



MAY 2014

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**CLUB WEBSITE**

<http://www.w0erh.org>

# FEEDBACK

JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, Inc.

P.O. Box 93, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7:30 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church (north entrance), 7600 West 75th St. (75th and Conser Streets), west of the Fire Station.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



May is here. With it, beside the warmer temperatures, I'm sure we will be hearing Don ( WØDEW ) on the repeater announcing a gathering around the fire at Ensor. These are always weather dependent, so be sure to monitor the repeater. Also, we thank Don for hosting this activity.

Field day is fast approaching - June 28 and 29 this year. We will be at the observation tower in Shawnee Mission Park. This is our year to have the Sheriff's tower and will be working with the Sheriff's and park's departments to have this in place. Plans for our Field Day will be presented at the second club meeting in May. We will be setting up Friday so will once again need volunteers to stay over Friday night. Friday evening has proven to be a great time to make some contacts.

As a reminder - nominations and election of officers will take place during the second meeting of May.

May is an active month for public service events in the Kansas City area. Volunteering for at least one public service event will improve your skills to aid in the support of real emergencies. We do need a volunteer to head up our club's support of the War World I events this year. Contact me if you are willing.

Bill, KA2FNK, President

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**BIRTHDAYS**

When you get a chance, say "Happy Birthday" to the club member(s) listed below. If your birthday is not listed there, it was not listed in [www.qrz.com/](http://www.qrz.com/). But, you can email us the month and day (we don't publish the year!). We will add it to the list.

**MAY**

01 Bill Gery, KA2FNK

26 Steven Martin, KØSLM



UAV by Ron Carson, KD0ZOY – April 25, 2014

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING SCHEDULE

### Friday, May 9, 2014 7:30 pm

The program for this evening will be a Fox Hunt. This will start at 7:00 pm – plan to meet outside at 6:30 pm.

### Friday, May 23, 2014 7:30 pm

Program: Finalize plans for Field Day.

### Annex Meeting

Generally a post-meeting occurs after each club meeting. Typically this starts about 8:45pm at The Pizza Shoppe, 8915 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66212. A pizza buffet is served including a drink – approx. \$8.20 plus tax. Their regular menu is available and also garden salads in two sizes. All are welcome.



May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JCRAC CLUB DUES

Remember, you have an option now on JCRAC dues; save with \$40 for TWO YEARS, as compared to the regular rate of \$24 per year. Your grandchild under the age of 18 qualifies as a member of the family for membership purposes. Dues should be received by the end of your subscription month.

Active members receive a copy of the *FEEDBACK*. Is your club membership dormant? Contact Cal, the Treasurer to bring it up to date or this can be done online – see the club website.

## WHEATSHOCKER / 10M / ARES NETS

### Weekly Nets

The Wheatshocker Nets are called on:

Wednesday evenings, 8 pm on 443.725 (+) PL 151.4

Thursday evenings, 8 pm on 145.29 (-) PL 151.4

### 10 Meter USB

On Thursday, there is usually a “round-table get-together” on or about 9:00 P.M. using 28.475 MHz USB – after the Wheatshocker Net.

### ARES Net

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net is also called on 145.29 at 7:00 pm local, weekly on Tuesday.

## NAME BADGES – WØERH PATCHES

### Name Badges

Name badges with your name, call letters, and QTH; top quality, engraved in a wide range of colors.

Contact Jim McCoy “Mac”, WØLQV at 913-648-4406 or [jmsmccoy85@gmail.com](mailto:jmsmccoy85@gmail.com).

### WØERH Patches

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 Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL at 913-961-2175 or [clewando@gmail.com](mailto:clewando@gmail.com).

## LICENSE TESTING

Testing takes place on the third Saturday of each month, at 9:00 am at the Johnson County Public Library Blue Valley Branch, 9000 West 151st St., Overland Park, KS - just west of Antioch on north side of 151st St.

There is a \$14 fee. Pre-registration is NOT required. Walk-ins are welcome!

For more information contact Jim Lee, NØKCB 913-745-5121 or e-mail: [JimLee@kc.rr.com](mailto:JimLee@kc.rr.com). Commercial Radio Tests are also available.

## QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Come enjoy lunch with other hams. The lunch location has been updated on both the National and the Chapter 35 QCWA webpages. The icon on the local page is also a link to RC's webpage.

Local web site: [www.qsl.net/qcwa35/](http://www.qsl.net/qcwa35/).

National web site: [www.qcwa.org/events.php](http://www.qcwa.org/events.php).

Remember, ALL hams are invited to join with the Chapter 35 folks on Thursday, 1100 CDT, RC's, Martin City, MO. 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 online only as one means of reducing costs. More information on QCWA and Mid-Continent Chapter events can be found at [www.qcwa.org/](http://www.qcwa.org/).

## ENSOR PARK AND 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, with Ensor GPS coordinates, and much more can be seen on the website at [www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/](http://www.w9bsp-w9ua.org/).

Larry Woodworth, WØHXS, Ensor Park and Museum Manager

Meeting Date: Friday, April 11, 2014

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Self introduction was with name and call sign. The check-in sheet had 30 signatures. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from March 28, 2014 were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Cash on Hand	\$	190.05
Checking Account	\$	497.80
Savings Account	\$	8,344.82
<b>Total</b>	\$	9,032.67
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$	569.05
Memorial Fund	\$	150.00
Active Members		141

**Old Business:**

- Repeater Update – Tom Wheeler, N0GSG has the new controller for the 440 Repeater and is currently programming it. Both are doing fine.
- Website Update – Doing fine.
- Field Day – This year we are planning on a classification of 4A (4 equals the number of transmitters and A is a Club). A recommendation was made to have the same setup as last year (with regards to the tent, tables, chairs and Porta Potty). After a brief discussion a motion was and seconded. A unanimous approval vote followed.
- Ensor Auction – Keep looking for items to donate.
- The JCRAC First Annual HF Mobile Shootout Date: Friday, June 13, 2014 at 6:00 PM. Read more: <http://www.w0erh.org/>

**New Business:**

- Elections for Club officers will be at the meeting on May 23. Elected officers will take office on August 1.
- Update on Associated Radio Basement Remodel - project is progressing. When you get the chance stop by and let Dan know how great it will be to have a meeting room at Associated Radio.

**Reports:**

	6m	NR	
440 Wheatshocker	17		April 9
	19		April 2
2m Wheatshocker	28		April 10
	16		April 3
10m USB Roundtable	6		April 10
	6		April 3
<b>HF Activity</b>			
France, Brazil, Peru, Azores on 10m. Australia 10m PSK31. W1AW/1 by Satellite			

**Announcements:**

- Shriner's Ham Bash Saturday 19.
- The program for the 1st meeting in May will be a Fox Hunt and the program for the 2nd meeting in May will be to finalize plans for Field Day.
- A coordinator for the WW1USA Special Event Station for September 6-7. See Herb Fiddick, NZ0F.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**Program:**

The program was a presentation by Lon Martin, K0WJ about JT65.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

Meeting Date: Friday, April 25, 2014

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Due to the church being locked, we were not able to go inside to have a regular meeting. However, we did have one New Business item from the Treasurer.

**New Business:**

- Ted Knapp, NØTEK as an employee of Hallmark Cards, Inc. has the opportunity to participate in Hallmark's Volunteer Program. The purpose of the Volunteer Program is to recognize Hallmark employees who have volunteered a minimum of 50 hours of service to a non-profit organization in a one year period. As the club's Secretary and having met the non-profit qualification, the Hallmark Corporate Foundation has made a contribution of \$400 to the Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club.

**Program:**

The program was a presentation on Radio Control UAVs by Ron Carson KDØZOY.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary.

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## LARRY'S LIST



Larry Staples, WØAIB compiles, and makes available by e-mail, a list of Hamfests and Public Service Events in the metro Kansas City area. Please let WØAIB know of any ham-type events, with confirmed dates, scheduled to be held in the metro area in 2014.

Be sure to subscribe to Larry's List for "up-to-the-minute" messages on many ham-related subjects! Contact [lstaples@kc.rr.com](mailto:lstaples@kc.rr.com).

