

FEEDBACK

SEPTEMBER 2018



JCRAC President Bill Gery, WA2FNK, explains and demonstrates message passing with Fldigi and Flmsg - Photo by NØCVW

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Sep 14 -- "How to" for CW - Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

Sept 28 – TBA.

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 SOIC ON YJC

The Fast Light Digital modem application (Fldigi) is a software application that allows inexpensive computer sound cards to be used as a two-way link between a computers and radio hardware. In his presentation to the club, JCRAC President Bill Gery, WA2FNK, told the club that he found it particularly useful in combination with its companion program, Flmsg, to move uniform message traffic encountered in emergency communications.

The Fldigi programmers had, Gery said, taken particular pains to ensure that Fldigi had the same look-and-feel on any of a variety of computer operating systems. This interoperability enables any person familiar with the operation to fill in on any Fldigi-equipped system. Moreover, because Fldigi is "clever" enough to recognize and translate many kinds of digital

communication protocols, people outside of an emergency zone can help pass messages without the need to prearrange communication protocols.

Flmsg, Gery said, is particularly useful when a team has to pass uniform traffic. The software presents a form to a user,. The user and software fill in the blanks and transmit the form data. A recipient who has the same form, receives the data to populate the form on his end. Because the operators are using the same form, the two systems need only send the information in the form "blanks". The systems "understand" that the first piece of data (perhaps the timestamp) goes into the first blank, the second piece of data (perhaps the transmitter location) goes into the second blank, and so on. The prearrangement promotes uniformity and efficiency.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - Kansas QSO Party
- 2 - New Faces / President's Corner
- 3 - August Meeting Minutes
- 5 - Hambone and the Storage Surprise - A Hambone Adventure - Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

-> FEEDBACK <-

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

Bill Gery, KA2FNK, President

Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, Vice President

Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary

Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL, Treasurer / FEEDBACK distribution

* * *

Chip Buckner, ACØYF, Editor

Charlie Van Way, NØCVW, Photography

Deb Buckner, KDØRYE, Contributing Editor

All email addresses are available at w0erh.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August proved to be a sad month for the Amateur radio community in Johnson County. First there was the tragic



accident that took the life of Lon's grandson. Then we heard of the passing of Jack Halzer, WØYZS, on August 27.

Jack was a big supporter of Amateur Radio

and, in particular, our Club. His donations of items to our annual auction was a big part of its success.

Jack ended his professional public service career last year when he retired from the Johnson County Sheriff's department and Emergency Management and Communications after 27 years.

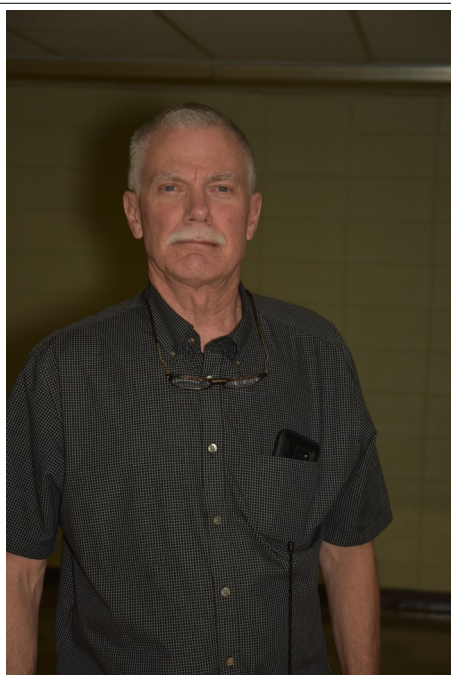
I had the opportunity to hear of his experiences in the "Tin Can Navy" as he served on a destroyer. My brother also served in destroyers, so I have a few of his stories that I shared with Jack.

A few big public service events in September. Hopefully you can find the time to volunteer for at least one of these events. Look up Larry's List for the events .

