



The Feedline

ARRL Field Day!

Field Day is June 23-24, 2012

Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public relations demonstration, a great event for clubs, or just a fun way to get on the air? Field Day is ALL these things! Hams set up away from commercial power and normal installations and operate for 24 hours.



ARRL [Field Day](#) is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to

practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

We, as a club, also participate in [Paddfest](#) this same day. While many of our members participate in this fun water event, Mike KB4VKS has a suggestion; "Come home take a nap and help at Field Day later in the day". Great advice. The club needs your involvement. This is a combined effort of the NKARC and KD7ARET. For many of us, we shake the cobwebs of establishing an emergency communications system should we be

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May Program

The May meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club will feature a report by Judy May, WI0RO, on a military museum she recently visited.

Join us at 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 14 at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

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Dates to Remember:

- May 14 – NKARC membership meeting
- May 18-20 – Dayton [Hamvention](#)
- Jun 11 – NKARC membership meeting
- June 16– [Milford Hamfest](#)
- June 23,24 – [Field Day](#)
- June 23 – [Paddfest](#)

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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 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

Help Wanted

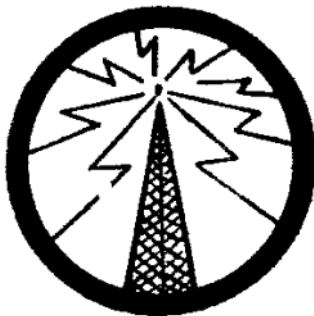
All successful organizations include dedicated individuals working to achieve their goals and those of the organization. In the case of a business that pays workers to do a certain job, that worker is assigned goals, or tasks, and is held responsible for their completion.

This is not the case in an organization that depends upon volunteers to do the work. We are all familiar with the difficulty of getting volunteer help. It doesn't matter if our purpose is one of great importance or, just for fun. We don't fire the member that doesn't want to help. As a result, we continue to call on the busy person that always comes through for us. This approach, necessary at the time, soon tries the patience and we lose a valuable asset.

There is no argument that our daily pace is increasing. The demands of a job, our families, our church and our many other responsibilities soon take more time than we have available.

Over the past months, the Club has accomplished much. The 895 repeater was moved to make room for the new D-Star repeater which is in place and functioning. Many have prepared educational presentations for our meetings and supported other activities of the Club. Field Day and Paddlefest will require more effort.

Earlier this year, Robert, N4IJS, serving both as President and Treasurer, requested someone to take the treasurers position. The Club appreciates Alan, KA9GRY, for stepping up and assuming these duties.



Still, the NKARC is in need of your help.

Mark, AI4BJ, is resigning as editor for the Feedline. Mark has done an outstanding job for many years. While we would like him to continue, we understand his need for a break from this monthly obligation. He has earned more time to enjoy the hobby.

Additionally, Lyle, AB8SH, having more pressing obligations, will discontinue his role as ARRL VEC representative. Lyle has served admirably in this position. Many have received upgrades and new tickets as a direct result of his efforts. Those who have assisted Lyle are well aware of his strict and no nonsense approach as a volunteer examiner.

So we are left with two positions that need to be filled – **ARRL VEC Representative** and **Feedline Editor**.

There was some discussion during the last meeting regarding sharing the work of these positions. Whether this is an option or not, is yet to be determined. **If you are willing to help in these areas, please contact Mark , Lyle or Robert.** Both Mark and Lyle have said they will train you and continue to support you until you are comfortable doing the job.

Please consider taking one of these positions. The success and longevity of the NKARC is dependent upon all its members.

73, Don, AJ4DK

April Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2012 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMA- TEUR RADIO CLUB

President Robert Kluck, N4IJS, opened the meeting at 7:40 PM with the pledge.

Treasurer's report not available.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting was made by John, KY4JD. Seconded by Lyle, AB8SH. Minutes approved as published.

Old Business:

AI4IP reported that the needed cables for the D-Star repeater have been secured. John, KY4JD, will install. SARA paperwork has been sent and fee paid but K4CO listing not in Journal.

N4IJS said the FD site has been secured and paperwork is in place. He expects FD to be a fun time. The May and June meetings will be devoted to FD preparations.

Robert reiterated that Mark, AI4BJ, has held the position of Feedline editor for a number of years and is requesting a replacement. He will be vacating this position in June. He is offering to train someone and help to get them started. If you can take this position, please let Robert or Mark know.

New

AB8SH reported that five candidates were present for testing. One upgraded to General, two to extra and one obtained Technician class. (one upgrade attempt was unsuccessful).

AI4IP presented split-the-pot. The winner was KY4JD.

Robert, N4IJS, reported that Alan, KA9GRY, has volunteered to take the position of Treasurer. Our thanks to Alan.