In addition to his emails, there is a website that lists the scheduled events such as Hamfests and Public Service Events. See [www.larryslist.info](http://www.larryslist.info).

## HAMFESTS – SPECIAL EVENTS

- May 3           **Bates County Hamfest**
- May 16-18       **DAYTON Hamvention**, Dayton, OH
- Jun 28-29       **ARRL Field Day**
- Jul 19           **Hamfest 2014**  
Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

- May 3           Bull Creek Bike Bash
- May 4           March Of Dimes, March For Babies
- May 10          Jack and Coke Ride
- May 10          5K, 10K, Duathlon–Heritage Park, Olathe, KS
- May 25          Lone Star Century Bike Ride
- Jun 2-6          Cub Scout Day Camp Help - 'Cubs in Space'
- Jun 6-7          Hospital Hill Run 2014
- Jun 7-8          Heartland Border Walk For MS
- Jun 8            ADA Tour de Cure (aka Wheels to Weston)
- Jun 8            Joel's Ride – "Wheels for Meals"
- Jun 14          Run The Good Race
- Jun 15          Ride The Fountains Bike Ride
- Jun 15          Kansas City Corporate Challenge Du/Tri
- Jul 12          Lenexa Moonlight Bike Ride
- Jul 13          UCP Shawnee Mission Triathlon
- Jul 27          Cider Mill Century Bike Ride
- Aug 10          Midwest Meltdown
- Aug 17          Jackson County Triathlon
- Aug 24          Summer Breeze Bike Ride
- Sep 01          Bike for the Brain Ride
- Sep 13          Olathe Medical Center Women's Triathlon
- Sep 13-14       MS-Ride
- Sep 21          Bikers for Babies
- Oct 31          Scare-IT – Halloween

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The *FEEDBACK* is published monthly for the JCRAC active membership and delivered by email. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the club or the officers.

News items and articles for the *FEEDBACK* should be in the Editor's possession by the last week of each month for publication the following month.

Hard copy versions of the *FEEDBACK* are available by special request only (one to a household). These will be printed in B&W and be mailed shortly after the online version becomes available.

A good publication starts with plenty of material. And much of that comes, or should come, from members like you. Feel free to share news. This can be anywhere from one line news items to full articles. Let's make it easy – just email these items to the editor.

Steven, KØSLM

## WW1USA – SPECIAL EVENT STATION



## 2014 Hosts

June 28-29 – Raytown Amateur Radio Club  
Archduke Franz Ferdinand Assassination

August 02-03 – Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club  
The Great War Declared

September 06-07 – Johnson County Radio Amateur Club  
The Battle Of Marne

December 27-28 - Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club  
Christmas Truce

Hambone:

Gee, Elmer, I'd really like to try making some digital contacts, but it seems that digital is so complicated and I need a hundred bucks for some hook-up stuff.

Elmer:

Calm down, Hambone, you've already made digital contacts. What do you think CW is?

Hambone:

Yeah, but CW isn't new digital technology. It's that new tech I want to be a part of. My friends talk about it and I'm feeling left out. I just want to try PSK-31, some RTTY and maybe some other alphabet soup modes. But I don't know how to start and I don't have a hundred bucks, or so.

Elmer:

You don't need all that to try out digital modes. Remember, Hambone, most digital modes are nothing more than audio tones that can be generated through a speaker and picked up with a microphone. That means you can make digital contacts with only your SSB rig, a cheap microphone that plugs into your laptop and your laptop. But a couple of rubber bands and some duct tape will make it a bit better.

Before we go further, use duct tape or a rubber band to hold that cheap microphone over your transceiver's speaker. This is the way sounds from your rig will get into your PC. A fancy hookup box is nice, but a microphone will do the trick. Don't forget to plug the mic's cord into the microphone jack on your PC.

Now let's get started. Go on the Internet site [www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com), click 'Download page...'. Since your laptop has Windows XP on it, download the file named, 'fldigi-3.21.78 setup'. When you get this file, run it and follow the instructions. It doesn't take a lot of processor power or memory. When you get it loaded, there will be an icon on your desktop. It looks a little like a strip of film on a dark background. Don't mistake it for the setup program icon that shows a monitor and a CD that will also be on your desktop.

