

FEEDBACK

JUNE 2016

JCRAC Elects Officers for 2016 - 2017



President Bill Gery, WA2FNK



*Vice President Jaimie Charlton,
ADØAB*



*Treasurer Cal Lewandowski,
KCØCL*



Secretary Ted Knapp, NØTEK

The JCRAC elected officers at its May 27 meeting. Gery, Lewandowski and Knapp were re-elected by acclamation. Aaron Boots, AAØRN used the old "leaving town to go to school" excuse to explain his declining to serve another term. Charlton objected insufficiently frequently or loudly to prevent his election.

First Timers

Cliff Haviland, KEØJKE, got his ticket on May 25 and came to his first club meeting two days later, on May 27. Welcome, Cliff.



JUNE MEETINGS

June 10 -- Field Day planning

June 24 -- Field Day set-up and checkout AT SHAWNEE MISSION PARK.

June 25-6 -- Field Day

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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-> FEEDBACK <-

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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

FIELD DAY

June, as President Bill notes in his "corner" is Field Day Month. Not surprisingly, Field Day thoughts dominate the June Feedback.

The club will meet at the observation tower on Friday, June 24. The logical way to get to the tower is to turn north off of 87th into the Park's Ridgeview entrance (west of I-435 and Renner, but east of Woodland Road). Keep left as Ridgeview turns into Barkley Drive. Pass the dog trails (on your right) at which point the observation tower is straight ahead. Your first left will take you to the tower.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A big "thank you" goes to the members who spent a few hours on Saturday and Sunday during May to volunteer at Ensor. It is a few hours but the Club benefits financially.



June means Field Day. John Raydo, KCØIZ, found several masts at Dayton. One of the push up masts will fill in nicely for John Borzen, KCØPUK's

which we have used for many years. We need to do some rigging to get the masts ready for Field Day, so look for a rigging party at a time to be announced.

Field Day 2016 is June 25 and 26. We will be at the observation tower at Shawnee Mission Park again this year. Jay and the station team leads have been working hard to pull everything together. Setup begins Friday afternoon and should be completed by the start of the club's meeting. We need a few members to stay overnight Friday. In past years Friday evening has been a lot of fun with all the equipment in place permitting test runs.

Tom Wheeler, NØGSG and Keith McKinney, KEØAEP are planning a solar station. It will be fun to see what they have cooked up. Norma Libby, WØKC, will be present to conduct license testing on Saturday until 3 pm.

The public exposure at the tower has been great. If you are not active at one of the stations, please act as tour guides to our visitors. You may spark someone onto the path to getting a license. Talk to your neighbor, coworker, friend or youth group and extend them an invitation to visit the site. There will a "Get on the Air" Station set up if they would like to make some contacts.

- Bill Gery - WA2FNK

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - April 22, 2016

Meeting Date: Friday April 22, 2016. The meeting Started at 7:30PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 39 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the April 8, 2016 were accepted with 1 opposed vote.

The Treasurer's report was not read due to technical difficulties.

Old Business:

- Repeater Update – All Repeaters are working well.
- WW1USA – The Club is Sponsoring the May 7 – 8 Event at Liberty Memorial and Museum. This event will take place outside.
- Field Day 2016 – June 25-26 at the Observation Tower in Shawnee Mission Park. We will a License Testing Session on Saturday June 25. Plans are coming together.
- Ensor Museum – Volunteers are needed for Saturday and Sunday during the month of May. Please go to the Club's website to sign up.
- Eddy Paul KY0F is working with Harry Wilson KA0JLN to help him sell some of his surplus radio equipment. A list of Harry's equipment will be sent out by email to the Club members.

New Business:

- None.

Reports:

- 6 m – None.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- 440 Wheat Shocker net – NR.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – NR.
- HF Activity – Easter Europe 20m (14.253).

Announcements:

- Welcome to all the 1st time visitors and those with new licenses.
- Ham 101 Class Saturday May 14 and 21 at Wyandotte EOC.
- Watch Larry's List for upcoming events.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Program:

The Program for this meeting was a discussion by Bill Gery KA2FNK about the Fox Hunt taking place on March 13.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - May 13, 2016

Tonight's meeting was a Fox Hunt. No official meeting took place.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - April 22, 2016

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 39 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the April 22 and May 13, 2016 were accepted unanimously.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 109.20	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 779.44
Checking Account	\$ 542.43	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 10,378.94		
Total	\$ 11,030.57	Active Members	155

Old Business:

