

Vol. 2010, #10

October 2010



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Robert Kluck, N4IJS, presented an informative and well-attended program on experimenting with amateur radio, at the September meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

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Dates to Remember:

- Oct 11 – NKARC membership meeting
- Oct 16 – [KY ARES Conference](#)
- Oct 30 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- Nov 8 – NKARC membership meeting

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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 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-

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August Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2010 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

1. Call to order
2. Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Roll call
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting
 - Motion by: Dave, KI4QH
 - Second by: Tony, AI4IP
 - All in favor: All
 - All opposed: None.
5. Approval of Treasury Report
 - Motion by: Dave, KI4QH
 - Second by: Lyle, AB8SH
 - All in favor: All
 - All opposed: None.
6. Old business
 - Raising membership update
 - Fund raising committee update
 - LaRosa – May look into this more.
 - What if someone provided the \$500 seed money?
 - Working on other ideas – festivals, etc.
 - Dann, KI4AVO, challenged the Club: Can you commit to some dollar amount per day to support the Club? Would like commitment next month.
 - Rob, KI4YWJ, volunteered to help getting the Club to be recognized as a non-Profit.
 - Split the pot!
7. VE Update
 - 2 candidates – 1 upgrade, 1 new. Both passed!
8. New business
 - Nominating committee update (Mark and Rod)
 - Notice will be going out this month.
 - Anyone interested must be known by end of - Oct. with elections in November meeting.
 - VHF Contest – more information soon, but here is what we have so far: Date: Last Sunday of every month at 8:30 PM. (starting September) Freq: 144.255. Formal net – Net Control will be N4IJS (to start with)
 - More contest information on web site. Stay tuned!
 - Net information
 - New 220 Net. Wednesdays as 8:30.
 - If anyone is interested in an “off time” net (I.E. a morning net), please let Dann know.
 - Idea – for every NKARC net, have any Officer provide Club update.
 - Tri-State Amateur Traffic net: 145.370 123.Hz tone, Digital, Mon & Wen, 8:30 on 3.585 USB. Uses PSK31 through Fldigi.
9. Adjournment
 - Motion by: Tony, AI4IP
 - Second by: Lyle, AB8SH
 - All in favor: All
 - All opposed: None
 - Time: 19:55

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS

August NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
August 3	AK3Q (Robert)	13	27	0
August 10	AJ4DK (Don)	16	28	0
August 17	AK3Q (Robert)	15	45	0
August 24	KG4SBG (Dennis)	13	30	0
August 31	N4IJS (Robert)	12	24	0
TOTALS:		69	154	

September Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING
OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RA-
DIO CLUB

1. Call to order
2. Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Roll call
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting
Motion by: Mark, AI4BJ
Second by: Robert, N4IJS
All in favor: All
All opposed: None.
5. Old business
 - Raising membership update
 - Any new Member will get the balance of this year plus all of next for one membership fee.
 - Fund raising committee update
 - LaRosa – May look into this more.
 - What if someone provided the \$500 seed money?
 - Working on other ideas – festivals, etc.
 - Dann, KI4AVO, challenged the Club: Can you commit to some monetary amount per day to support the Club? Would like commitment next month.
 - Rob, KI4YWJ, volunteered to help getting the Club

to be recognized as a non-Profit.
- Split the pot! was not held this month.

6. New business
 - Nominating committee update
Notice was sent out via email and on the web site. Please contact the Nominating Committee if you have any interest in running for either an elected or appointed position. (NominatingCommittee@k4co.org). If interested, please contact the Nominating Committee by 10/31. The elections will be held during the November meeting.
 - VHF Contest – more information soon, but here is what we have so far: Date: Last Sunday of every month at 8:30 PM. (starting September), Freq: 144.255, Formal net – Net Control will be N4IJS (to start with)
 - We need monthly presentation ideas! Please contact Robert Kluck if you have any suggestions and/or would like to present.
 - Halloween Haunt has been announced! Held on the weekend of 10/23 – 10/24. See the web site for more information.
7. Adjournment
8. - Motion by: Greg, W4TSA
- Second by: Robert, N4IJS
- All in favor: All
- All opposed: None
- Time: 19:41

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS

September NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
September 7	AJ4DK (Don)	11	27	0
September 14	KB4VKS (Mike)	18	28	0
September 21	AK3Q (Robert)	14	45	0
September 28	KG4SBG (Dennis)	12	30	0
TOTALS:		55	140	0

One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.



Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produce the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

You can keep up with all of Dan's dumb ham radio activities by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com. When Dan's not doing dumb ham radio things, he programs websites and does community-service type stuff as a member of the Ann Arbor (MI, USA) Rotary Club. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Weaver's Words

Where Did Summer Go?

