Vol. 2010, #7 **July 2010**

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Field Day 2010



Jim Weaver, K8JE (Great Lakes Division Director), Kenny Heavrin, KY4COP (Ky. Asst. SEC, Region 3), and Tim Lawrence, KJ4HPG, chat during a lull in the action during the 2010 edition of ARRL Field Day. Twenty-five individuals either participated directly or visited the NKARC/KD7ARET Field Day site at Lincoln Ridge Park in Independence. Photographs and a complete write-up are found starting on page 6.

Upcoming Programs

Rod Villari, KJ4IAM, will be presenting a follow-up presentation to last year's program on **scanners**. He will be delving deeper into how trunking works, how P25 systems work, and some of the pitfalls of the new technology. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. on **Monday**, **July 12**, at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Taylor Mill.

The deadline for submissions for the August Feedline is Saturday, July 31.

Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower/Paddlefest	3
June Meeting Minutes	5
June Net Report	5
Field Day Recap	6
Weaver's Words	9

Dates to Remember:

July 12 — NKARC membership meeting Aug 9 — NKARC membership meeting Sep 11 – Ohio State Parks on the Air

NKARC Directory

President:

Dann Fox, KI4AVO

dfox03@fuse.net

Director at Large:

Don King, AJ4DK

kingdl19406@msn.com

Vice President:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Feedline Editor:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Tel: 859-689-4234

mvolstad@insightbb.com

Webmaster:

Club Trustee & Historian:

Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

k4bri@arrl.net

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

Net Manager:

Robert Kluck, N4IJS

n4ijs@k4co.org

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 <u>by appointment only</u> 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-

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

Page 2 THE FEEDLINE

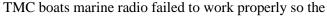
Top of the Tower

The last weekend of June was a busy time for Hams

with PaddleFest and Field Day activities. This year I decided to help with Paddle Fest and see what it was all about. Lynn Ernst WD8JAW has taken the lead for this event for several years now and practically has the preparation down to a science. I accompanied Lynn to meetings with the Paddle Fest committee and the Coast Guard. Various plans were discussed and prepared for the big day. I wondered how big a role

we would play in the overall event. The day started out with all the amateur radio operators going to their assigned boats and locations (AJ4DK Don the Coast Guard command boat), (AI4IP Tony the Thomas More College boat), WD8JCT Greg another TMC boat), (AK3Q Robert a TMC boat), (KD8BNS Greg on the Coast Guard power Squadron boat), (KD8HPK John PS Boat), (KI4QH Dave PS Boat), (KD4PYR Rick assisted the Race Director), (WD8JAW Lynn Assisted the Safety Director), (KI4AVO Dann Assisted the Event Chairman), and KB4VKS Mike was our net control that kept the information moving.

The following are some of my observations. During the race a radio operator on the Thomas More College Boat passed traffic to the Paddle Fest race director on racer status at different legs of the race. One of the



Ham on that boat was the only way to communicate race and safety information. Other hams handled small problems that came up, such as racers being summoned to the starting line, supplies not in correct locations, or simple requests for people to check their cell phones. Other radio operators were with the Coast Guard and the Safety Director, passing traffic as safety concerns unfolded. Messages were relayed through Hams on

various boats that were not intended for river use and needing to be brought back to the starting point. First time canoe participants were shadowed and eventually picked up and brought to the finish point. There was a medical emergency where amateur radio operators relayed information to the safety director on the situation while hams to a active role in clearing dock areas of canoes and people, allowing the police boat and arriving emergency vehicles passage. They also provided information via radio to the EMS team regarding this emergency.

In all I think the amateur radio operators stepped up to the small and large tasks that came their way in a professional manner that was noted and appreciated throughout the event by members of the Paddle Fest staff.



Below are some pictures that were taken during the event, hope they give you a look at the day.

73,

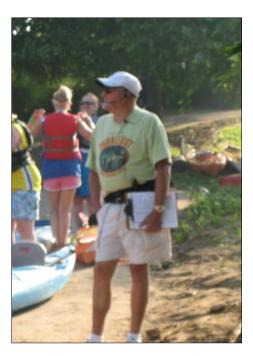
Dann Fox, KI4AVO

Paddlers getting ready to boat at Old Coney.

Page 3 THE FEEDLINE



Police Boat meeting Fire and EMS personnel at the take-out point.



Lynn Ernst, WD8JAW, keeping a watchful eye on the event.



