

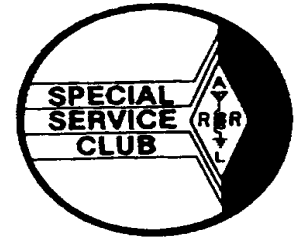


THE HAMCALL

The Official Newsletter of The Kentucky Colonels

Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Call: KY4BG
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Web page: [tp://www.angelfire.com/ky/kcarc/](http://www.angelfire.com/ky/kcarc/)



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Mike McClure
KW4MAC

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are enjoying this fine spring weather. And I hope you are finding time to enjoy amateur radio. It has been a busy semester for me at the college, and I've not been on the radio as much as I would like, but hopefully I can get back to working the bands when the semester winds down in May.

On March 29, the KCARC Board of Directors met in the Community Room of the Police Department for its first meeting of 2008. The following members were present at the meeting: Don Bush, Hank Cantrell, Sonja Logan, Tom Williams, and myself.

The first item of business was a discussion of monthly meetings. Several members expressed a desire to have more training sessions for our club programs. We discussed potential training programs on how to use the club radio, or the newer multi-mode, multi-band type radios. But there are many additional examples – how about training on using testing equipment, tuners, SWR meters, antenna analyzers, radio computer programs --- the list is endless. Talk to your club Program Officer (Don

Bush) if there's a training program you'd like to see, or present at our club meetings.

Hank reported on our efforts to select an antenna for the club station. A multi-band antenna is needed, but we have to work with the Police Department guidelines when installing any equipment. Obviously the Police Department will require assurance from us that our equipment and transmissions will not interfere with official Police radio communications. It was suggested that we investigate an inverted -V or and End-Fed antenna with tuner. Let Hank know if you'd like to help with the installation and testing of the club station antenna.

As I mentioned in the last Ham-Call, the club sold the old Drake transmitter at the Cave City Ham Fest in March. The money we made from the sale, and other monies from our club account should be sufficient for the club to purchase a new or used radio. We discussed various radio models including Icom and Yaesu multi-band radios. Tom and Hank will get the specs for these radios and provide a comparison of features, prices, and vendors to help us make an informed purchase decision. Additionally we discussed the possibility of obtaining outside grants to help with purchases. Sonja explained how the Russellville Radio Club obtained funding through the Citizens Corps project. And there may be grant money available from the Police Department and Wal-Mart. We will keep you informed as we learn more

about these outside funding opportunities.

The Board will permit ARES to use the club station during emergencies, with the following stipulations:

1. One or more KCARC members would serve as a liaison to ARES, and provide the club with a monthly report of ARES activities and club station usage.
2. ARES would provide a list of all ARES Members using the equipment. Only members on the list, and approved by the club, would be eligible to use the club station (equipment).
3. ARES would provide a list of all Bands/Frequencies needed.

The access and use of the club station during emergencies by ARES would be contingent on our obtaining the necessary permissions from the Police Department. Hank will meet with Chief Hawkins to discuss access, and hopefully we'll have a Club Station usage policy in place soon.

Field Day is just around the corner, and the Board supports the decision of the club members to work Field Day as a fun event. And we may do things a little different this year, such as setting up remote locations at the Mall or area Parks and communicating with our primary site on the Hill. These remote locations may be simple 2-meter operations, but the idea is to generate public awareness in Amateur Radio and KCARC. There is still much work to do preparing for this event. Don is coordinating the event, but it will take all of us to

make it a success. Talk to Don if you'd like to help.

Hank is investigating a company that can provide us with Shirts emblazoned with our Club Logo.

More information will follow.

Don suggested that the club hold a special event. We could do a Corvette Homecoming special event, or at any of the many auto-related events in Bowling Green.

Feel free to offer your own suggestions as to what might make an interesting, and fun special event.

This too could be great publicity for the club.

Hank reported on continuing work on the Cherry Hall Repeater.

There is a good possibility of tying in Echolink to the repeater.

The Club Net is back on the Air, but we need club support. You can support the club net by checking in, and by offering to assist in net control operations.

