

Vol. 2011, #1
January 2011



NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Feedline



Greg Lamb, W4TSA, Dave Schmidt, KI4QH, and Tony White, AI4IP and his wife Kathy enjoy good food and good company at the annual NKARC/KD7ARET Christmas Dinner in Florence. The event was well attended by club members and their families. Below, Dann Fox, KI4AVO, shows off one of the several prizes that were handed out.



January Program

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, will demonstrate the DXLab suite of Amateur Radio software at the January meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 10 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
December Net Report	4
Mark's Mutterings	5
Weaver's Words	6

Dates to Remember:

Jan. 10 – NKARC membership meeting
Feb. 5 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
Feb. 14 – 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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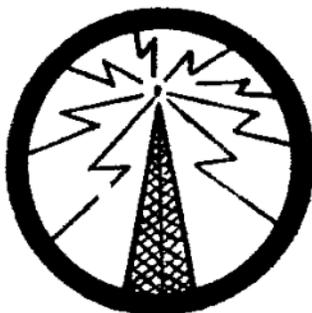
Top of the Tower

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you all had a Joyous Holiday Season, and that re-entry into day-to-day wintertime existence hasn't been too painful.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as Director at Large for the NKARC this year. I look forward to participating in a great club. As my call, K8WDA, may indicate, I'm an emigrant from about 100 miles up north. After retiring from Honeywell Aerospace, my wife, Betty, and I decided to move to the Cincinnati area to be close to our older daughter and her family. We found a home in Independence in 2007.

I've held the same call sign continuously since dropping the "N" from my Novice call in 1961. My interest in ham radio tends more to the technical side, but then on-the-air operation is the only true test of a new gadget or antenna design. I also enjoy an occasional rag chew with friends on 75 or 10 meters, and a DX contact from time to time. Although I admire good CW operators, my ability to receive Morse code has never been a strong point. In years past I've held offices in radio clubs in Ohio as well as edited a club newsletter for several years.

In my opinion, membership in a radio club enhances the overall amateur radio experience.



Club meetings are a great place to get to know other local hams, establish friendships and share and receive knowledge about the hobby. Obviously, a club is completely dependent on its members, and the more you and I participate, the more we get out of our club. I also believe that a variety of programs throughout the year attracts members. And, believe it or not, a great way to share and participate is to present a program.

Everyone has something they can share. Operating techniques, how to find DX, how to use propagation forecasts, a logging program demo – just to suggest a few. A good club program does not necessarily have to deal directly with radio. Are you a photographer? How about a discussion about digital cameras, photo editing, or a travelog about a recent vacation. I'm sure there will be a picture or two of a good antenna location. What about sharing your favorite backyard BBQ recipe, or better yet – taste test it at Field Day!

The bottom line is that club participation can be another fun and rewarding aspect of ham radio. You are in control. I hope to see you at the January meeting.

73,

Dave

NKARC/KD7ARET Christmas Dinner



December NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
December 7	AJ4DK (Don)	10	22	0
December 14	KB4VKS (Mike)	12	33	0
December 21	N4IJS (Robert)	10	25	0
December 28	Not held			
TOTALS:		32	80	0

Mark's Mutterings

With Eyebrows Smoldering and Ears Ringing

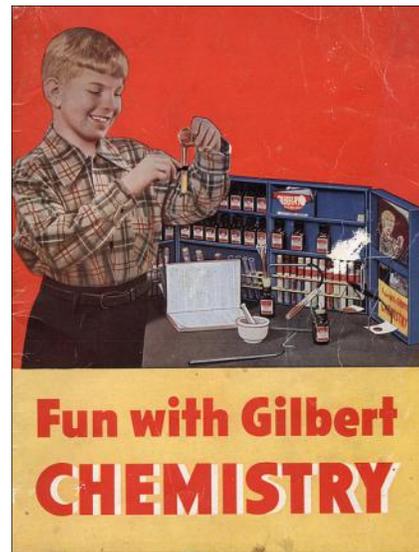
For many years, baby-boomers like myself debated whether we were overprotective in raising our children. We freaked out when our kids jumped onto their bikes without helmets, or if we lost track of exactly where they were in the neighborhood and who they were playing with. Never mind that our own parents often kicked us out of the house in the morning to play and didn't expect to see us again until supper time! Therefore, I had to smile when I read the op-ed by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in the January issue of QST Magazine.

