President's Corner
Friday, July 14th was quite a blow. Bill, WAØCBW, and I traveled to the Shawnee and 87th Street repeater sites to see how they fared. The Shawnee site only had to be power cycled. However, the 145.29 off 87th Street was without power. The big concern at the 29 site was the condition of the antenna. As we approached the site, we could see the antenna was still in place.

Traveling to the repeater sites we did observe the storm damage. Beside large limbs down, there were telephone poles at odd angles. Traffic lights were an issue. Some without power and some with. We observed one set of lights lose power in front of us.

Yes, it is August, but October is not that far off and the Ensor auction. Mark your calendars for October 28th. Then go through your shack for the items that you thought you could no do without which have not been out of the box since you brought them home. Bill, WAØCBW, and I picked up some auction items from a ham that was "downsizing." Bill has checked out some of the items. Right now, these items are loaded on my trailer. The auction is our club's yearly fundraiser. More items donated or placed on consignment makes for a more successful event. A big part of Field Day expenses is covered by the auction proceeds.

73,
Bill
KA2FNK

Upcoming Club Events
- Tue. Aug 1 @ 1900 - Club VE Testing - JoCo Library 9875 W 87th St, OPKS
- Fri. Aug 11 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Biz meeting and presentation - Topic: July 14 Storm Recovery by Ted NØTEK
- Fri. Aug 25 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Extended presentation with Q&A - Topic: Calibrating and Measuring SWR with your NanoVNA by Kevin ADØIM and Bill WAØCBW
- Tue. Sep 5 @ 1900 - Club VE Testing - JoCo Library 9875 W 87th St, OPKS
- Fri. Sep 8 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Biz meeting and presentation - Topic: TBD

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"Hey Unck, before you go," called Dude. "Look what I found way back under the stairs! I think it's an old footlocker. Is it full of hidden treasure?"

"I doubt it. Open it and let's have a look." As the boys raised the lid, the moldy smell of old electronics drifted into the room. At first, all they could see were some bits of decaying yellow cloth liner and the crumbling remains of a few blue bath towels still wrapped around and protecting their contents. Hambone picked up and brushed off a bundle revealing what looked like a radio or something. Dude followed suit and unwrapped a still stranger object.

"Eeew, what in the world is this?" chorused the boys holding their smelly objects in such a way as to minimize personal contact.

Elmer laughed, "I haven't seen those in decades. I wondered where they went! That thing Hammy has is my first short wave radio. My dad - your grandpa - and I, well, mostly your grandpa, built that from a kit. I think it was called an 'Ocean Hopper.' You changed bands by changing plug-in coils."

"It couldn't have gotten very many stations," mused Hambone. "It has only two tubes. I guess they didn't know how to make really good radios back then."

"Oh, you're so uninformed my inexperienced friend, " said Elmer. "It was a little tricky to operate, but that radio could pick up AM, CQ, and sideband stations from all over the world. I spend hours listening to it and always brought it with me when we went on vacation. I loved that radio."
"Unck, what's this?" said Dude setting a somewhat stranger piece of electronics on the bench.

"That's my dad's very basic transmitter and power supply. We built it together from an article in QST magazine.

"He showed me how it worked, but I was not allowed to touch it until I finally mastered five words per minute code and got my Novice ticket. That radio and that transmitter became my first station."

"It must've been easy being a ham back then," said Hambone. "Look how simple these things are."

"Simple doesn't mean easy," countered Elmer. "It not only took skill to operate CQ, but it took a lot more technical knowledge just to get the station on the air. There were no plug-and-play transceivers back then."

"Dude!" exclaimed Hambone interrupting his uncle. "The guys were looking for something different to do for Field Day. Maybe this is it. We could use this ancient stuff to set up a retro CW station."

"Well, it's not all that ancient..." mused Elmer. But his words went unheard as the boys gathered up the gear and ran out the door.

**Meanwhile, back at the frat house**

"Look what we found!" shouted Hambone nearly tripping over a spent summer cooler can as he and Dude burst through the front door. "I found something different for FD and this is it!"

"What is that smell?" asked one of the boys. "Whatever it is, I think it's dead," said another.

