

**JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO
AMATEURS CLUB, INC.**
P.O. Box 93
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

FEEDBACK

JULY 2015



Public service T-shirts beckon Shawnee Mission Park passersby to the JCRAC Field Day site.



JCRAC members and guests enjoyed Mexican food catered by Sombrero's Restaurant (Hwy 7 and Shawnee Mission Parkway) beneath an All Seasons Rental tent.

JULY MEETINGS

July 10 – Project Show and Tell - Bring in and Explain a Project (finished or in progress)

July 24 – Field Day 2015 Video - John Raydo, KØIZ

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.

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.

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Official Relay Station operator
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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

All email addresses are available at w0erh.org

Late, Late, Late

Club member travel and Chip's two weeks on stage out at Shawnee Mission Park [*The Secret Garden went very well, thank you--Chip*] proved to be insurmountable obstacles to timely publication. Thanks for your patience. The August FEEDBACK is already in the works.

-- Chip and Deb

FEEDBACK LOOP

The ideas for the Hambone stories come from conversations I hear at club meetings, breakfast clubs and on the air. If you would like Hambone, Dude and Elmer to discuss a particular topic, please email it to me at jcharlton602@everestkc.net or just tell me whenever you see me.

Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

In the Repeater presentation at the June 12 club meeting some incorrect information was give about FCC Rules Part 97.109(e). The ARRL book "FCC Rules and Regulations" effective February 23, 2007 that I have updated to the present still listed this rule as active. This rule was deleted May 5, 2004 and re-numbered to 97.115(c). I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Bill Brinker, WAØCBW

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Field Day 2015 is over, all that is left is to submit the paper work to ARRL. The weather Saturday and Sunday could not had been better. The temperature was far from the mid 90 and 100 degree temperatures of years past. There was, however, some grumpiness about it being too cool Sunday morning.



Thank yous go to everyone who helped to make Field Day a success. The list is long. **Jay Greenough, WJØX**, did a great job with coordinating the event again this year. There was plenty of help with setup and tear down. The break down was accomplished in about one hour again. **Brian Short, KCØBS**, served and the head coach for the GOTA station in the Salvation Army communication vehicle. The food Saturday was great thanks to **Ron Henry, WØAAU**. The networking of the stations log was watched over carefully by **Bill Warrington, KC4TKL**.

The testing team heading up by **Norma Libby, WØKC**, was busy from the start. Thirty-one persons walked away with either a new license or an upgrade.

Shawnee Mission Park has proved to be a great location for public exposure. We had large number of people visit the site again this year. I'm working on submitting the Club's Field day results. Here are the 2015 QSL/s CW 508, Phone 531 and Digital 288.

- Bill Gery - WA2FNK

JCRAC Earns Satellite Contact Points at Field Day



Keith [McKinney, KEØAEP]'s radio programmed in, his new antenna should smoke me."

Keith, who used to make his living with cameras and camera equipment, assembled his own gear. "Check out his truck install", too, Eddy said. "Impressive for any ham, let alone someone as new as Keith."

The best part of the exercise, Eddy reported, was the number of people who turned out to watch. "That is what Field Day is really all about, even if we never made a contact."

Eddy Paul, KYØF and has Hams in Space team have introduced FM satellite communications to hams around the country.. He was, therefore, a natural to lead JCRAC's Field Day efforts. Eddy (shown here with **Jay Greenough, WJØX**) and his presentation partner used some ingenuity to cut through Field Day noise to make a satellite contact. "You schedule it with your friend who is an another Field Day site, then you listen for only his call and he listens only for you." It is, he said "a complicated way to call Raytown", but both clubs earn the bonus points for the satellite contact.

Although Eddy was prepared to stay up for the 4:00 am satellite pass, the gambit worked at 7:30, so he "didn't see any reason to get up at 4:00 am".

Eddy suspects that his days as the club's lead satellite operator may be coming to an end. "We used my handheld antenna", he said, "but as soon as I can get



Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - June 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Unavailable at deadline.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - June 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Field Day set up. No meeting.

