

A PUBLICATION OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, INC.

## President's Corner

Welcome to February, the second month of 2023. This month, we are going to start our new business meeting and program format. The first meeting of the month will be the business meeting followed by a program. The second meeting will be an expanded program.

This new program format is designed to permit covering in more detail the topic of the program. The program will be focused on helping new licensed amateur operators and those getting back into the service gain a better understanding of how to enjoy amateur radio.

"The Feedback" newsletter is coming back soon. After the last meeting, a member has stepped forward. Presently we are working with him to get the format and other things he will need. (Note from the editor: Obviously it has returned which is why you received this.)

Bill  
KA2FNK



## Upcoming Club Events

- Fri. Feb 10 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Biz meeting followed by presentation - Topic: "Three Knots Every Amateur Should Know" presented by Bill Gery, KA2FNK
- Fri. Feb 24 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Topic: "Ham Radio, Back to Basics" presented by Kevin van der Does, ADØIM
- Tue. Mar 7 @ 1900 - Club VE Testing - JoCo Library 9875 W 87th St, OPKS
- Fri. Mar 10 - 1900 - Club Meeting - Biz meeting followed by presentation - Topic: TBD

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# **Meeting Minutes 11-11-2022**

## **Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club**

Meeting Date: Friday November 11, 2022. The meeting started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 23 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

As per the new By-Laws, the Minutes of the previous meeting from September 23, 2022, were posted on the club website instead of being read. The posted minutes were approved by the membership with 1 opposed vote.

The Treasurer's report was not available.

### **Old Business:**

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – Bill Brinker, WAØCBW reported All Repeaters were up and repeating.
- Ensor Auction – Thank you to all that participated in and helped with the Auction. It was another successful one.
- The Club's Christmas Party will be December 2nd in the Church at 7:00 pm. Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.
- A kit building project will be organized after the first of the year.

### **New Business:**

- At this year's Auction the Salvation Army provided items on Consignment. Their total proceeds were \$1138.00 plus the Club's Consignment fee of \$227.60. A motion was made to donate the Consignment fee of \$227.60 back to the Salvation Army. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- Ensor Museum Volunteer - Gary O'Neill, KAØNRZ name was drawn for the \$100 gift certificate to Associated Radio. Congratulations Gary

### **Reports:**

- 6 m – NR.
- 10m SSB Roundtable – 3 participated on November 10 & 4 participated on November 3.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – 3 participated on November 9 and 3 participated on November 2.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 11 Check-ins on November 9 and 12 Check-ins on November 2.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 10 Check-ins on November 10 & 9 Check-ins on November 3.
- HF Activity – Qatar FT8, Djibouti 20m SSB.
- Pota Activation – 8.

# **Meeting Minutes 11-11-2022 - cont'd**

## **Announcements:**

- Santa Fe Trail ARC Extra Class in January 2023.
- See Larry's List for any upcoming Public Service Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

## **Program:**

The program was "Homebrew Radio and Amplifier Projects" by John Raydo, KØIZ.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK Secretary.

# **Meeting Minutes 01-27-2023**

## **Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club**

Meeting Date: Friday January 27, 2023. The meeting Started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 32 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

As per the new By-Laws, the Minutes of the previous meeting from November 11, 2022, were posted on the club website instead of being read. The posted minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was not available.

## **Old Business:**

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting. In total there were 9 including a couple that this was their in-person meeting at the church.
- Repeater Update – Bill Brinker, WAØCBW reported all Repeaters were up and repeating except for the Black and Veatch Repeater which lost power for about 24 hours.
- Treasurer Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL reported that the net proceeds after expenses from the Ensor Auction and Raffle was \$5,600.07 (Auction was \$4,110.07 and Raffle was \$1,490.00). This makes the donation to the Ensor Museum of \$2,800.04.

## **New Business:**

- Dave Porter, KØDVP gave an informative talk about the 2 Club nets (Digital Fusion and Analog 2m). He solicited information from the membership present about Net structure and possible changes. He also asked if anyone would like to be a Net Controller. If interested see Dave.
- We are looking for another FEEDBACK Editor. If interested, please let the Club leadership know.

# Meeting Minutes 01-27-2023 - cont'd

## New Business cont'd:

- Kevin van der Does, ADØIM gave an update on the Club's Volunteer Examiner testing group. If you are interested in becoming a VE and hold an Extra Class license, please see Kevin.
- Tom Wheeler, NØGSG presented to the Club the possibility of holding the Club meetings in the Industrial Training Center building on the Johnson County Community College campus. Tom is an Associate Professor of Electronics at the college. This would give the club more options for meeting content teaching, and kit building. Bill Gery, KA2FNK will take a tour of the facility with Tom and report back to the Club.

## Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 4 participated on January 26.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – four participated on January 25th including one out of state contact.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 8 Check-ins on January 25 and 11 Check-ins on January 8.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 15 check-ins on January 26 and 17 check-ins on January 19.
- HF Activity – Africa, Vietnam, Thailand, Guam, Australia, Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Cayman Islands, Scotland, Sylvania, Bulgaria on 10 meters in the morning. Antarctica on 20 meters.
- Pota Activation – 11.