The Tour de Cave bicycle event will be held the first week in June. John Coe is coordinating this event. Contact John or myself if you'd like to volunteer to help with this event.

Finally, the Board discussed inventorying all club equipment. It was agreed that the club should maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory of all club equipment, and that a check-out policy be written. Obviously we don't have the room at the club station to store everything, so we appreciate everyone that has volunteered their garages, basements, attics to store club equipment, but it would be nice to know where everything is located so it can be easily found, and used if needed for events or emergencies. So, let me ask all members to list any club-owned equipment under your supervision, and get that list to myself or Hank.

Ok...that's enough for now. We'll try to keep you informed of all Board discussions and decisions. See you at our next meeting.

73

Mike
kw4mac

Featured Ham Station

This month I had the pleasure to visit with Bill KI4B. Not only does he have a nice station but also a beautiful home in Oakland.

Bill Feldkamp KI4B



Bill was licensed in 1958 as KN4BJZ, so celebrating 50 years with the hobby in 2008! Retired from Engineering Management in 2001 after 36 years in the engineering profession. Hobbies include Ham Radio and gardening. Volunteering in the ER at the local hospital is an extra activity added in 2007.

The Rigs are an ORION II Base, an ICOM 706MKIIG mobile, and a Kenwood TH-F6 HT. The Amp is an Ameritron AL 1200. Antennas are a Tennadyne 10 element log periodic at 60 ft (see pic below) and an Off-Center-Fed Dipole for 80,40,20 and 10 meters at 50 feet.

Married to Marilyn since 1965. Have a son, David, a daughter Patty, and a grandson Travis and my dogs are a Black Lab and a Benji.



KI4B's Log Periodic Antenna @ 60ft

Sec-Treas Report

By Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX

At the March 2008 club meeting we discussed the possibility of a KCARC sponsored Sprint. We also discussed some of the details of Field Day coming up in June.

The highlight of the evening was a set of videos from Amateur Logic TV (<http://www.amateurlogic.com/blog/>). The topic of episode 14 was: Field Day, sponsored by the Jackson Mississippi Amateur Radio Club. It was quite entertaining. If you missed it, go to the blog link above and have a look/see. Now everytime I go out to mow my yard I think of my lawn tractor in a whole different light. There are a number of episodes of Amateur Logic TV available at this link covering such topics as:

Episode 19: 2008 Capital City Hamfest

Episode 18: Ameritron Amplifier Factory Tour

Episode 17: MFJ Factory Tour

Episode 16: MFJ Enterprises Interview

Episode 15: Building The Softrock Software Defined Radio

Episode 13: The 2007 Dayton Hamvention

Episode 12: The Basic Stamp Microcontroller

DX Report-

No report submitted

ARES Report-

No report submitted....

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN
MONITORING ISS ARS
By Miles Mann WF1F,

MAREX-MG News www.marexmg.org

Manned Amateur Radio Experiment

International Space Station, Voice link, April 14, 2008, 17:03 UTC Monday
Starting at: 17:03 UTC (1:03 PM Boston time)
Ending at: 17:13 UTC

Central Middle School West Par-
sippany, New Jersey USA,

For the next few weeks the crew of the International Space Station will be treating Short-Wave-Listeners and Amateur radio operators to live down links from ISS via the Amateur Radio station on ISS. The crew will be conducting Weekly radio links to schools in North America. Everyone is invited to listen to the downlinks.

On Monday April 14, ISS will pass over the eastern USA and will be actively talking to students.

The path of the International Space station will be entering the USA from the Gulf of Mexico near Mississippi and heading north east along the Atlantic coast. ISS will pass over several states including MS, AL, GA, SC, NC, VA, MD, NJ, CT and MA. ISS will then pass over Boston Mass and head out to sea. The Best listening will be 500 miles on either side of a line from Biloxi Mississippi to Boston Massachusetts. Most people all along that line will be able to hear the Space Station with a modest outside antenna and a good Scanner / Receiver.

