



# The Feedline

## Tower Help Needed!

Several weeks ago I was contacted by LaVerne Schatzman, wife of former NKARC member Neal Schatzman KC4FET. She is looking for help in removing the tower and antenna that is on their property in Edgewood. Neal has had various age-related health issues in recent years and is no longer an active ham. The tower and antenna are free to whoever is able to come and safely remove them. I drove out to have a look for myself. The tower is a



self-supporting crank-up tilt-over tower that seems to be about 40 feet tall. The tower itself seems to be structurally sound with some surface rust, but the steel cabling is rusted and broken. If nobody wants the tower, she is willing to pay to have it removed. Can anyone recommend a professional outfit that could do this for her?

From the ground, the antenna seems to

be in good condition. It's a six-element beam, with traps on three of the elements. I can provide photos of both the tower and antenna to anyone who is interested. They can also be seen in Google Maps satellite and Street View.

LaVerne is also willing to sell Neal's station equipment, which includes the following:

- Yaesu FT-767GX HF transceiver
- Yaesu FT-900 HF transceiver
- Alpha 78 linear amp
- Kenwood TM-2550A 2M transceiver
- MFJ Versa Tuner III
- MFJ-921 VHF Tuner

If you are interested in any of these items or have any advice to offer on the tower removal, please contact me.

73, Mark Volstad, AI4BJ  
mvolstad@insightbb.com

### June Program

The June meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club will include planning for Field Day, and if time permits, the showing of the video "[The Last Big Field Day](#)".

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 11 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

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#### Dates to Remember:

- Jun 11 – NKARC membership meeting
- June 16– [Milford Hamfest](#)
- June 23,24 – Field Day ([directions](#))
- June 23 – [Paddlefest](#)
- July 9 – NKARC membership meeting

# NKARC Directory

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**Repeaters (K4CO):** 147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895- and 145.420- (D-STAR) 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](mailto: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, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

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# Top of the Tower

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## *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 23<sup>rd</sup> will be here and the bands will light up!

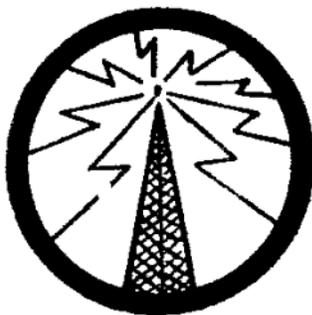
I thought it might be interesting to look at the true meaning behind Field Day. Many people view it as a contest, which it is in some ways. Others view it as a time to enjoy the company of fellow Hams and operate in the open. And, again, in some ways, it is. Others see it as a way to get a message out 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 alternative 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, cookouts, 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 of 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, 1998, computer modes of operation went from special handling to mainline handling.

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*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!***

This Feedline is Mark Volstad's, AI4BJ, final edition that he will be the Editor for. Mark has decided to step

down from this role that he has taken care of for many years now. And, Mark has done just a superb job and the Club has truly benefitted from his commitment, efforts, creativity, and drive. Thank you Mark!

But, we need you! We need to find a new Feedline Editor or our monthly newsletter will not get the attention it deserves. Mark is willing to help anyone step into the role and get the ball rolling. Have you ever wanted to help out the Club, use your creative talents? Then, please, let me know that you would like to be the next NKARC Feedline Editor!!

***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 Northern Kentucky.

73 for now,

Robert Kluck – N4IJS

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## May NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

| DATE           | NCS            | CHECKINS  | TIME (MINS) | TRAFFIC  |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| May 1          | AJ4DK (Don)    | 10        | 29          | 0        |
| May 8          | KB4VKS (Mike)  | 11        | 29          | 0        |
| May 15         | KB4VKS (Mike)  | 10        | 23          | 0        |
| May 22         | W4TSA (Greg)   | 8         | 16          | 0        |
| May 29         | KJ4VKV (Tyson) | 9         | 22          | 0        |
| <b>TOTALS:</b> |                | <b>48</b> | <b>119</b>  | <b>0</b> |