Hambone:

"Okay, Elmer," replied Hambone. I clicked the icon and the 'Fldigi configuration wizard' appeared.

Elmer:

Fear not, Hambone, it's easier than it looks! First off, most of the defaults work just fine, but there are a couple of things you want to personalize. Click 'Next.'

Fill in the blanks where it asks for your name, call sign, QTH, locator and antenna. It will use this info to automate CQs,

replies, etc. Click 'Next'. This brings up the 'Audio Devices' page. Highlight the 'Devices' tab if it not already selected.

On this page, click the radio button 'PortAudio'. This will open up two little windows called 'Capture' and 'Playback'. The suggested entries for both are already in the windows, but you can use the up-down arrows to make changes. I suggest that you try the defaults, first. If you don't hear anything when we do a test drive, select a different playback device. If you don't see any signals on the waterfall during the test drive, select a different capture device. I know your laptop has only one choice for both so the default will work for you. Click 'Next'.

Hambone:

"Elmer, now it's asking about my transceiver control and I don't know any of this stuff! What do I do?"

Elmer:

Get a grip, Hambone, hit 'Next' and go on. Skip the 'Tabular Data sources' by hitting 'finish'. Now the fun begins!

Notice that your screen is divided into three sections: the top yellow part displays what you are receiving, the middle blue part shows what you type and are sending and the waterfall display appears at the bottom. That is the coolest of all three windows. There is a row of buttons just above the waterfall that automate some really useful functions. Let's get started.

At the top of the screen click 'Op Mode' and in the pull down menu select CW. Now in the row of buttons, click on CQ. You should see a CQ transmission appear in the blue window and hear the code being sent. If you don't hear it, turn up your PC's speaker volume. Press the ESC key to stop the sending. That's what CW sound like but, you already know that. Let's do a more interesting text.

Go back to the Op Mode pull down and select PSK and then BPSK-31. This is PSK-31. Hit the CQ button again. This time you will hear what your CQ sounds like in PSK-31. Hit ESC to stop it. Now, generate your own text by typing something on the PC keyboard. When you are finished, click on the TX>| button (far right). This will play your typed text in PSK-31. Note that it doesn't stop at the end because it's waiting for more. To stop, hit the Rx button. This properly terminates your transmission.

Click other buttons to see what they do. Note that sometimes you have to click the Rx button to switch from transmit to receive. Other times it will stop sending all by itself.

Hambone:

Wow, Elmer, that's cool.

Elmer:

Yeah, now let's try to decode PSK-31. Tune your SSB receiver to find a station that sounds like the tones you heard when you were playing text with the PSK-31 setting. When you

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find that station, look for it as a yellow trace on the blue waterfall. The waterfall display is getting its data from the microphone plugged into your PC. If you don't see any traces, turn up your radio's volume. If that doesn't give you a trace, I don't know what's wrong. Move that little red cursor on the waterfall so it's over the signal you want to decode. You will see text start appearing in the top window.

Hambone:

Wow Elmer, I got it!" shouts Hambone. "The guy is calling CQ, how do I answer him?"

Elmer:

That's easy, Hambone. When he pauses for replies, press the talk button on your transceiver's microphone and hold it near your PC's speaker. Then click the ANS button just above the waterfall. The PC will send your call which your transceiver mic will pick up and transmit back to the guy. If you've tuned him in properly, he will hear you. When your PC stops making that warbling sound, release your transceiver mic button and wait for his reply.

Hambone:

Elmer, he answered me back, now what? shouted Hambone.

Elmer:

That's easy Hambone, just press your rig's mic button again, hit the Me/QTH button above the waterfall and then the Tx>| button and the PC will send your ID and QTH and stop when it's done. Be sure to release your rig's mic button so you can hear the other guy's reply. That's all there is to it. You are now a digital operator.

Hambone:

Wow and it didn't cost a hundred bucks.

Elmer:

Now you know the secret, Hambone. Digital is just a set of audio tone changes that have been assigned specific letters. In the end, it is analog audio transmission - no magic."

Hambone:

You're a great elmer, Elmer.

-End-

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