One Lucky HAM on the comfy Coast Guard Power Squadron

Page 4 THE FEEDLINE

June Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2010 MEETING OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President Dann Fox, KI4AVO, opened the meeting with pledge, followed by introductions of attendees.

AB8SH reported on VE testing, There was one upgrade to General and two passed Technician exam.

Additionally, our own KB4VKS upgraded to Extra! Congratulations to Mike.

Treasurer's report was given last month. All bills paid.

Motion to accept Minutes of May meeting as published in Feedline. Approved

Old Business

WD8JAW gave update on Paddlefest. Could use two more operators as two have dropped out.

This is a large event and Coast Guard also be involved in communication. Next year's event will be even bigger as it is the 10th anniversary.

AI4IP reported that the LaRosa's fund raising needs additional consideration as a \$500.00 advance on the part of the Club is required. Board to consider.

KI4AVO reminded all that the Net Contest in still going on and we should check into the Tuesday net.

AI4BJ commented on the Boy Scout Adventure Base 100 event that took place on Memorial Day. Our thanks to: Lyle Hamilton, Mark Volstad, and Robert Westbrook for working this event. Also to KB4VKS and AK3Q for being on the radio and talking to Scouts.

New Business

AI4IP: Nominating Committee should be in place.

Fred, KE4ESN has moved from area.

KI4AVO: Need presentation for next month.

Dann is working on designing a shirt with Club logo to sell as fund raiser.

Dann has Club's raffle ticket drum.

WD8JAW: W4SOU has old commercial radios which are available to anyone looking for a challenge.

Business meeting adjourned at 802 PM.

Following the break, Mark, AI4BJ led a discussion on Field Day.

Meeting closed at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Don King, AJ4DK

June NKARC Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
June 1	AJ4DK (Don)	10	31	0
June 8	N4IJS (Robert)	14	29	0
June 15	N4IJS (Robert)	6	10	0
June 22	KG4SBG (Dennis)	13	25	1
June 29	KB4VKS (Mike)	15	28	1
TOTALS:		58	123	2

Page 5 THE FEEDLINE

Field Day Recap

By Mark Volstad, AI4BJ Photography by Greg May, W2ORO

The forecast was for hot and humid weather, and by Jove, that's what we got! But then, it wouldn't really be Field Day without some sort of challenge from Mother Nature, would it? (And the heat wasn't the end of it...)

Nevertheless, by all accounts — well, by my account, at least — Field Day 2010 was another successful joint effort by the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club and the KY District 7 Amateur Radio Emergency Team. I was present from set-up on Saturday morning until tear-down Sunday afternoon, and the following is a rough sketch from memory of the events as they unfolded. Names have not been changed to protect the innocent.

As Field Day usually falls on the same weekend as Paddlefest, it's usually a challenge to find people who are available to help with set-up on Saturday morning. I was therefore pleased to see Dave Core, K8WDA, already waiting in the parking lot as I pulled in at around 9:00 a.m.. John Bennet, WD8NMV, appeared shortly thereafter, with the KD7ARET radio trailer in tow. Greg and Judy May, W2ORO and W1ORO, and Tim Lawrence, KJ4HPG also turned up, as did Roger Schmitt,



KY4RS. Hey, I think that's a quorum, or at least enough people to start erecting antennas!

Dipoles were the antenna of choice. In my case, it was my faithful 40-meter all-band doublet. The KD7ARET station used a 40-meter dipole which of course also worked well on 15 meters. Joe Stern arrived (almost late for the party) with his usual 20-meter delta loop, feeding the Icom rig he acquired at this year's Hamvention.



Roger set up a PSK31 station with some sort of improvised antenna. Unfortunately, he experienced lock-up problems with his laptop, and was only able to complete a handful of contacts. It was lunch time before we knew it, and Dave Core generously treated us all to sandwiches from Subway.

By the 2:00 p.m. start time, most stations were up and running. I was pleased to find that 10 Meters was open, with good paths to Florida and the Northeast. It's never hard to find a quiet spot on 10 (compared with the insanity on 20 and 40), so I spent a bit of quality time running stations on SSB.

Being Field Day co-chair, I had to interrupt my

Page 6 THE FEEDLINE

operating rather frequently to deal with various issues and to welcome visitors who dropped by. A constant breeze through the shelter kept operating conditions quite tolerable, though certainly not as tolerable as the conditions found within the KD7ARET air-conditioned trailer!

