



MARCH 2014

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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



March will be “coming in like a lion” this year - good weather to hold up in the shack and work some DX. Maybe re-arrange your equipment, or work on that ham project you have not been able to get to. If the saying holds true let us hope that March “goes out like a lamb”.

Herb (NZ0F) has announced a “Ham 101” clinic for newly licensed operators. The clinic will be on Thursday, March 20, 2014, 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Christ Church Anglican. The address is 5500 W. 91st Street. (91st and Nall Avenue) Overland Park, KS. Please pass the word. More information can be found at the following URL: www.kchamlink.org.

Lon is working on leading a “shootout”. We have set the date, June 13. Lon will be providing detail on what a “shootout” is and how he is planning to conduct it.

The Club's 145.29 repeater is working great thanks to the work of Bill (WA0CBW), Tom (N0GSG) and Scott (KD0KKV). The membership approved the purchase of a new controller for the 443.725 repeater. Once in place, both of the club's repeaters will have the same controller and therefore the same programming ability. The best of the old controllers will be kept as a spare.

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/. But, you can email us the month and day (we don't publish the year!). We will add it to the list.

MARCH

- 10 Eddy Paul, KY0F
- 16 Mike McCoy, N0MCG
- 17 Cal Goodman, KI0FZ
- 26 Harry Wilson, KA0JLN



TIDBITS

Definition – Wheatshocker: One who harvests wheat. Purportedly, the name dates back to a 1904 poster for a football game. The team earned the "shockers" moniker because many of the early players harvested wheat to earn money. A shock is a bundle of grain stacked in a field for drying. A shocker is the person harvesting and stacking the grain.

Breakfast/Lunch Club – Monitor 145.29 and you might find that there is a breakfast, or lunch meeting in the works. This is an impromptu meeting, so be prepared! Monitor the 145.29 repeater around 8:30 am – 2:00 pm every day. All are welcome. The location varies.

ENSOR Campfires – It won't be very long before the weather is warm enough for campfires at the ENSOR farm. These are a great way to enjoy the company of fellow operators and enjoy a toasty fire. The fire generally is started around late afternoon and lasts until about 10pm. Bring your lawn chairs, something to cook over the fire, and your beverage. There are several grills over the hot coals. Add to that, some room for cast iron Dutch ovens.



The outing is usually announced only a day or two before - during the Wheatshocker net on Thursdays, so also be prepared for this one. We hope to see you there.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, March 14, 2014 7:30 pm

The program for this evening will be "Solar Weather" by Julie Adolphson (KC0ZIQ) Meteorologist in Charge, Pleasant Hill. This will take place in the regular meeting space – North Entrance.

Friday, March 28, 2014 7:30 pm

Program: Tesla Coils by Austin Feathers (KD0YDX). This will take place in the regular meeting space – North Entrance.

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.



March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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.

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.

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. 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/.

National web site: 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/.

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/.

Larry Woodworth, WØHXS, Ensor Park and Museum Manager

Meeting Date: Friday, February 14, 2014

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Attendance:

Self introduction was with name and call sign. The check-in sheet had 23 signatures. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from January 24, 2014 were read and accepted unanimously.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on Hand	\$	245.31
Checking Account	\$	263.88
Savings Account	\$	8,908.77
Total	\$	9,417.96
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$	1,080.05
Memorial Fund	\$	150.00

Old Business:

- 145.29 MHz Repeater – The new controller has been programmed and installed. Bill Brinker, WA0CBW asked for a motion to purchase a new controller for the 440 MHz. The motion was made and seconded. After a brief discussion the motion passed.
- New Club's website is up and comments were all positive.
- Field Day 2014 - This year coordinator is Jay Greenough, KD0OYQ. Jay provided a quick overview of the plans for this year. We're planning on it being bigger and better than last year. Jay asked for volunteers to help. Please see him after the meeting.
- Lon Martin, K0WJ announced the date of the "Shoot Out" competition. Friday, June 13. More details will be provided later.
- Auction and activities set for October 24 and 25. Brian Short, KC0BS asked for members to be on the look out for items.
- Steve Martin, K0SLM asked for any Feedback articles to be email to him for the March addition. Steve also advised that the March issue will be sent via email. Several members commented on liking the new format.

New Business:

- Club Meeting on February 28, 2014 – Due to another activity at the church, our meeting that night will be in the Fireside Room. Please use the entrance on the East side of the Church as the North Entrance will be locked.

Reports:

6m	NR	
440 Wheatshocker	17	February 12
	05	February 05
	17	January 29
2m Wheatshocker	30	February 13
	30	February 06
	40	January 30
10m USB Roundtable	06	February 13
HF Activity		
Contacts into Central Europe, (Italy and Switzerland). South America (Brazil). 12, 15 17 20 and 10 are active.		

Announcements:

- Technician Class – February 22 & March 1 at JOCO KS EOC in Olathe. Contact Brian Short, KC0BS.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Program:

The program was a presentation by Ron AD0DX on "Mobile in the Kansas QSO Party."

Notes taken by Bill Gery, KA2FNK
Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary.