- Repeater Update – All Repeaters are working well.
- Field Day 2016 – June 25-26 at the Observation Tower in Shawnee Mission Park. Still looking for someone to coordinate the dinner on Saturday. John Raydo, KØIZ found at Dayton the Military Type push up masts the Club has been looking for. Total cost for the mast, stakes, and guy ropes was \$579. A motion was made to reimburse John for the total cost. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote. The Club does have the ability to purchase another mast from the seller at the same price. These masts typically run about \$5000.
- It time again for the Kansas QSO party and last year the club was a sponsor by contributing \$200. The money goes toward the plaques given out to the winners. A motion was made to be a sponsor of the Kansas QSO party with a contribution of \$200. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote.
- Ensor Museum – We have enough volunteers to cover the last weekend in May. Thank you to all that volunteered at the Ensor Park and Museum. As a reminder the Club is responsible for volunteers for the month of October.

New Business:

- Ted Knapp, NØTEK as an employee of Hallmark Cards, Inc. has the opportunity to participate in Hallmark's Volunteer Program. The purpose of the Volunteer Program is to recognize Hallmark employees who have volunteered a minimum of 50 hours of service to a non-profit organization in a one year period. As the club's Secretary and having met the non-profit qualification, the Hallmark Corporate Foundation has made a contribution of \$400 to the Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club.
- Annual Elections were held.
- Nominations for Secretary – Ted Knapp NØTEK. Motion made to close nominations. Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Unanimous approval vote.
- Nominations for Treasurer – Cal Lewandowski KCØCL. Motion made to close nominations. Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Unanimous approval vote.
- Nominations for Vice President – Aaron Boots AAØRN. Motion made to close nominations. Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Unanimous approval vote. AFTER the vote was taken Aaron announced that he will be unable to serve due to leaving for school in the Fall.
- Nominations for Vice President were opened again – Jaimie Charlton ADØAB. Motion made to close nominations. Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Unanimous approval vote.
- Nominations for President – Bill Gery KA2FNK. Motion made to close nominations. Motion Seconded. Vote taken. Unanimous approval vote.

Reports:

- Reports were skipped to give more time to tonight's presenter.

Announcements:

- Welcome to all the 1st time visitors.
- Congratulations to Barb McKinney KEØEGG for passing her Extra Exam!
- We will have a Testing Session at the Field Day this year.
- Watch Larry's List for upcoming events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Program:

The Program for this meeting was a presentation on High Altitude Ballooning by Keith Kaiser WAØTJT.

A Tale of Two Foxhunts - Tom Wheeler, NØGSG

On Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th there were two different foxhunts held in the Kansas City area; they were quite interesting to observe and participate in.

May 13, 2016 JCRAC Fox Hunt

On Friday, our club President Bill Gery, KA2FNK got himself "lost" again, but happily he had the presence of mind to turn on a special foxhunt beacon built by **Eddy Paul, KYØF**, and our club members were soon on the prowl.

The Doppler team consisted of **Rich Zaban, KCØVDH, Dennis Nealey, WØDRN**, and myself. Rich was worried that he'd miss the start of the foxhunt, but the Doppler team is always pretty casual (we always leave the start location after everyone else has departed), and Rich arrived in plenty of time. (Of course, everyone wanted to know if we were going to use the Doppler unit, or go "low tech" and that secret remains safe with our team.)

Rich built a very interesting directional antenna for his Baofeng HT. (When you see Rich in person, ask him how to make a Baofeng HT go "snap!") It consists of a BNC tee connector (shaped like the letter T), and two horizontal antennas. As we drove along with Rich in shotgun position, he observed bearing data with the setup that nearly always agreed with the Doppler's answers. I think a NEC analysis of Rich's antenna is in order so that we can understand how it works!

KA2FNK was parked along Merriam Lane just north of Johnson Drive at the Farmer's Market and began transmitting the foxhunt beacon at 19:00 (7pm). The hunter teams located the fox pretty quickly. Impressively, the team of

NØQF located the fox in just sixteen minutes, just a few minutes behind the Doppler team! Arrival times are as follows:

19:16 - **Steve Bocker, NØQF, AJ Bocker, WØAJB, Rob Kessler, KEØCUY**, and son - First Place

19:24 - **Herb Fiddick, NZØF, Diana Fiddick, KDØOBP, Vince Sabia, KEØCGR**, and **Kim Ledbetter, KEØHWN** - Second Place

19:43 - **Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, Kathy Charlton, KEØHEW, Chip Buckner, ACØYF**, and **Deb Buckner, KDØRYE** - Third Place

19:49 - **Don Warkentien, WØDEW, Adam Heitland, KEØGEW**, and **Michael Laney, KEØGHU** - 1st Runner up

(Arrival time not recorded): **Lon KØWJ** and team - 2nd Runner up

Chip, ACØYF, made some additional observations:

The NØQF group has used a tape measure Yagi on several occasions. AJ, WØAJB, explained to me that it was his job to handle the antenna. Afterwards, Steve, NØQF, told me that they had taken several bearings from the church parking lot before taking off in what they were sure was the right direction.