By mid-afternoon, tired Paddlefest volunteers began trickling into the Field Day site, bearing strange tales of mythical blue kayaks.

Once I established a head-count on the number of people who would be staying for supper, I headed off to Remke's for charcoal, JTM burgers, Big Red Smokeys and a number of side dishes. Greg and Judy supplied cookies and Tony White's wife Cathy supplied delicious brownies for dessert. (Tony also donated a much-needed cooler full of ice!) A fine feast was enjoyed by all.

Visitors continued to come and go through the evening, until only Joe and I were left by 11:00 p.m. I was knackered from running around in the heat all day, and retired to the comfort of my oneman backpacking tent, which I had set up earlier a few hundred feet from the shelter. The heat and humidity made sleeping difficult though, so I simply laid on top of my sleeping bag, counting fireflies and listening to dogs barking in the distance.



I must have finally fallen asleep at some point, because I woke up at around 4:00 and heard the generator running, which meant that Joe was back in action. I dragged myself back to the shelter, where Joe reported that he had just worked two VK

(Australian) stations and two Hawaiian stations on 20 M.

I converted my doublet to an 80M top-loaded vertical by tying the ends of the feedline together and stringing out a single radial along the ground. I found 80 M to be in rather poor shape though, even for CW, with very few stations popping out of the noise.

By 9:00 a.m. I was becoming rather hungry, when, like an angel of mercy, my wife Lylah called and offered to pick up some breakfast at Mickey D's for Joe and I. While waiting for the food to arrive, I set up my Elecraft K2 and made five contacts to qualify for the Natural Power bonus. (My K2 was powered from an internal gel-cell battery that had been charged with a solar panel the previous day.)

A few other ops began trickling in, and the QSO counter started climbing again. At around 12:30, I was chatting with Lynn and Tony when Lynn's wife called and warned us about some bad weather on the way. We looked to the southwest and finally noticed the dark cloud wall that had been rapidly approaching. We quickly realized that it was time to pull the plug and start tearing down early. We barely had time to get a couple of antennas down before the storm hit. Strong winds drove the rain sideways through the shelter, and we scrambled to cover up as much gear as we could. When the storm cleared, we started cleaning up the mess that was left behind. Fortunately, there didn't appear to be any serious damage.

By 2:30 pretty much everything was packed away, and I headed home for a shower.

The QSO total of 470 for the weekend breaks down as follows:

	CW	SSB
80 M	24	23
40 M	8	209
20 M	73	58
15 M	0	31
10 M	4	40

Page 7 THE FEEDLINE

With earned bonus points, our unofficial score came to 2,008 points, an improvement over last year's score of 1,306.

I wish to thank everybody who helped in making this year's event a success. I'm already counting the days to Field Day 2011!



For Sale

Dell Pentium III 550 MHz PC

Includes DVD and CD R/W drives, 3.5 in. floppy drive, keyboard, 17" monitor & mouse. \$10.

RCA ATSC11 HDTV Tuner

Bring your analog TV back to life with this external HDTV tuner. \$5

Contact Mark Volstad at 859-689-4234 or mvolstad@insightbb.com if interested.







Page 8 THE FEEDLINE

Weaver's Words

Knee High by the 4th of July

Jim Weaver, K8JE

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

Field Day: Gone for another Year

I've received many reports of very successful Field Day operations from throughout the Division. I was also privileged to be able to visit several others on FD Saturday. Regardless of the size of operation, these fun activities serve as valuable tools toward tuning our responses to real emergency situations when these occur. Several clubs signed up new members thanks to FD. At least on club held VE licensing exams the morning of FD and introduced the successful new hams to on-air operation later in the day.

Many of the operations in the Division obtained great community press. Among these, several hosted state and local dignitaries who got to see for the first time just part of what Amateur Radio can do "when all else fails." At least one county sheriff told a reporter who covered his visit that he had added the local amateur group to his disaster planning as a result of its demonstration.

Well done, gang!

ARRL Board Meets in July

The second yearly meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors for 2010 will be July 16 and 17 in Windsor, CT. Windsor, as is true of Newington, is a suburb of Hartford. Committee meetings will take place on July 15. I am privileged to serve on the Administration and Finance Committee. Of course, I greatly appreciate the confidence you have showed in me by making me Great Lakes Division Director.

Please send any suggestions you may have for the Board to consider. Keep in mind that the Board primarily establishes policy although as individual directors we also can input into non-policy activities.

