

# FEEDBACK

APRIL 2018

>> **NEW MEETING TIME: 700 P.M.** <<

## March Meetings

### Something Old - Something New

#### Something Old: WBØSFT

Steve Everley, KCØVYS, followed the Santa Fe Trail to get to the JCRAC meeting on March 23. Because his interest in history, Steve knew that the 200th Anniversary of the first trips on what would become the Santa Fe Trail occurred in September 2021 (westbound) and May 2022 (eastbound).

Using the Route 66 special event stations as a model, Everley wants to set up a series of stations operating along the trail.

Everley began operating WBØSFT (WB is for William Bicknell, who led the first trips on the trail) in 2017 so that he could start getting

experience operating--and coordinating a group of operators--on the trail before the main event. He counts 20 or 30 good operating spots along the trail and is looking for like-minded history-buff Hams who would like to participate. Look for Steve on the air or contact him at [wbØsft@gmail.com](mailto:wbØsft@gmail.com).

#### Something New: FT8

Herb Fiddick, NZØF and Kyle Patchen, WQØG disclaimed expertise, but nonetheless made an informative live-demonstration of FT8, a reliable low-power, low-information, low-operator-intervention digital transmission mode.

**see SOMETHING on 7**

## APRIL MEETINGS

**April 13** -- "Basic Troubleshooting Methodology" -Greg Wolfe, KIØKK, President, Santa Fe Trail ARC

### April 27 – Field Day Planning

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 7:00 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church (north entrance), 7600 West 75th Street (75th and Conser), west of the Fire Station.

Much of the membership travels to the Pizza Shoppe at 8915 Santa Fe Drive for pizza buffet and an informal continuation/criticism/clarification of the topics raised at the meeting ... or anything else.

*LEAVE THE CHURCH, TURN RIGHT (WEST) ON 75TH. TURN LEFT (SOUTH) ON ANTIOCH. TURN RIGHT (WEST) ON SANTA FE. PIZZA SHOPPE IS JUST PAST THE SONIC ON YOUR LEFT.*



Gary O'Neill -  
KAØNRZ



Matt Boos - KEØQDA



Terry Stutzman -  
KEØQDX

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

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*A newsletter is only as good as its contributors. Given the caliber of the FEEDBACK's contributors, any failings of the FEEDBACK must be laid squarely at the feet of your editor.*

*Technical wiz Tom Wheeler, NØGSG and first-class photographer Charlie Van Way, NØCVW regularly fill these pages.*

*And then there's Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, who always finds a clever context to present an interesting idea in an easy-to-digest format.*

**-- Chip Buckner, ACØYF**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Snow on April Fools Day! I thought it was spring. I hope everyone traveling on Easter Sunday traveled safely. Coming back from our family gathering was a bit of a challenge within the Kansas City metro area.



Please note the new start time of the Business meeting which is now 7 PM CDT. The change was suggested and voted on at the club meeting. Yes, that does mean that we will head to pizza earlier.

We will be getting a jump with Field Day 2018 planning on April 27<sup>th</sup>. We have the same location as last year. The farm site provided good good separation between stations. If you have any ideas to help improve the setup bring these up during the program. One thing we seem to leave to the last minute is the Saturday evening meal.

Public service events are returning in April. Learn more about your equipment by putting it to good use. Volunteering is a very good way to meet other hams. Spend a few hours helping others.

Last year the Club provided volunteer guides for Ensor museum. The museum is open only on Saturday and Sunday and needs volunteer for about four hours each day. This year as last we will have a drawing for the gift certificate for those that cover a shift.

**- Bill Gery - WA2FNK**

## **Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - March 9, 2018**

Meeting Date: Friday March 9, 2018. The meeting started at 7:30PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 40 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the February 23, 2018 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 85.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 919.46
Checking Account	\$ 378.44	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 10,422.15	Active Members	151
PayPal Account	\$ 143.88		
Total	\$ 11,029.47		

### Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well.
- Field Day 2018 – June 23 – 24. We are looking for volunteers to organize Saturday's dinner and station captains.
- Patrick Davidson, KEØIDD has a possible storage solution for the Club's equipment.