# Mark's Mutterings

## Hamvention 2012

Having skipped the trek to Dayton last year, there was no way I was going to miss it this year. And so, I got up early on a beautiful Friday morning and pointed my car north on I-75. This was (I think) my sixth time, so by now my car pretty much knows the way by itself. As usual, I parked in the field across from Hara arena. Upon entering, I almost immediately ran into Greg W2ORO and Judy May W1ORO. In their matching pith helmets, they looked like a couple of big-game hunters on safari, though I knew they were hunting for bargains, not elephants. We found our way to the main entrance where we deposited our raffle tickets, and then parted ways.

A number of interesting new HF transceivers were on display, including Kenwood's new flagship [TS-990S](#). Yaesu surprised with their previously unannounced [FTDX3000](#). I really like the clean, simple layout of this rig, and if it comes in at a reasonable price point (\$2500?), I think Yaesu



will sell a boatload of them. Both of these rigs employ down-conversion RX architecture to achieve excellent dynamic range, continuing the trend established by U.S. manufacturers Ten-Tec and Elecraft. I heard that FlexRadio also had a new rig on display, but the layout of their booth made it impossible for me to get close enough to catch a glimpse of it.

Of course, the rig that I actually came to see was one that was actually first shown at Dayton last

year — Elecraft's ultra-portable [KX3](#). I covet this radio, truly I do! It covers 160 through 6 meters, and Elecraft have announced their intention to of-



fer a 2-Meter option as well. I can't really justify a fourth HF rig, however, so I've reluctantly decided to part with my [K2](#) and [KX1](#) to make room (and provide funding!) for the KX3. If anyone is interested in acquiring one of these from me, let me know before I list them on eBay in a few weeks. The K2 will be particularly hard to part with, as it was my first rig, built lovingly from a kit. It is also unique in that I've incorporated a [Micro M+](#) solar charge controller into the chassis. All I have to do is plug in my 10W solar panel and I can operate off-grid for as long as the sun shines!

Having seen as much of the indoor exhibits as I cared to, I headed out to the flea market. The sun was brilliant, and the UV index must have been off the charts. I was amazed at the number of people walking around without hats — these must be the hams who only leave their shacks once or twice a year!

This is the first Hamvention I've attended where I did not arrive with a shopping list in hand. I hated to leave empty-handed though, so I kept an eye out for anything that I could possibly justify hauling home with me. I eventually ran into Greg and Judy again. When I found out that they had already made one trip back to their car to unload

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their purchases, I felt even more guilty about being empty-handed. I finally purchased a \$3 UHF barrel connector and stuffed it in my pocket. That was good enough. I really enjoy Hamvention just for the ambience and for seeing all the weird and wonderful ways that my fellow hams have come up with for enjoying this hobby. The 2012 attendance broke 24,000, a ten-year high, so I'd say that our hobby must be in pretty good shape.

### A Meeting in the Park

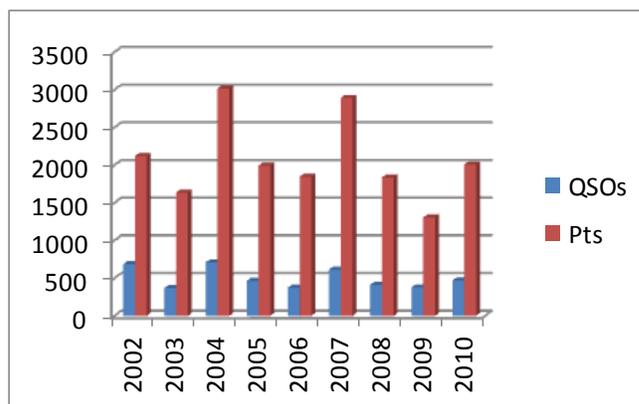
On a recent Friday evening I received a call from Tanya Bartlett, a reporter for [The Journal News KY](#). Tanya was writing an article about amateur radio, and wanted to interview me for the story. We agreed to meet the next morning at England Idlewild Park, where I sometimes set up my K2 in a picnic shelter. Tanya showed up on time with her husband, who was also interested in learning more about ham radio. I rambled on for about 45 minutes, and a week later Tanya's article ("[Amateur Radio Operators Connecting Worldwide](#)") appeared in print. I think she did a fine job in capturing the key points about the hobby. She also included a plug for Field Day, which means the club can claim 100 bonus points for publicity. I don't think The Journal News has a huge readership — it is available through post offices, libraries and some local businesses, but I figure that anything that brings amateur radio to the attention of the public is good for us.