## Announcements:

- Winter Field Day starts tomorrow January 28 at 1 pm local time. It lasts for 24 hours.
- Pluto Discovery 100th Anniversary Countdown Special Event Station – February 11-19. See [https://www.nadxa.com/w7p\\_2030\\_2023.html](https://www.nadxa.com/w7p_2030_2023.html)
- WW1USA Special Events for 2023 can be 1 or 2. Stay tuned for more details.
- See Larry's List for any upcoming Public Service Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

## Program:

The program was a discussion of ideas for Programs for 2023.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK Secretary.

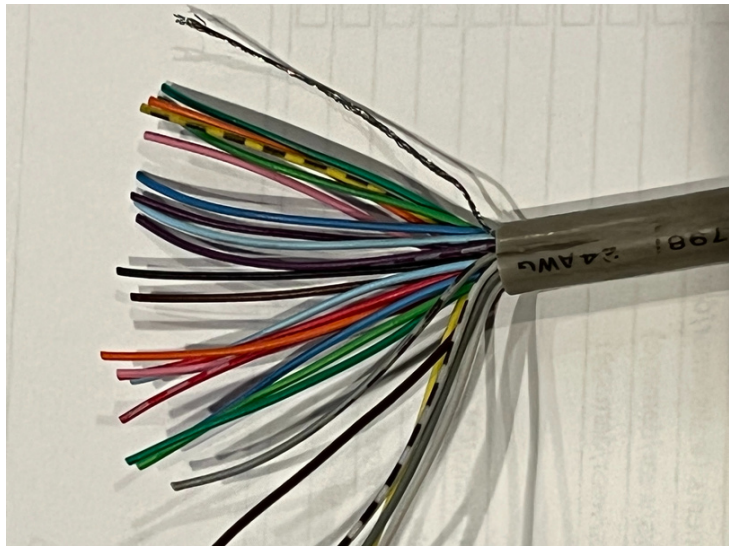
## **Tech Talk**

### Repurposing those old cables

If you are like me, you have an assortment of old, now obsolete computer cables such as printer parallel ports. Before you finally get around to throwing them out, consider that they are good sources of hook-up wire.

Case in point: A parallel printer cable I have contains 25 wires, each 24 gauge. The cable is rated for 80 degrees Celsius (176 F) and the wires feel like Teflon. Maybe not, but with the high temperature rating, they should be plenty good for many applications.

In the attached photo, notice the nicely coded wires on this cable.



John  
KØIZ

*(Image credit: John KØIZ)*

## **From the Editor**

After a hiatus, "Feedback" has returned with a new editor. Yes, I know that was an obvious statement as you wouldn't be reading this without an editor. But who is this man of mystery sitting behind the keyboard, bringing you the club news? Allow me to introduce myself.

I am Tim Wiegman, Jr., KBØYQN. As you may have guessed given my callsign, I have been a licensed ham for quite a while. To be exact, I first got my Technician ticket in October 1996 at age 13 when my Uncle Doug, N9OTG, said he would buy me my first radio if I got my amateur radio license. Of course at that age, if someone is willing to buy you something that you think is expensive, well, you do what you can to get it! And after many hours of reading the Gordon West books, studying the question pools, and using dial-up AOL internet to take a bunch of online practice tests (please don't pickup the phone) with my dad, I felt I was ready.

On a sunny Saturday morning, he drove us to the Association for the Blind on 20th Street in downtown KCMO for our tests. Together, we both passed both written elements, Novice and Technician, to get our Technician licenses with me scoring just one correct answer better than him. A few days later, we learned of our sequential callsign assignments from the FCC website with my father, Tim, assigned KBØYQM and myself assigned KBØYQN.



## **Editor cont'd**

I became involved with JCRAC and attended many meetings in my youth. One of my favorite activities was always the annual Field Day event in June which was held in Leawood City Park. If you knew me then, you knew I was someone who would stay out nearly the entire 24 hours plus to help setup and tear down. If I needed to get some sleep, you'd often find me on site sleeping on either a picnic table or in the bed of my pickup truck.

And it was at Field Day that I was truly first introduced to Morse Code. I watched in amazement as the operators of the CW station magically understand those series of rapid dits and dahs, responding back just as quickly with a paddle keyer with subtle flicks of their wrists. This inspired me to learn CW for myself and off I went purchasing some training cassette tapes.

It didn't take long before I was granted the privileges of Technician Plus after passing the 5 WPM test. By no means was I nearly as proficient as those Field Day CW operators, but it was a start. And of course I didn't stop there! If you look up my call, you'll see I hold a General Class license. It didn't take me long before I passed the 13 WPM test and a few month later the written element for General. Of course being able to listen to CW at 13 WPM for a test is a completely different animal to being able to send at 13 WPM. So, I didn't ever really do much sending of CW during Field Day, but I definitely helped log some contacts!

