

FEEDBACK

DECEMBER 2014



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. For me it could not have been better. The kids all were over with their assigned food item in hand.

Our new club web site was launched. This effort was lead by **Ted Knapp** (NØTEK) who designed and is maintaining site. **Cal**

Lewandowski (KCØCL), our treasurer, picked up the reins from **Mac** (WØLQV) . Working with Ted he has added the ability to pay Club dues via the web site.

Steve Martin (KØSLM) jumped in to keep the club's monthly Feedback as we searched for a new editor to fill in the void left by the passing of **Dick Carter** (NØTO SK) . We now have two editors thanks to **Chip and Deb Buckner** (ACØYF/KDØRYE).

Field Day 2014 showed a lot of team work which resulted in another great event. The results show this as we can in first in our class in Kansas. **Jay Greenough** (WJØX) was the coordinator, **Ron Bozich** (WØDXL) arranged great food, **Norma Libby** (WØKC) headed up the testing and **Brian Short** (KCØBS) did an exceptional job with the GOTO station again this year.

The next event was the September World War I activities that Ted Knapp and **Herb Fiddick** (NZØF) coordinated .

There was a lot of time and work put in the auction this year by **David Schulman** (WDØERU) who was also the auctioneer. Donations were way down, but thanks to David's efforts there was a record number of consignment items. Thank you, Brian and Jay, for all your work in pulling the events at Ensor together.

The Club's pitch-in Christmas party is December 12th. With a little luck, we will *not* be repeating the "Great Christmas Party Hunt of 2013". The Party will be at the normal meeting location and room. The whole family is welcome. I overheard some entertainment planning at the last meeting. So, bring your favorite Christmas food item to share to discover the whispered plans.

We've only one meeting in December, so I want to take this opportunity to extend to everyone the blessing of the holiday season. Merry Christmas.

- **Bill Gery** - WA2FNK

DECEMBER MEETING

December 12 – Party!

Bring the family, a dish to share and prepare to rock with the first-ever Kansas City-area appearance of "The WHO".

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

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-> FEEDBACK <-

*A publication of the
Johnson County Radio Amateur Club, Inc.*

Bill Gery, KA2FNK, President

Aaron Boots, AAØRN, Vice President

Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary

Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL, Treasurer

* * *

Chip ACØYF and Deb KDØRYE Buckner, Editors

THE FEEDBACK LOOP

6 - meter Report

To the Editor:

6 meters was open to Hawaii November 10.

Locals NØXA, NØCWR and I worked K6MIO/KH6 grid BK29 on the "Big Island" around 2130z (3:30 pm) on 50.120 MHz SSB. K6MIO/KH6 peaked to 20 over S-9. The Hawaiian stations worked from California east to W2 and W3. Later, stations in Colorado worked New Zealand. The geomagnetic field was active yesterday with the K index peaking at 5, which may have bumped the F2 MUF over 50 MHz.

- Jon Jones NØJK, Lawrence, KS

[Ed. - NØJK reports that he was using 100 W on an attic dipole.]

A Call for Enlightenment

To the Editor:

I have a request. A few weeks ago there was a rather heated exchange on Larry's List regarding 4 to 1 baluns. It occurred to me that I don't really understand how an impedance transformer works. Can you ask Jaimie [Charlton, ADØAB] or Tom [Wheeler, NØGSG] if they would explain it to us non-engineers?

- Bill McMillan, NØYUD

[Ed. - Done!]

Editorial Notes:

Larry (Larry's List) Staples, WØAIB, has been kind enough to forward newsletters from other clubs around the country. The first change some of you will notice is the use of larger, older-eye-friendly typefaces. Look for additional bits of intellectual theft in coming issues.

This month, in addition to our regular "President's Corner" and meeting minutes, we add feedback to FEEDBACK, which pretty much has to be called the "Feedback Loop". In the correspondence following QST columnist **Jon Jones'**, NØJK, initial contact, he didn't actually *promise* an article detailing how a new ham might become a serious operator in "The World Above 50 MHz", but he may come to regret the hounding that will follow his failure to make a categorical refusal.

