

FEEDBACK



JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, Inc.

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7:30 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church at 75th and Conser streets, west of the Fire Station.

July Meetings

Friday, July 12, 2013 7:30 pm
The program this evening will be on RMS Express, a digital mode for HF. Bill KA2FNK will explain to us the advantages of this mode.

Friday, July 26, 2013 7:30 pm
The program for this evening will be a Field Day video by John Raydo KOIZ. John's videos are always interesting so come relive, or maybe just see what happened, on JCRAC Field Day 2013.

Please try to attend the meeting on July 12th as the Club will select a new treasurer. Mac W0LQV has been collecting dues and decided to take a well deserved rest.

JCRAC Dues Choices

Remember, you have an option now on JCRAC dues; pay \$40 for TWO YEARS, as compared to the regular rate of \$24 per year, and your grandchild under the age of 18 qualifies as a member of the family for membership purposes.

Amateur License Testing

When?
Third Saturday of each month, at 9:00 am.
Where?
Johnson County Public Library
Blue Valley Branch , 9000 West 151st St.
Overland Park, KS
(Just west of Antioch on north side of 151st St.)
Fee? \$14
Pre-registration is NOT required.
Walk-ins are welcome!
For more information contact
Jim Lee, N0KCB 913-745-5121 or
e-mail: JimLee@kc.rr.com
Commercial RadioTests are also available.

Public Service Events List

Larry Staples W0AIB compiles, and makes

available by e-mail, a list of the public service activities/events in the metro Kansas City area. Please let W0AIB know of any ham-type public service events, with confirmed dates, scheduled to be held in the metro area in 2013.

Black & Decker Gyro Driver

My new tool is a battery powered driver, Model # BDCS40G "Gyro" made by Black and Decker. If you haven't seen one, go handle the display model at places like Home Depot or Lowes. It is the handiest little screwdriver, nut driver, miniature drill motor, and will turn any tool with a 1/4 " hex base. I read about it in a magazine before the holidays and bought it as my present to myself. That way I got something I wanted and not six more pairs of socks. This little tool is amazing. It does not have an On-OFF switch per se, but has a squeeze-switch built into the palm grip like a 45 semi-automatic pistol safety. Where is the reversing switch? You don't need one, because the built-in gyro senses the attitude and direction of rotation of the driver body. From the squeezing of the palm grip, whether it is vertical or horizontal or anywhere in between, the LED light comes on aimed at the tool tip, and the driver will start to rotate clockwise if you rotate the body clockwise CW, or CCW if you rotate it counterclockwise. The farther you turn, the faster the driver rotates, up to a maximum of 180 rpm. Being small and using a nickle-metal-hydride battery, the tool has an amazing usage time before needing recharging. A 4volt wall-wart charger is included with the driver, but I have yet to run it down in a single usage.

Gyro Driver ...cont'd on Pg 2

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JCRAC Officers

President's Corner

President

Wm. J. Gery KA2FNK
11208 West 51st Terrace
Shawnee, KS 66203
913-575-3763
william.gery@noaa.gov

Vice President

Ryan O'Neil KD0EWB
8245 Robinson Street
Overland Park, KS 66214
913-642-2135

Secretary

Ted Knapp N0TEK
17928 West 158th Court
Olathe, KS 66062
913-393-4647
n0tek@ymail.com

Treasurer

Jim McCoy W0LQV
8319 Marty
Overland Park, KS 66212-1963
913-648-4406
jmsmccoy85@gmail.com

Trustee

Bill Brinker WA0CBW
6428 Mullen Street
Shawnee, KS 66216
913-268-8819
William474@aol.com

FEEDBACK Editor

Dick Carter N0TO
8903 West 80th St.
Overland Park, KS 66204
913-381-5874
clayfeet@att.net

The club mailing address is: JCRAC, P.O.Box 93, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201. FEEDBACK is published monthly for the JCRAC membership. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Club or the officers. Items for FEEDBACK should be in the Editor's possession by the fourth Friday of each month for publication in FEEDBACK for the following month. The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club website address is:
<http://www.w0erh.org/>

Field Day for 2013 is over, and in the next day or so we will be submitting the results to ARRL. We could not have asked for better weather for a June weekend in Kansas. Temperatures were nowhere near the 100 degree mark and the only threat of rain was Sunday morning.

