



The Feedline

When One Wild Idea Breeds Another

From the ARRL Contest Update
June 8, 2011, Edited by Ward
Silver, N0AX

This issue's editorial comes from ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager, Allen Pitts W1AGP. Allen deals with a flood of news on ham radio every day and does his best to make sure the right information gets to the right people. Allen also recognizes that beyond the after-the-fact stories, there are whole audiences out there we need to make aware of ham radio. He's working on a new video project at HQ and I thought the readership would like to know about it. Plus, it might inspire us to do a little outreach of our own. Field Day is coming up and there's no better opportunity! 73, Ward N0AX

There's no doubt that the emergency communication aspect of Amateur Radio is a primary draw when the general population discusses ham activities. That's the one that gets us into the newspapers and on TV and, for better or for worse, brief sound bites and video clips are how most of the population seems to learn about their world these days.

But there is another species of sentient human out there, and it is one that we need to address. These are the people who shun the role of being just another "consumer" (a "sheeple") and want to open the box, tinker with the wiring and see what else they can make of a prod-

uct. They are the D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself) crowd, the ones that attend [Maker Faires](#), the people that write the apps, not just download them, and have an unquenchable creative sparkle that often causes (literally) sparks. In another era they would be shunned as "nerds," but in today's world the term is "geek" and being a geek is "cool." Muscles and hair alone are not enough anymore. In more and more movies and on TV, it is the geek who McGyver's the solution that saves the day - and the geek is often female!

For the most part they are young(er), bright, literate and genuinely excited in trying something new just for the fun of it. Launch a balloon-camera into near space? Sure! See the kids at K2GXT. Create an electric dress that lights with different colors depending on your mood? Just ask KC2UHB! Want to play with light and see how far one LED of a particular frequency can send a message? K4THZ is your club! There's a whole list of them at [WeDoThat-Radio](#) and this just scratches the surface.

Most already know about Amateur Radio but they are not your "usual" hams. Just as they will take the latest Gee-Whiz electronic box from Best Buy, open it and see what else they can do with it, they do the same with radio. They may not have any interest at all in contesting or in making the DXCC, but they glow with thoughts and dreams of what could

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Dates to Remember:

- June 13 – NKARC membership meeting
- [Milford Hamfest](#) – June 18
- [Paddlefest](#) – June 25
- [ARRL Field Day](#) – June 25, 26
- July 2 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
- July 11 – 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 VETesting@k4co.org 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

Field Day

Believe it or not, Field Day is just about here again. Doesn't seem like a year has passed does it? But, before you know it, June 25th will be here and the bands will light up!

I thought it might be interesting to look at the true meaning behind Field Day. Many people view it as a contest, which it is in some ways. Others view it as a time to enjoy the company of fellow Hams and operate in the open. And, again, in some ways, it is. Others see it as a way to get a message out to the general public about what Amateur Radio is all about. That, too, is a component of the event. But, why did it come about and what was the original intention? And, did you know that that it is not only an ARRL specific event?

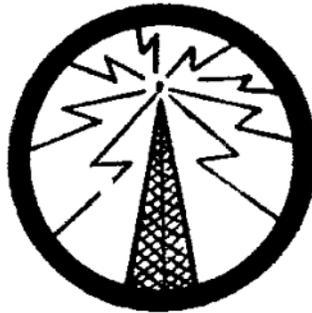
Field Day Defined

Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among amateur radio operators. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, radio amateurs throughout North America have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alterna-

tive power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and of each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component, and many clubs also engage in concurrent leisure activities (camping out, cook-outs, etc.). Operations typically last a continuous twenty-four hours, requiring scheduled relief operators to keep stations on the air. Additional contest points are awarded for experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts via satellite, and involving youth in the activity.



History of Field Day in the US

Field Day started in 1933 as a simple one-column announcement in QST. The column simply stated that for 27 hours, portable stations should have an opportunity to “go into the field to contact as many stations as possible”. The real purpose, it went on, was to test portables wherever they are and to test deployment of these stations. If it was successful, the column concluded, it would become an annual event. I guess we can conclude it was successful!