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

Michigan Net QMN 75 Years Strong

Congratulations to the Michigan Net QMN on the 75th Anniversary of its founding. QMN appears to be the oldest net in the country. Information about the Net attributes the beginning of the Net to a vote taken in early 1935 by the Detroit Amateur Radio Association. Crystal control of transmitters was relatively new at the time so the Club used this new technology to get all members of the new net on the same frequency.

The celebration of QMN's founding will be marked on October 23 by several activities. Among these will be Special Event station K8QMN from Owosso, MI. The station will operate on or near 3563 kHz and 7050 kHz from 2 PM to 5 PM Central time. A banquet will follow. The station is likely to return to the air following the banquet.



A special commemorative certificate will be issued to operators who contact K8QMN during the QMN Diamond Jubilee operation.

I look forward to participating in the activities in Owosso. This anniversary clearly will be a memorable event.

Read more about Michigan Net QMN at <http://michigannet.org/>. Click on the News Bulletin link to see what is planned for its 75th anniversary celebration.

Please take the new Great Lakes Division Survey

As one feature of the new Great Lakes Division website, it is very practical to seek your opinions and

wishes by taking surveys or polls. The first of the new surveys is available. I hope you will go to it and take a few brief minutes to let me know your feelings about the topics covered. Go to www.arrl-greatlakes.org, and click on the Surveys/Feedback link to access the poll. This survey will be open until September 15.

The questions are multiple-choice or multiple choice plus fill-in the blank. If you feel you cannot answer a question adequately through a multiple-choice answer, please use a fill-in the blank space if it is for the relevant question. If there is no space to fill in for a particular question, please go to the end of the survey questions and add your comments in the "Do you have any further comments that you'd like to make?" box placed there. You may also go to the Blog Board (link on the left side of the page) or e-mail comments to me.

Thanks.

Hamfest/Swap Committee Members: Two Things to Think About

Hamfest/Swap committees have a lot to think about when they plan and promote their events. I commend you for the hard work you put in to making these activities successful and enjoyable for members of your clubs as well as for the many non-club members who come to spend time in eyeballing friends and searching for treasured junkie. Here are two things to think about that just might make your coming events a little more enjoyable and even entice a few more people to attend them.

The first thought relates to a service to amateurs. Specifically, it involves offering QSL card checking. Even though card checking is not listed as a planned service at most hamfests, amateurs who attend these often ask me if a card checker is there. Card checking requests involve QSLs for DXCC and WAS, and cover UHF, VHF and HF activities.

By arranging ahead of time for a card checker to attend a fest and then publicizing his planned presence, the hamfest committee just may do a service for itself as well as for the ham public.

What would this cost the committee? My guess is it would involve a free admission ticket, a table and a chair for the card checker. Electric service to the table may also be helpful.

To find a card checker to serve those who attend your hamfest/swap, go to <http://www.arrl.org/card-checkers>. Click on Great Lakes Division.

The second thought regards free handouts from ARRL. HQ no longer automatically sends a large box of free goodies to each sanctioned hamfest. It typically sends four prizes valued at \$200, a pack of Frequency Charts/WAS Maps and a pack of ARRL membership applications ... and instructions on how to get additional, free as well as relatively inexpensive goodies for your fest.

Unless someone on the hamfest committee pays attention to the letter and form that accompanies the prizes, you will get nothing more. But to get more, all that is needed is to determine what you want to ask for, and to ask for it.

I will not go into the rationale for the change in practice. The main thing is for someone on the hamfest committee to review the letter and goodies request form soon after it is received, determine what freebies you think will be useful to the hams who attend your hamfest and to ask for these from HQ.

There are excellent handouts available at absolutely no charge and with no shipping expense to the committee. Be sure to ask for the number of packets or copies of the freebies you believe will be useful. If you also want items that are available at cost, you may order these as well. Ordering any of these is fully discretionary.

If you have any questions about this, please let me know. Keep in mind that the agreement entered in with ARRL is to collaborate with the organization in providing information of interest to amateurs about the League that can be gotten free from HQ and to make it available at your hamfest on a prominent ARRL-only location. The effort involved in reviewing a list of free material, ordering it at no cost and placing the material on an ARRL table isn't really very much.

ARRL Foundation Awards more than Scholarships

When most people think of the ARRL Foundation, they think of scholarships. Scholarships are just part of the Foundation's activities. It also administers several funds from which grants are available for amateurs and Amateur Radio organizations. For information on the Amateur Radio grants administered by the ARRL Foundation go to www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants. If you want information on Foundation-managed scholarships you will find a link to the scholarship page as well.



