

FEBRUARY 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



I hope that everyone's outdoor antennas are holding up to the windy weather we have had of late. 50 to 60 mile an hour gusts for that length of time can really put some stress on mounts. Not to mention strain on wire antennas between trees.

The club's new web site has been launched (www.w0erh.org). Please thank Ted for all his work to bring the new site online. The site is still under construction, but it has many new features including past Feedback publications online. There is a member only section where current Feedback publications will be posted as well as other club only information. You can create your own account and once verified you will have access. We also want to thank Dennis Smeltzer, KCOQBU for his work on the old site.

The January Larry's list for 2014 is out with the public service events all of which need volunteers. These events are a great way to improve your skills as an Amateur Radio Operator and meet fellow hams. I have never come away from an event without new knowledge and ideas. These events help us be prepared in the time of need by placing you in a role that will not be that much different in a real event.

Bill, KA2FNK, President

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.

FEBRUARY

- 19 Stephen Werts, NØSW
- 22 Tom Wheeler, NØGSG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE / UPDATED ITEMS

This Month's Meeting Schedule	.2
JCRAC Club Dues	
Last Month's Meeting Minutes	
Hamfests	.5
Public Service Events	.5
Editor's Note	.5
Featured Member	.6
Low Tech Fox Hunting, by Don WØDEW	7-8
Wheatshocker Net - A New Record	9

TIDBITS

New Club Website

The new club web site is now online. Our thanks go to Ted, NØTEK and Tom, NØGSG for the great amount of time and effort expended. And, the work doesn't stop there. It is an ongoing task!

An email from Ted discussed the process to update your membership and to create an account on the "Member Only" portion of the website.

· Repeater Controller

The 29 repeater's new controller and a new crystal have now been installed even with additional adjustments – despite the "moron alerts"! So the machine is back to normal with its own ability to ID along with the courtesy tone.

Audio intelligibility has been significantly increased over that of the past.

Thanks go to Bill WAØCBW, Tom NØGSG, Scott KDØKKV and Don WØDEW.

Winterfest

Saturday, Jan. 25 - The St. Louis Suburban Radio Club Winterfest was host to a number of our members headed by Don, WØDEW. All proceeded to Collinsville, IL in two vehicles with 2, and 10 meter rigs for communications.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, February 14, 2014 7:30 pm

The program for this evening will be "Mobile in the Kansas QSO Party: Lessons Learned" presented by Ron, AD0DX. This will take place in the regular meeting space – North Entrance.

Friday, February 28, 2014 7:30 pm

Program: Presentation on the upcoming World War I special event station WW1USA. This will take place in the Fireside Room. Use the East entrance. North entrance will be locked.

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. \$8.25 plus tax. Their regular menu is also available. All are welcome.

February						
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	

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.

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. Walkins are welcome!

For more information contact Jim Lee, NØKCB 913-745-5121 or e-mail: <u>JimLee@kc.rr.com</u>. 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

LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – 1ST MEETING

Meeting Date: Friday, January 10, 2014

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Attendance:

Self introduction was with name and call sign. The check-in sheet had 38 signatures. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from November 8, 2013 were read and accepted with one opposed vote.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on Hand	\$ 477.89
Checking Account	\$ 888.63
Savings Account	\$ 8,210.77
Total	\$ 9,577.29
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,046.88
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00

Old Business:

- 145.29 Repeater During the last cold snap the crystal moved about 2.5kHz off frequency.
 Fortunately we had a spare crystal on hand and were able to get it installed. The off frequency crystal will be sent out to be re-ground. The new controller will be installed this Sunday January 12.
- Work continues on the new Club's website. We are currently working on getting the w0erh.org web address transferred over to the new web host.

New Business:

- Field Day this year is June 28 and 29, 2014. We will be back at the Observation Tower in Shawnee Mission Park. It was mentioned again what a great visual representation of volunteerism through the T-shirts hanging on the clothes line.
- Ensor Auction this year will be October 24 and 25, 2014.
- Steven Martin, K0SLM has volunteered to be the interim Feedback Editor.
- A suggestion was made to give Christ Church Anglican at 91st and Nall a \$100 donation as a thank you for giving the Club a last minute place to hold our Christmas party. This was followed by a motion and a unanimous yes vote.

- Bill Gery, KA2FNK wanted to thank all that participated in Skywarn Recognition Day. 598 contacts were made.
- A suggestion was made to give Jack Holzer of the Johnson County Emergency Communication group a complementary lifetime Club Membership. Jack has supplied the Club with equipment donations from Johnson County which we have auction off at the Ensor event in the fall. This was followed by a motion and a unanimous yes vote.