JULY CALENDAR

SUN	MON-TUE-WED-THU	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6 - 7 - 8 - 9	10	11 @9:00 W5YI Testing Independence EOC 950 N Spring Street Norma Libby, WØKC - (816)353-8408 (816) 536-0469 normalibby@sbcglobal.net
12 @05:30 Shawnee Mission Triathlon & Duathlon - (Shawnee Mission Park) -- Mike Bellinger, KØUAA - 816- 363-1118 - mbbellinger@aol.com	13 - 14 - 15- 16 21 @ 19:00 VE Testing - Raytown ARC -- Community of Christ -- 63rd and Manning Steve Lufcy, KØOU - 816-353- 6705 - k0ou@comcast.net	17 @22:00 Lenexa Moonlight Bike Ride - Steve Rainey, WDØDPB - 913-829-6438 - serainey@juno.com Warrensburg Hamvention www.waarci.org/hamfest.htm	18 @ 09:00 VE Testing -- Johnson Co. Library, 151st & Antioch -- Jim Lee, NØKCB - 913-745- 5121 - jimlee@kc.rr.com Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
19 @07:00 Washington, MO 53rd Annual Zero Beaters ARC Hamfest - Washington Elks Hall, 1459 W. 5th Street	20 - 21 - 22 - 23 21 @ 19:00 VE Testing - Raytown ARC -- Community of Christ -- 63rd and Manning Steve Lufcy, KØOU - 816-353- 6705 - k0ou@comcast.net	24	25 @09:00 W5YI Testing - Mid- Continent Library, 850 NW Hunter Drive, Blue Springs, MO. - Jim Arnold, NØSAK - 816-229-3209 - arnold- j@swbell.net
26 Cider Mill Ride - Louisburg, KS - Brian Short, KCØBS - 913- 638-7373 - kc0bs@arrl.net	27 - 28 - 29 - 30	31	AUGUST 1

Hambone Field Day - Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

"Hi boys, how was your Field Day in the great northern wilderness?" asked Uncle Elmer as Hambone and Dude dragged themselves through the door.

"It was sort of great, Uncle," responded Hambone.

"But nothing like we expected," added Dude.

Their trip had been in the planning stage for over six months. Hambone and his younger brother, Dude, together with Al and Jeff, wanted to try working Field Day from a remote location using only portable QRP rigs that they backpacked to the site. The boys had no delusions about making tons of contacts running QRP from portable rigs, but the idea of primitive surroundings and simple CW equipment appealed to them.

Hambone and Dude met Al and Jeff at the Dayton Hamfest the year before and became fast friends. Al and Jeff lived near Rhinelander, Wisconsin, and were no strangers to camping in the woods. On the other hand, Hambone's and Dude's only contact with nature had been the Jungle Cruise at Disney World some years back. So, they were looking forward to communing with nature, cooking over a campfire and sleeping under the stars even if it was for only one night. One thing led to another and soon Hambone and Dude found themselves preparing for the trip which included making the hard decisions about what to take and what to leave.

"I've got my KX3 all packed. You know, the one I got for graduating from high school," said Hambone,

flaunting his new toy in his brother's face.

"And how long did it take you?" asked Dude who was about to graduate after only three years of accelerated and early college courses.

"Four years, just like everybody else."

"Bid deal," countered Dude.

Changing subjects, Dude said, "I don't think we need to pack three rolls of toilet paper. We will only be gone for two days and one night. They take up space we could use for food and batteries. And, shouldn't we take more snack bars and fruit?"

These were big decisions since the boys planned to carry their tents, camping equipment and everything else on their backs. Still, the choices were made and Saturday morning found the boys pulling into the state park campground near Rhinelander. They were greeted by Al and Jeff hollering and waving excitedly. They planned to leave their cars at the campground and hike into the woods. But something seemed a little strange.

Hambone and Dude parked next to an RV and were soon joined by a second RV settling into an adjacent space. Besides Al and Jeff, there were three or four pudgy older men standing in the road trying to look official in their green Walmart vests with FT-60 handy talkies blaring from their chests. Judging from the equipment, it appeared to Hambone that they were setting up a couple of ham stations right there in the campground.

"It's great to see you guys again," greeted Al as the boys shook hands and hugged each other warmly.

"It's great to see you guys, too. I can't wait to get started cooking over a fire and becoming one with nature. Oh yes, and making a few contacts, too," Dude joked. "We've camped before in campgrounds, but this is the first time in real wilderness.

What's happening here, is this also a Field Day site?"

"Well, things got changed around a bit," said Jeff, sheepishly. "I described our plans at the last club meeting and several other members wanted to join us. At first, that seemed okay, but then the 'buts' began."

"What do you mean, but?"

"One guy said his wife would love to come along but, she couldn't really walk very far into the woods. So, he thought that maybe we could set up only a mile or so from the parking lot. Al and I, or at least I, sort of agreed to that. A mile into the woods is a pretty good distance.