Having a Hamfest Sanctioned is a Two-Way Street

Most hamfests or swaps of which I am aware apply to be sanctioned by ARRL. This is a very nice and appropriate action to take. It gets special mention of the event in QST, automatically has nice door prizes sent to the hamfest committee and lets the committee choose from among a variety of free handouts to offer hams and would-be hams who attend. This is good, but this is not all that is involved in the agreement between the hamfest committee and ARRL that leads to receiving ARRL sanctioning.

Sanctioning involves a two-way agreement -- an agreement that ARRL will take certain actions that benefit the hamfest committee and an agreement that the hamfest committee will take certain actions that will benefit ARRL. From time to time, the actions to be agreed change as technology and the situation related to hamfests change. Just as candidates for a

license exam should be certain study the current study guide and not assume a guide from three or even one years ago is up-to-date, so too, hamfest committee members should not assume the agreement for sanctioning that existed in the past is still valid. As is true in the business world, one should read an agreement before signing it.

The main points of the actions hamfest committees agree to take when they apply to have their hamfest sanctioned can be found at

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/convhf final.pdf The document this link leads to is the ARRL Convention and Hamfest Planner. Although primarily a guide of suggestions for holding successful conventions and hamfests, this guide also discusses the actions hamfest committees agree to take in exchange to have their even sanctioned. These discussions most particularly are on p. 16 and again on pp. 22-24.

Applying to have a hamfest or convention sanctioned is done using the online form at http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application. The first step in the approval process for these applications is a review in the Membership & Volunteer Programs (MVP) department at HQ. After MVP review, the applications are forwarded to the division Director for approval. Because this process is conducted via the Internet, most applications to have hamfests sanctioned makes the rounds from receipt at HQ to final approval in about three days.

The sanctioning process is lengthened when it involves a convention. In these instances, the ARRL Executive Com-

Page 9 THE FEEDLINE

mittee is added to the approval circuit. The EC typically meets once each month. Depending on when the application is received, as long as eight weeks may be needed for final approval of a convention.

If there are questions about sanctioning an event, please feel free to contact me - k8je@arrl.org.

Ohio Section Manager Election Looms

Ohio members should be aware that they will receive a ballot for the Ohio Section Manager (SM) in the coming week or two. This is an opportunity for members to determine who they wish to lead ARRL Field Activities in the Section. There are two candidates for SM for the coming two years. These are Tom Sly, WB8LCD, of Kent and Frank Piper, KI8GW of Pickerington. Tom is very active in the Portage County ARS. Frank is the current Ohio SM, having been appointed to the position to complete the term of former SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE (SK).

A short statement from each candidate will accompany the ballot. In addition, each candidate has a web site that provides further information they believe relevant to the election and SM position.

Ballots will be mailed using the ARRL non-profit mailing permit. Please do not misconstrue these for junk mail. Please, also, exercise your privilege as an ARRL member to vote for the candidate of your choice for SM. This is a very important position that is responsible for ARES(TM) management, state legislative action effort, supporting affiliated clubs and additional activities at the state level.

Good luck, gentlemen.

2009 Annual Report is Available

The ARRL Annual Report for 2009 is available. To review it on line go to

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/ARRL%20Annual%20Report%20for%202009.pdf.

The report shows that ARRL membership and it's legislative activity increased during the year. Thanks to a significant extent to the generosity of our members and deceased members, the League, is on a sound financial footing.

Ohio State Parks On the Air

At least, many the Ohio State parks will be on the air this coming September 11. This is the date chosen by the Portage County (OH) ARS (PCARS) for its third annual Ohio State Parks On the Air Contest. The day is Saturday and the time is from 12 noon to 8 PM — 1600Z to 2400Z. The object is to set up portable amateur stations in as many Ohio State Parks as possible and for stations not at parks to work as many park stations as they can.

Ohio and non-Ohio amateurs can compete for a variety of awards using the usual amateur bands of 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters. For further information, go to http://parks.portcars.org.

If you plan to operate portable from a park it will be a good idea to discuss your plans with the park administrator ahead of time.

QSO Parties are Scheduled

Well, I did it again. I goofed. This time in my haste I reported an incorrect time range for the Ohio QSO Party. It is actually from 1600Z August 28 to 0400Z August 29. The Kentucky QSO Party, as reported previously, is from 1400Z November 13 to 0200Z November 14. My old friend Hank, N8XX, took great glee in correcting me. Tnx Henry.