The absence of more technical submissions forces your editor to attempt to create his own content. The inartfully named "Homeowner Adventures" may be the first of several articles in which one of your editors details his experiences with a homeowners association and its rules. As the saga is only just beginning, there is no telling whether this may be useful as a blueprint for others, as an example of what not to do, or perhaps merely just the story of another ham who whines about restrictive covenants.

The way you could prevent FEEDBACK from publishing such non-technical content, of course, would be to write and share what you know to benefit the rest of the community. Which leads the FEEDBACK to propose a new by-law for the club. If someone--whether or not his callsign is **WAØCBW**--makes something and is proud enough to bring it to a JCRAC club meeting to show off to **Tom Wheeler**, NØGSG, he ought to be required to write up his experiences. Mr. Wheeler has already seconded the motion. All in favor?

Finally, a bit of holiday lyricism from your editors and a story from FEEDBACK's most prolific contributor, **Jaimie Charlton**, ADØAB, who offers us another glimpse into Hambone's world.

-- Merry Christmas from Chip and Deb

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club

Meeting Date: Friday November 14, 2014. The meeting Started at 7:30PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 36 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the October 10 and 24, 2014 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 76.99	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 641.87
Checking Account	\$ 508.52	Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00
Savings Account	<u>\$9,325.87</u>		
Total	\$9,911.38	Active Members	143

Old Business:

- Both the 440 Repeater and 2m Repeater are working fine.
- Ensor Auction 2014 Report

	Number of Sales Logged	224 items	\$4,172.00	
	Highest price item sold	Amp	\$300.00	
	Biggest spender	3 items	\$330.00	
	Payments to sellers	Consignment	\$2,705.60	
	Total dollars earned	JCRAC Gross	\$1253.49 + \$45 donation	
	Ensor Share		\$626.75 paid + \$22.50 owed	

In addition to the on-line auction transactions, there were:

	Cash transactions	36	\$1,804.00	
	Check transactions	11	\$1,114.00	
	Credit card transactions	10	\$1,070.00	

- A special thanks goes out to David Schulman WD0ERU, Jay Greenough WJ0X, Don Warkentien W0DEW, and Brian Short KC0BS for all their work organizing this year's Auction.

- Club Shirt Update - Bill Gery, KA2FNK is still working on collection information.

- Annual Christmas Party will be on December 12. Bring your favorite food item to share.

New Business:

- Field Day Results. Total points scored 6,792. As a Category 4A, we were 1st in Kansas and 18th in the Nation out of 150 stations.

- Congratulations to Brian Short, KC0BS on receiving the 2014 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award. This award recognizes outstanding public relations efforts in promoting Amateur Radio to the non-ham community.

- Tom Wheeler, N0GSG has an article published in the November/December 2014 addition of QEX. The article is titled "New Life for the Motorola MSR-2000 VHF Repeater: A New RF Power Amplifier".

Reports:

- 6 m – NR.

- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 7 participated on November 13.

- 440 Wheat Shocker net – 17 check-ins on November 12 and 16 check-ins on November 5.

- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 30 check-ins on November 13 and 28 check-ins on November 6.

- HF Activity – Cape Verde, Minsk, Czech Republic, French Polynesian FO8AA/P, St Helena Island.

Announcements:

- Skywarn Recognition Day December 5-6, 2014

- WW1USA at Liberty Memorial December 27 – 28, 2014.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Program:

The Program for this evening was a presentation by Charlie Van Way – N0CVW on "WWI - Things You Did Not Know, But Should".

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

Homeowner Adventures -- Chip Buckner, ACØYF

I had been in the house fifteen years when the ham bug bit. I buzzed through the tests, purchased an HT and built the coat hanger ground plane.

I wanted more. Having heard of restrictions in other neighborhoods, I went to the homeowner's association website to check on our rules. Two quickly caught my eye.

No television antenna or radial aerial or similar wire device shall be attached to the roof of the house or exposed in any manner.

