KY

31 Oct: Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, OH

The deadline for submissions for the June Feedline is **Saturday, June 5.**

Return to:  
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**NKARC Feedline May 2010  
Volume 2010 Issue 5**