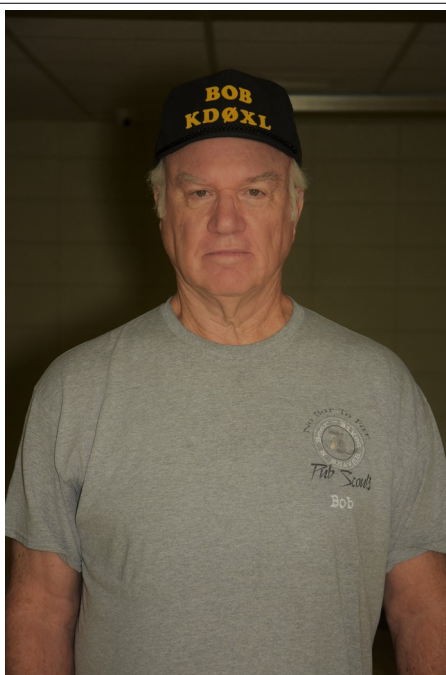
Ted will be looking for volunteers tour guides for Ensor. Please sign up for one of the slots. It only a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday.

The Ensor auction planning is under way along with other activities. We have not been able to nail down the dates. Look through your shack for that items looking for a new home.

- Bill Gery - WA2FNK



Chuck Tribble, K2CDT



Bob Lukens, KDØXL

Welcome First-Timers

Be sure to say hello to Chuck and Bob, who attended their first JCRAC meetings in August. Chuck is a new ham whose licensing was a father-daughter project. Bob is a new-to-us Extra class licensee from Raymore. *Photos by NØCVW.*

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - August 10, 2018

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 31 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the July 27, 2018 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 82.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,087.83
Checking Account	\$ 884.80	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 9,426.03		
PayPal Account	\$ 123.08	Active Members	150
Total	\$ 10,515.91		

Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working according to plan.
- Ensor Auction in October. Donations are starting to come in. Vince Sabia, KE0CGR will be in charge of the raffle.
- A report on the baseball cap with the Club's logo on in by Ray Erlichman, K0RSE and company will take place during the 2nd meeting in August.
- We are considering the possibility of moving both Nets from 8 pm to 7 pm. Tom Wheeler, N0GSG took a look at all nets taking place on Wednesday and Thursday and found it is best to keep our Nets at 8 pm.

New Business:

- We received some bad news today that Lon Martin's, K0WJ grandson Tommy Martin was killed in a church van accident. Two additional teens were also killed. After a moment of silence a motion was made to donate \$100 in Tommy's memory. The donation will be directed as seen appropriate by the Club's leadership. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 10 participated on August 9 and 5 participated on August 2.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 14 Check-ins on August 8 and 17 Check-ins on August 1.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 17 Check-ins on August 9 and 18 Check-ins on August 2.
- HF Activity – Weather Service Net on 7.220 MHz.

Announcements:

- Summer Breeze August 26. See Herb Fiddick, NZ0F.
- Hawk 100 September 8-9. See Bill Gery, KA2FNK to volunteer.
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Program:

- The Program for this evening was a presentation Auxiliary Emergency Communication "AUXCOMM" by Jay Greenough, WJ0X and Bill Gery, KA2FNK.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - August 24, 2018

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 37 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the August 10, 2018 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 82.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,095.83
Checking Account	\$ 752.88	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 8,181.73	Active Members	150
PayPal Account	\$ 61.54		
Total	\$ 9,078.15		

Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working according to plan except for the occasional APRS burst and country music on 145.29 MHz repeater.
- Ensor Auction in October.
- A report on the baseball cap with the Club's logo was given by Ray Erlichman, K0RSE. After a large amount of research, he is recommending style #112 structured (hard front) mid profile, snapback closure in light blue to match the color of the Club's shirt. Cost is \$18 plus tax. A decision will be made at the next meeting.
- WW1USA September 29-30. The last WW1 event will be November 3-4.

New Business:

- Update on Jack Holzer, W0YZS. His health is failing fast.

Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 3 participated on August 23.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 14 Check-ins on August 22 and 10 Check-ins on August 15.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 22 Check-ins on August 23 and 25 Check-ins on August 16.
- HF Activity – None.

Announcements:

- Kansas QSO Party – August 25-26.
- Tom Wheeler, N0GSG had an article published in QST's September addition.
- MS 150 September 22-23. See Herb Fiddick, NZ0F.
- Hawk 100 September 8-9. See Bill Gery, KA2FNK to volunteer.
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Program:

- The Program for this evening was a presentation on Fldigi and Flmsg by Bill Gery, KA2FNK.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

A Hambone Adventure - Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB
Hambone and the Storage Surprise

“Dude, guess what I just bought!” shouted Joey as his well used white Vespa scooter buzzed up to Dude’s hammock swaying between two trees in his front yard.