In 1936, there were two Field Days. The June 1936 FD was so popular that the ARRL created a second FD in August. Participation was about the same in both with the top scores being 143 and 136 respectively. In 1937, the Field Day Message is started. In 1940, the modern rules emerge.

For the years 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1945, Field Day was called off due to the war. Between 1946 and 1970, many rules were put in place and then

abandoned. (Reading about the rules that came and went is quite interesting along with the concept of “manufactured” contacts.)

In 1974, in the middle of the energy crisis of the time, natural power was stressed for the event. In 1980, RST was replaced with the category and class exchange. In 1981, personal computers were starting to become ubiquitous and, as such, packet radio saw a surge. And, in 1998, computer modes of operation went from special handling to mainline handling.

So, what is Field Day to you?

The basic tenet of Field Day is to help us prepare for Emergency Communications. Can you get your radio working and contact other stations in the event of an emergency? Can you run your equipment without the aid of commercial power? Without computers? Do you know how to handle messaging, different modes of

operation? Can you create an antenna to use?

When I first started my Ham career, my Dad and I just operated from our normal station without thinking of the emergency aspect of the event. We had a blast! Now, I am more aware of the true purpose of Field Day and recognize the importance of that purpose. As such, I try to hone my skills of running my station without the comforts I am used to. And, in doing so, am much more prepared to help out in the event of something happening, both from an Amateur Radio perspective and my own family’s perspective. What does Field Day mean to you?

We need you!

There are many, many functions that take place in order to help our Club run every day. And, we could use your help! We need more Net Control operators, a

Field Day chair, Presentation Ideas and presenters, and the list could go on. If you have some time and want to help out, please let me know. I promise you, we will have an opportunity for you to help out the Club and explore some of your own interests at the same time.

In closing...

I would like to hear from you as well. How are we doing? Is the Club meeting your needs? Do you have some ideas to improve the Club? Please let me know your thoughts and how we could make our Club the premier Amateur Radio club in the Cincinnati area.

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

(513) 919-6672 (cell)

May NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
May 3	AJ4DK (Don)	5	14	0
May 10	KB4VKS (Mike)	11	36	0
May 17	KB4VKS (Mike)	9	33	0
May 24	AJ4DK (Don)	11	28	0
May 31	N4IJS (Robert)	8	22	0
TOTALS:		44	133	0

May Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2011 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The May 9th, 2011 meeting of the NKARC was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of attendees followed. A sign in sheet was circulated with a total of 17 people present.

A motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting was made by Lynn, WD8JAW, seconded by Tyson, KJ4VKV. The motion passed with all in favor.

Field Day discussions were held until after the business portion of the meeting.

Last month, the Treasurer's Report was sent in a separate email to all paid members of NKARC.

Robert, N4IJS, will be checking our Club status with an update coming in a future meeting.

The Repeater Committee's update included progress in taking inventory of our current repeaters. The Committee is making good progress! Also, the .895 repeater was turned off due to interference. Tony, AI4IP, will be looking into the issue.

A suggestion was made for an upcoming presentation. The suggestion was to have someone from the Red Cross present a program on what they do and how we can help. Dann, KI4AVO, will be looking into it for a future meeting.

EchoLink is still not working. Robert, N4IJS, is hopeful that it can be resolved by the next meeting.

New Membership Benefit for 2011: Any current member of the NKARC who upgrades during the 2011 year will receive a discount for next year's Club dues. Any-

one upgrading to General will receive a \$10 discount and anyone upgrading to Extra will receive a \$15 discount. (These discounts will not be added together). This is a great opportunity to upgrade to more frequencies and privileges.

VE Update: We had one candidate for this session and they passed!