In his letter, Eric laments that there is too much emphasis on safety in Amateur Radio today, and that this discourages young blood from entering the hobby. "I say, let's put the mad scientist back into ham radio where he belongs", he opines. "Ham radio needs to sizzle, crackle and bang! Not to mention, *smell*. How many of this new generation even know what ozone smells like?"

His plea caused me to think back on my own childhood, and some of the activities I engaged in that would cause today's parents to go into cardiac arrest. Exhibit A: When I was in fifth grade, I built my own electric hot dog cooker. It consisted of a short length of one-by-four lumber with a couple of long nails driven up through the bottom to hold the hot dog. I stripped the ends of a lamp cord and wound them around the nails. You can figure out the rest. It worked great, and could get a hot dog steaming in less than 30 seconds. Of course, it taught me some very important lessons in electrical safety. I discovered that the shock I received if I touched the cooking hot dog with *one* hand was much less painful than if I touched the ends of the hot dog with *both* hands. To this day, I remember to keep one hand in my pocket when I am poking around in live 110 VAC circuits! My teacher was so impressed by my invention that she asked me to do a live demonstration during the school's annual open house. It was a real hit with the parents! Today, a stunt like that would

probably get a teacher fired. Out of curiosity, I just Googled "hot dog cooking nails" and was surprised to find that many others have copied my invention. Too bad I didn't know anything about patents back in fifth grade!

Exhibit B: How many of you had Gilbert chemistry sets when you were kids? I had one, and fondly remember the day my best friend Robert



Sarmany and I learned how to make gunpowder from sulfur, potassium nitrate and ground-up charcoal. We limited ourselves to "flashing" it in open dishes, and wisely subdued the temptation to put it to more exciting uses.

It is very tempting to say, "See, we baby boomers engaged in all these risky activities as kids and survived just fine." This is not a very scientific conclusion, since the few unfortunates who *didn't* survive aren't around to present their side of the argument. Nevertheless, I tend to agree with Eric Nichols' point, and I'll leave the last words to him:

"I want to leave this hobby with my eyebrows smoldering and my ears ringing. I think our kids want to enter it the same way."

73,

Mark, AI4BJ

Weaver's Words

Happy 2011

Jim Weaver, K8JE
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Happy New Year

I wish each of you and your families a very Happy New Year and the very best throughout 2011.

I particularly wish to thank everyone who has contributed to Amateur Radio and ARRL this past year. I hope that you will be able to continue your support as we make Amateur Radio and the League even stronger in the new year.

At the risk of missing groups I wish to thank, I will list as many as I can think of off the top of my head. Starting at the Section level I will identify all ARES (tm) members, Assistant ECs, ECs, DECs, Assistant SMs, the SMs, Volunteer Counsels, Volunteer Consulting Engineers and Official Observers. Of course, I must not overlook the Volunteer Examiners who provide so much in giving licensing exams and the volunteer teachers who prepare candidates to take these exams. For so many of us, QSL Letter Managers and the Incoming QSL Bureau Manager provide a tremendous service. I will add to these each ARRL member and each official of each Affiliated Club. Moving to the Division level, I thank representatives to Advisory Committees to the board, Assistant Directors and members of the Division Cabinet.



Each of you is the true strength and make-up of Amateur Radio. Each of you is the reason ARRL exists and each of you is the reason the rest of the Board of Directors and I, the ARRL Volunteer Officers and our HQ staff work hard to give you ever-improving service. To the extent that we succeed in doing this, we are happy to have spent our time and effort for your benefit. To

the extent our efforts have fallen short I can say that we apologize and pledge to do better in this new year.

If I have missed anyone who should have been included, I deeply apologize.

I never cease to be amazed at the fervor with which amateurs approach our great avocation.

Class Instructors can get Discounts on Materials

Are you a member of a club that sponsors Amateur Radio licensing classes? Are a member of an instructor team that is not associated with a specific club? Do you know you can receive discounts on ARRL publications used in teaching classes? The basic discount is about 25% of retail price. In addition, buy 15 books and receive 1 book free for the instructor. On top of these perks, the books will be shipped at no charge. So, what is the secret for receiving these benefits? Simply be sure the leader of the team is registered as an ARRL instructor and is identified as such when the order is placed.