Meeting Date: Friday, February 28, 2014

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Attendance:

Self introduction was with name and call sign. The check-in sheet had 37 signatures. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from February 14, 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	\$	245.31
Checking Account	\$	266.88
Savings Account	\$	8,342.77
Total	\$	8,854.96
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$	522.05
Memorial Fund	\$	150.00
Active Members		136

Old Business:

- New Club's website – All club member that want their contact information to show up in the Members Only section will need to fill out the "Membership Form" under the "Become a Member" tab and select "Update Address/Change Call Sign" an also select "Yes" to the question "Do you want your Name, Call Sign, E-mail, and Phone No. listed under the Member's Only Tab (password protected)?". This will give us the OK to post your info in the directory.
- Field Day 2014 – Currently working on getting a copy of our insurance policy to the Parks Dept. so our permit can be issued.
- Lon Martin, K0WJ announced the date of the "Shoot Out" competition. Friday, June 13. The Frequency will be on 40 meters.
- Steve Martin, K0SLM reported that the March issue of the Feedback will be sent via email.

New Business:

- Club Meeting on February 28, 2014 – Due to another activity at the church, our meeting that night will be in the Fireside Room. Please use the entrance on the East side of the Church as the North Entrance will be locked.

Reports:

6m	NR	
440 Wheatshocker	20	February 26
	15	February 19
2m Wheatshocker	23	February 27
	20	February 20
10m USB Roundtable	15	February 27
HF Activity		
Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Russia, Australia, Japan using JT65 on 10m, 15m, and 20m. Japan and Australia on 10m mobile. France on 10m FM!		

Announcements:

- Technician Class – February 22 & March 1 at JOCO KS EOC in Olathe. Contact Brian Short, KC0BS.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Program:

The program was a presentation on the upcoming World War I special event station WW1USA..

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary.

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.

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.

HAMFESTS

April 19

Ararat Hambash

5100 Ararat Drive

Kansas City, MO 64101

<http://www.hambash.com>

May 16-18

DAYTON Hamvention

Dayton, OH

<http://www.hamvention.org/>

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS (PARTIAL LIST)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Apr 5 | MS Walk - Kansas City |
| Apr 26 | The Olathe (Garmin) Marathon |
| May 10 | Jack and Coke Ride |
| May 25 | Lone Star Century Bike Ride |
| Jun 6-7 | Hospital Hill Run 2014 |
| Jun 8 | ADA Tour de Cure (aka Wheel to Weston) |
| Jun 8 | Joels Ride |
| Jun 14 | Run The Good Race |
| Jun 15 | Ride The Fountains Bike Ride |
| Jul 12 | Lenexa Moonlight Bike Ride |
| Jul 27 | Summer Breeze Bike Ride |
| Aug 10 | Midwest Meltdown |
| Aug 24 | Jackson County Triathlon |
| Aug 24 | Cider Mill Century Bike Ride |

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

Congratulations



John Raydo, KØIZ was presented a plaque for winning First Place in the 2013 Colorado QSO Party - Phone, High Power, Single Operator category. 1070 contacts in 15 hours, running his Colorado station remotely from Kansas City.

Steven Martin

KØSLM



I will attempt to give you a bit of background about myself while giving you an example of the type of *FEEDBACK* article that you can easily write about yourself.

I would like to see much more of this type of article for the *FEEDBACK* – about you – the JCRAC member. How about it? You can be the featured member – just email your copy to the editor.

At the age of about 14, I became curious about amateur radio. But, life events prevented further examination of it until much, much later.

In June of 2010 I was licensed with the call sign of KD0MEL, tested by Norma Libby, WØKC. As Don, WØDEW would have it, I would become known as “MEL”. But, like many of you, I changed the call sign to a vanity call.

As a “technician”, I do enjoy the 2 meter and 440 bands on some of the repeaters around town. While not always checking into the JCRAC Wheatshocker nets, I do occasionally, if I have something to contribute. To me, radio communication is more about the “social” and “subjective communication” aspect of “amateur radio” rather than the technical side of it. I guess that makes me an “appliance operator”. So be it. Even so, I do enjoy working a number of the Public Service Events in the area. In 2011, I started the web site – www.larryslist.info.

I do have technical interests but those are geared more toward the audio and visual aspects of technology. My current endeavor is a home-based business called ACCENT VIDEO Film Transfer Services. With that, I digitize motion picture film and

video tape to DVD, BluRay and Internet based systems. The whole process is very time consuming. A great deal of time is spent to get these items to look and sound as good as possible. Some of you may be aware that I also transfer 78 rpm records as well – including Edison’s Diamond Discs (1912-1929) that have a vertical cut. All are a great challenge especially since much of the material is not in good condition. But all these items deserved to be preserved. The type of material runs the gamut from home-type material, TV commercials to full feature films – and everything in between. Still, I find it fun.

Prior career endeavors were with () American Multi-Cinema, Inc. (AMC Theatres) – IT Data Center Manager; | HNTB Engineers, Architects and Planners – IT Systems Manager; | NAZDAR Inc. (Silk Screening Ink Mfg) – Network, Office Automation, Security and Voice Systems Manager; and | Sprint PCS – Retail Systems Project Engineer. My favorite project at Sprint was the “MTA” where you make payments in the retail store from a free standing kiosk. We refer to that as a “Money Taking Apparatus”.