The Repeater Committee is pursuing a unique offer from ICOM. They have targeted certain states (KY being one of them) to provide a complete and free DStar repeater. We have completed the first phase of the selection process and have been chosen to move on to the next phase. This will require NKARC to commit to installing the repeater and have it running for one year and provide at least 10 new registrations for the DStar system. In order to install it, we need to either choose one of our existing repeaters to replace or install a complete new system. We are leaning towards replacing the .895 repeater installed at NKU, but that has not been decided as of yet. More information will be forthcoming, but if you have any questions, please contact Tony, AI4IP, or Robert, N4IJS.

If anyone has ideas and/or would like to present to the Club, please see Dann, KI4AVO. We need ideas and people for the presentations!

If anyone is interested in helping with the weekly Nets, please contact Robert, N4IJS. We are in need of at least two new Net Control Stations.

Tony, AI4IP made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Seconded by Tyson, KJ4VKV. Motion passed. The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 20:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Kluck, N4IJS.

WANTED: New or Experienced Net Control Stations!

NKARC is looking for two Amateur Radio operators and members of NKARC to help with our weekly VHF Net. The ideal candidate would have a desire for operating their radios. The rest of the requirements can be acquired through training which we will happily provide. If you are interested, please contact Robert, N4IJS.

NKARC Offers License Upgrade Incentive

NKARC is proud to offer a new benefit to our members. Any current member who upgrades during the calendar year of 2011 will receive a discount for the 2012 Membership fee. If you upgrade to General, you will receive a \$10 discount and if you upgrade to Extra, you will receive a \$15 discount (these offers will not be combined). What a great way to earn your upgrade, gain new frequencies and privileges, and receive a discount to boot! If you are interested, please contact Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH, at VETesting@k4co.org.

Club Library Debuts

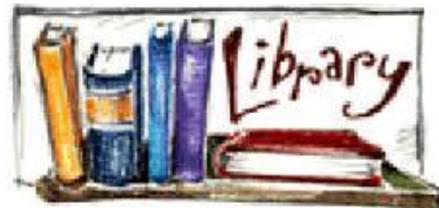
The following items are currently available for loan to NKARC members:

General Items

- ARRL Antenna Book - 21st Edition, 2nd Printing with CD
- ARRL 2011 Handbook with CD
- ARRL Operating Manual (9th Edition)
- ARRL Repeater Directory (2010-2011 Edition)
- ARRL PIC Programming Book (with CD)

Study Guides

- ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (2nd Edition)
- ARRL General Class License Manual (7th Edition)
- ARRL Amateur Extra Class License Manual (9th Edition)



"When One Wild Idea...",
cont'd from Cover

be, might be, and how they can use the electromagnetic spectrum to make it happen. And because the Amateur Radio bands are the last frontier where an individual still can try things on their own, even if it fizzles, they are drawn to the Service.

So how do we reach out to them? First and foremost we need to accept and claim them as "hams." Maybe they don't have tribanders

on their houses but they're hams in the best sense of the word. Secondly, we need to speak to them in their own way - and that language is by inspiration as one idea seeds another and then another. To do this, the ARRL is creating a special video that will be coming out in the fall of 2011. This successor to "Amateur Radio Today" with Walter Cronkite speaks in a new way to an entirely new audience, the 16 to 26-ish year-old "geek." Along with a supporting group of short

(YouTube-size) auxiliary videos, the main video will present several unusual and curious projects that the DIY-hams are doing. No, it's not your grandfather's radio - it's creative radio for creative minds. It's people experimenting in basements and garages just to see if they can make "it." But isn't that where Amateur Radio started?

There will be much more about this in the fall. Stay tuned!

Allen Pitts - W1AGP

Weaver's Words

Another Hamvention in the Books

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

De-Star in EmComm Webinar

The ARRL Atlantic Division and the National Capital Region D-STAR Association are presenting a two-part webinar discussion on D-STAR technology and its application to emergency communications (EmComm). The first of the two webinars has been held; however, the second is coming up on June 8 at 9 PM. If you are interested in learning how D-Star and EmComm fit together, feel free to attend this second webinar in the series.