Then a different guy piped up and said he wanted to go but, he had to stay close to his car in case the babysitter called and he had to run home. That encouraged a couple more guys to offer a SSB phone rig as well as a RTTY station but, because of the power requirements, they needed a generator. They had a very nice 5000 watt generator but, it was too heavy to drag a mile into the woods. So, they too, wanted to set up camp nearer the parking lot.

see HAMBONE on 6

from HAMBONE on 5

One *but* led to another until the only place everyone could agree on was right here. That's why they're setting up SSB and RTTY stations. They are leaving the CW part to us."

"Can't we still go off into the woods and operate?" asked Hambone.

"We can go only a short distance because there is a Field Day rule that requires all the stations at a given site must be confined within a limited area. That puts us less than 100 yards into the woods, but it's better than nothing. Jeff and I have already put our stuff over there," added Al.

"A hundred yards it is," said Hambone trying to seem upbeat as he and Dude picked up their packs and headed for their site.

It did not take the boys long to throw their wire antennas into the trees and lay some radials on the ground. Jeff and Al each brought along MFJ single band QRP transceivers and before long all three radios were making test contacts. Meanwhile, more RVs appeared in the parking lot. A party atmosphere was developing as more and more green-vests scurried about directing traffic, running wires and hooking up equipment.

The official start of Field Day found the boys making contacts at a surprising rate. Sure, they were frequently buried in pile-ups, but they kept at it and their logs grew.

About two hours later, the generator roared over the music from the RVs and signaled the start of Field Day and the green-

vests' stations. They, too, enjoyed feasting on the many contacts just waiting to be logged.

"Well, it's not quite the quiet, pristine wilderness I had in mind," apologized Jeff. "But at least we are somewhat in the woods and the campfire is nice."

"You're right," added Dude. "We are in the wilderness, more or less, with friends, maybe more than we anticipated, and making more contacts with our tiny radios than we ever thought possible. Yes, life is good."

"Don't forget, one of the RV guys works for a porta-potty company and had one delivered. That means we don't have to wander off in the darkness and dig a cathole when nature calls. That's a really big deal, especially if there's mosquitoes," said Jeff.

Everything seemed to have settled into a routine as the sun went down and the mosquitoes came out. The boys had plenty of repellent, but the 85-degree evening temperature coupled with the total stillness of the woods added a level of discomfort that they hadn't expected. It gave them a new appreciation of the efforts of the trappers and explorers that had camped in this same area over one hundred-fifty years before. Across the parking lot, the picture was different.

Concerned for the boys' well being, one of the green-vests came over to their camp, asked how many contacts they'd made and invited them into the air-conditioned comfort of their vehicle. The boys showed him their log and thanked him for the invitation, but explained that they were getting back to nature.

The visitor remarked that the boys were ahead of the SSB station had over 100 more QSOs than the RTTY guys. Although Al's and Jeff's club would ultimately get credit for all the contacts, there was still a friendly rivalry between the individual stations.

The visitor, apparently a RTTY operator, renewed his offer of air conditioned comfort and left. But, as he was returning to his station, the boys heard him say, "We've got to do something! Those kids with their toy rigs are beating the pants off us."

After what sounded to the boys like a heated discussion, the RTTY guys finally decided that to win they needed more power so they could break through the pile-ups. One of the group said he had linear in the back of his truck that could run 1500 watts RTTY all day. The decision was made, the RTTY guys were upping their power.

It was now fully dark. But, setting up the amplifier went quickly thanks to the floodlights placed around the area. The new power amplifier did, indeed, break through the pile-ups, but that's when the problem began-no, not with the amplifier, with the generator.

The generator originally was located well away from the RVs at the end of an industrial grade hundred-foot extension cord. While it was still audible, its sound was not annoying. But not any more.

see HAMBONE on 7

from Hambone on 6

With the greatly increased load, the generator noise increased to the point it was keeping some sleepers in the RVs awake. And they were complaining loudly, which woke up more sleepers. Clearly, the generator had to be moved farther from the RVs.

But, the only additional extension cord available was an old spindly, very light duty household extension with only 16 or 18 gauge wire. Noticing the small size of the cord, the green-vests began arguing over how best to use it.

One said it was just too small and couldn't carry the load. Another said it would work if it were placed at the far end of the main extension because the current would be lower there. A third said it didn't matter where it was placed and, since it was easier to put it at the generator end rather than rearrange all the connections to the main cord in the dark, that's where it should go. Convenience won and the green-vests put the spindly cord between the now more distant generator and the original extension. But all was not well.