Reports:

6m	NR		NR	
440 Wheatshocker	10	Jan 1	21	Jan 8
2m Wheatshocker	15	Jan 2	30	Jan 9
10m USB Roundtable			06	Jan 9
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HF Activity

Anguilla [Caribbean] on 15m SSB. Brazil. Delaware and DC on 10m. Gibraltar, Uruguay, and Slovenia. Baja Peninsula on 160m CW.

Don't forget about W1AW portable operations from each State all year long.

Announcements:

- FLDigi Training January 11 at JOCO KS EOC in Olathe
- KCHEART meeting January 18 at CenterPoint Medical Center.
- Technician Class February 22 & March 1 at JOCO KS EOC in Olathe. Contact Brian Short, KC0BS.
- Presentation on the upcoming World War 1 special event station WW1USA – February 28 at JCRAC club meeting. See Larry's List for additional presentation dates.
- Brian Short, KC0BS is interested in interviewing Longtime Hams in the Kansas City area to record the history of the hobby. Let him know if you are interested in helping out.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Program:

The program was a discussion of possible program topics for 2014.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES - 2ND MEETING

Meeting Date: Friday, January 24, 2013

The meeting started at 7:30 pm.

Attendance:

Self introduction was with name and call sign. The check-in sheet had 55 signatures. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes from January 10, 2014 were read and accepted with one opposed vote.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on Hand	\$ 245.31
Checking Account	\$ 231.63
Savings Account	\$ 8,909.39
Total	\$ 9,386.33
Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,065.88
Memorial Fund	\$ 150.00

Old Business:

- 145.29 MHz Repeater The new controller has been installed and is working well. It's now time to purchase another controller for the 440 MHz repeater. This matter will be taken up at the next Club meeting.
- Work continues on the new Club's website.
 Transfer of the w0erh.org web address over to the new web host should happen any day now.
- Field Day this year will again be organized by Jay Greenough, KD0OYQ. He reports the plans are to make this years Filed Day bigger and better than last year. See Jay if you are willing to lead any activity or station.
- Lon Martin, K0WJ is organizing a "Shoot Out" competition. Look for more details later this spring.

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:

Reports.				
6m	1 contact – K0KEX in Missouri			
440 Wheatshocker	21	Jan 15	13	Jan 22
2m Wheatshocker	27	Jan 16	28	Jan 23
	With 1 3 rd party on Jan 23			
10m USB Roundtable	11	Jan 16	07	Jan 23
HF Activity				
Svalbard on 17m. Guantanamo Bay on 20m. North American QSO Party. W1AW in various states				

Announcements:

- Santa Fe Trail ARC will have a Special Event Station celebrating the day Kansas joined the Union. The event will be held on Saturday January 25 at Mahaffee Visitor's Center from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- LaCygne Hamfest February 1.
- St Louis. Area Hamfest January 25.
- Technician Class February 22 & March 1 at JOCO KS EOC in Olathe. Contact Brian Short, KC0BS.
- Weather Spotting Training January 27 at Olathe North High School from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
- Brian Short, KC0BS is interested in interviewing Longtime Hams in the Kansas City area to record the history of the hobby. Let him know if you are interested in helping out.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Program:

The program was a presentation by Dan from Associated Radio on what's new in the Ham Radio world.

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 hamtype 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

Apr 5	MS Walk - Kansas City
May 10	Jack and Coke Ride
May 25	Lone Star Century Bike Ride
Jun 15	Ride The Fountains Bike Ride
Jun 28-29	ARRL Field Day
Jul 12	Lenexa Midnight Bike Ride and Walk
Jul 27	Summer Breeze Bike Ride
Aug 10	Midwest Meltdown
Aug 24	Jackson County Triathlon
Aug 24	Cider Mill Century Bike Ride
Sep 01	Bike for the Brain Ride
Sep 13-14	MS-Ride
Sep 21	Bikers for Babies

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.

