



The Feedline

Wanted: Feedline Editor

It's hard for me to believe, but this issue of The Feedline is the 60th since I took over editing duties from Brian Clark, W4SOU. How on Earth did five years pass so quickly? I've thoroughly enjoyed putting the newsletter together each month, but lately I've begun to feel like I've fallen into a rut. Frankly, the time has come for me to pass the reins to someone who can bring some fresh ideas to the table.

Will **you** please consider taking on this important role for the club? No previous experience is required. All that is required is a PC and some kind of word processor. (I happen to use Microsoft Publisher because it was available to me.) Internet access is also required, both to obtain content and to be able to email the newsletter out each month. You'll also need a printer, as three members still receive The Feedline in printed format.

I've enjoyed inflicting my thoughts and opinions on readers via "Mark's Mutterings", but there is no requirement that you write a column yourself. Copyright-free content is available from a number of sources, including the ARRL. I probably should have put more effort into badgering/coercing/coaxing club members into submitting original articles, but

that has never been my strong suit.

I will be more than happy to assist you while you learn the ropes — you won't be left to "sink or swim"!

Please contact either myself or a member of the executive team if you are interested in volunteering. Questions? I'll be more than happy to answer them!

73,

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

mvolstad@insightbb.com

January Meeting to Feature APRS Presentation

The January meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club will feature a presentation on APRS by Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH.

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 9 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

Membership Dues for 2012 Now Due

Club membership dues for 2012 are now due. Payment may be made at the January meeting, or can be mailed in with a membership renewal form, which can be found here:

<http://k4co.org/Membership.htm>

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Dates to Remember:

Feb 4 – Deadline for Feedline submissions
Feb 13 – NKARC membership meeting

NKARC Directory

Vice-President

Lyle Hamilton, AB8SH
ab8sh@arrl.net

President

Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Club Trustee & Historian

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI
k4bri@arrl.net

Director at Large

Don King, AJ4DK
kingdl19406@msn.com

Feedline Editor

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
Tel: 859-689-4234
mvolstad@insightbb.com

Webmaster

Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Repeater Committee Chair

Tony White, AI4IP
ai4ip@arrl.net

Net Manager

Robert Kluck, N4IJS
n4ijs@k4co.org

Field Day Chair

Greg Lamb, W4TSA
w4tsa@yahoo.com

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!

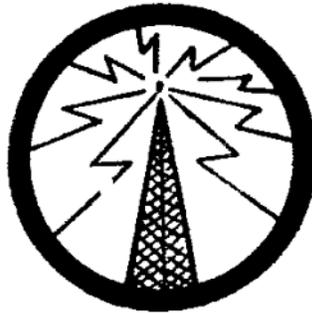
The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed via direct email to current NKARC members. **If you are a member in good standing but are not receiving your copy, please notify the Feedline editor.** Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given. Submissions, ad-

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

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ
6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005
Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com
Tel: 859-689-4234

Top of the Tower

(the Top of the Tower was not available by the deadline for Feedline submissions)



December NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
December 6	AJ4DK (Don)	6	19	0
December 13	KB4VKS (Mike)	8	20	0
December 20	KB4VKS (Mike)	5	15	0
December 27	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	10	18	0
TOTALS:		29	72	0

2011 NKARC Christmas Dinner

The 2011 annual NKARC Christmas Dinner was held at Golden Corral on December 12. The event was very well attended. Awards and door prizes were handed out, and a good time was had by all!



2011 Sees Tremendous Increase in DXCC Applications

From ARRLWeb, 01/04/2012

With the coming of more sunspots, comes more DX. And when more amateurs are working DX, that means the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department — especially the DXCC Desk and the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus — goes into high gear.

“In 2011, we saw an increase in the number of cards we received from ARRL members that were sent to foreign QSL bureaus, as well as the number of cards we sent out to the bureaus,” said DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. “In addition, the number of DXCC applications — including those for initial awards and endorsements — also increased.”

“Through December 31, 2011, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau received 802,500 cards destined for foreign QSL bureaus from ARRL members in the US,” said MVP Administrative Manager Sharon Taratula. “This represents an increase of 4 percent over the 2010 number of about 771,900 cards. In 2011, the ARRL shipped 799,675 cards — or close to 5400 pounds of cards — to foreign bureaus.”

As the number of QSL cards has increased, so have the number of DXCC applications. In 2010, the DXCC Desk processed 7134 applications for initial awards and endorsements; these 2010 applications included 853,462 QSOs. In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed 11,175 applications, containing 1,250,864 QSOs. “Comparing 2010 to 2011, this represents a 47 percent increase in the number of QSOs and a 57 percent increase in the number of applications,” Taratula explained. “With all of the year's applications not yet fully processed, we've seen a substantial increase in the number of QSOs over 2010.”