Part 2 (D-STAR and EMCOMM) provides a discussion on how D-STAR technology can benefit amateur radio EMCOMM scenarios. Examples of D-STAR applications to EMCOMM are presented as well as future growth ideas.



Part 2 will be presented on Wednesday, June 8th from 9 pm through 10:30pm (EDT). The sign-up link is:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/746329904>

Thanks to Bill Edgar, N3LLR, Director of the Atlantic Division for hosting these and other seminars. Bill does a great job.

The Status of HR 607

In preparing this issue of Words, I had drafted a brief update on the status of HR 607. It turns out that ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN also wrote an update which I can't really beat so I'm quoting from her statement as follows:

“The ARRL continues to coordinate activity among the amateur community in its opposition to H.R. 607 in its

current form. While we do not object to the concept of a common, contiguous group of frequencies for emergency and first responders located in the “D-Block” area previously occupied by analog television, we vigorously oppose the “frequency swap” provision of HR 607 that would remove the amateur radio allocation between 420-440 MHz and auction it off. As of the end of May, over 6,000 letters were received by the ARRL’s Washington legislative consulting firm from ARRL members and interested parties for delivery to members of the United States House of Representatives.”

While on the subject of HR 607, it is worth noting the letter generating utility developed by Rick Haltermon, KD4PYR has been responsible for over 13,000 letters to US Representatives over the past several weeks — over 13,000! Of these, 867 were generated at the Hamvention(TM). I believe that word of this great number of letters has spread among the House offices and has made the unpopularity of the proposed taking and sale of our frequencies very well known to its members. I continue to believe firmly that this is one we can win.

S 1040 Introduced

US Senators Joe Lieberman (CT) and John McCain (AZ) have introduced S 1040 into the US Senate. This is the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011. This bill has a similar objective to HR 607; however, it does not include taking any Amateur Radio frequencies. As is true of HR 607, this bill would establish a contiguous group of frequencies for use by first-responders. A commendable goal. Unlike HR 607, S 1040 would not take any Amateur Radio frequencies in accomplishing the goal. We do not oppose S 1040.

ARRL was able to give input while S 1040 was being written. CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ met with staff members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate and described the im-

portant roll Amateur Radio has taken during many disaster relief operations. Staff seemed to understand and appreciate the role of hams. The result appears to be the favorable position the new bill takes toward Amateur Radio frequencies.

Please know that it is not yet time to write your senator to support S 1040. If writing to support this bill seems appropriate in the future, you will be requested to do this.

Thanks

There were 24 Great Lakes Division members who helped at the ARRL Legislative booth at the Hamvention. I thank each of you who assisted as well as several additional members who were standing by to help if needed. This is great volunteerism from great members in the greatest division.

Today's Final

The Hamvention has come and gone as it does each year. Unlike many years, the weather was beautiful. To make up for this, the gods of Hamvention threw a curve in the flea market this year. I won't go into this, but it gave new meaning to the term S.O.L. we've all heard at one time or another. What would we do if Hamvention came one year and after it was over there was nothing to talk about but ham radio stuff?

Remaining hamfests for this year are listed below as they currently are known. I call your attention to 11 September which is the Great Lakes Division at the Findlay Hamfest. The hamfest in itself is one of the largest in the Great Lakes Division (GLD) which makes it noteworthy on its own. It is playing host to the GLD Convention this year. Admission to the hamfest provides admission to the Convention. A very nice group of seminars and activities has been lined up. These will be headlined by a keynote speech by Allen Pitts, W1AGP from ARRL HQ. Allen will discuss how Amateur Radio in the US has changed since the fateful September 11, 2001. Yes, it will have been 10 years since "9/11." Allen has been deeply involved in

helping make many of the changes happen.