### Two Weeks Until Field Day!

With all the fine weather we've been having recently, I've been getting up each morning thinking "I wish today was Field Day!". Well, there's not much longer to wait. As many of you know, I alternate between operating Field Day solo one year and participating with the club the next. This year I'll be back at [Lincoln Ridge Park](#) helping out with NKARC's event. I'll be there bright and early Saturday morning and staying right through until tear-down Sunday afternoon.

My station, while not an official GOTA station,

will be available for anyone, licensed or unlicensed, who wants to experience first-hand the thrill of making radio contact with other stations hundreds or thousands of miles away. The exchange during Field Day is extremely simple — all you need to remember is "3-alpha Kentucky". I enjoy watching the colored map of North America fill in on my laptop as I work each new ARRL section, even though these do not count as point multipliers. By the way, I've gone through the results database on the ARRL web site and tabulated the results from NKARC's previous Field Day submissions for the past decade. (I couldn't find any results from last year.) 2004 appears to



have been our best year — do you think we can top that score this year? Whether or not we do, I'm sure I will enjoy the experience, as I always do.

### Final Words

After five and a half years, this will be the last Feedline that I edit. These aren't really my final words though, as I will continue to ~~inflict my opinions on you~~ contribute articles from time to time. Thank you to all who have provided me with encouragement and constructive criticism over the years.

73, Mark Volstad

AI4BJ

# Weaver's Words

## In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening

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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**

### **FCC OKs Medical Devices on 2360 through 2400 MHz**

(From ARRL Bulletin No. 13) “In a First Report and Order and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET 08-59) released on May 24, the FCC decided to expand the Part 95 Personal Radio Service rules to allow medical devices to operate on a secondary basis in the 2360-2400 MHz band. These devices — called Medical Body Area Networks (MBAN) — provide a way for health care facilities to monitor their patients via wireless networks. Because use of these frequencies will be on a secondary basis, MBAN stations will not be allowed to cause interference to — and must accept interference from — primary services, including radio amateurs who operate on a primary basis in the 2390-2395 MHz and 2395-2400 MHz bands.”

Comments were filed in support of allowing MBAN in 2360-2400 MHz band in December 2007 by GE Healthcare. The comments regarded “Body Sensor Networks” (BSNs). Such equipment could be used, for example, in fires to help search buildings for unconscious individuals.

Although the use of MBAN in the allocated amateur frequencies is on a non-interfering, secondary basis to ham use, the ability of the devices to operate without interfering to amateur communications remains to be determined. ARRL is keeping a close eye on how this develops.

One good thing related to FCC's move is that “the Commission has effectively taken 2360-2400 MHz off the table for consideration for commercial wireless broadband” according to League CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ

ET 08-59 can be found on the web at, <http://www.fcc.gov/document/medical-body-area-networks-first-report-and-order>.

### **Michigan Elects Camp as Section Manager**

Larry Camp, WB8R was declared elected as Section Manager (SM) of Michigan. He ran unopposed. Larry was appointed to the position in January when then-SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK took his newly-elected position as Division Vice Director.

### **How the ARRL Repeater Directory is Developed**



There is quite a bit of confusion and misunderstanding among amateurs about how ARRL Repeater Directory listings of repeaters are developed and who develops these. To begin this brief discussion, I will say that ARRL has nothing to do with developing repeater listings that appear in The Directory. So how is it developed?