This week Short-wave-Listeners and amateur radio operators will be

able to listen to the ISS via amateur radio directly. Listeners living within 500+ miles of one of the cities below should be able to hear the signals directly with a simple scanner or other VHF receiver (an outside antenna is recommended 0 dBd gain or better). ISS will be transmitting on 145.800 FM (5 kHz deviation). You will only be able to here one side of the conversation, since the school will be transmitting on an undisclosed up-link frequency (VHF or UHF).

If you do not have a tracking program, here is a live link to NASA that will show you where ISS is located.

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdatatracking/index.html>

Tips on listening:
<http://www.marexmg.org/fileshtml/issvoicetips.html>

Link to Audio files from Previous school schedules. All files recorded directly off the air via a public Amateur Radio down link frequency.
<http://www.marexmg.org/fileshtml/issaudiofiles.html>

No Electronics Magazines? Think Again.
Many old-time ham radio operators grew up with magazines such as Popular Electronics, Electronics Illustrated, and Radio-Electronics. Sadly, these magazines are gone now, but there are still electronics magazines out there that can help you keep up with what's going on in electronics. These magazines are written for practicing electronics engineers, so many of the articles will not be relevant to amateur radio or written in such a way to be nearly incomprehensible to electronics hobbyists, but you can't beat the price. They're free!

The magazines I'm referring to electronics engineering trade mag-

azines. These magazines are sent out free to electronics engineers and others working in the industry, and are supported by the advertisers. You're not an electronics engineer? Don't worry. If you e-mail me, I'll tell you how you can qualify.

Let me give you an example of the good stuff you can find in these trade magazines. In the December 2007 issue of High Frequency Electronics (www.highfrequencyelectronics.com), there is an article titled, "Quartz Crystal Basics." Written by an engineer for a manufacturer of crystals, crystal oscillators, and crystal filters, this article describes how crystals are made and gives some tips on designing your own crystal oscillators.

Also in this issue is the article, "Power Combiners, Impedance Transformers, and Directional Couplers." This is the first of a series of articles to discuss these circuits. Amateurs frequently use transmission line impedance transformers (think baluns) to match an antenna system to the 50-ohm output of a transceiver.

The new products section includes items on RF parts and test equipment, as well as book reviews. You probably will not be purchasing the new Boonton 9103 7.5 GHz Portable Spectrum Analyzer (\$11,000 and up), but you might be interested in the book RF Circuit Design (\$41 at Amazon).

As you can see, there's plenty of useful and interesting information in these trade magazines. In addition to High Frequency Electronics, you may also want to check out:

- RF Design (www.rfdesign.com)
- Microwaves and RF (www.mwr-f.com)
- EE Times (www.eetimes.com)
- EDN (www.edn.com)
- Test&Measurement World

(www.tmworld.com, I used to write for this magazine)

If you don't care to sign up for the

print version of the magazine, you can always visit their websites and sign up for their e-mail newsletters. These newsletters will keep you informed of new articles and product information on the websites. You can then choose which ones you want to read.

**NEXT KCARC CLUB MEETING: April 18th 7 pm BG Police Dept. Community Room
Program- Interesting video for the whole family "Raptor Force"**

**Upcoming Activities
Dayton Hamfest -
May 16,17,18**

**Tour de Cave Bike-a-thon
June 7th. See John Coe
KY4COE who is coordinating radio coverage.**

**Traders Net -
Each Monday 1900
cst
147.33 rpt. Tone
107.2
KCARC Net -
Each Tuesday 1900
cst
147.33 (PL 107.2)**

**4th ARES NET MEETS 7
NIGHTS A WEEK
AT 9 PM LOCAL TIME.
Frequency: 147.165
MHz. W4WSM Repeater.
Secondary
Frequency: 147.330 MHz.
PL Tone 107.2
KA4CFW Repeater**

**ITEMS OR WANT ADS
FOR HAMCALL - DEAD-
LINE IS THE 10TH OF EACH
MONTH. SEND To: HANK
CANTRELL - W4HTB
905 WRENWOOD DRIVE
BOWLING GREEN, KY
42103**

OR EMAIL: w4htb@insightbb.com

For Sale:

80ft. Rohn 45 tower
Contact Rodney KI4LRY
270-657-2418

HF Vertical Cushcraft R-
7000

Contact Jean KE4WVX
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CERS**

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