Following Allen's address, there will be two series of very interesting seminars. One of these will be oriented toward public service communications and the other to operating just for the fun of operating. The final hoorah for the convention will be an informal lunch at a nearby restaurant. Division Awards will be made at the lunch.



With one exception, winners of the award will be determined from nominations submitted by members. The Convention Awards Committee is accepting nominations at this time. Division Webmeister Scott Yonally, N8SY has developed an online form to simplify submitting nominations for them. This form and the criteria for receiving each award can be found at <http://arrl-greatlakes.org> and by clicking on the "Awards" link at the left and then on the "2011 Awards Criteria and On-Line Nominations Form" link near the top of the Awards page.

One can also send nominations to Scott by US mail. His address is fine on the web.

The following awards are open for nomination: The George S. Wilson III, Lifetime Achievement Award, the Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year Award, the Great Lakes Division Technical Achievement Award, the Great Lakes Division DX Achievement Award, and the Great Lakes Division Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award. Nominations must be received by August 1.

In addition, the Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE, Newsletter of the Year Award will be given to a newsletter selected from among the Newspaper of the Year Award winner in each Section.

For the schedule of activities, go to <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/convention.htm>.

73 de Jim, K8JE

Tentative Travel, Hamfest and Activity Schedule

As of press time, hamfests in the following list have received ARRL sanctioning. Hamfests and other events for which a Great Lakes Division representative is scheduled to attend are identified with the representative's name.

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 brochures from ARRL. These brochures are to be displayed on the table you provide for ARRL use per your agreement to become a sanctioned hamfest. The simple procedure for obtaining these free goodies is described in the letter you received along with the free prize certificates sent from HQ. There is no shipping charge for these freebies provided one follows the simple procedure for ordering them.

4 Jun: "Good Old Days" W8IRA/R Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI (QSL

Checking)