Thanks to everyone that helped make Field Day a success. The list is long. Jay did a great job with coordinating this year's event. There was plenty of help with setup and tear-down. The GOTA station in the Salvation Army communication vehicle had a steady stream of operators, all coached by Brian KC0BS. We must also thank Shawnee Mission Park for not only allowing us to operate from the Park, but the Park made sure that the grass was cut where the phone station was located. The Park Rangers were always a welcome sight.

Thanks for all that provided the equipment for the stations. In some cases the items were purchased especially for Field Day. Saturday we had a few people take their exam for their Amateur license.

The Park has proved to be a great location for public exposure. We had a large number of people visit the site again this year. Visitors Friday evening also returned Saturday during Field Day to see the event in full swing.

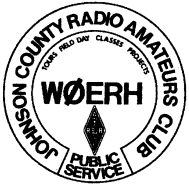
With Field Day behind us, the next Club event is the Auction at Ensor Farm this October. Please keep collecting items for the auction.

Bill KA2FNK, President

Gyro Driver ...cont'd from Pg 1

The battery seems to be a low self-discharge type, but because I find the driver so useful it doesn't get a chance to die just sitting on the shelf. The literature says it has an 18 month charge life! Just a hint for Father's Day might be your ticket to a new Gyro driver on your work bench. A picture of the Gyro driver is on Pg 3.

Dick N0TO, Editor



QCWA

Come enjoy lunch with other hams. QCWA Mid-Continent Chapter 35 meets each Thursday at 11:00 am for lunch at Waid's, 103rd and State Line in KC, MO. Waid's is located just east of State Line and north of 103rd Street. You don't have to belong to QCWA to attend the luncheons...just drop in and enjoy the company of other hams. Mid-Continent Chapter 35 serves the Metro KC area in both Kansas and Missouri. Ron Wood KØBRO is President and JCRAC club member George Yantis KØGY is Chapter 35 Secretary and Treasurer. Starting in January 2013 QCWA publications will be on-line only as one means of reducing costs. More information on QCWA and Mid-Continent Chapter events can be found at <http://www.qcwa.org/>

For Sale and Wanted

FOR SALE:

Name badges with your name, call letters, and QTH; top quality, engraved in a wide range of colors. For sale, 4" diameter multi-colored embroidered patches, with the WØERH call sign, for sale at \$3.00 ea. This will give the club a small profit on each patch. Contact Jim McCoy WØLQV at 913-648-4406 or w0lqv@arrl.net

FOR SALE:

Bird Electric Model 43 Thruline wattmeter and three slugs of your choice for \$300. I will provide a list of available slugs if you are interested in buying the meter.

Hickok Model 450 Volt-Ohm-milliammeter . Original manual with parts list and schematic and the old battery, Everready No. 413 30 volts , which was removed and stored in the case so you would know what the new battery should look like. It has a nice 4 1/2 inch meter, test leads, and the original Neolite carrying case. Asking \$20.

Bird Electric Model 6250 wattmeter/dummy load with BNC connector, 250 milliwatts full scale , measures from 30 to 500 megacycles , that's megaHertz to you young folks!. Has a metal cover that flips up over the meter glass to protect it. Asking \$20.
Contact NØTO clayfeet@att.net or 816-805-9518.

Ensor Museum

If you can visit the Ensor Park and Museum, just 5 minutes South of central Olathe but haven't, do it now and see a most interesting and original flashback to the mid-1900's. Our motto "SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT" is true. A site map, Ensor GPS coordinates, and much more can be seen on the website at www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/
Larry Woodworth WØHXS, Ensor Park and Museum Manager

Wheatshocker Net

The weekly Wheatshocker Net is on Thursday evenings, 8 pm on 145.29 (-). There is usually a 'meeting-after-the-net' on or about 28.475 MHz usb. The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net is also called on 145.29 (-) at 7:00 pm local, on Tuesday.





Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, June 14, 2013. The meeting started at 7:30 pm. Attendance: Self-introduction with name and call sign. 29 signed the check-in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from the May 24, 2013 were read and accepted unanimously. The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

Cash on Hand	\$ 504.89
Checking Account	\$ 626.43
Savings Account	<u>\$ 8,616.71</u>
Total	\$ 9,748.03
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 753.25
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00

Old Business:

- Field Day 2013 is next week. We are basically set.
- Ensor Auction October 25th and 26th
- Kansas QSO Party Still working on the details.
- Bill Gery KA2FNK named a search committee for Treasurer. Those members are Bill Brinker WA0CBW, Dick Carter N0TO, and Ted Knapp N0TEK.

