

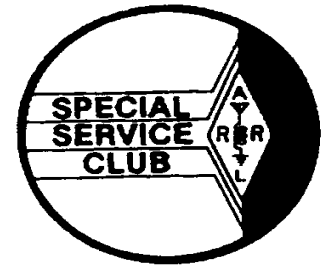


# THE HAMCALL

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/)



Volume 48

Number 8

August 2008

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Mike McClure  
KW4MAC

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are having a fun and productive summer. Here are a few reminders of upcoming events:

Our September club picnic is just around the corner. The date, time, and location of the picnic will be posted on our club website at <http://www.angelfire.com/ky/kcarc/>.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Disaster Preparedness Summit is scheduled for Saturday September 13 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Phil Moore Park in Alvaton, KY.

Our club will have a table where we can set up our equipment and demonstrate how amateur radio plays a vital role in emergency situations. I'll pass around a sign-up sheet at our August meeting. Let me know if you have suggestions for our demonstration table.

Our next Board of Directors meeting is Saturday August 23 at 9am in the community room of the Police Dept. Please let me, or any board member, know

of any issues or concerns you would like us to address at the board meeting.

And one final note – don't forget to turn in your radio operating log for the month of July to Ed Gann, so that he can determine the winner of the July contest.

73

Mike KW4MAC

## Secretary-Treasurer Report by Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX

We currently have about \$750 in the KCARC account after purchasing the Icom 706 for the club station. We used the 706 at field day and it performed very well. I just finished entering all of the field day contacts into my computer and the final unduplicated tally is 217 contacts on HF. Field day was especially fun this year. After getting everything set up we had several people stop by and inquire about amateur radio. It was fun to show them how we were able to contact people from around the country and Hank was even able to relay VHF messages off from the balloon launched in Alabama. We had a number of hams that were not members of KCARC stop by also and I am sure that we will see them at future meetings. The most fun was in the casual operations of the rigs that we had set up. We were able to get a number of people that were new to the sport to get

on the air. It was fun to see their excitement and enthusiasm! I tried out a new logging program called Aether and found it to be a great companion to my Mac. As always, a special thanks needs to go to KC4WFN for engineering solutions to the problems that we ran into during set-up. Thanks goes to Bill, KI4B, who created an Off-Center fed dipole designed for 80,40, and 20 meters without an antenna tuner. We found that this antenna worked about every HF and even VHF band that we tried without an antenna tuner. We even made one contact on 15 meters without a tuner and the antenna was not even designed for that band. Wow! Also I would like to thank all that helped out and participated in field day. It made it quite enjoyable! 73

Claire

---

## KCARC Contest Results

Don't forget to bring your log sheets to give to Ed Gann N4HID to determine July's contest winner.

The winner and awards will be given at the September picnic.

---

KCARC offer condolences to the family of Pat Skinner N4EFS, Pat was a former member of the Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club. Pat passed away in July .



Dr Karen Hackney presents program to KCARC July meeting

We were all fortunate to have Karen and her son Andy give us a run down on the Kentucky Space Grant Consortium of which she is the Director.

As you remember her group of students launched a balloon from the Bowling Green airport the week before.

She gave us information as to all that went into the balloon launch and the primary goal of the Space initiative, that is to launch a Satellite next year.

She indicated that they are hoping to have several launches from Bowling Green in the future.

If you were not in attendance, you missed a great program.

Thank you Karen and Andy

---

This came across on the AMSAT reflector.. I thought was interesting reading.

Ham radio may just evolve from technical whiz kids making coils out of oatmeal boxes (those are disappearing too) to mere communicators that know little about the technology inside.

The kids you are trying to impress with ham radio in general and APRS in specific just roll their eyes and go back to their iPhones and PC's.

After all, ham radio is another

name for AMATEUR radio.

The world is no longer impressed with amateur solutions to Telecommunications just as it is no longer impressed with using horses for basic transportation.

A lot of people still keep horses today because they love horses. There are more horses in the USA today than at any time in the past, we just don't use them for daily commutes to work (although with the price of gasoline we may be reconsidering them). Amateur radio is not comparable to cell phone service, it is not for basic communication but for people who love the technology and want to understand it and improve it.