Hey, what happened to our voltage?" shouted one of the green-vests. "It used to be 120 and now it's only 105 to 108."

"Does the radio still work?"

"Yeah, but just barely."

"Well then, keep making contacts, we've got to catch up to those kids."

Everyone, more or less satisfied with the new setup, settled back into their evening routine – boys working QRP and sweating in the

woods, green-vests working QRO with generator-powered rigs in the breeze of several electric fans and wives and visitors either sleeping or watching satellite TV in the air conditioned RVs. But this peaceful scene was not to last.

"I think I smell something burning," shouted a green-vest from the SSB station.

At that point, the lights flickered, the radios went silent and all was dark.

"I do, too. Hey, who turned off the power?" added another.

"Nobody, I can still hear the generator."

"Look! There's a fire over by the generator!" shouted a third.

By now the entire camp was in an uproar.

"Where's the fire extinguisher?"

"It's by the generator!"

"No it's not! Didn't you move it when you moved the generator?"

"No, I thought you did!"

"It's still where the generator was!"

"That's dumb! I can't see anything in the dark!"

A quick thinking green-vest picked up a cooler now filled only with ice water and ran towards the glow near the generator. That was both good and bad. Although he successfully doused the fire, his aim was poor and he doused the generator, too. The generator sizzled, sputtered and with a bang, stopped dead. With the fire out and realizing there was nothing more they could do until daylight, everyone went to bed. Now, finally, the woods were both dark and quiet.

At the extreme other end of the site, the QRP boys were unaware of the fire fiasco until, at the crack of dawn...

"Good morning, boys! C'mon over and have some breakfast with us," said what appeared to the groggy boys to be a beautiful angel who smelled like bacon, eggs and coffee. "We have more than enough and you growing boys need to eat." In reality, the voice was that of a smiling RV lady.

Although the boys really wanted to cook and eat in the wild, after spending a hot night on the ground with mosquitoes and other assorted fauna, the offer of a real breakfast was too good to refuse. They scrambled out of their tents and in no time were enjoying what seemed like ambrosia with the green-vests. Where they heard...

"It's all your fault, the generator won't start because you threw water on it!" accused one green-vest.

"So, what was I supposed to do, let the fire keep burning? I didn't see anyone else doing anything to stop it."

"The real problem was the crummy cord you insisted we use, not the generator" added another.

"I didn't insist we use it, I only offered it."

"If you guys had listened to me and put the light duty cord at the far end like I said, none of this would have happened. But no, you insisted on putting it where it was convenient."

see HAMBONE on 8

from HAMBONE on 7

"Oh, shut up. That's nothing but BS and you know it!"

"I'm just sayin', you had it your way and we had a fire."

Not wanting to become part of the argument and feeling a new surge of energy that only a hearty breakfast can give, the boys thanked the ladies for their generosity and returned to work

the last few hours of Field Day. The bands were kind and their logs grew long.

Meanwhile, the green-vests made a few more contacts by connecting their transceivers to the RVs' generators and running them barefoot at low power.

"So, Uncle," asked Hambone, "Did that guy have a point about putting the lighter cord at the far

end of the heavier one because the current would be less? It sounded like a good idea to me and maybe would have prevented a fire." "No! That's 100% BS. And now your assignment is to show, using Ohm's Law and any other electrical principles, why it is BS," added Elmer.

"Yes!" whispered Dude as he made the victory sign.



ARRL Kansas Section Manager, **Ron Cowan, KBØDTI**, presents a new "Official Relay Station" certificate to **John Morse, NØEL**.

Morse Affirmed as NTS Official Relay Station Operator

The National Traffic System trains amateur operators to handle written traffic and to participate in directed nets. Operators commit to participate in regularly scheduled co-ordinated message-handling in preparation for emergency communications.

JCRAC member **John Morse, NØEL**, has operated an Official Relay Station in the National Traffic System for decades,

Jaime Charlton, ADØAB operates, Lynn Kuluva, KØIMI logs, and Steve Duffy, WØSTD looks for something more interesting. Field Day visitors on the other hand, made the CW station their top stop.



Ted Knapp, NØTEK, watches Sonny Fontes, KDØSHI make a digital contact.

Club members and visitors gather to watch Eddy Paul, KYØF's 7:30 pm attempt to make a satellite QSO.