“Why is it necessary for the team leader to be a registered instructor?” I asked the head of the League’s Marketing Department. His reply was that this is to ensure the team is kept up-to-date on new and corrected information. Information on the instructors’ program and online registration as an ARRL instructor are at <http://www.arrl.org/instructor-discount-program>.

Adding the 25% discount + no shipping fees + a free book/15 purchased + keeping the instructor up-dated is a pretty decent deal as I see it. If I still remember 6th grade math, this all adds up to something on the order of a 35%+ discount on orders of about 15 to 25 books.

Division Legislative Action Chair Resigns

John Meyers, NB4K has retired as Great Lakes Division (GLD) Legislative Action Chair (LAC) effective January 1. As LAC, John coordinated a variety of activities associated with ARRL's national legislative effort. John was most visible when managing the ARRL Legislative booth at the Dayton Hamvention (tm) and at several additional hamfests throughout the Division. His principal task at these events was to arrange for members to send letters urging their legislators to support Amateur Radio legislation.

John was been a tireless supporter of ARRL programs throughout his history as a ham. Prior to being named Division LAC, John served in ARES (tm) and as Section Manager in Kentucky. His retirement will allow him and his wife to travel when and where they wish with their camper.

I thank John for the great effort and support he devoted to Amateur Radio and ARRL. He has been relentless in performing the duties of any task he accepted. I wish him well in the future and look forward to working NB4K/M many times.

New D-Star Net Begins

A new wide-area D-Star net will begin operating Sunday, January 9. The following information about the net is taken from the press release distributed by the sponsor, the Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group.

“Lorain County Ohio – In an effort to further amateur radio and the exciting mode of D-STAR the Northern Ohio Digital Interconnect Group along with amateurs in Greater Cleveland, Akron, Columbus, Cincinnati and Michigan have joined forces to form the Ohio Wide Area D-STAR Net.

“This net will operate in conjunction with many existing D-STAR repeaters on the newly formed Reflector 38 Alpha (REF038A), along with several planed sites,

to form a reliable network of communication to be used for training in the operation of D-STAR. It will also allow for a platform to test communication links in the event of an emergency or natural disaster within the state or surrounding areas.

“D-STAR technology offers the unique ability for amateurs all over the state to educate each other & build friendships while testing equipment. This infrastructure could be used to provide a valuable service to the community. Whether it is communication for a multi county marathon, friends chatting from Akron to Cincinnati or relaying tornado damage from a stricken town across the state D-STAR has something for everyone.

“Please join the weekly Ohio Wide Area D-STAR net Sunday January the 9th at 8:00 PM local time. Connection via repeater, dongle or DVAP can be made directly to reflector REF038A. All amateurs regardless of location or affiliation are encouraged to join in.”

D-Star was widely used during the relief response to Hurricane Katrina. This is the first statewide D-Star Net to come to my attention in the Great Lakes Division. If there are other such nets or operational statewide digital nets, please let me know.

For additional information on the Ohio Wide Area D-Star net, contact kb8zun@gmail.com.

Sources of Inexpensive VHF/UHF Gear Coming?

More years ago than I'd like to recall, a tremendous source of inexpensive VHF and then UHF gear became available when business band mobiles moved from what then was wideband to narrowband signal transmission. This essentially started a move by many amateurs to 6M FM mobile and base. I, for one, obtained two 6M FM transceivers that once had traveled the streets of Atlanta, GA in taxicabs. One of these quite large (about 2' L, 15" W, 9" H) ended up in the car and the other in the shack. This was before commercially-built ham 6M FM rigs were generally available. Obso-



lete take-out FM rigs also sparked the development of 2M repeaters, the move of amateurs to this band, and the development and marketing of ham FM gear.

A similar situation may occur as the FCC pursues the move of commercial FM users to adopt still more narrow emissions. In case you haven't heard, FCC has mandated that "On January 1, 2013, all public safety and business industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio bands must cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology, and begin operating using at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology." The notice is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>.

What this will mean to the availability of quality, obsolete mobile and base rigs to amateurs can only be speculated. Whatever happens should not be bad for us. Amateurs who are willing to make a few, modifications to the take-out rigs may reap considerable benefit.

FCC Publishes Rules on Vanity Call Signs and on RACES

FCC rules changes concerning Vanity Call signs as well as those regarding RACES were published in the Federal Register dated December 15. The changes become effective February 14. To read the rules changes, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-31349.pdf>.