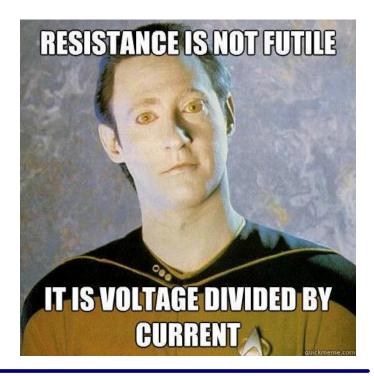
Steven, KØSLM

Chili Con Queso

16 oz. Mexican Velveeta cheese7 oz. Pimento Cheese Spread10 oz. can diced Rotel tomatoes with chiles1 lb. hamburger



Cook hamburger until done and drain off excess fat. Cut Velveeta cheese into chunks. Melt Velveeta in microwave or large double boiler. Place cheese in crock pot and fold in Pimento cheese. Add cooked hamburger. Stir until blended. Cook on low-med until smooth stirring often. Add Rotel tomatoes last. Serve warm with your favorite nacho chips. (Milder version – Use 8 oz Mexican and 8 oz Reg. Velveeta)



James L. "Mac" McCoy, WØLQV

It is not often that I am pressured to write up something for publication in a small newsletter called [the] FEEDBACK. On such occasions I have a tendency to get carried away and go beyond the specified limitations. If this be the case then I will leave it to our fine Editor to chop it into little pieces or extend to several issues, whatever he wishes.

In 1932, when I was on the verge of six years of age, my parents and I moved to Kansas City from Des Moines, Iowa due to an employment change and before long I discovered that an amateur radio operator lived only three doors north. The man's name was Lowell Divinia, and I found out that his

call was W9VBK (WØVBK when the zero district was formed). It wasn't long before I found myself in his "shack" and fascinated by the blue glow of the 866 tubes in the final power supply. Thus began my career in amateur radio.

To my regret, Mr. Divinia moved away to Wichita to work for Boeing Airplane Company in their security department. I didn't see him again until the early 50's when I was in the Air Force MARS program and he was the State MARS Director. The only thing I had left was a crystal radio

with which I could hear the three main stations in town and, of course, W9VBK, three doors north.

1938 was the final milestone of my youth. My parents had a new house built in Westwood designed to meet their needs and, although I still had the interest in amateur radio, it had waned to some degree with a new interest in the basement workshop provided for me during the construction of the house. With this I was able to tinker all I wanted. As time marched on I graduated from Westwood Elementary and entered Shawnee Mission Rural High School (now North).

A full interest in Amateur Radio still eluded me because in my sophomore year the U.S. went to war and although an amateur operators license could be obtained, no station license with a call sign was available and about ten days after my graduation I enlisted in the Navy (June, 1944). The enlistment lasted one year, eleven months and twenty-eight days (June, 1946).

Everything went smoothly until the summer of 1948 when I decided to "get that amateur radio license". After a bunch of tries I finally succeeded in passing the thirteen words per minute code test and then the written exam. Hallelujah, I made it. I was 22.

Still living at home, my room was on the second floor rear.

To the east was a small room plumbed for a half bath but never finished as such. That was my first ham shack (Phase One).

As time went on and with an increase in equipment I needed more space. Further to the east was a walk-in attic which I decided to turn into a large ham shack (room finished out to 20 x 12 feet). (Phase Two). [ed. As pictured from his QSL card – Final power was 300 watts. Westwood, KS].

The above setup lasted me about another ten years until I got married and moved to Overland Park,

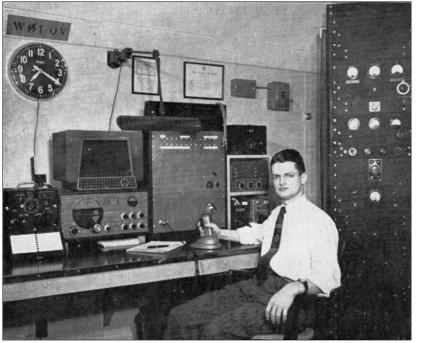
KS and all of the ham shack had to go to the basement. (Phase Three).

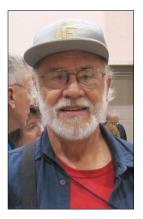
The station in Overland Park has been in existence for the last 65 years only with a few changes in arrangement and equipment to upgrade operation.

As for DXing, that is another story.

J. L. "Mac" McCoy

[ed. "Mac" served as the JCRAC Treasurer, elected in 1995, retiring from that position at the end of 2013. He remains active in the club including meetings and nets. Mac also makes name tags complete with call sign and QTH].





Low Tech Fox Hunting by Don Warkentien, WØDEW

There is lots of information on direction finding and fox hunting using beams, loops and Doppler systems. What is not so easily obtained is information on how to find a transmitter when you don't have the special equipment. I feel this is much more important than how to build, buy and use the special equipment.