In 2001, after graduating high school, I moved to Oklahoma. After graduating with a degree in Meteorology in 2005, I continued on to grad school until I left before completing my graduate degree and moved back to KC in 2007. I did rejoin JCRAC at the time, but since I was busy working for the family business, which later I eventually started my own, I become too busy chasing my business pursuits to really participate in the hobby. As such, I let my membership lapse and really let the hobby lie dormant for years.

It wasn't until recently that some videos on TikTok (yes, I understand how weird that sounds) reintroduced the hobby to me and I decided to become active again. So, after purchasing a used HF rig, a DMR HT and pulling out an old Icom mobile VHF/UHF unit, I am back and really diving heavy into the hobby again. My skills are rusty and I am relearning a lot of things, but I know that rejoining the club that I will have some friends to help me relearn what I have forgotten. I also want to give back to the club, which is why I have volunteered to be the editor.

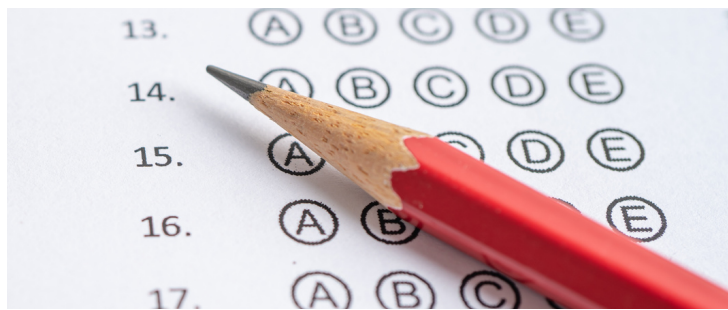
So, now that you know who I am, I cannot wait to meet you at a meeting or on the air!

Until then, 73!  
Tim Jr., KBØYQN



## ***This is Only a Test***

Are you new to the hobby? Maybe you recently received your Technician class ticket and what you have learned is still fresh. Or maybe you have held your Extra class ticket for a while and have forgotten some of what you have learned. Regardless, let's keep those mental pencils sharp by reviewing some of the questions from each of the question pools. Only a Tech? Push yourself and try the higher class questions. You might surprise yourself and be encouraged to try your hand at upgrading!



1. T6D03 – Which of the following is a reason to use shielded wire?
  - A. To decrease the resistance of DC power connections
  - B. To increase the current carrying capability of the wire
  - C. To prevent coupling of unwanted signals to or from the wire
  - D. To couple the wire to other signals
  
2. T4A08 – Which of the following conductors is preferred for bonding at RF?
  - A. Copper braid removed from coaxial cable
  - B. Steel wire
  - C. Twisted-pair cable
  - D. Flat copper strap

3. G6A02 – What is an advantage of the low internal resistance of nickel-cadmium batteries?
  - A. Long Life
  - B. High discharge current
  - C. High voltage
  - D. Rapid recharge
  
4. G9D02 – What is the feed-point impedance of an end-fed half-wave antenna?
  - A. Very low
  - B. Approximately 50 ohms
  - C. Approximately 300 ohms
  - D. Very high
  
5. E2D03 – Which of the following digital modes is especially useful for EME communications?
  - A. MSK144
  - B. PACTOR III
  - C. Olivia
  - D. JT65
  
6. E5A05 – What is the result of increasing the Q of an impedance-matching circuit?
  - A. Matching bandwidth is decreased
  - B. Matching bandwidth is increased
  - C. Matching range is increased
  - D. It has no effect on impedance matching

*Answers: 1c, 2d, 3b, 4d, 5d, 6a*

## **How did you do?**

If you got them all correct, *Congrats!* If you hold a Tech or General class license, this may be the sign you need to work on that upgrade. Plenty of resources are available for study. Remember, JCRAC VE Team holds testing sessions on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM at the JoCo Library at 87th & Farley in OP.

## **Intentional QRM**

A new Ham asks an Elmer for some help:

●●●●○ JCARC 2:44 PM 75% 

< Messages

Elmer

Details

How do you write 'S' in CW?



I went to a Hamfest recently and saw a unit for sale with a sign reading, "Txcvr for Sale. \$5. Volume stuck on full."

I thought, "I can't turn that down!"

## **What's Your Traffic?**

Do you have something your would like to announce to the club? Maybe you recently upgraded your license, won an award, or have other great news to share. Do you have a useful Tech Tip? Is there club member that should be spotlighted?

Your input including ideas, photos, news bits, etc. will help me curate the monthly "Feedback" newsletters. Together, we can create an awesome publication to advance and further the Amateur Radio hobby.

Submit a contribution by emailing me at [twiegman+feedback@gmail.com](mailto:twiegman+feedback@gmail.com)



## **Need Club Swag?**

If want to show off your JCRAC pride and need some club swag, you may order some by visiting the "Store" tab on the club website where you can purchase hats, patches, name badges and shirts.

Also, so items along with other goodies may be available for purchase at club meetings.

Club website: <https://www.w0erh.org>



## **FEEDBACK**

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

### Officers

Bill Gery, KA2FNK, President

Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, Vice-President

Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary

Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL, Treasurer

*Bill Brinker, WAØCBW, Repeater Trustee*

*Tim Wiegman Jr., KBØYQN, Editor*