### New Business:

- "Van" Van Daveer, KØHCV offered up for the Club's consideration the idea of replacing the Club's 443.725 Repeater with New Fusion Digital DR2X. The idea would be to place this Repeater in AMS mode so it will function in both Digital Fusion mode and Analog mode. Yaesu is still running a special on the DR2X selling at \$900. In addition we would like to set up Fusion Node for this Repeater at Dennis Smeltzer's, KCØQBU house. Cost for this Node set-up is \$300 for a Fusion FTM-100DR radio and \$125 for a Wires-X HRI-200 Node box. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to allow up to a maximum of \$1500 to purchase the Repeater, Radio, and Wires-X node box. The motion passed with a majority vote.
- The Amazon Smile program is currently offering 1.5% donation to the Club until the end of March.

Reports: - Report were not take due to the meeting running long.

- 6 m – NR
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – NR.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – NR.
- HF Activity – NR.

### Announcements:

- Ham 101 Class April 14. See KcHamLink.org
- WW1USA May 12 – 13.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

### Program:

- The Program for this evening was a Presentation on The New FT8 Digital Mode by Herb Fiddick, NZ0F and Kyle Patchen, WQ0G.

## Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - March 23, 2018

Meeting Date: Friday March 23, 2018. The meeting Started at 7:30PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 30 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the March, 2018 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 118.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 959.46
Checking Account	\$ 832.91	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 10,424.76	Active Members	152
PayPal Account	\$ 38.54		
Total	\$ 11,414.21		

### Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well. The new 443.725 Digital Repeater went on line in the AMS mode
- Field Day 2018 – June 23 – 24. We have secured the Hutton Farm again for this year. Like last year the Park says they are planning to tear down the building. We shall see.
- The Amazon Smile program is currently offering 1.5% donation to the Club until the end of March.

### New Business:

- Lon Martin, K0WJ announced the next VHF Handheld Shootout. It will be on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.
- A discussion was held on the possibility of changing the meeting time to 7:00 pm. This would allow for the meeting to end earlier. This would also allow for extra time for the Program (and not the business part of the meeting) if needed.

### Reports:

- 6 m – NR
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 23 Check-ins on March 22 and NR for Check-ins on March 15.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 17 Check-ins on March 21 and 13 for Check-ins on March 14.
- HF Activity – NR.

### Announcements:

- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

### Program:

- The Program for this evening was a Presentation on the upcoming Santa Fe Trail Special Event Station by Steve Everley, KC0VYS.

### Old No. 3

“Wow, Unck! This cave is huge. We must have walked half a mile already,” exclaimed Hambone as his Uncle Elmer guided him through a cave, or is it an old mine?

“Some say it’s a cave and others say it’s the old Tuttle Creek mine. I think it’s a bit of both. It really looks like a natural cave except for these pieces of ore cart tracks here and there on the floor.”

“This is so cool, I’m calling Dude to come see this,” exclaimed Hambone as he punched his brother’s name on his cell phone. “Oh shuckydarn, there’s no service in here. I guess radio waves can’t make it through all this rock.”

Ignoring his nephew’s comments, Elmer continued, “There’s no record of commercial gold mines here in Kansas, but there were rumors of small deposits scattered around. That was back in the early 1900s.”

“Somebody must have found something,” countered Hambone. “Otherwise they wouldn’t have made three mines.”

“I’m not sure there ever were three mines,” mused Elmer as he and Hambone continued farther into the cave. “The truth is this one’s called number 3 because there’s a small red number 3 painted on the wooden lintel over the entrance. It has faded so much it’s barely visible now. But, as far as I know, no one has ever found numbers 1 and 2. This tunnel continues into the cliff face for at least a mile but never gets more than about twenty-five feet under the surface.



“Yeah, Hammy,” continued Elmer, still reminiscing about his old school days, “When Dill and I went to school here, this was the place for secret parties. I think everyone

knew about old Number 3, but not everyone knew exactly where it was.”