Kentucky QSO Party in November

The 2010 running of the Kentucky QSO Party will be from 1400 UTC Saturday, November 13 through 0200 UTC Sunday, November 14. The object for stations in the Commonwealth is to contact as many stations in any location as possible. Stations outside Kentucky contact as many stations inside the Commonwealth as possible. The full rules and additional information are at <http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/>. Click on 2010 Ky QSO Party Rules at left of page.

The KYQP is sponsored by the Western KY DX Association.

Webinar Limitations

Each of you should have received an invitation to attend a Webinar on September 30. This Webinar is hosted by Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. As in the past, Bill graciously invited Great

Lakes Division members to attend.

The only unfortunate aspect of the Webinars is that they are available only to users of recent-issue Windows or Mac operating systems. The Go-To-Webinar company does not support Linux users. This is neither Director Edgar's nor my fault. Bill purchases the service which is essentially offered on a take-it as is or leave-it basis. Similarly, the problem is not of ARRL's making. The League not involved with the Webinars.

Please Help when Writing to Me

I always enjoy hearing from amateurs in the Great Lakes Division. When you write to me, please include your name and call sign. This will help me understand not only who you are, but will often allow me to understand better just what is going on in the area around you that might impact your needs.

New Division Website

It has been a while coming, but the Great Lakes Division has a new website. It is at www.arrl-greatlakes.org. This new site replaces <http://greatlakes.arrl.org/> which no longer exists. The new site contains a few features that were not available on the old site. It also contains new as well as existing features that operate a bit more easily than was true on the old site.

Of greatest importance to me are features that allow you to tell me what you think about Amateur Radio topics that effect you. There is a Blog Board and there is a page where you can e-mail me, the Vice Director, the Division Legislative Action Chairman or any of the three Section Managers.

There also is a site that can be used to take surveys of Division members. These surveys will operate more smoothly than the ones I've asked you to take in the past.

I hope the message you are receiving is that I want to know and understand how you feel about topics related to Amateur Radio. If I am to represent you to the best of my ability on the Board of Directors I need this in-

formation.

Would you like to comment on the new Great Lakes Division website or what I say in these e-newsletters? Go to www.arrl-greatlakes.org and fire away. The only request is that we all keep the comments and discussions civil. As always, I will do my very best to reply to your messages. Just be certain your e-mail system is set to accept messages from k8je@arrl.org.

Finally, I thank N8SY, Scott Yonally who is the new Webmeister for the Great Lakes Division. I also thank former Webmeister Gary Osborne, W8XS for his work with the old website. Gary resigned from this position when the press of family duties made it impossible for him to maintain and enhance the old website.

Scott has done a marvelous job getting the new site up and running in so short of a time. He takes to website development and maintenance like the Cocker Spaniel I had when I was a kid took to water. Feel free to contact him if you run into difficulties using the new site or have suggestions for it. He can also be reached via the blog page or through the send-an-e-mail page on the new site.

This Month's Final

I want you to know that I enjoy receiving club newsletters — by e-mail or USPS. I want to know your thinking about “things” Amateur Radio. I also enjoy receiving e-mail from you when you wish to fill me in on whatever you are thinking of. For this reason, the new Great Lakes Division website (www.arrl-greatlakes.org) has capabilities built in to it to allow you to click on a link to send an e-mail to me (or other ARRL officials within the Division) and an additional link that allows you to go to a Blog Board to express your thoughts not only to me, but to others who stop by. One thing I haven't gotten involved with is signing up for any of the newer social networking services on the Internet and cell phones. I hope anyone whose request for me to sign up for one of these services will forgive me for not doing this.

Please keep on with the e-mail, blogs, phone calls, newsletters and bulletins.

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 from time to time.

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 on sponsoring and sanctioning a hamfest or convention, go to www.arrl.org/hamfest-sponsor-support. To have your hamfest sanctioned, go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application> to apply on line. Hamfests are already being sanctioned for 2012! Please be sure to read the requirements for having an event sanctioned before submitting a request.

Support our Division hamfests and swaps:

5 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS ARRL Night, Cincinnati - Jim
14 Oct: Mahoning Valley ARA ARRL Night, Youngstown, OH - Jim
16 Oct: Ohio Section Conference, Columbus, OH - Jim
16 Oct: Great Lakeshore Super Swap, Holland, MI
17 Oct: Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
23 Oct: QMN 75th Anniversary Banquet, Owosso, MI - Jim
24 Oct: 25th Annual USECA Swap, Sterling Heights, MI
27 Oct: Directors webinar - Jim
30 Oct: Hazard Hamfest, Hazard, KY
31 Oct: Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, OH
6 Nov: Grant ARC Georgetown, (OH) Hamfest - Jim
20 Nov. A&F Committee meeting., Newington - Jim
24 Nov: Directors webinar - Jim
5 Dec: LCARC Swap/Hamfest, Harrison Twp., MI

The next issue of Words will list hamfests sanctioned in this Division for the first half of 2011. There already are several of these for the list.