Kim Ledbetter, KEØHWN--who was at her second JCRAC meeting--wanted to know whether the foxhunt had been planned or whether this is what we did when we couldn't get a speaker. Afterwards, she told me that her group had been good at helping her understand what was happening and why they were doing what they were doing.

The Charlton/Buckner group determined that east was wrong. They then determined that south was wrong, and soon came to the same conclusion about west. Heading north, they used a pair of in-vehicle HTs. Jaimie, in the front seat, kept swapping units with ever-smaller antennas. Chip, in the back seat,

kept an HT with a long antenna tuned to the fox. When - - as was all too frequently the case - - the sound came in on Chip's radio, but not Jaimie's, they knew that they were in trouble. Kathy Charlton drove.

Deb Buckner--who had announced that her role was to be "cargo"--handled the maps. I suspect that the high entertainment value of the Charlton/Charlton banter may have affected the time it took this group to reach the fox.

Jaimie, ADØAB, added the following (I hesitate to use the word "rebuttal"):

Chip undervalues his and Deb's contribution! Without them, we would probably still be out there. Chip used detuning his HT as a means of sensitivity control and it worked great!

At least the Charlton/Buckner group didn't end up like the Donner Party!

All the teams found the fox within an hour, and congratulations are in order to everyone. I think we can step up the difficulty a bit on the next hunt!

see FOXHUNTING on 6



from **FOXHUNTING on 5**

May 14, 2016 - Raytown ARC Fox hunt

Saturday morning, the Raytown ARC held its own foxhunt. The confines of the Raytown foxhunt were simple enough--just the Raytown city limits. This foxhunt had several teams participating and was coordinated by Robin Cross, WØFEN and his wife Holly, KØVTB, who acted as the fox.

I was lazy and used the Doppler system. At the starting point, near 63rd street and Manning, the fox's signal was nearly inaudible; several teams spent time there getting a bearing using directional antennas, such as tape-measure Yagis. The Doppler couldn't hear the signal at all, so I drove to a higher location near 63rd and Blue Ridge, which paid off immediately; I got a very weak signal with a clear bearing to the north, and proceeded in that direction. I knew that I was on the right track as the signal progressively got stronger (with mostly clean bearing data), and after a few minutes ended up near 55th and Raytown road with a very strong signal and clear bearing, but no idea of where the fox would be--because this was unknown territory to me! Figure 1 shows the fox location [X] and surrounding neighborhood.

I initially explored slowly west up 55th street...bearing data were pointing north from there and rapidly changing, and I discovered that Oxford did not cut through, simply wrapping back around to 55th street. Bust.

Returning to Raytown Road, I pulled over and looked at things on Google maps. There was a park



Figure 1: The Fox locaiton and Surrounding Neighborhood. Arows indicate bearings taken form individual locaitons. [X] Marks the Fox.

immediately north of Oxford street, and as I passed it bearing data showed west. Bingo!

Pulling into the parking lot of the park, I saw Holly's car...the bearings were not pointing to her, but instead into the woods between the park and car wash. As I pulled up beside Holly, she exclaimed "I'm not the fox!" to which I replied, "Yes, I know...and it looks like I'm taking a walk in the woods this morning!" and she returned a coy smile.

I got out my portable DF unit...and the batteries were dead! So I reverted to low-tech; as WØDEW always says, "low tech always works...and some day you won't have your high tech stuff with you, or it will break." That day had just arrived!

With my trusty Baofeng HT in hand, I removed the antenna. There was so much signal from the fox

that I didn't need a paper clip at all. I just touched the antenna connector, and my body was the antenna. I walked directly toward the fox, and as I did so, the receiver saturated...with no antenna at all. I knew at that point that I was standing on the fox...but I simply couldn't see it!