I get much of my interest in technology from my grandparents. My grandfather was the publisher of a local town newspaper laboriously type-setting print all by hand. Around the 1930’s he was the first in the county (Pike County, IL) to create flashing Christmas Tree lights using flashlight lamps soldered together, a car battery and a musician’s Metronome. My grandmother was supportive of his “tinkering”. She also performed type-setting and played piano for silent motion pictures earlier in her day.

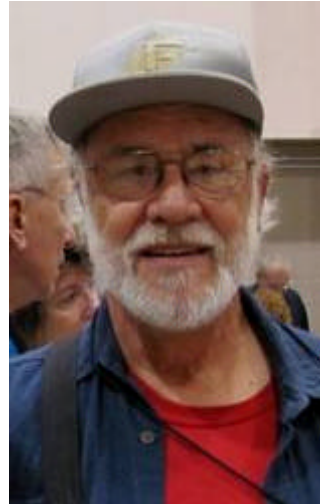
In December 2013, it was suggested that I try out my ability to edit the *FEEDBACK*, formerly edited by Dick Carter, NØTO. As you know, I am making attempts to do just that. It is a tall order, I must say.

As a diversion, I enjoy swimming and bike riding. Both of which, I certainly need to do much more of. Perhaps some day I can devote even more time to those fun things.

Steven, KØSLM

So You Want A Ground Mounted Vertical

By Don Warkentien, WØDEW



Many times I have heard people contemplate putting up a vertical antenna. Not a bad idea especially if you want something that is not so visibly obtrusive. They work well but only if they have a good ground plane to work against. A ground mounted vertical antenna's efficiency is greatly dependent on conductivity of the ground beneath it. A ground rod or even several ground rods don't come close to doing the trick.

The best thing to do is to put out a bunch of wire radials on or in the ground - the more the better. To begin to get reasonable efficiency you should have at least 30 radials, 60 radials starts to get close to ideal and 120 is what is used in commercial installations. Adding radials after 60 however begins to have diminishing returns so going from 60 to 70 will not make that big a difference. Less than 30 the efficiency drops off rapidly. If you want a ground mounted vertical shoot for 30 radials and if possible more. It is not necessary for the radials to be $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength since the majority of current flows in the ground plane nearest the antenna. A bunch of short radials is much better than a few long radials.

Now you say, "Boy that sounds like a lot of work". Well yes and no, it does require a lot of wire but any old scrap wire works well. Standard 12 gauge house wiring is great and you can often find scraps of it anyplace they are doing construction or you can buy a 500 foot role at Home Depot for not a lot of money. I think it is better if there is no insulation on it. That way it can make a physical connection to the earth itself but it will work fine if the insulation is on it as well.

Carefully choose a location for your vertical with consideration given to the ground radial system. Get a good sized piece of galvanized water pipe, 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size and at least 4 feet long. Drive the pipe into the ground until you have only 10 to 12 inches sticking up. Make certain you get the pipe in perfectly vertical. This will now become your universal mount for your vertical. You could also dig a hole, put the pipe in and fill the hole with concrete.

Continued On Next Page

The Radial System

Make a ring about 12 or 14 inches in diameter with bare copper wire 8 gauge or larger. Quarter inch to one-half inch copper tubing will work well too. Place the ring you just made over the pipe sticking out of the ground. This ring will be the tie point for all your radials. You will need a propane torch or a large soldering iron to solder the radial wires to this center ring.

Solder a radial wire to the ring and then stretch it out to its full length. Put a loop in the end of the wire and then a 6 or 7 inch gutter nail through the loop. Stick the nail into the ground so that the wire is pulled tight. A couple of taps with a hammer on the nail will bury the nail below the surface.

Make some staples about 6 inches long with galvanized wire like the kind they use to hang suspended ceilings. Stick them over the wire and into the ground at about 1 ½ foot intervals. Stick the staples in as far as you can, using a hammer if you like. Continue with as many radials as you can using any length from 1/8th wavelength to 1/4th wavelength long.

In a very short time the radials will not even be visible as the grass grows around them. The lawn mower will roll right over them with no problem. By the time they are there through one winter and the following spring they will actually be under ground. Now you do have a real problem if you want to aerate or roto-till the yard but you will have a vertical antenna that will perform very well.

73

Don, WØDEW



**Just got
your License?
Now what
do you do?**

What's a "Net"? *Upgrade my license?*
Join a club? **You need:** *Emergency Services?*
Where do I listen? **Ham 101** *Buy a Radio?*
Public Service Events? *Join Larry's List?*
Do I Need an Elmer?

What: Ham 101 – a clinic for newly licensed operators
When: Thursday March 20, 2014, 6:30 – 9:00 pm
Where: Christ Church Anglican, 5500 W. 91st Street
 (91st and Nall Avenue) Overland Park, KS

Get your questions answered, meet experienced Hams that want to help, get assistance with radio programming, and get on the air by checking into a live Net.

Questions: Contact NZØF at nz0f.kchamlink@gmail.com



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