No radio station of any type shall be operating from any lot or residence.

Uh oh.

My four options appeared to be (1) abstinence, (2) stealth, (3) forthright action, coupled with a profession of ignorance and/or a plea for forgiveness and (4) an assault on the rules. An assessment of my personal strengths and weaknesses, however, eliminated the first three options. I was going to have to get the rules changed.

How Do We Change The Rules?

According to the text on the website:

The restrictions herein set forth shall run with the land and bind the above parties, their heirs, trustees, assigns and grantees for ten (10) years from the date of recording and shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years unless by vote of the 2/3 (66%) of the then owners of the real estate according to square feet, it is agreed to change restrictions in whole or in part.

This sentence deserves careful study. The restrictions take effect when they are recorded. (In Kansas, restrictions that run with the land are filed--for which the technical term is "recorded"--in the office of the county register of deeds.) The original restrictions were recorded on December 29, 1978. The text says that the rules renew for ten year periods unless owners representing 2/3's (or is it 66%, which is close to--but not quite the same as--2/3's) of the square footage of the subdivision vote to change the restrictions. This would seem to indicate that, although we can vote whenever we

please, the amendments do not take effect until December 29 of the next year that ends with the number "8".

That conclusion may not be obvious--or even right--but let's start with an example that will be familiar to most local readers to explain my thinking. In November of each fourth year, we elect the president of the United States to a four year term. He doesn't take office when we (or--for the Civics teachers among you--the members of the electoral college) vote. The sitting president has a four year term. The election doesn't cut his term short. The new administration doesn't come in until after the end of the predecessor's term the next January.

These homeowner restrictions have "ten year terms". The December 1978 rules stay in place until 1988. The 1988 rules control until 1998. And so on. If we voted to change the rules in 2000, it wouldn't change anything for several years, because the 1998 rules bind the landowners for ten years, until 2008. So, as I write these words in December 2014, I am living under the 2008 rules and--if we believe the literal meaning of the words in the restrictions--nothing any of us can do will change those restrictions before the new "term" begins on December 29, 2018.

This strikes me as being another "uh oh". On the bright side, I suppose I should be pleased that--at this writing--our opportunity to make a change is only four years away. Too, ten years is shorter than the *twenty-five* year renewals of the restrictions that bind the associations on either side of us. In any event, I've got plenty of time to get my ducks in a row.

Find Allies -- Who Wants These Rules Changed?

The first thing I did was walk the neighborhood to see if I could see anything that looked as though it might be a stealth antenna. An extraordinarily tall, unusually placed, flag pole caught my eye. Another home had a few feet of what looked like 1 1/2 inch PVC pipe near a second story window that didn't appear to run into either the house or down to the

See HOA on page 6

A Christmas Ham – Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

It was dark. No, not just dark, but that sort of gin-clear dark that makes you feel as though your very soul is part of the bejeweled night sky.

It was still. No air moved the dusting of crystalline snow flakes perched precariously on the Norfolk pines. For those fortunate enough to be outside, they only heard the beat of their hearts as they contemplated the smear of the milky way across the sky.

All was peaceful, serene. Yet, there was a certain tenseness, a feeling of hopeful expectation. The keen observer noticed that the stars did not twinkle. Instead, their steady stare was perhaps a sort of watching and waiting for things to come. Inside, things were different.

Inside, Hambone and his little brother, Dude, were upstairs getting ready for bed. Downstairs, all the songs sung, cookies eaten and eggnog drunk as the last guests of their parents' party went home. Hambone and Dude enjoyed the food, but an adult party is just not all that much fun for those of few years.

Elmer, little Dude calls him Uncle Elmer although his exact familial relationship is uncertain, had gone to San Diego to be with his in-laws. Which was too bad because he would have spiked up the party. At least the kids thought so. A couple of days earlier, Elmer had told the kids about a huge solar flare that would hit the earth this evening. The bad news is that it would knock out HF radio for a while. The good news is it would create vast curtains of green and red shimmering northern lights that just might be visible in the sky on Christmas eve.