At the same time, some of the other teams had arrived, and a few of the youngsters (and not-so-youngsters) were exploring the terrain with their handi-finders. I decided to walk about 40 feet away from the fox, back into the parking lot, to drop the signal levels and used body shielding to get a bearing. Walking back towards the woods, one of the sharp-eyed new hams spotted the fox about two seconds before I did. Figure 2 shows the location of the fox. Can you see it?

see FOXHUNTING on 7

from **FOXHUNTING** on 6



Figure 2: The Fox!

Okay, did you see the fox in Figure 2? No? Well, then, I don't feel so bad. Figure 3 shows a better view of the fox. (But if you did see it in Figure 2...let our club leadership know and they will let you buy pizza for everyone at the next Annex Meeting.)

The fox was neatly hidden in the tree, of course. Robin WØFEN informed me that the little transmitter was making 50 mW of RF output, and because Holly KØVTB did the hiding, he himself did not know where it would be. Those 50 milliwatts were doing an amazing job of covering the middle of Raytown; I was impressed by how strong the signal was miles away.

One of the young hams in the group and I compared notes. He, too, had used Google maps to help clarify the search area.

After the conclusion of the foxhunt, Robin WØFEN, Wayne KAØJJH, and I stopped at a nearby Denny's for brunch and conversation.

Lessons Learned:

1. Murphy's law always rules. If it can go wrong, it will, so if you're using high-tech stuff, be prepared to shift strategies. Have backup equipment on hand (such as an extra HT).

2. There's much to be learned from hunting in different locales. Though I know the general layout of Raytown pretty well, I had no idea of how the streets were connected in the search area--critical knowledge, as there was only ONE way to get to the fox, and that was to enter the park by the entrance on 53rd place. (I didn't even know a park was there!)

3. Technology such as Google maps is very useful and can help you clarify your thinking about bearings and potential "fixes" on a hidden transmitter.

4. Low-tech always works!

5. If you're in a situation where you aren't getting good data (such as your receiver is saturated), STOP and think about what you can do to improve the odds. For example, Chip ACØYF detuned his receiver to deliberately lower its sensitivity, which allowed his team to gain better information.

Hope to see all of you at a future foxhunt event!

>> **JCRAC FEEDBACK** <<

(Below)

Figure 3: The Fox, Close Up and Personal



A Field Day Never to Forget

A Hambone story by Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

"Who are you and what are you guys doing here?"

"What? Who's there? Dude, do you see anybody?"

"I repeat, who are you and what are you doing here?"

"Hammy, I think she's behind that shotgun over there. It looks like a Berretta over and under to me."

"Dude, where'd you learn about shotguns?"

"Not now, Hammy, talk to her!"

"Okay, okay!"

"Ma'am, we, we, we're just setting up our tent here in the park. I'm Hambone and this is my brother, Dude. We're ham radio operators and we thought the Coal Mountain Park would be a good place for us to work Field Day."

"Well, I don't know nothin' about no field day and this ain't no park. This side of Coal Mountain is my late husband Clyde's farm, rest his soul, and we don't like trespassers."

"We're sorry!"

"Yeah, we're sorry, Dude and I thought this was a park. We just wanted to set up our portable amateur radio station and talk to other hams this afternoon and tomorrow. We'll get out of here."

"You mean you can talk to people with that little thing?"

"Yes, all we need is to put an antenna wire up in a tree and another wire on the ground and we can talk to other hams all over the world. We wanted to try it from Coal Mountain because it's high and the coal should make a good ground. We're so sorry to be on your property. We'll get out of here right away."

"I guess you can stay, you little guys seem harmless enough. But no booze or wild parties here and no shootin' none of my pigs! If you want ham for your radio, go to the store in Mullens, it's just a couple of miles down that road."

"Oh, an' be careful with that fire, don't get nothin' started."

"I think she's gone."

"Dude, that was close. I knew the West Virginia back country people were tough, but I didn't know it was like that."

"Still, Hammy, she was nice enough not to shoot us and she did let us camp here."

"You're right! Let's get our stuff set up. This is going to be the best alternative energy QRP station ever."

"What do you mean, 'alternative energy'? Aren't these batteries our power?"

"Sure, Dude. But they need to be charged and that's where my never-seen-before power source comes in."

"You mean you've brought a wind-powered generator or solar cells?"

"Oh, no, Dude. Other guys are already doing that. This power source is totally new and totally alternative. I call it campfire power. I got the idea at one of those campfires. You know, the ones that Dom, that ham with the beard, puts on. It looked to me like there was a lot of heat energy going up in smoke. So, I made this thing to capture some of it."