“I don’t know,” replied Dude groggily as he struggled to pull himself up and see who was talking. Although he recognized Joey’s voice (who doesn’t?) he

pretended to be surprised. “Oh, it’s just you, Joey. I thought I was under attack by a monster bee. I guess you bought that motorcycle wannabe and want to take me for a ride on it.”

“Yeah, okay, but that’s not the big news. I just won a silent auction at Fred’s Sheds and got the contents of one of the storage units.”

“That’s nice, what’s in it?” asked Dude.

“I don’t know. That’s why I’m here to get you to help me open it.”

“Tell me again, you bought the contents of some locker and don’t even know what you bought?” Said Dude.

“Yeah, that’s right and it only cost fifty bucks. I guess people rent lockers and then forget about them or at least stop paying rent. If Fred can’t collect the rent after some time, he auctions the right to whatever is in the locker to the highest bidder. Fred just called me and said I won locker number fifteen.

I have three days to empty the locker or start paying rent. C’mon, let’s see what I got. Oh, bring your bolt cutter, we have to remove the other guy's lock.



* * *

With one cut, the lock fell away and as the door slid up, the boys, expecting a pile of junk, were surprised buy what they saw. A light was on.

“Joey, this isn’t somebody’s old stuff, it looks more like a little office. There’s a desk and chair, a file cabinet and some packages ready for shipping.

Here’s some handy talkies and one of those all-band ‘shack in a box’ transceivers,” exclaimed Dude. “A ham must have rented this locker.”

“Dude, let me borrow your knife. I want to see what’s in these packages.”

As Dude handed Joey his knife he kicked over a box spilling its contents. “Joey, you hit the jackpot! This box is full of money!”

“Hey, you! Get outta there! That’s private property!” Shouted two suits running towards the stunned boys.

At first the boys thought to stand their ground and explain that they bought the locker fair and square at auction. But as the men approached, there was something about their appearance that lead the boys to believe that those men weren’t open to discussion and running was the better choice. The butt of an automatic sticking out from one guy’s coat may have influenced the boys’ decision.

Dude jumped on the back seat as Joey kicked the scooter to life. With a loud buzz, the mighty Vespa accelerated to several miles per hour as it swerved along the foot path between the lockers. The men, shouting, panting and apparently low on endurance, quickly gave up the chase. The boys, clearly high on adrenaline, rode on to Dude’s house and were sipping a couple of summer coolers when Joey’s phone rang.

“Hello.

Yes, this is Joey.

Oh hi, Fred.

What? You told me the wrong locker number? My locker is number fifty, not fifteen?

Yeah, I already opened it.

Me and my friend were in it when a couple of tough-looking guys came running and hollering at us. They seemed really pissed.

No, no. We ran away.

Bye, Fred.”

“So, Joey, you opened the wrong locker,” mocked Dude. “No wonder those guys were so mad. We were messing with their stuff.”

“I opened the locker Fred said, it’s all his fault. But, I’d still like to know what those guys were up to in there.”

“Me, too. That transceiver was warm like it had just been working.”

“And those packages were weird,” added Joey. “They were labeled, but not with addresses, just numbers.”

see HAMBONE on page 6

from HAMBONE on page 5

“Like these,” said Dude, holding up his sweaty arm. “I was gathering up the HTs when the bad guys started chasing us. I dropped the HTs, but my arm sweat absorbed some of the writing. These numbers look like frequencies, to me.”

“Dude, I thought they were addresses. That 462.5625 on the package I was trying to open almost matches my grandma’s house number.”

“Joey,” said Dude in a very low voice. “I think those guys are up to something and it’s not good. Let’s spy on them and see what they’re doing.”

“Yeah, let’s,” enthused Joey, anxious to break the boredom of a late summer afternoon.

“I’ve got a scanner that goes to over 500MHz so if those numbers are HT frequencies, we can hear what they’re saying,” added Dude. “We can hide in your real locker number fifty so we’ll be close to the signals.”

That night the boys snuck back into Fred’s Sheds and, using only the light from a dim lantern (Author’s note: when sneaking around you should always use a dim lantern) slinked, unnoticed they hoped, past locker fifteen. As they expected, a line of light under the door told them it was occupied. Moving on, they quietly raised the door on locker fifty and slipped inside.