To sum the process, it is repeater frequency coordinator groups that provide the information to ARRL. For example, in Ohio, it is the Ohio Repeater Council that provides the information. So what does ARRL do to the information in publishing it in the Directory?

For all intents and purposes, ARRL does nothing to the information. It is published, in essence, as it is received from the coordinator. This includes using the format in which the information is presented to ARRL. This is the reason that information for some states is published by regions of the state and others by the city. ARRL does not tamper with the information that is presented to it. This also means that states that have an active repeater council are typically as up-to-date as practical; whereas, the information for other states may often be somewhat out-of-date.

What ARRL does add; however, is useful information including the names and contact information of frequency coordinators, discussion of good operating

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practices and amateur radio band plans that relate to repeaters.

The message is that any inquiries or comments about which repeater is coordinated for which frequency, how to coordinate a repeater and obtaining correction of outdated information should be directed to the relevant repeater coordinator. This person can be found at [www.arrl.org/frequency-coordinators](http://www.arrl.org/frequency-coordinators) -- provided the repeater council has kept ARRL up-to-date on he identity and contact information for the repeater coordinator.

### **ARRL June QSO Party**

The ARRL June QSO Party offers an opportunity to bring two groups of amateurs together who often seem to have little in common beyond being radio amateurs. These are DXers/Contesters and VHFers/UHFers. More and more DXers and Contesters are getting on 6M if not the higher frequencies. Many VHF/UHF operators also have 6M capability as well as capability to work higher frequencies. Modern multi-mode rigs are making great inroads into the life of UHF/VHF operators as well as DXers and Contesters. Why not join in the fun — and maybe the DX — of the June QSO Party? It runs from 9/11-13. See [www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party).

Incidentally, as I am writing this item (the afternoon of May 30), there are several openings to a number of states and to Mexico. What the bands would be like on a weekend with a great many more amateurs listening and calling CQ is a good question. If band conditions for the VHF QSO Party are at all similar to the conditions today, a good time could "be had by all."

### **Field Day Near**

The annual outdoor festival of Amateur Radio in the US and Canada is June 23-24 this year. EmComm training, campout, contest, photo op, however any individual views it, Field Day is the premier operating event for the largest number of amateurs in the world. So far as publicity for Amateur Radio is concerned, the ARRL as well as The Ham Radio Promoter (THRP) have excellent help for developing news releases for Field Day. If you are not familiar with THRP go to

<http://www.neoham.org>, THRP is edited by Dee Logan, WIHEO of Mentor, OH.

### **My Nickel's Worth**

In the VHF QSO Party item, above, I referred to two groups of amateurs who may often seem to have little in common beyond possessing a similar piece of paper from the FCC. It is a sad fact of amateur radio life that we hams often become so comfortable operating in our own little niche that we often fail to see the value in operations outside our niche. This results at least partly from human nature as well as from the nature of the FCC licensing system. It is easy to develop a sense that "if I'm not involved in an activity, it isn't worth being involved in." Technician Class licensees, in particular, are left in their isolated corner of Amateur Radio by the very rules of the game. Whether this is good or bad depends on the individual, of course.

The result is that hams tend to end up in one or more of a variety of the following factions — VHFers/UHFers, DXers/Contesters, builders, experimenters, public service oriented . . . and more. This fractionizing of Amateur Radio often leads to members of certain groups failing to view themselves as part of the whole and become fully centered on their own interest area to the exclusion of other interest areas.

So, why is this bad? As one example, it is bad because hams who are tied up with one of the several areas of activity in Amateur Radio may not see that attacks on other areas of activity are relevant to themselves. For example, an avid DXer might not view an effort to seize UHF frequencies from amateur use and divert them to commercial use is undesirable. "If I don't operate there, who cares what happens?" Instead of viewing any attack on amateur radio as being bad, there is the risk that hams who take a narrow view of Amateur Radio become similar to passers-by to a street mugging . . . and do nothing to help defend the person or activity being attacked.