"It's a thermopile made from old thermopiles. I've got thirty scrap thermopiles and a portable ring frame to mount them all right here



in my pack. We just set this frame over the fire so it heats the thermopiles in the middle. We can even cook while it generates electricity. How cool is that?"

"Where did you get those, Hammy?"

"From junked water heaters. The heaters' safety controls are electric and they get power from built-in thermopiles. The heaters were junked because they didn't heat any more, but the thermopiles were still good."

"These thermopiles contain pieces of copper and iron wire joined together in series. When half the joints are heated and half are cooled, they generate a small voltage. Actually, every other joint must be heated while the joints in between must be kept cool. It's the difference in temperature that causes the voltage. The heated joint is called the hot side and the other is called the cold side."

"Cool, Hammy, but why so many of them?"

"Simple. Each thermopile only generates about 700-750 millivolts. With thirty connected in series, I get about 22 volts that charges the batteries. This little power converter is an adaptation of the one

see HAMBONE on 9

from HAMBONE on 8

Tom, who is our neighbor in this newsletter, described a while back. It regulates the charging of the batteries. This other regulator regulates the voltage to the rig."

"I get it. You run the rig off one set of batteries while charging the others. Then, throw that switch and the charged batteries are connected to the rig and the dead batteries go on the charger."

"That's right, Dude. If you get any smarter, you'll be dangerous. I use Tom's chopper regulators because they are very efficient. With this setup we can't waste power."

Now, if you finish setting up the rig and tent, I'll build a campfire and get this whole thing going.

Be sure to put the tent well back from the fire. Remember what happened last time."

"Yeah, yeah. I put the tent where you said - right next to the fire so we would be warm. Then the wind changed and we were smoked out. Not too bright on your part."

"I brought that charcoal grill for the fire, but there's so much dead wood around here I think we can go primitive and build our fire on the ground. We can use these rocks to hold up the thermopile and our food."

"You mean, you forgot to bring charcoal for the grill."

"Hurry up, Dude, Field day starts in a couple of hours."

A Few Hours later...

"Dude, I just made our first contact! It's W0ERH in Kansas, and they are solar powered! Our first contact is an alternative energy to alternative energy QSO."

"Awesome! Hammy, you da' man! Ya know, I think our campfire power is even better than solar because we can cook on it and operate at the same time. Hand me those burgers. This camping,

cooking and operating is making me hungry."

Still Later that night

"Dude, this is a fantastic Field Day spot! I'm only running two watts and logged nearly a hundred contacts. Forty meters is wide open - I can't believe it."

"I can. You've been yakking non-stop for hours. It's past midnight, let's go to bed!"

"Well, okay, the fire is nearly out. It's just some glowing embers, no flames. It'll be easy to restart it in the morning."

This sure is good wood here, it seems to burn forever. Good night, Dude."

Now it's very early in the morning (This is fiction, so time can go fast)

"Hammy, Hammy, wake up! Get out! The tent's on fire! Hurry!"

"Shit Dude, where's the door? This smoke is choking me!"

"Ouch, ouch, watch where you step, the ground's hot over here! I can't see anything, the whole place is full of smoke!"

"Hammy, I thought you said the fire was out? It's everywhere, even going under the tent! Grab the water jugs and fire extinguishers, we've gotta put this out!"

"I'm looking for them! Ouch, dammit! I just tripped over the ground wire! I can't see a thing with all this smoke!"

"We're gonna need more than these jugs of water and the car fire extinguisher. The fire's too big! We've gotta go to that little town and get help!"

"I hear sirens, Hammy, I think help's on its way."

"Thank Goodness!"

"You'd better thank Goodness that you two are still alive."

Oh no, Dude, it's the shotgun lady."

"Yes, I am. And you'd better hope your fire don't spread to the mine that's right under your feet. You're in

trouble now. But, a mine fire is bigger trouble."

Now get out of the way and let real men take over."

"Hammy, we are already in trouble. That big, mean-looking guy with the badge and sunglasses is headed our way. I bet he never passes up a donut shop."

"Shut up, Dude."

"Why don't you boys just come with me down to the county office. We got some settlin' up to do. Looks like you broke the fire law. That's a thousand-dollar fine, ya' know."

"What law? The lady with the shotgun said this was her property and we could camp here."

"So it is, boy. But that sign on the road you drove up here on says that uncontrolled fires are again' the law here and the fine is a thousand dollars."

"What the f####! That's a ridiculous ..."

"Shut up, Dude!"

"Sir, we did everything we could to control the fire. We just left a few sticks glowing overnight so we could make breakfast. I don't see how that got out of control. We're very sorry."