Lyle, AB8SH, announced his intention to withdraw as VE liaison at the end of this year due to personal reasons. The Club is grateful to Lyle for the years he has devoted to this effort. Lyle expressed his willingness to train and support his replacement

N4IJS noted that we now have two positions that need to be filled. They are: ARRL VE liaison and Feedline editor. If you are willing to take one of these very important positions, please contact Robert, N4IJS. (there was some discussion regarding having two individuals share the VE responsibilities. Lyle will investigate this possibility).

Motion to adjourn by AI4IP. Second KJ4VKV. Business meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

The scheduled presentation on D-Star was postponed for a later date.

Respectfully Submitted by Don, AJ4DK

Wanted: Feedline Editor

After wearing my editor's hat for more than 5 years, I would like to pass the reins to someone who can bring some fresh ideas to the table. No previous experience is necessary — I will provide training if necessary. All you need is a PC and an internet connection. If interested, please contact either myself or Robert Kluck, N4IJS.

— Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

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needed.

Recent events, such as the Piner/Crittenden tornados demonstrate that our involvement could be , if not be compelled to be, necessary in these emergencies. WE MUST be ready and prepared.

Come, watch and take part in putting up a make-shift antenna and learn how you could do it yourself if the need arises in a true emergency situation. MIC SHY? Get on the air and make contacts - you really can't make a mistake in this operating activity. Personal note...my involvement in field day put the HF bug in me and I now love and devote many hours to DX and HF operation with an antenna I learned how to put in my yard from Field Day!

We also make this event a social ...a time to invite our families to see the “guys” we chat with on the radio, show off our equipment and have some “eyeball QSOs”. Have some food, drink and fun. Its very laid back and I ENCOURAGE and BEG our newly licensed hams to come play with us It's FREE! You can operate anywhere in the ham plan (we have EXTRAs on site) and any type of mode you want...did I mention its FREE. You

just bring yourself, family if you want and a snack or covered dish for the picnic. We have the rest.

Operators are especially needed for late night, overnight and early Sunday morning for operating and tear down.

ARRL Field Day!

June 23-24, 2012

Greg, W4TSA, Field Day Chairperson

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no clues as to how long they expect to be QRV! Even a rough guess would be better than nothing. Do they plan to shut down tomorrow, in two weeks, or in two months?? It seems unfathomable to me that such a key piece of information would be missing. I checked earlier today and the pile-ups seemed to be just as big as they were on day one, with European stations forming a difficult barrier to break through. This is one of the few times when I wouldn't mind being able to switch in a legal limit amplifier!

73, Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

April NKARC Net Report

By Robert Kluck, N4IJS

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
April 3	AJ4DK (Don)	10	37	0
April 10	KB4VKS (Mike)	7	22	0
April 17	W4TSA (Greg)	10	18	0
April 24	KJ4VKV (Tyson)	10	18	0
TOTALS:		37	95	0

Mark's Mutterings

Three Saturdays in March

Once again this year I had the pleasure of helping a group of Boy Scouts earn their Radio merit badge, at the 2012 [Merit Badge Challenge](#). This annual event is held at Dixie Heights High School, and draws Boy Scouts from all over Northern Kentucky who wish to earn up to three merit badges during three Saturday mornings during March. This year I had the luxury of having Robert Westbrook, KJ4FZS, as an assistant. We had six scouts in our group, though one of the boys was unable to make it to the final session. During that session, the boys made their first HF contacts, making QSOs with hams from as far away as San Diego. It's always fun to watch the boys' eyes grow when they realize how far their radio signal is reaching. The boys also made VHF contacts using Robert's and my HT radios.

I was happy to learn this week that Boy Scouts will

now have the opportunity to earn a [Morse code interpreter strip](#) that they can wear on their uniforms. I've always found youngsters (both boys and girls) to be fascinated by Morse code, so I think this presents Amateur Radio with yet another "gateway activity" to get Boy Scouts interested in the hobby. This could be combined with having the boys build their own

[code practice oscillators](#), which would also fulfill one of the requirements for the Electronics merit badge. I'll have to do some thinking about how to introduce this into the local scouting community. If you have any suggestions, please let me know!