The changes involve CFR 47 Part 0 and Part 97. The FCC action is identified as WT Docket No. 09-209.

Programming Help Wanted

Several months ago I asked for anyone who has the ability to write/modify computer programs and who may be interested in taking on a project for the Division decided to contact me. Several members did this. Unfortunately, I did not obtain all of the information needed to work on the program until relatively recently. As a consequence I am starting over by asking anyone interested in determining if they would like to take the

challenge. Please contact me if you are interested in looking into helping.

We currently have a program that works with one pre-written letter. Using an amateur's call sign, the program automatically adds the name and address of a US representative and the writer, and prints the completed letter for the writer's signature.

What is desired is to make the program more flexible so that it can select from among about four letters as well as from US senators. It would be even more useful if the names and addresses of state representatives and senators could be searched and added.

If interested in the project, please contact me at k8je@arrl.org.

Michigan Section Manager Election this Fall

Last month I noted that the tri-annual election for Director and Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division will take place this coming fall. Similarly, the bi-annual election of the Michigan Section Manager (SM) will be held this coming fall. Dale Williams, WA8EFK is the current Michigan SM.

The rules and regulations concerning Section Manager (as well as Director and Vice Director) elections are at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-rules-regulations>.

Want an ARRL Membership Certificate and ID Card?

Nice certificates -- suitable for framing -- and ID cards are available for ARRL members by going to <http://www.arrl.org/membership-certificate>. Life members will have this category of membership indicated on the certificate and ID card. Lost your ID card or certificate? Click on this link and print whatever you need.

This Month's Final

As the Tentative Travel, Hamfest and Activity Schedule, below, indicates, the ARRL Board of Directors will be held January 21 and 22. It will be preceded by meetings of the Programs & Services Committee and the Administration & Finance Committee (A&F). There is nothing unusual about this. What is different is the means of enhanced oversight of HQ activities that A&F with the cooperation of CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, has been able to implement. This new arrangement should improve understanding between the Board and staff of the progress of major projects and the capacity of Staff to manage additional projects. One benefit to members should be increased productivity.

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.

Hamfest Chairmen, please remember to order your free handouts that are available from ARRL. These handouts are to be displayed on the ARRL table you provide. These replace the box of assorted goodies HQ previously sent automatically. The reason for the change is to allow you to select only the materials you believe will be of value and interest to your attendees.

2011 Happy New Year!

- 16 Jan: 45th Hazel Park Hamfest, Hazel Park, MI - Jim*
- 16 Jan: SCARF Hamfest, Nelsonville, OH
- 20 Jan: A&F Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim
- 21-22 Jan: ARRL Board Meeting, CT - Gary, Jim
- 30 Jan: Tusco ARC Hamfest, Strasburg, OH
- 6 Feb: NOARS Winter Hamfest, Lorain, OH
- 12 Feb: Cherryland ARC Swap-n-Shop, Traverse City, MI
- 13 Feb: IARC Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH - Jim*
- 20 Feb: Livonia ARC Swap-N-Shop, Livonia, MI - Jim
- 5 Mar: Cave City Hamfest, Cave City, KY - Jim
- 12 Mar: MOVARC Hamfest, Gallipolis, OH
- 19 Mar: Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI - Jim
- 20 Mar: TMRA Hamfest/Computer Fair, Perrysburg, OH - Jim
- 2 Apr: ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell, MI - Jim
- 9 Apr: 55th Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- 16 Apr: Milford Swap and Shop, Milford, MI
- 7 May: Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI
- 14 Jul: Committee Meeting, Newington, CT
- 15-16 Jul: ARRL Board Meeting, CT - Gary, Jim
- 17 Jul: Van Wert Hamfest, Van Wert, OH
- 31 Jul: Portage Hamfair 11, Randolph, OH
- 6 Aug: Voice of Aladdin Hamfest, Columbus, OH - Jim
- 21 Aug: Warren ARC Hamfest, Cortland, OH
- 28 Aug: Cambridge ARA Hamfest, Cambridge, OH
- 17 Sep: Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY
- 27 Sep: Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Berea, OH
- 29 Oct: Hazard Hamfest, Hazard, KY

*Driving conditions permitting.

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**FIRST
CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
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