"It looks like Elmer was right, all the bands are dead. I don't hear anyone on the air at all. Wow, look, there's not even anybody in the SKCC chart room," exclaimed Hambone flipping up the laptop's screen.

"He's always right. I'm going to bed and wait for Santa Claus," replied Dude as he shut off their transceiver and laptop.

"Me too," sighed Hambone as he climbed into his upper bunk.

"What's that sound, Dude, I thought you turned everything off?"

"I did."

"But I'm hearing something, sounds like a weak CW station."

"I hear it, too. Somehow our stuff came back on." Said Dude as he and Hambone jumped out of their bunks. Okay, Hambone sort of tumbled out of his.

Although Dude had not yet earned his license, he was very good at copying CW. He grabbed a pen and pad and started writing as their radio emitted some noisy beeps.

"This doesn't make any sense." Puzzled Dude as he looked at his copy. "I'm sure I got nearly all of it, but these aren't words."

About then the laptop honked indicating that there was a message on the SKCC chatroom and, oddly, another window containing the Fldigi CW decoder opened and started displaying English text.

"Look," exclaimed Hambone pointing at the chatroom screen, "Hector in Buenos Aires says he's receiving the same thing but he's on forty meters, not twenty. And his decoder is showing Spanish text! Hey, Carl in Berlin says he's receiving the same thing on eighty, but his decoder is showing German. What's going on here?"

"Those aren't random letters," typed Ari in Jerusalem as he joined the chatroom. "That is ancient Hebrew, I studied it in high school. It dates back to biblical times. Oh, by the way, I'm hearing it on fifteen meters."

"Hi guys," typed Bill, a legendary ham radio guru with some really awesome equipment, as he checked into the chatroom from Anchorage. "The aurora borealis is incredible here. Huge green and red curtains of shimmering light so bright they actually light up the trees and snow. It's a spectacular light show.

See HAMBONE on 6

From HAMBONE on 5

Incidentally, my spectrum analyzer shows that station is on every frequency in every band. Tune around, you'll see what I mean. It is the only signal on the air, anywhere."

Just then the boys heard sort of rushing sound from outside and, even though they were in their jammies, they ran out to look. Little Dude hoped it might be Santa. It wasn't.

"Look, up in the sky," Shouted Hambone, "It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's a fireball meteor!"

As the boys stood speechless, the cold black sky burst into a green and red blaze as a brilliant, yet somehow frightening white orb sped across. So bright it was that trees cast moving shadows on the glistening snow. In a few seconds it was gone.

The boys didn't notice it, but the sense of peace and serenity returned to the night as expectant stare of the stars turned into a friendly twinkle.

"What was that?" asked Dude running back inside to warm up.

"I think it was a meteor," replied Hambone. "But it didn't look like it crashed into the ground. I don't know what it was."

"Look Hambone, the chatroom, everyone saw that thing. It must have gone completely around the world!"

From HOA on 4

ground. Might I have a couple of hams in the neighborhood?

I checked the FCC Universal Licensing Service website. New hams are familiar with the FCC ULS database. We know that it is not enough to pass the examination. Our operating privileges do not begin until our name and call sign appear on the FCC ULS database. This time, instead of checking for names, I was checking for addresses.

Or so I thought. After spending more time than I care to admit looking at each individual address and trying to figure out if it fell within my association boundaries, it occurred to me that I should be checking names, after all. The FCC lists licensees alphabetically. My homeowner associa-

"Hey Dude, did you change something? The signal is gone. I can't find it on any band. In fact, I can't find any signal on any band."

"No, but look at the Fldigi decoder, the text is still there, it says, 'On this day our Savior was born to bring peace on earth and good will to men.'" "Mom, Dad, did you see..." Shouted Dude as he ran down stairs and saw all the presents Santa had left for him."

"See what?" Asked Mom.

"The meteor and the message that hams all over the world received." "No..."

"You mean you didn't even hear our radio beeping or the whoosh of that fireball meteor?" Added Hambone.