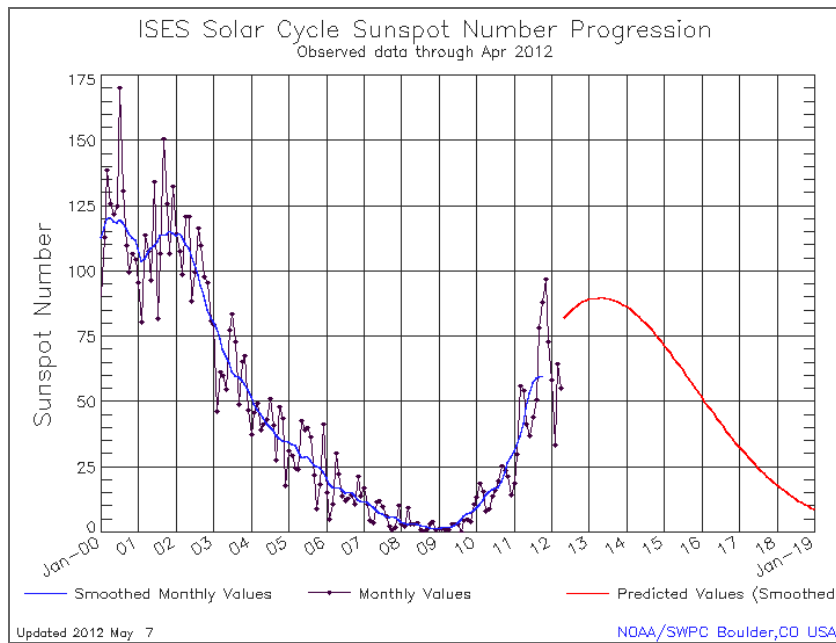
Transceiver Design Article

The current issue of EDN magazine has an interesting [article](#) about the design of modern HF transceivers.

Where Have The Sunspots Gone??

Well, they haven't exactly disappeared, but after the dramatic increase in sunspot numbers last Fall, and a commensurate improvement in propagation on the higher HF bands, old Sol has returned to more modest activity levels (see graph below). Speaking of the Sun, did you catch the recent episode of Nova titled Secrets of the Sun? Some of the video taken by the [Solar Dynamics Observatory](#) has been absolutely stunning. If you missed the show, you can still watch it [online](#). By the way, I may have mentioned this before, but my favorite web site for keeping up to date with current solar activity is [SpaceWeather.com](#). The current sun-

spot number and solar flux index can be found on the left hand menu.



7O6T Disappointment

Has anyone in the club managed to work the 7O6T Yemen DXpedition? They've been QRV since April 30th, but I've not managed to put them in my log yet. My normal policy is to wait until the second half of the planned QRV period before making any serious attempts to work a "hot" DXpedition. This

usually spares me the humongous pile ups during the early days. I simply don't have the patience to keep calling CQ for hours on end. Unfortunately, propagation has not been great during the times that I've been free to try to work them, and I seem to keep catching them when they're working SSB instead of CW. What's really frustrating is that their [web site](#) provides

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Weaver's Words

Dayton is Coming

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL
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Stop by the ARRL Expo area at Dayton and say hello.

Care and Feeding of the Incoming QSL Bureau

There is a lot of “unknowledge” floating around among hams concerning how the Incoming QSL Bureau works. This “unknowledge” causes no end of headaches for many people who are waiting to receive cards through the Bureau, for the Bureau Manager and Letter Sorters who operate the Bureau — and for the director who is ultimately responsible for the operation of the Bureau. This “unknowledge” could be cured very easily if only the people waiting to receive cards would read and follow the information that is posted on the World Wide Web. I'll try to summarize some of the most important and often least understood information that is involved in the frustrations. This information is:



- The Incoming Bureau is staffed by unpaid volunteers who donate their time to helping other amateurs receive QSL cards from foreign countries.

- The overall Bureau is divided into local Bureaus according to FCC area — e.g. 1st Area, 2nd Area, 3rd Area, etc.

- The number in one's call sign (the number of the FCC area) determines the number of the Incoming

Bureau's area that handles incoming QSLs for an individual. This is true regardless of the FCC area in which they live — i.e. a resident of California who has an 8 call is served through the 8th Area incoming bureau. A resident of Montana who has a "4" call uses the 4th Area Incoming Bureau.

- Minor operating procedure differences exist between the area bureaus. Knowing how one area bureau operates does not necessarily prepare an amateur to use a different area incoming bureau most effectively.

- Information on using the 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau can be found by going to the Great Lakes Division web site at <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/> and clicking on the icon link to the Bureau. The 4th Area Incoming Bureau is divided into two sections. Guidelines for all "1x" 4 calls (K4, W4, N4) are at www.cdxa.org/qsl-bureau.shtml. Handling of "2x" 4 calls (AA4, KC4, WD4, etc.) are discussed at www.qsl.net/sterling/QSLBuro4/QSLBuro4.html.

- QSLs will be shipped to receiving amateurs only if they have envelopes and postage on hand at their area bureaus — specifically, with the Letter Managers for their calls.

- Unless an amateur arranges otherwise with his/her letter manager, it is likely their cards will be sent to them in batches when the letter manager believes there are "enough to warrant sending." This may be about once a year unless the recipient receives a large number of cards. Talk to your letter manager to arrange for different timing to receive your cards.