“But Unck, it seems like it’s just part of this park, isn’t it?”

“It is, now. I had to get permission from the Park Headquarters to go in here today so it is not really very secret. But it is fairly hard to find.”

“Well somebody has found it,” observed Hambone shining his flashlight on a pile of new-looking electronic equipment. “There’s a DJ setup with lights and cables and speakers and some gi-normous batteries over there. I guess there’s no electricity in here.”

“There have never been any facilities here. The lady at the Parks Department said a big outfit from Lenexa is setting up this place for a huge concert next month. They’re billing it as some sort of golden show in a real gold mine. Somebody must have noticed that any music played in here echoes and echoes. It sounds awesome!”

“Look Unck! They’ve already strung up lights.” Said Hambone as he shined his flashlight on the ceiling. Let’s turn them on and…”

“Wait, Hammy! I promised the lady we wouldn’t touch anything.”

But Elmer’s warning came too late. Hambone already had found and flipped a switch setting the cave ablaze with light.

“Wow, Unck, It’s beautiful! There’s even some stalactites – or is it stalagmites? – hanging from the ceiling over there.”

“It is!” exclaimed Elmer. “I never really knew what it looked like in here. We only had flashlights and lanterns. By the way, do you know how to remember the difference between stalactites and stalagmites?”

“No Unck, how?”

“Stalactites hang from the ceiling so, they must be ‘tite’ or they would fall down,” laughed Elmer.

“Unck, what was that?” asked Hambone suddenly getting serious as a heavy rumble rippled through the cave floor.

“I don’t know, but I don’t think it was a truck above us. This part of Kansas does have small earthquakes. Let’s get out of here,” said Elmer as he grabbed Hammy’s arm and headed for the entrance.

Although it took Elmer and Hambone well over an hour to meander through the cave, it took less than fifteen minutes for them to run out. Or, almost out.

“Unck, wait,” panted Hammy bending over, hands on his knees trying to catch his breath.

“Shouldn’t we be seeing some daylight at the end of this tunnel by now?”

**see HAMBONE on page 6**

**from HAMBONE on page 5**

“Yeah!” replied Elmer. “But this pile of rocks is blocking our way. That noise must have been this landslide or cave-in.”

“Oh no,” moaned Hambone.

“We’re trapped in here forever.”

“Well, at least the park lady knows we’re in here. She’ll call for help.

I also told Tim, Dill and Dom at the club where we were going. They’ll come running when Dill’s scanner picks up the emergency calls.”

“That’s nice. But we’re still trapped,” said Hambone.

“Yes, but look at the bright side, the lights are still on. That means the falling rocks missed the batteries and stuff. Otherwise, we’d be trapped in the dark. That’d be worse,” said Elmer, trying to make the best of their situation.

“But how will they find us, Unck? You said this cave is over a mile long. Our cell phones don’t work, we sure can’t holler loud enough and there are no pipes to bang on like in the movies. We have no way to call for help.”

“All true, but wait! I’ve got an idea!” said Elmer. “Radio waves can’t get out, but magnetism can. Compasses work in caves, right?”

“If you say so,” moaned Hambone. “Why do you think the searchers will be using compasses to look for us?”

“I do say so and I don’t think they’ll be using compasses. But they will be using electronic devices like sensitive microphones and ground penetrating radar. If we can screw up those instruments even a little bit, they might figure out that we are trying to signal them.”

“I think it’s a long shot, Unck, but what have you got in mind?”

“I saw a full thousand-foot spool of #14 wire and some pretty hefty PA amplifiers back by the batteries. We can use them to make a magnetic transmitter.” Said Elmer, his enthusiasm building as he began to hatch a plan.

Meanwhile, on the surface, the Parks Department lady had triggered a full-scale search and rescue operation. Blinking red and blue lights were everywhere. Firemen were wheeling gurneys, police were stretching yellow tape, overweight self-appointed authority figures sporting Walmart security vests were herding spectators and serious-looking TV reporters were reporting to their cameras that they had nothing to report.