New Business:

- Jim "Mac" McCoy W0LQV was presented with a Plaque recognizing his service to the club as Treasurer for 18 years. Mac announced he would be stepping down as Treasurer. Thank you Mac for your many years of dedicated service.
- Stan Nelson KD0G became a SK. He was past President of the Club.
- Due to Field Day being on June 22-23, the next club meeting will be on 3rd Friday in June (21st) instead of the 4th Friday.

Reports:

- 6 m Nothing.
- 10 m SSB net NR.

- 440 Wheat Shocker net 18 check-ins on June 12 and 20 check-ins on June 5.
- 2m Wheat Shocker 18 check-ins on June 13 and 30 check-ins on June 6.
- HF Activity 15m CW to Taiwan. 20m Kuwait. 17m to Costa Rica. Heard Spain on 20m mobile.

Announcements:

- Run The Good Race - June 15
- Lenexa Midnight Bike Ride July 13/14
- Look for other Public Service events on Larry's List.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Program:

- The program was a discussion around final preparation for Field Day.

Submitted by Ted Knapp N0TEK, Secretary.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, June 21, 2013. The meeting Started at 7:30 pm. Attendance: Self-introduction with name and call sign. 27 signed the check-in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting tonight was held at the Field Day site (Observation Tower at Shawnee Mission Park).

Submitted by Ted Knapp N0TEK, Secretary.

A friend at work told me, the young fresh out of school engineer, that I would run out of courage before I had exhausted my authority. And it took several tries but I determined that to be true and that alone helped me through many problems at work over the years. There is a corollary to act in a timely manner and as soon as possible, ask permission.

Dick N0TO



Inexpensive Hail Detector

If you want to try to measure hail as it falls, and determine both quantity and size, try the following. Ahead of time get a square piece of the green hard or rigid foam like the florists use for flower arrangements, approximately 1 inch thick and wrap it in one layer of tin foil like baking aluminum. Fold the edges over and tape them to the foam board on the backside of the board. The better foam is the rigid crisp green stuff because when the hail dents the frontside foil it crushes the foam so the dent is retained. You can tape the corners of the prepared board to a deck railing or other flat surface that has an open view of the sky. And remember to do a good job of securing the foam because there will probably be high winds associated with the storm/ This idea is not mine but was reading on ways to document hail and somewhere long ago this popped up. This detector is also very good for the mobile storm spotters to detect and document the size of any hail.

And yes, I know we can just take a photo of the hail with a cell phone or camera nowadays but the dents in the hard foam/aluminum allow for fairly precise measurement of "how many and how big" were the hailstones.

Dick N0TO

Key Fob Mystery

Without naming names, I would like to tell you about a happening that occurred recently. A new General Motors vehicle was involved and the mystery was "why did the key fob lose its mind?" After the occupants had pulled into a parking spot near the store they were going into the key fob would not lock or unlock the vehicle, which is new enough to be the type that normally locks the vehicle when you, the person carrying the key fob, get a certain distance from the vehicle.

Other things did not operate properly after the occupants returned and had to use the key to

open the door. As soon as they found other things that did not operate properly, they got the manual out and read up on the problem. There is a method to do a system reset and as soon as they did the reset things worked OK.

A bit about the key fob is in order. A lot of fobs work on or close to 313 MHz and they are low powered transmitters. So a stronger signal on that frequency could over ride the fob signal and confuse the receiver in the vehicle. I can already hear you thinking "why don't they just use tones like the hams use?" The tones in the ham world were often called PL tones. Keep in mind we are talking about a manufacturer who tries to cut pennies out of production cost when ever and where ever they can because if you multiply a few cents for the tone protection by several million vehicles it can turn into big dollars quickly.

It turns out the solution was to use some nice test equipment and determine where the 313 MHz signal was strongest. That signal was directly in front of the vehicle which was parked in front of the plate glass entry. And the source of the offending signal was NOT an alarm system as initially proposed, but a light dimmer used for dimming strings of LED light used for decoration.

A call had been made to the vehicle manufacturer and they were becoming aware of more occurrences of this type of signal affecting their system. Their stock response, and other brands also share the same problem, was to tell the customer to "replace the battery in the key fob." It turns out this "broken key fob" problem has been going on for several years and is only now becoming a bigger headache because the fob receiver is not protected from strong signals on its frequency. So, if your car starts acting strange you might think about what signals may be causing problems.

Dick N0TO