"Sorry boys," said Dad, "You must have been dreaming. I knocked down your antenna last night when I was stringing lights so your radio definitely didn't receive anything."

The boys' incredulity was short lived as they dug into their presents. Still, they could not help but wonder how they both had the same dream. Yet, there was no proof of their adventure. Their antenna was indeed broken and the laptop, like the transceiver, was turned off. No message had been saved.

"Hey!" Shouted Dad. "Somebody was at our door last night. Look at the foot prints in the snow."

tion membership lists members alphabetically. A comparison of the two ordered lists--*thank you Donald Knuth*--quickly identified three ham households in our association: my own, the PVC pipe guy and a third, unsuspected household. The flagpole, it appears, was merely extraordinarily tall and unusually placed.

Three households out of two hundred households was somewhat less than the majority we were going to need to get the rules changed.

And then, I got a gift ... which is going to have to wait until the next installment.

Although Chip is licensed to practice law in both Missouri and Kansas, he professes no particular experience or expertise with the rules governing homeowner's associations. This article--or, potentially, articles--should be viewed as an account of his impressions and experiences, rather than as legal advice affecting any person's situation.

Holiday Hams

FCC regulations prohibit amateur radio operators to broadcast music on radio waves, presumably to protect commercial radio. Amateurs are not yet barred from spreading music on sound waves. As is true of all privileges afforded to amateur radio operators, it is important to use them to avoid losing them.

WE THREE HAMS	UP ON THE HOUSETOP	HAMS HELP BRING THE WORLD TOGETHER (We Wish You a Merry Christmas)
<p>[All] We three hams who operate are Able to communicate far. We mix science with compliance. Fun is our guiding star.</p> <p><i>O-oh, first select a frequency then you listen carefully. If it's quiet, then you try it It's a fun activity.</i></p> <p>[Technicians] V-H-F is where I reside Line of sight and bandwidth that's wide Range is local, mostly vocal Darn it, my HT died.</p> <p><i>O-oh ...</i></p> <p>[Generals/Advanced] H-F bounces over the sea, Op'ning new horizons for me. Raise the tower, crank the power To get D-X-C-C.</p> <p><i>O-oh ...</i></p> <p>[Extras] My new call sign sets me apart: Learn-ed in the amateur's art. Nothing to it, they could do it. 'Til then, they'll think I'm smart.</p> <p><i>O-oh ...</i></p> <p>[All] We three hams who operate are Able to communicate far. We mix science with compliance. Fun is our guiding star.</p> <p><i>O-oh ...</i></p>	<p>Up on the housetop my quad sits Giving all my neighbors fits. They think it is unsightly stuff And they shout "Enough's enough!"</p> <p>Oh, oh, no. Why is it so? Oh, oh, no. Must it go-o? Said the inspector, looking 'round, That antenna must come down.</p> <p>Out in the backyard, way up high Purple martins like to fly. Now they will have a place to roost (that) Gives my signal quite a boost.</p> <p>Ho, ho, ho! It doesn't show. Ho, ho, ho! They'll never know, Now eighty meters here we go, (with) Standing waves at one point oh!</p>	<p>[ALL] Hams help bring the world together, Hams help bring the world together, Hams help bring the world together, by spreading good cheer.</p> <p>The Extras will lead the singing, [3X] and be of good cheer.</p> <p>[EXTRAS] <i>Good tidings we bring to all who tune in Good tidings we transmit throughout the whole year.</i></p> <p>[ALL] The Gen'ral's will sing it louder [3X] to help spread good cheer.</p> <p>[GENERALS] <i>Good tidings ...etc.</i></p> <p>[ALL] Let's listen to the Technicians [3X] as they spread good cheer.</p> <p>[Technicians] <i>Good tidings ... etc.</i></p> <p>[ALL] It's best when we sing together [3X] to spread the good cheer</p> <p><i>Good tidings ... etc.</i></p> <p>Hams help bring the world together, Hams help bring the world together, Hams help bring the world together, by SPREAD - ING - GOOD - CHEER!</p>

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