"Are you guys morons, or what? Do you know what the ground and rocks around here is made of?"

"Dirt?"

"Shut up, Dude."

No, sir. What?"

"Geeze, Dumbone, or whatever your name is. Doesn't the name, Coal Mountain, give you a hint? This whole place is made of coal! You idiots didn't build a harmless wood fire, you started a coal fire and it is spreading. I hope the volunteers can put it out. If it gets into the mine that's right under here, that's big trouble."

"Now, get in the cruiser, we are going to office so you can settle up."

see HAMBONE on 10

<p><i>from HAMBONE on 9</i></p> <p>“Hammy, we don’t have a thousand dollars, we don’t even have a hundred.”</p> <p>“Well, boys, if you can’t pay, we have a room for you right here in the Wyoming County jail. You are entitled to a trial and the judge will be here a week from this coming Tuesday. Until then, you’ll be our guests.”</p> <p>“Dude, give me your phone, I’m calling Uncle Elmer.”</p> <p>“Dumbone, did you say Uncle Elmer? Like Uncle Elmer from Kansas?”</p> <p>“Ye, yes, sir.”</p> <p>“He really is your uncle?”</p> <p>“Yes, sir.”</p> <p>“Let me talk to him.</p> <p>Elmer, is that you? This here is Sheriff Prescott in Mullens, how’ve you been?</p> <p>That’s good. I’m fine, too. It’s been a long time, but we still remember you. You know there’s a statue of you in City Hall.</p> <p>Yeah, I’m calling you on the boy’s phone. Just wanted to let you know both boys are safe. We had a little problem with a campfire here. They said something about a field day and hams. Anyway, they’re safe and the fire’s under control. No harm done.</p> <p>"Yeah, they’ll be on their way home this afternoon – after we give them some good West Virginia cookin’. You should see the crap they brought with them.</p> <p>"Well, I hope you can make it out here and visit us again, maybe under better circumstances. Bye.”</p> <p>“What the ...?”</p> <p>“Shut up, Dude. What’s going on, Sheriff?”</p> <p>“You are two lucky sons of a gun. Your uncle Elmer is a hero in these parts.”</p>	<p>“Uncle Elmer a hero, you gotta be nuts ...”</p> <p>“Shut up, Dude. What did uncle do?”</p> <p>“Back in ’81 we had a small earthquake that collapsed the entrance to a nearby mine trapping about 20 men. Your Uncle Elmer was passing through and having lunch in the diner when he heard the news. He could have just gone on his way, but he didn’t. He went right over to the mine to see if he could help.</p> <p>"Uncle Elmer, we never knew his last name, knew nothing about mining, but realized that we had no way of knowing exactly where the men were or even if they were still alive. Everybody was in panic and wanted to start digging, but where, was the big question. Some bystanders said they heard sounds, but couldn’t tell where they were coming from.</p> <p>"We had no seismic equipment of any kind back then. Heck, we didn’t even have radios or intercoms in the mines. Your uncle, the only one of us who wasn’t panicking, asked us to get three or four microphones and a PA system with a generator if we had them.</p> <p>"It turns out the high school stadium had the PA and mics and the clinic had a small backup generator.</p> <p>"Your uncle buried the mics around the area where we heard sounds and hooked them up to the PA so everyone could hear what was happening. He then took a thing he called a ‘silly scope’ from his car and hooked it up to the mics.</p> <p>"It seemed to me to be a funny name for a small TV. He said it could measure the time it took each sound to reach each mic and we might be able to locate the men that way.</p>	<p>I didn’t see how it worked. I could only see a squiggly line, but I marked each number he gave me on a map. He studied the map for a minute and said, ”Drill there.”</p> <p>Some of the old timers said that couldn’t be the right spot, but your uncle insisted and we finally followed his instructions. He can be very persuasive, you know."</p> <p>“We know.”</p> <p>“We know.”</p> <p>"Well, about a hundred foot down the drill hit a pocket. Your uncle dropped a mic on a really long cord down the hole and a huge cheer went up when the voices of the men came booming through the PA speaker.</p> <p>"Everybody in town dug like demons and in a day the men were safely out of the mine. Your uncle was a hero and we credit him for saving those twenty lives. If we had followed the old timers, we would have dug in the wrong place and never found the men. There wasn’t much air in that pocket.</p> <p>"When he saw the men were safe, your uncle just packed up and continued his trip. We never did get to thank him properly. But, we did put a statue of him in the City Hall so we never forget the kindness of a stranger.</p> <p>"You boys can run along, now. Your truck is all packed up and there’s box lunches waiting for you in the diner in town.</p> <p>"Sorry your Field Day got spoiled. Drive safe and say ‘hi’ to your uncle. Tell him we will never forget.</p> <p>"Oh, by the way, next time, don’t try to put out a fire by peeing on it. It doesn’t work and smells bad.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<</p>
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John Raydo, KØIZ and his Dayton Hamvention find.