As they expected, their scanner picked up lots of signals which the boys duly recorded.

* * *

“You boys broke into somebody’s locker and a couple of thugs chased you away?” Elmer exclaimed.

“No Unck. We did not *break* into the locker. The locker manager told Joey it was his, but the locker manager got the number a little wrong. We are completely innocent.”

“Yeah, but that locker sure had some strange stuff in it,” added Joey. “We didn’t mean any harm, but those old guys sure did. One even had a gun!”

“I’m not surprised that those guys chased you,” continued Elmer.

“They probably thought you were robbing them.”

“Unck, can we get past those guys and listen to what we recorded from the scanner? Please!”

“Okay, okay, let’s hear what you got.”

As the recording played, Elmer became more and more interested. Finally, he commented, “I don’t know what it is, but it sounds a little like a delivery company courier dispatcher. There is something strange about this whole thing. I’m calling my friend Hal. He’s a very sharp detective.”

In the dark of the next night, illuminated only by Joey’s dim lantern, the four figures set up a monitoring post in locker fifty. But this time it was different. Hal brought coffee and donuts, the boys brought soda and a pizza and Elmer brought complaints.

“I don’t see why we can’t monitor these signals from my shack. Besides, my receiver is better than this scanner,” whined Elmer already a bit testy seeing as it was almost past his bedtime.

Hal motioned to stop talking. He seemed to be listening for something specific to come out of the scanner. But the messages were very short, often only a word or two and they jumped from one frequency to another.

It was after midnight when Hal heard what he was looking for. With a big smile he removed a tiny handy talkie from his suit coat inner pocket, pressed the button and his encrypted voice saying, “Okay,” went out over the air.

Moments later, even through their locker’s closed door, it sounded like all hell had broken loose outside.

Running out of their cozy locker, the boys saw other lockers flying open revealing policemen, motorcycles and squad cars – lights blazing, sirens screaming.

Glimpsing inside locker fifteen, they saw the two thugs being cuffed and a third guy lying spread-eagle on the floor.

Over the scanner, Elmer heard other police actions taking place and realized that it was time to take the boys home and out of harm’s way.

Early the next morning in Elmer’s shack, he and the boys were trying to piece together what happened when Hal appeared with coffee and donuts.

“I want to thank you guys for some great detective work and helping crack this case,” said Hal passing around the donuts.

“What you discovered is a delivery service for illegal merchandise. From time to time, we would capture one of their couriers, but we never could find their central point, until you did.”

see HAMBONE on page 7

from HAMBONE on page 6

“You mean that these guys are fancy dope peddlers?” asked Elmer.

“Way more than that,” explained Hal. “They work at the big-guy level. While most of their business seems to be the delivery of wholesale quantities of drugs, they also deliver cash, arms and ammunition. They may have other outlets, too. They are a very reliable and secure service.”

“I don’t see what makes them so safe,” said Dude.

“It’s their organization. Here’s how it works. Those two thugs are probably the top guys here in Kansas City. They take orders, get the items to be delivered and organize everything.

All the packages are wrapped to look alike so the couriers can’t tell what’s in them. One main courier takes several packages to drop-off

points where they are picked up by the lower-ranked guys. We call them mules. The mules deliver the goods to the final destinations.

“So what’s with the radios and frequencies on the packages,” asked Joey.

“When a courier gets a package, he gets only part of the destination address and a handy talkie assigned to a specific frequency. On his way, he calls the dispatcher and the dispatcher identifies the caller by the frequency he calls in on and gives him the remainder of the destination address. The courier makes the delivery, smashes and discards the HT and leaves. The courier never knows who or where the dispatcher is and the dispatcher doesn’t know the full address or the courier.”

“But, couldn’t you guys find the dispatchers the same way we did?”

Hal went on, “Oh, we tried. But they move every time they have a new batch of deliveries. Besides, the messages only lasted a second or two. That made them impossible to track.”

Joey piped up, “We’re glad to be able to use out technical expertise to help keep law and order. Does this mean we are going to be famous with TV interviews and get our pictures in the paper?”

“I’m afraid not, at least not right now,” sighed Hal. “We’re going to keep this ring going until we get all the bad guys. Except for the three guys we caught here, nobody knows that this happened. I mean NOBODY, got it?”

With one voice Elmer and the boys chorused, “Got it!”

>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<