However, within this cloud of chaos, three guys seemed oblivious to the pandemonium. Tall professorial Tim was studying a box with green lines on a small screen. Dom, whose white beard made him a dead ringer for Santa was maneuvering something that looked like a small ladder. Dill, was simply walking in circles with his head cocked to the ground like a robin looking for worms. Dill was the first to speak.

“Did you hear that?”

“Hear what?” asked Dom.

“That, that music,” said Dill.

“I only hear the crowd. You’re probably hearing someone’s radio,” said Tim as the trio continued to walk.

“No, it’s definitely some kind of music. I think it’s getting louder, don’t you hear it?”

“I don’t hear anything and this spectrum analyzer isn’t picking up anything,” said Tim.

“Oh, now I hear something,” said Dom. “I had my hearing aids turned off.”

“Wait! The music’s stopped. Now I hear Elmer’s voice saying ‘help, we’re here!’” shouted Dill as he moved around to find the place where the voice was strongest. “I don’t know how, but I can hear them through the ground! This is the place to dig!”

\* \* \*

Hours later, after their harrowing experience, we find Hambone and Elmer in the Good Griddle Café where the sign over the coffee pot says, “*Order what you want, eat what you get,*” munching on burgers with their three friends.

“So,” asked Dill, “How in the world did you make such a loud sound that we could hear music and your voice through all that rock?”

Hambone, eating like a teen-age boy at dinnertime, devoted his full attention to food as Elmer explained.

“We were very lucky in that a production company was setting up for a concert and had left their PA equipment along with some huge batteries in the cave. We used their stuff to make a magnetic induction transmitter.”

“A what?” asked Dom.

**see HAMBONE on page 7**

**from HAMBONE on page 6**

“Induction transmitter,” continued Elmer. “We found a thousand-foot spool of #14 wire and used it to make a coil about 12 feet in diameter on the cave floor. We hooked it to the output of the DJ amplifier and started playing CDs and talking.”

“That’s the biggest amp I’ve ever seen!” piped up Hambone. “It must be more than a thousand watts, it’s awesome and battery-powered too!”

Unck just wanted to talk saying mayday or something like that. But I said no! Classic *Metallica* will make a much bigger sound.”

“It sure did,” moaned Elmer. “We didn’t have a speaker connected to the amplifier, but the coil itself vibrated enough to make a really loud sound echo endlessly through the cave. I hope I never hear that noise again.”

“Did somebody say *Metallica*?” came a voice from across the cafe. It was Hambone’s friend, Joey, who had wandered into the restaurant unnoticed and was standing at the jukebox.

“Hi Joey,” said Hambone, waving him over to their booth.

“I still don’t see how it worked. Did it somehow shake the rock?” asked Tim.

“No, simpler than that,” said Elmer. “I knew you guys would join the search and I hoped that at least one of you with hearing aids would have them on. Since many hearing aids have magnetic pickup coils to get better sound from telephones, I figured I could reach you that way.”

“*Metallica* it is,” said Joey as he slipped in a quarter and punched a button. “So, what you really made was a great big telephone earpiece,” said Dill. That’s why we thought we were hearing an actual sound.”

“And I couldn’t hear it because I don’t have hearing aids,” said Tim.

“That’s right,” shouted Elmer, trying to be heard as *Ride the Lightning* blasted through the diner. “Now I wish I had hearing aids so I could turn them off.”

**>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<**

**from SOMETHING on page 1**

The presenters moved quickly from the technical (8-tone frequency shift keying named for Steven Franke, K9AN and Joe Taylor, K1JT), to the practical (get WSJT-X for your computer and review any number of on-line sources--Herb recommended [http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8\\_Hinson\\_tips\\_for\\_HF\\_DXers.pdf](http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf) as being particularly helpful) into a demonstration.

The two showed projected a computer laptop screen and participated in several HF QSOs.

Detractors muttered this was a case of "my computer talking to your computer". Enthusiasts countered that it was a mode that allowed low-power stations in antenna restricted locations to make DX QSOs.

**>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<**