JCRAC has a new Field Day Tower

John Raydo, KØIZ found a 50 foot military tower that the club will use at Field Day. Although, the club has been able to borrow 40 and 50-foot towers, those towers are no longer available. The club plans to use this tower to support the mid-point of the long SSB antenna.

Raydo observed that Field Day set up begins at 1:00 PM on Friday, June 24. He speculated that stations would be operational by 3:30. When the stations are ready, experienced hams will be standing by to give hands-on HF tutorials, covering topics such as making contacts, tuning SSB signals, how to call other stations, operating in a contest environment and the like.

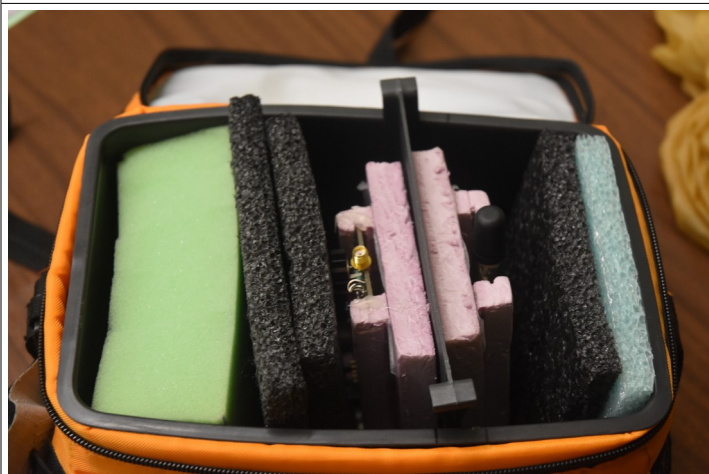
DMR Equipment Available Locally

"Van" Van Daveer, KØHCV, reports that Associated Radio has the Connect Systems Tytera MD380 digital HT in stock. Van offers the opinion that, at \$139.99, this unit presents an attractive price point for getting into DMR digital radio.

JCRAC learns about Amateur Radio High-Altitude Ballooning

Keith Keyser, WAØTJT spoke to the club about his experiences with Amateur Radio High-Altitude Ballooning [ARHAB]. After explaining what was needed to put a balloon into near space, Keyser shared

photographs taken from space. He concluded with stories of search and recovery efforts, featuring the people, creatures, and terrain he had encountered when chasing balloon "packages" parachuting back to earth.



The balloons typically carry a camera and an HT for sending APRS packets.



The non-threatening label.

Other People's Stuff

Bob Kimbrell, WØAO posted a note on Larry's List saying that he would be operating from a picnic table at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary. I didn't know Bob, but it was a pretty day and **Deb, KDØRYE**, grew up in Parkville, so off we went. After an initial false start—we guessed that the station would be at the picnic table at the top of the hill rather than at the base of the hill—we found him.



Bob Kimbrell, WØAO in the woods.

It turns out that Bob was operating as a part of the QRP To The Field (QRPTTF) annual event. The idea is to get QRP (low power) operators out of their homes. Bob was pleased to show me his transceiver and invited me to tap out a CQ. I declined because my CW skills, though improving, are not yet ready for public exhibition. I accepted his second invitation, though, to trace the path of his antenna. His antenna—a wire—connected to the back of his Elecraft K3 transceiver, went through a bush where it changed direction, angled up into a tree where it turned and continued in a lazy arc over to a pole that was leaning against a branch maybe ten of fifteen yards away.

Although big stations sometimes pushed through the background noise, we did more chatting than operating. Bob got his start in QRP

operation in Arizona when a club set up a “Tuna Tin” construction project. Club members made QRP CW transceivers out of tuna tins. If, having finished construction, you completed a QSO (another club member just happened to be standing by, listening for Tuna Tin transceivers), you kept the transceiver. Otherwise you paid for the materials.

A few weeks later, I was at the Liberty Memorial, assisting with the WW1USA special event station. On my first visit that weekend, **Bryan Norman, KDØGRU** and **Patrick Davidson, KEØIDD** were getting their first taste of HF, using some variety of an Icom 765 Pro, under the watchful eye of **Jay Greenough, WJØX**.