ECAC Committee Staffed

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN has announced the members of the new Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC). This Committee was established by the Board of Directors in January. Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK was nominated to the Committee by your Director and was named its Chairman by President Craigie. There is one Committee member from each of the 15 ARRL Divisions as well as an additional member who represents the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). RAC is the Canadian national Amateur Radio organization.

SWODXA Operates W1AW/8 in IARU 'test

The Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) will operate as W1AW/8 during the coming International Amateur Radio Association (IARU) HF Contest. The club will put 11 stations on the air on bands from 160 meters through 10 me-

Page 10 THE FEEDLINE

ters from members' stations in several SW Ohio counties. The contest is July 10-11.

Felon Hams: Sticky Issues

Members contact me every now and then about hams who are convicted felons. They are concerned that the ARRL allows these amateurs to hold elected office in a local club, or to belong to ARRL. The initial comment usually leads to a statement that the League should not allow people with serious criminal records to participate in activities associated with it.

Although the concerns expressed are understandable, we need to remember that the US Constitution and our laws mostly treat persons who have completed punishment for crimes as having paid their debt to society. With exception, these people are not expected to be at continual jeopardy of further penalty for the same crime.

In Amateur Radio life, the result is that the FCC permits many felons to retain their amateur licenses. The Commission determines on a case-by-case basis who among these will lose their licenses. At least until the Commission takes a license from someone, there is little or nothing ARRL can do to refuse membership or to bar them from holding a position or membership in a group.

If action is to be taken to keep any amateur out of a position of authority in a local club, it needs to be taken by local amateurs. It is they who select members to be officers and to fill appointed positions in their clubs. If a member has already been elected or appointed to a club position, the club constitution and by-laws nearly always provide the means for removing them from the position. This provision may simply be a reference to the use of parliamentary procedures including Robert's Rules of Order.

Similarly, if local amateurs believe a licensee should be stripped of a ham license, send the FCC all information considered relevant to having the license revoked.

To sum up, ARRL is not an omnipotent organization that is allowed to override Constitutional rights. This leaves us as individuals in the position in which we need to remain vigilant to protect others and ourselves, but not to act as vigilantes in accomplishing this. Use the law and generally accepted social processes in the manner they are intended to be used whenever it becomes necessary to protect the rights of ourselves and others.

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. Please have your event sanctioned soon. Two hamfests have already been sanctioned for 2011.

Support our Division hamfests and swaps:

6 Jul: Directors webinar - Jim

8 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, presentation – Jim

15 Jul: Administration & Finance Committee Mtg., Newington, CT - Jim

16-17 Jul: Second Board of Directors Mtg., Windsor, CT – Jim, Gary

17 Jul: NOARSFEST, Elvria, OH

18 Jul: Van Wert ARC Hamfest, Van Wert, OH

25 Jul: Portage Ham Fair, Randolph, OH

28 Jul: Directors webinar - Jim

6 Aug: Summit Co. (OH) ARES, 'Akron, OH - Jim

7 Aug: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI

7 Aug: Voice of Aladdin ARC, Columbus, OH - Jim

8 Aug: Seaway Trunk Swap, Port Huron, MI

15 Aug: Warren ARA Hamfest, Cortland, OH

15 Aug: Central KY Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY - Jim, John

15 Aug: Lapeer Swap & Shop, Lapeer, MI

21 Aug: SARA Inside/Outside Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI

22 Aug: Cambridge Hamfest, Cambridge, OH

25 Aug: Directors webinar - Jim

26 Aug: Summit Co. ARES Mtg., Akron, OH - Jim

11 Sep: Greater Louisville 'fest, Shepherdsville, KY

11 Sep: GRAHam fest, Wyoming, MI

12 Sep: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH - Jim, John

18 Sep: Central KY ARES Hamfest, Richmond, KY - Jim, John

19 Sep: Greater Cincinnati ARA Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH - Jim

19 Sep: Adrian ARC Hamfest, Adrian, MI

22 Sep: Directors webinar - Jim

26 Sep: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH - Jim, John

16 Oct: Ohio Section Conf., Columbus, OH - Jim

16 Oct: Great Lakeshore Super Swap, Holland, MI

Page 11 THE FEEDLINE

Return to: Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 1062 Covington, Ky. 41012 FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NKARC Feedline July 2010 Volume 2010 Issue 7