If an occasion should arise where it becomes necessary to find a transmitter and it is not a planned fox hunt, chances are you will not have the special equipment with you. In this situation it will probably not be convenient to go home and get it, or by the time you do go home to get it the situation may no longer exist. In other words when a real need arises where a transmitter must be located, typically time will be limited.

The following is referenced to finding a signal on the 2 meter band but you can use the same process to find a signal on other frequencies.

Equipment Needed

The equipment you need for this type of fox hunting is what you have on hand. First is a radio with a signal strength meter and second are some small wire and a way of cutting the wire and third is an understanding of how your surroundings may affect a signal.

The first thing you have to understand is that the signal strength meter does you no good if the reading is full scale. When this happens you have no indication how close or how far you are from the source. The meter must always be reading on scale. When you get closer to the signal you must make adjustments to reduce the signal so that it is on scale. Here are some of the ways you can accomplish this.

Remove the antenna and replace it with a short piece of wire of perhaps 1 inch long. If the signal is still to strong you can cut the wire shorter and finally just use the radio with no antenna at all.

If further reduction is necessary adjust the frequency to one side or the other of center frequency. If the signal is on 146.500 MHz adjust your radio for 146.505 or 146.495. You can adjust it even farther off frequency if necessary.

Continued on next page

The Process

When you start looking for the signal, use only enough antenna to get the signal strength on scale on the meter. Look around for a large building that you can circle. Walk around the building or drive around the building while observing the signal strength. You will find that the signal will be strongest on one side of the building verses other sides. If you don't see much change you may be too far away from the building. Start driving or walking in that direction while looking for the signal strength to increase. The signal strength will bounce around as you move so average the readings you get while moving.

If you are in a hilly area and the signal is on the other side of a hill, the signal strength will be weakest when you are on the side of a hill away from the source. It will be strongest when you are on the side of the hill toward the source. The signal at the top of the hill will not be as strong as the signal on the side of a hill. As you drive, be aware also of hills on the side of you that may affect the signal.

As you progress the signal should increase to a point and then as you begin to get farther away it will again decrease. When you are sure the signal is decreasing go back to the point where it was strongest. Again determine which direction the signal is coming from now. Start traveling in that direction while observing the signal strength on the meter. At this point you should have decreased the antenna size substantially to keep the signal on the meter. You are getting closer and smaller objects can now block the signal so you can use a metal sign, a truck, a car or even your body to shield the signal and determine which direction it is coming from. Large objects are required to block the signal at a distance while, smaller objects work well as you get closer.

As you search you should never have to add more antenna because the signal is weak. If the signal gets weak to the point where you can't hear it anymore go back to a point where you were able to hear it and go in a different direction. Never add antenna only remove it when the signal gets strong.

When you get to a point where the signal is full scale with no antenna and the radio is 10 kHz off frequency, be careful, you are standing on the transmitter.

73 DE WØDEW

WHEATSHOCKER NET A New Record

WØERH 145.29 Repeater

January 30, 2014 - The Wheatshocker Net recorded a record number of check-ins and ran for a record amount of time.

The total check-ins for the net was an even 40 and the net ran from 8:00 PM until 9:28 PM.

Forty check-ins for a net is not that many compared to many nets on the air. However, when you take into consideration that 1) net control calls on every station that checks in, 2) asks for comments and then 3) include net controls return comments, every check-in lasts for minutes instead of seconds. Most nets just record calls with no comments unless someone specifically has traffic. In that case, the number of check-ins can easily run over 100.

Here is a list of all check-ins, including Net Control. Thanks to all – Don, W0DEW

01	W0DEW (NC)	21	KA2FNK
02	N0GSG	22	KC0OOW
03	K6TBJ	23	W0AIB
04	KD0KKV	24	KD0WYP
05	KD0NRC	25	KC0ULE
06	W0RCT	26	KD0SRD
07	KD0YWR	27	KD0TXA
08	KC0VDH	28	KD0H0Y
09	N0CVW	29	N3PDT
10	KC0HZY	30	WA0CBW
11	KA0GVW	31	KY0F
12	AD0GA	32	KD0TXQ
13	KD0WRP	33	KD0NTY
14	KD0SHI	34	W0EAO
15	KC0EVN	35	KD0VXQ
16	K0ARM	36	KDPVY
17	W0LQV	37	K0SLM
18	N0TEK	38	N0IRS
19	AC0FP	39	WB0RRK
20	AD0AB	40	WU0Q

[ed. Congratulations to Don, WØDEW. This is quite an achievement. The format of this net works very well, is more fun, and is much more interesting. Now, top this record!]

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 93
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201