Don't try to appeal to the masses. Find the one kid in 100 (or is it one in 1000?) who wants to dig deeper and learn the technology. Robot competitions draw lots of kids who are interested in building and modifying technology. They are still around but they are getting channeled into robotics instead of radio.

Third, and this also can't be overcome by mentoring etc., is that amateur radio has space and financial requirements that are beyond most young people. Everyone on this list go look at your stuff right now and add up what it cost in terms of currency as well as indoor and outdoor space. Sure, you \*CAN\* get into amateur radio with a used 2m HT picked up in Dayton for \$100. But let's face it the really cool stuff requires more sophisticated (read: expensive) equipment, usually with antenna systems

that require space and more money. When you're a teen or a young person just starting a family, it's a discretionary expense that is probably just not high on your list.

As someone who was licensed at age 13, there are somethings that suck about being a young ham. You don't have much money to spend on rigs and antennas. You live in your parent's house so you are at their mercy for what antennas you can put up. You have school and homework to compete for your time. You go to college which greatly limits funds and time, and then you go into the raising a family (I am there now) which greatly limits funds again, as well as operating time.

Someone proposed having internet "listen only" remote gateways so that newcomers could get a taste of satellite operation before obtaining their own equipment. We could go one better and devise a scheme that would allow transmit access to holders of valid amateur licenses. That would allow them to get on the satellites without a big investment in radio gear.

Dan Schultz N8FGV

**Editors Note:** I agree somewhat but think we need more challenging amateur projects such as the balloon experiments, that will draw even that 1 percent, there are various data modes to experiment with, hopefully more satellites to challenge us, and use of the higher frequencies. The digital world has become highly sophisticated in the integration of circuits, there are still the PIC microprocessors

and kits that can be programed and used to control or process the natural analog environment. ie. Temperature, pressure, audio, vision etc. Perhaps those of us interested in such a project could engage the advice of Dr. Hackney and get into the local school's science and physic departments.

#### Coming Events and Hamfest

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> KCARC club meeting

Aug 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Huntsville HF  
Huntsville AL.

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Greater Louisville HF  
Shepherdsville, KY  
Exit 117 off I-65

Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Disaster Preparedness  
Summit at Phil Moore Park

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> KCARC Annual  
Picnic/swap-nite Potluck  
Location: Covington Woods Shelter  
Tailgate 5pm Picnic 6 pm  
Club to furnish Drinks and Plasticware.

**NEXT KCARC CLUB MEETING: August 15<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**  
**BG Police Dept. Community Room**  
**Program- Contesting and DX'ing.**

**Traders Net -**  
**Each Monday 1900 cst**  
**147.330 rpt. Tone 107.2**

**KCARC Net -**  
**Each Tuesday 1900 cst**  
**147.330**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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 - DEADLINE IS THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH. SEND To: HANK CANTRELL - W4HTB 905 WRENWOOD DRIVE BOWLING GREEN, KY 42103**

OR EMAIL: [w4htb@insightbb.com](mailto:w4htb@insightbb.com)

#### **For Sale:**

2M/70CM Vertical Model UV-200  
\$55 new  
Shure 444D mike  
KI4DPW Asbury Fugate  
270-777-3534

#### **REMINDER-**

If you have any equipment that belongs to the club please let Mike KW4MAC or Chirs W4BGN know as they are putting together a list . I hope to publish this list in one of the Hamcalls.

As a separate attachment to this issue Hamcall, Claire has provided a listing of the Field Day results this will also be in .pdf format.

#### 2008 KCARC OFFICERS

President: Mike McClure  
KW4MAC  
Vice President: Ed Gann  
N4HID  
Sec-Treas: Dr. Claire Rinehart  
KF4IWX  
Pres-Elect: John Reasoner  
WA4QMQ  
Hank Cantrell W4HTB  
Sonja Logan KI4JJS  
Dean Maggard K4NQV  
Fred Painter KA4CFW  
Tim Robinson KF4MGU  
Tom Williams WB4SCV  
HAMCALL EDITOR: Hank  
W4HTB  
email [w4htb@insightbb.com](mailto:w4htb@insightbb.com)

**WEBMASTER:** Dean K4NQV  
email [k4nqv@insightbb.com](mailto:k4nqv@insightbb.com)