It is my strong belief that an attack on any phase of Amateur Radio is an attack on all of Amateur Radio, Therefore, the loss of any aspect of Amateur Radio to

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commercial or other interest is a loss to all of Amateur Radio.

The bottom line is that as Amateurs, we need to have and to maintain a strong national organization — one that is strong enough to do battle with the more-moneyed lobbies who want our frequencies, for example. We have such an organization in ARRL. An estimated 50% of all active US licensees belong to and support ARRL. This is good.

What would be better is if the remaining 50% also belonged to and supported ARRL in its work to protect and expand Amateur Radio. This can happen only if active ham members of ARRL become familiar with the great variety of work ARRL is doing and spread the news of its legitimacy and relevance to amateurs who do not belong.

### **Scheduled Hamfests and Travel**

The following is a schedule of travel planned by the Director, Vice Director and Section Managers in the Great Lakes Division. These trips represent an excellent opportunity to discuss ARRL and what it is doing to support Amateur Radio.

Hamfest chairman, it is never too early to apply to have your hamfest sanctioned. The following is the tentative schedule by ARRL Division and Section officials to attend hamfests/swaps as indicated. Especially now that DXCC submission can be made online, it would be a good idea to consider inviting a Card Field Checker to your hamfest, and publicizing he will be there. It will cost only an admission ticket and the use of one table to have QSLs checked at your event. A listing of Card Checkers is available at [www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search](http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search). Obviously, Card Checkers are available consistent with the timing of the hamfest and the distance that would need to be travelled for the trip. I will be happy to note on the listing of hamfests which of these will be hosting a Card Checker if I am given the information.

Jun 2 - IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI - WB8R  
Jun 2 - Fulton County ARC Hamfest, Tedrow, OH -

Ohio Cabinet  
Jun 2 - Princeton/Pennington Tailgate/Fest, Princeton, KY - KY4Z  
Jun 3 - Chelsea Hamfest, Chelsea, MI - WB8R  
Jun 7 - Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council Meeting - WA8EFK  
Jun 9 - LARS Hamfest, Newberry, MI - WB8R  
Jun 16 - Midland ARC Hamfest, Midland, MI - WB8R  
Jun 16 - Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - K8JE  
Jun 17 - Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - WA8EFK, WB8TKL  
Jul 12 - Programs & Services Committee Meeting - K8JE  
Jul 13-14 - ARRL Board of Directors Meeting, ARRL HQ - K8JE, WA8EFK  
Jul 21 - NOARSFEST, Elyria, OH  
Jul 22 - Van Wert ARC Hamfest, Van Wert, OH, OH Cabinet  
Jul 28 - CMARC Trunk Sales, Lansing, MI, WB8R  
Jul 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH, WA8EFK, KI8GW  
Aug 4 - DATE CHANGE -- SEE AUG. 11  
Aug 4 - UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI, WB8R  
Aug 11 - Ohio State Convention & Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, OH - K8JE  
WA8EFK, KI8GW, OH Cabinet  
Aug 12 - Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - K8JE, KY4Z  
Aug 19 - Lapeer Co. ARA Annual Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI, WB8R  
Aug 19 - Warren ARC Hamfest, Cortland, OH  
Aug 25 - Owosso Swap & Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI - WB8R  
Sep 8 - GRAHamfest, Wyoming, MI  
Sep 8 - Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY, K8JE, KY4Z  
Sep 15 - Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY, KY4Z  
Sep 16 - Greater Cincinnati ARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH, K8JE  
Sep 16 - Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI  
Sep 23 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show, Berea, OH, K8JE  
Oct 6 - Vette City Hamfest, Bowling Green, KY  
Oct 13 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI  
Oct 21 - Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI  
Oct 26 - Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, OH  
Oct 27 - KY Mountains ARC Hamfest, Hazard KY  
Dec 2 - LCARC AR Swap/Hamfest, Harrison Township, MI

Return to:  
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P.O. Box 18215  
Erlanger, Ky. 41018

**FIRST  
CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NKARC Feedline June 2012  
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