-Jim

4 Jun: Fulton Co. ARC Hamfest, Tedrow, OH

5 Jun: Chelsea Radio Swap n Shop, Chelsea, MI - Jim

11 Jun: LARS Hamfest, Newberry, MI

10-11 Jun: ARRL National Convention/Ham-Com, Plano, TX

14 Jun: Cuyahoga ARS meeting, Brecksville, OH - Jim

18 Jun: Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - Jim

18 Jun: Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI (QSL Checking)

19 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - Jim

8-10 Jul: Michigan Family Outing symposium, Hale, MI - Jim

14 Jul: A&F Committee Meeting, Newington, CT - Jim

15-17 Jul: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT - Gary, Jim

16 Jul: NOARSFEST, Elyria, OH

15-16 Jul: ARRL Board Meeting, CT - Gary, Jim

17 Jul: Van Wert Hamfest, Van Wert, OH

31 Jul: Portage Hamfair 11, Randolph, OH - Gary

6 Aug: Voice of Aladdin Hamfest, Columbus, OH - Jim

6 Aug: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI

7 Aug: Cuyahoga Falls ARC Tailgatefest, Stow, OH

14 Aug: Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim

14 Aug: Lapeer County Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI

21 Aug: Warren ARC Hamfest, Cortland, OH - Jim

27 Aug: SARA Swap & Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI

28 Aug: Cambridge ARA Hamfest, Cambridge, OH - Jim

10 Sep: Louisville Sunrise Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY

11 Sep: Great Lakes Division Convention at the Findlay Hamfest,

Findlay, OH (QSL Checking) - Gary, Jim

17 Sep: Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY - Jim

18 Sep: GCARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH (QSL Checking)- Jim

18 Sep: Adrian ARC Hamfest, Adrian, MI

25 Sep: Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Berea, OH - Jim

4 Oct: OH-KY-IN Meeting, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

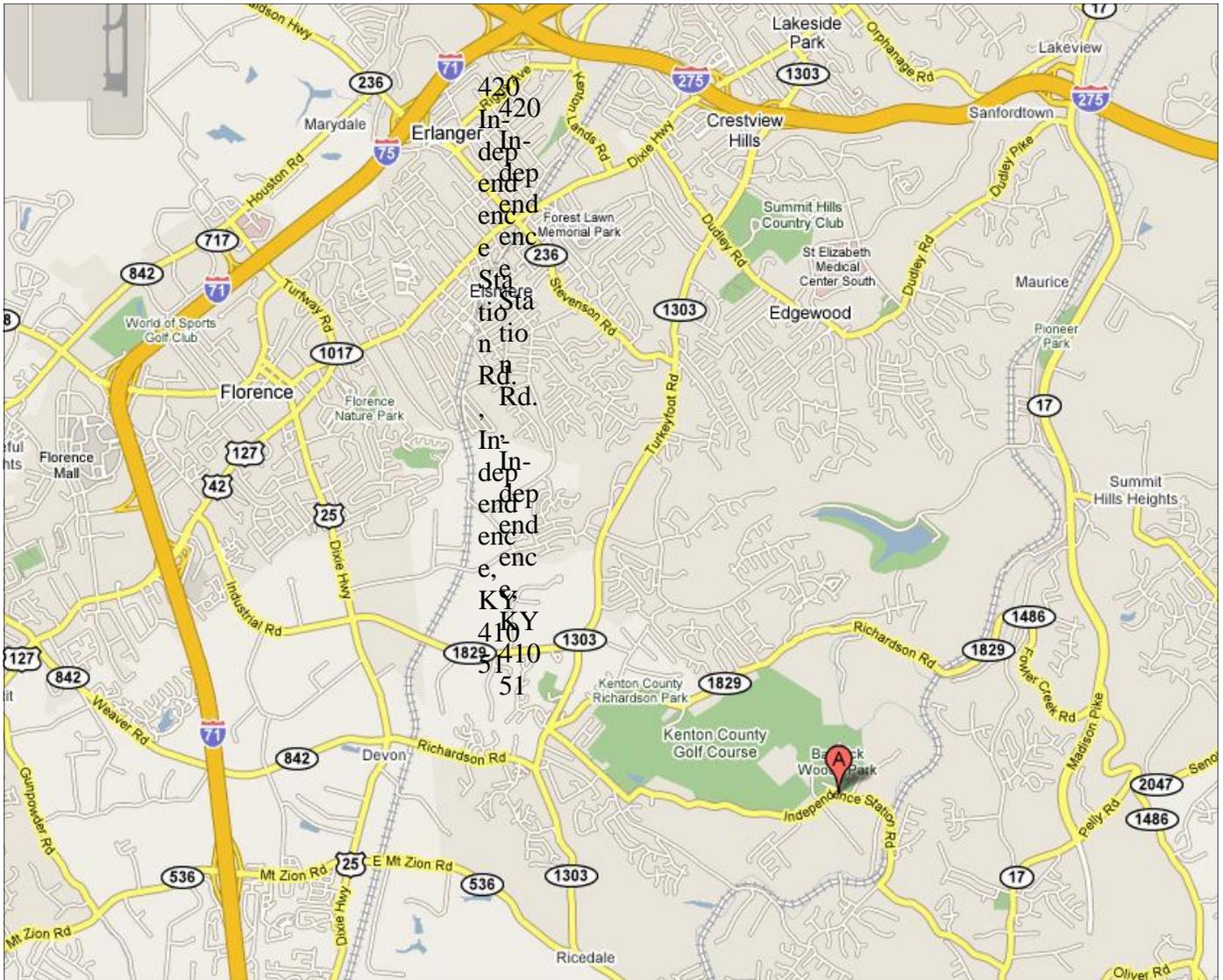
16 Oct: Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI (QSL Checking)

23 Oct: 26th Annual USECA Hamfest, Sterling Heights, MI

29 Oct: Hazard Hamfest, Hazard, KY

30 Oct: Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, OH

Location of NKARC/KD7ARET Field Day Site: Lincoln Ridge Park , 420 Independence Station Rd, Independence KY 41051



www.arrl.org

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