Nominations Needed!

It's that time again - time for the NKARC elections. Do you want to help influence the Club's direction? Want to help with all of the various activities that make up our Club? If you are, this is the time to act!

The following are elected positions within the Club:

- President
- Vice-President
- Director at Large

And these are the appointed positions within the Club:

- Feedline Editor
- Net Manager
- Club Trustee & Historian
- Testing Coordinator

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact the nominating committee at NominatingCommittee@k4co.org, indicating which position(s) you are wanting to hold.

Remember, to hold any of these positions, you must be a current Club Member for at least one year. **The deadline to indicate your interest is Sunday, October 31, 2010.**

If you think you might be interested, but have some questions, please email us with those as well.

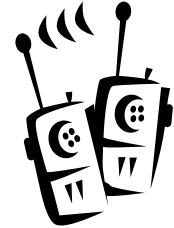
Thank you for your help in keeping our Club alive!

73,

The NKARC Nominating Committee

Rod Villari, KJ4IAM
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

NKARC's Halloween Haunt Sprint



Objective:

To prepare for and test our abilities to communicate when the NKARC repeaters are unavailable (I.E. emergency preparations) and to establish the new **NKARC simplex frequencies** of [144.255mhz](#) and [430.350mhz](#).

When:

Starting Saturday, October 23, 2010 20:00 hours (local) and ending on Sunday, October 24, 2010 19:59 hours (local)

Frequency, Exchange, and Points:

Any 2 meter or 70 centimeter simplex frequencies (repeater contacts are NOT accepted), and all modes acceptable. (See special frequencies below) Exchange Call, signal report, location, radio (make/model), and **favorite movie**. Each contact is worth 1 point for non-members and 2 points for members of NKARC, contacts with any named member of NKARC (see Contacts/Officers section on web site or the NKARC directory page on any Feedline) is worth 5 additional points each (but only one contact per named member). If you contact the "ghost" station (randomly chosen Club member), you will receive an extra 5 points.

Log submissions:

Logs must be received no later than **Friday, November 19th 2010**. You can submit your entries either by email to contests@k4co.org or by mail to N4IJS 3869 Tracy Jean Lane, Erlanger, KY 41018. Please make sure your log contains all the information required under Exchange above and includes your contact information as well (especially your call sign). ***ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE ABOVE DATE TO BE VALID!!!***

Awards will be given out at the NKARC Annual Christmas Party.

Have a Hauntingly Ghoul Time!



Active Monitoring: New Life For Repeaters?

Below is a message from QRZ.com concerning some things they are doing in SD that I thought our group might be interested in - it ties in with something I was just thinking about myself as I often find no response when I check out our repeaters when making trips around the area. I know we are not a large group, but any movement in the right direction would be welcome, especially since there are a lot of people who are either retired or who work from home. While I don't know if the repeaters need to be linked, it would at least be nice to know one or two repeaters would have someone monitoring them to listen for calls.

Robert Gulley, AK3Q

In response to the trend of declining repeater nationwide, The South Dakota State Link Monitoring Team was commissioned in 2009 to answer calls on our State Link System.

The purpose of the team is to ensure that hams are available to assist any station on the link at anytime during the day and evening. This is not a formal or directed net instead It is "Active Monitoring". Active monitoring is like standing watch on a ship. Nothing may happen during your time on duty, but if something does happen you are ready and prepared to assist.

The team is celebrating its 1st Anniversary. Currently volunteers monitor the link 6+ days a week providing over 500 hours a month of "Active Monitoring".

The team has logged 140 unique regular users and has had dozens of QSO's with people passing through from all parts of the world.

The South Dakota Amateur Radio Council owns and maintains the link system. Ed Gray W0SD of SDARC said in a recent interview that usage of the link has increased 35-40% over the past year.

Information on our monitoring team is available at www.k0mcm.com

Stairway to Heaven

I've never been particularly afraid of heights — it's just the thought of *falling* from heights that terrifies me! That's why I couldn't quite make it to the end of this YouTube video, which features a maintenance engineer free-climbing a 1768-foot tower.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PimkT5NAS2I>

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ



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

**FIRST
CLASS**

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**NKARC Feedline October 2010
Volume 2010 Issue 10**