How the Bureaus Work

Each day, QSL cards are delivered to the [Outgoing QSL Bureau](#) where they are placed in dated bins. They are then sorted by country prefix in according to the date they were received in the Bureau. Every other month, volunteers and ARRL staff assist Outgo-

ing QSL Bureau Associate Rose-Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW, pack up the cards for the most active bureaus and prepare them for shipment. The Outgoing QSL Bureau uses two sizes of cartons for sending QSL cards, depending on the size of the shipment — either 4 or 20 pound cartons. These cartons are sent to the bureaus via private shipper. Cards going to less active entities are forwarded every 90 days via USPS First Class International Mail, either in smaller boxes or in a padded envelope.

Within the US, the [ARRL Incoming QSL Service](#) is made up of numerous call area bureaus, with one bureau serving each call area. These call area bureaus act as central clearing houses for QSL cards arriving from foreign countries. ARRL volunteers sort all incoming cards according to the number in a call sign, 0-9. Then all the cards are sent to the appropriate call area bureau. Volunteers within each bureau then sort the cards according to the first letter in a call sign's suffix. The cards are then sent to those in the call area who participate in the Incoming QSL Service. While amateurs must be an ARRL member to take advantage of the Outgoing QSL Bureau, membership is not required to receive cards from the Incoming QSL Service.

“There is a definite cycle here in the Bureau,” Lawrence said. “We keep really busy all year long, but it really gears up in the fall right around Thanksgiving weekend. It tapers off a little in the spring after contest season when a lot of hams enjoying activities in the nice weather. Hams really do love their QSL cards, and we get to see so many beautiful ones pass through the Bureau.”

Lawrence receives help from volunteers in the Bureau: Lisa Zeug, K1UQT, and Michael Zeug, W1YM, are Area 1 letter sorters from Massachusetts who also help out ARRL HQ in the QSL Bureau. Richard Lawrence, KB1DMX, and David Kaplan, WA1OUI, both help with all parts of the Bureau operation at HQ. John Meyer, K9QVB, — the Area 9 Incoming Manager — comes to Newington all the way from Illinois to spend a week in May every year, slotting cards all day.

ARRL Launches New DIY Campaign

From ARRLWeb, 12/27/2011

The ARRL Public Relations Department has released the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) suite of interrelated promotional materials aimed at exposing the growing Do It Yourself/Maker community to Amateur Radio opportunities. The DIY movement is nothing new to Amateur Radio. For more than a century, hams have been working in basements and attics, taking things apart and putting them back together in new ways, just for the fun of it. Meanwhile, there has been a growing population of DIY hobbyists who do not know about the opportunities of Amateur Radio. “[Maker Faires](#)” have popped up in several areas of the country, from New York to Los Angeles, and according to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, look suspiciously like ham radio conventions.

“The DIY crowd is as diverse as hams,” Pitts explained. “Many are into computer programming, using new computer chips and open-source electronics prototyping platforms, such as [Arduino](#) that are based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software. They are artists, designers, hobbyists and anyone interested in creating interactive objects and applications. DIYers work with everything from wood and clothing, to energy and chemistry projects, with many interested in robotics.”

To reach this growing group, the ARRL Public Relations Department has created an entirely new set of campaign materials for ARRL Public Information Officers, groups and individual hams to use in reaching out to the DIY/Maker community. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and Dave Bell, W6AQ, were recruited to create the new video. Recruiting volunteers throughout 2011, the duo shot more than 65 hours of high-definition video, and then edited it down to a mere 8 minutes. Titled *The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio*, it shows ham-makers projects from around the country. You can watch it on the [ARRL website](#) or on [YouTube](#).

“But a video alone cannot accomplish the goal of linking the viewers with ham radio,” Pitts noted. We

also crafted an auxiliary flier as a hand-out to go along with the video. A PowerPoint presentation and speaker’s notes also are available. In addition, ‘Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio’ buttons were made as a way to encourage informal conversations about our hobby with the non-hams we encounter. We even held a contest, asking hams to provide a scripted 30 second answer to the question ‘What is Amateur Radio?’ that 12 year old Chris Tate, KJ4UBL, of Burlington, North Carolina, took top honors.”

The video is available on DVD discs, along with the printed handout from the ARRL. Find information about ordering or downloading these materials [here](#). For high-definition MPEG versions of the video, please contact Pitts via [e-mail](#) (please be aware that this version is almost 500 megs). ARRL members can get a free ‘Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio’ button at the ARRL table at larger hamfests and conventions while supplies last.



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Return to:
Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 18215
Erlanger, Ky. 41018

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