- The bureau is the least expensive means for receiving actual QSLs. It is definitely not the fastest.

Although the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau at Headquarters is pretty quick to send cards out to overseas bureaus, many overseas bureaus are much less prompt to distribute cards in their countries. They also may be much less prompt than the HQ Incoming Bureau in Newington when it comes to passing cards on. Add to this the fact that many amateurs may be slow in QSLing and it should be apparent that the turn-around time — the time from when a US amateur sends a card via the Outgoing Bureau until the foreign amateur's card is received by his/her incoming letter sorter — can be lengthy. It often requires two years or longer to receive a card through the bureau. This is beyond neither the ARRL, the manager of the incoming bureau or the letter manager control the greatest part of the operation. Patience is not only a virtue, but is a practical necessity in dealing with QSLs sent via the Bureau. I have received cards from QSOs that were held as long as five years earlier.

- If you have a question about how the bureau operates, contact your letter manager. The letter manager is the ham who handles all incoming QSLs for call signs with a specific first letter of their suffix. For example, the 8th Area "J" letter manager handles all cards for K8JE, N8JE, W8JE, KB8JE, W8JDZ, K8JEL, KC8JCY etc. Similarly, the 4th Area "J" letter manager handles K4JE, N4JE, etc. The identities of letter managers can be found on the Incoming Bureau web sites.

- The most important rule to follow in dealing with an incoming bureau is to know how it operates (read the directions), follow the operating guidelines, communicate with your letter manager when questions arise . . . and have patience. The incoming bureau does not control which cards are received and when they are received.

- Finally, be reasonable. Do not expect the incom-

ing bureau staff to read your mind or to work miracles. If a ham has not received cards from the bureau for quite some time, there the two most likely reasons for this are: 1. There are no (or extremely few) cards at the bureau for him, or 2. he has not sent self-addressed envelopes and postage to his letter manager.

A Better Way to QSL?

If one collects operating awards such as WAS, DXCC, CQ Magazine Awards and a growing number of additional awards, using Logbook of the World (Logbook; LoTW) is probably the best way to QSL. This is a far less expensive method of QSLing, and it typically is the quickest way. More and more amateurs worldwide are using Logbook. In addition it has just become more convenient to use this program. Applications for awards can now be made without sending paper QSLs to the participating award sponsors.

Essentially, an amateur that wishes to submit QSLs into Logbook for an award does this online from his home, prints out a copy of the entry and takes it and the QSLs to a local QSL field checker. The field checker will verify the entries and the list is sent to HQ to allow the entry to be moved into the LoTW database. There is no need to ship paper QSLs to HQ. Using this procedure will cut costs to amateurs and speed the processing of applications that previously had to be sent to HQ for processing.

The new process is described at www.arrl.org/news/online-dxcc-application-to-debut-April-2.

One must realize, of course, that not all amateurs worldwide use LoTW. For these, paper QSLing may be required. Also, there is at least one additional digital QSL exchange system. Understand

that many if not most operating award sponsors that accept digital confirmation of QSOs for awards will not accept confirmation by systems other than LoTW.

Scheduled Hamfests and Travel

The following is the current hamfest schedule for the Great Lakes Division as well as current travel plans of Vice Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK and me. Further travel will be added as time goes forward. If you would particularly like to have Dale or me attend your hamfest or other event, please contact us. Dale is at wa8efk@arrl.org and I am at k8je@arrl.org.

Hamfest chairman, it is never too early to apply to have your hamfest sanctioned. There now is one hamfest in the GLD sanctioned for 2013.

May 5 - Cadillac AR and Computer Swap, Cadillac, MI - WB8R

May 12 - Louisa Hamfest, Louisa, KY - K8JE, KY4Z

May 18-20 - Dayton Hamvention®, Trotwood, OH - K8JE, WA8EFK

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 14 - Mahoning Valley ARC Meeting - K8JE

Jun 16 - Midland ARC Hamfest, Midland, MI - WB8R

Jun 16 - Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - K8JE

Jun 17 - Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI - WA8EFK, WB8R

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

Jul 28 - CMARC Trunk Sales, Lansing, MI

Jul 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH

Aug 4 - Ohio State Convention & Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, OH - K8JE,

WA8EFK, KI8GW

Aug 4 - UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI

Aug 12 - Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY

Aug 19 - Lapeer Co. ARA Annual Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI

Aug 25 - SIARA, Owosso Swap & Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI

Sep 8 - GRAHamfest, Wyoming, MI

Sep 8 - Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY

Sep 15 - Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY

Sep 16 - Greater Cincinnati ARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH

Sep 16 - Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI

Sep 23 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show, Berea, OH

Oct 6 - Vette City Hamfest, Bowling Green, KY

Oct 13 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI

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