KDØGRU and KEØIDD getting HF experience with WJØX at WW1USA.

The following day, Deb, KDØRYE, and I took a turn at the controls. We enjoy the WW1USA events for a variety of reasons. When on the air, we are promoting Kansas City, telling people about the National World War I Museum, and remembering the veterans. Even when just hanging around the station, we are showing and telling museum visitors about amateur radio. Those are all “nice” or even “important” things to do.



The antenna we use at the Liberty Memorial is WAY better than mine.

Even you don't care about any of those things, these public outdoor events are great opportunities to learn. I don't own any of this equipment. I don't have an HF beam--or any other kind of antenna--up on a tower. How do I find out whether I prefer push to talk using controls in my hand, on a computer, or using a foot switch? There are experienced people at hand who have great stories and are absolutely tickled to death to share opinions on just about anything.

The next opportunity you are likely to have to experiment with other people's stuff will be Field Day preparation and--of course--Field Day itself, coming up on June 23-24 out at Shawnee Mission Park.

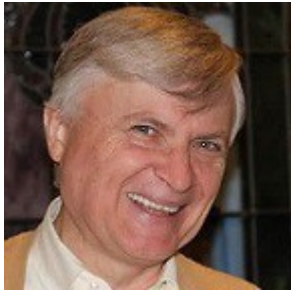
Tapping?

While club members congregate at the observation tower on the south end of the Park, I'll be up on the stage at the north end. *The Drowsy Chaperone* runs June 17 - 24. It's a delightful show, less than ten years old (which means that you haven't seen it a hundred times) and best understood by people who are old enough to know what a record player is.

See THE AMATEUR on 13

from THE AMATEUR on 12

Last month, I observed that I answered the audition question "Do you tap?" with a resounding "no!". It seems that my answer was not a relevant factor in the casting decision. The choreographer has written a brief tap-dance bit for my role. The threat of public humiliaton has caused me to spend time working on toe-tapping, rather than key-tapping. I fear that my



Morse code is deteriorating faster than my tap dancing improves.

Be all that as it may, "Drowsy" is a cute show, which will make for a fun evening. If you care to think while you are being entertained, the show is "about" the way that the arts (and, in particular, musical theater) can help us escape from life's unpleasantness.

www.theatreinthepark.org/the-drowsy-chaperone

RADIO OPERATORS ON BROADWAY

The other thing I did last month was to challenge readers to name a Broadway show in which a radio operator sang of the joy that radio brought to his life. The fictional Bob McCaffrey in Rogers and Hammerstein's 1949 musical *South Pacific* would be a reasonable choice. He plays an important role in passing coded message traffic between the parties.

No one, however, came up with my favorite. In Maury Yeston's 1989 musical *Titanic*, on the other hand, the ship's (actual) radio operator, Harold Bride, offers the following valentine to radio operators mid-way through the song "The Proposal".

No, I cannot guess why the Mr. Bride is sending E-R-N. I suspect that the rhythm of the code was more important to the composer than was its meaning.

ODDS AND ENDS: PALINDROMIC CALL-SIGNS

You've encountered a palindrome. It is text that reads the same when spelled backwards. The word "racecar" or the sentence "Madam, I'm Adam" are well-known examples using English text.

Excerpt from "The Proposal" from "Titanic: The Musical" (1989)

Every day from G-M-O-M

"Good morning, old man"

To G-N-O-M

"Good night, old man"

My telegraph sends its messages to ships at sea

Sending out its

Dit dit-dah-dit dah-dit...

Dit dit-dah-dit dah-dit

Dit dit-dah-dit dah-dit...

I was young and shy, detached and sad

Spent my days indoors, a home-bound lad

Hardly spoke, few friends

I kept myself to myself

Quite alone

Then I found Marconi's Telegraph

It couls span the planet's width by half

Fifty yards, two thousand miles

The same!

Touch the spark...sound the tone

And the night was alive

With a thousand voices

Fighting to be heard

And each and every one of them

Connected to me...

What if we look at ham call signs? There are thousands of palindromic 2-by-2 call signs. The number drops precipitously, however, if you look for a palindrome in the underlying Morse code. Only Ø and 5 read the same forwards and backwards. The FCC assigned AE5EN—which I calculate to be the shortest possible Morse palindrome—to Roy Claus of Corpus Christi as part of the regular assignment sequence. NE5EA and the almost-as-short AEØEN and NEØEA are unassigned.

>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<