Hambone ignored the snide remarks and explained, "Dude and I were cleaning out my uncle's ham shack and we found this old gear. Unck says it was his first station. We could clean it up and put it on the air for Field Day as a retro CW station."

"Yeah, this is a receiver," said Dude holding up the Ocean Hopper. "And this is the transmitter."

"Does it only work other old stations, or can we talk to people younger than a hundred years?" continued a voice from the back. "Oh, and what are those small thingies? Baby radios?"

While most of the frat boys were each trying to outdo the other with snide remarks and old radio jokes, Tim, a more senior and experienced member of the frat was quietly examining the equipment.

"I think you have a good idea," said Tim in his usual quiet manner. "These 'thingies' are plug-in crystals that tune the transmitter and these coils tune the receiver. I bet with some cleaning, we could put this station on the air. Anyway, we can always ask your uncle if we have problems."

"I don't think we can rely on my uncle. He's off at a convention - or a resort - someplace," said Dude.

Tim added, "We can advertise it as a retro station on YouTube and QRZ, talk it up on the air. It'll be fun. I think we have an old J38 key and some retro-looking earphones around here somewhere."

As is the case with the young and energetic, once an idea catches fire, there's no stopping it. The entire group launched into frenzied activity - accompanied by rock music and the popping open of summer coolers - of cleaning, testing and restoring the old equipment.
**Hambone cont'd**

Field Day in the CW tent. The retro station is on the air.

"This is cooler than I ever imagined," said Hambone to Tim who was sitting down at the logger computer. "Everyone wants to work us. The only thing is this receiver is not very selective and twenty-meters is getting crowded."

"Yeah, I see you've already made 53 contacts in less than an hour and a half. That's great! How about we try forty-meters? It's probably less crowded."

"Good idea. Just let me finish up with these last few who have been calling me and then we can switch," replied Hambone.

Yes, it was great. For once Field Day was going uneventfully well, an unusual situation for Hambone. Hammy completed his last few contacts while Tim did double duty as logger and tour guide for the steady flow of visitors. But with visitors comes trouble.

"Ouch, dammit, that hurt!" cried a young boy who reached over the big yellow sign and touched the transmitter's antenna terminal.

"What part of 'High Voltage - Do No Touch' don't you understand?" sneered Hambone.

He would have said more but Tim interrupted and hustled the visitor away.

The boys had just gotten back to the business of making and logging QSOs when two more visitors arrived. These guys seemed to be carrying something that looked like a portable radio. They did not appear happy.

"Hi," the first one said. "This must be the retro station we've heard so much about."

"Yes, it is," replied Tim standing up. "I'm Tim and this is Hambone. Would you like a tour?"

"Maybe later," said the portable radio guy. "We're from the field day site at the park about a mile east of here. Our group is running only two stations, sideband and digital, but we've noticed a strange sort of interference on twenty-meters that we haven't heard before."

The visitor turned up the volume on his little radio and a sort of screeching whistle was heard.

He continued, "We've been looking for the source with this directional radio and it led us here."

"I don't think it could be our transmitter. It is very old, but it's not transmitting right now and your radio is still playing the noise," said Tim puzzled by the strange sound.

I see that. But the noise seems to be coming more from other there." The visitor pointed the radio in the direction of the Ocean Hopper receiver. "Is that your receiver?"

"Yes," said Hambone, "but it's only a receiver. It doesn't transmit."

"Still, the noise seems to be loudest right there." The visitor indicated the Ocean Hopper. "Could you turn it off for a few seconds to see if the noise disappears?"

"Sure," said Hambone. "But it's only a receiver and can't..."

At that moment, three things happened. Hambone switched the Ocean Hopper off, the noise ceased and Hambone stopped talking. A pleasantly quiet moment ensued. But it didn't last.

"Wow!" exclaimed Hambone. "A receiver that transmits noise. Who knew?!?"

"We were just about to switch to forty-meters. Let's see if the noise is on that band, too."

The boys installed the forty-meter coil in the Ocean Hopper and turned it back on. The visitor tuned his directional receiver and found almost no noise on twenty-meters and only a slight amount on forty.

"I don't know what's wrong with the receiver, but we seem to have fixed the problem for now," said Tim. Everyone shook hands and the visitors left.

**Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 93 Shawnee Mission, KS 66201  pg. 4 of 11
"Not good," replied Tim. "We had to shut down early, really early."

"Not again?" asked Elmer as he remembered some of Hambone's previous Field Days.

"Yes, for some reason, that little shortwave receiver transmitted a lot of noise and other stations complained of the interference."

"Even worse," added Hambone, "The transmitter put out a really strong signal on twenty-meters even though we were operating on forty. We were jamming some marine frequency. With so many complaints, we gave up. This retro radio really sucks."

"Well," said an unsympathetic Elmer. "That's what you get for running out without learning how to operate that equipment."

"Simple, maybe. But they brought you guys to your knees, didn't they?

"What's there to learn?" retorted Hambone. "These things are dead simple. It's not like they have a lot of knobs and menus."

"But what about the receiver? Receivers aren't supposed to transmit interference, are they?" asked Tim.

The boys went back to Field Day operating, this time with Tim operating and Hambone logging. Forty-meters wasn't as busy as the higher band, but it was pretty good and the boys were fully engrossed in racking up contacts. So engrossed that they didn't notice the tall gray-haired stranger in their tent until he tapped Hambone on the shoulder. Hambone jumped.

"Sorry to startle you," apologized the stranger. "I'm an amateur radio Official Observer and I noticed that your boys are operating CW at the top of twenty-meters. While that's not illegal, I'm wondering why you're so far up in the voice section of the band."

"I'm sorry," replied Tim before Hambone could alienate the visitor with a snarky comment. "I don't think that's us. We're operating an antique station in the old Novice section of forty-meters. This is an actual old Novice transmitter that's crystal controlled on 7.15 MHz. See?"

Tim removed the transmitter's crystal and showed the frequency clearly stamped on it.

"Well, that explains it," said the visitor. "We were hearing you on 14.3 MHz, the second harmonic of your operating frequency. That happens to be the 24/7 intercontinental maritime net frequency."

"Oh," said Hambone.

A few days later in Elmer's shack

"Hi Unck, I'm glad to see you're back. Here's your stuff."

"My trip was great! It was a lot of fun on the beach. Oh, yeah, the conference was interesting, too. Thanks for asking. How did your retro field day go?"
"You see, boys," continued Elmer in full pontifical mode, "The lesson here is not how to operate obsolete transmitters and receivers, but to be sure you know what you're doing before you do it. You assumed that because you operate modern complex transceivers that you would have no problem with this obviously simple equipment. You were wrong. You forgot the fundamental rule about assuming."

"What's that?"

"Never assume. Assuming makes an 'Ass' out of 'U' and 'Me.'"

Jaimie "Unck" Charlton
ADØAB
Author of Hambone

**Upcoming Public Service Events**

There are still several public service events to assist in providing communications support. These events allow us an opportunity to serve our communities while meetings other Hams, testing our equipment, and honing our skills. If you are interested in helping with any of these events, send an email to the Point of Contact provided.

- **August 6** - Sunflower to Roses Bike Event - OP - Steve L. KDØEKS - stevekd0eks@gmail.com
- **August 12** - Kill Creek Adult Triathlon, DeSoto - Mike R. KØKCK - wmralls@comcast.net
- **August 19** - Kill Creek Kids' Triathlon, DeSoto - Mike R. KØKCK - wmralls@comcast.net
- **August 20** - Summer Breeze Bike Ride, Longview Lake - Ray E. KØRSE - rerlichman@kc.rr.com
- **September 9-10** - Hawk 100 Run, Clinton Lake State Park - Bill G. KA2FNK - ka2fnk@gmail.com
- **September 23-24** - Bike MS, Olathe to Lawrence - Herb F. NZØF - hfiddick@gmail.com
Meeting Minutes 06-09-2023
Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club

These minutes were approved by the membership in attendance at the 07-28-2023 meeting.

Meeting Date: Friday June 9, 2023. The meeting started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 25 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 May 12, 2023, were posted on the club website instead of being read. The posted minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurer’s report was read and accepted unanimously. Total paid membership is at 156.

Old Business:
- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – Bill Brinker, WAØCBW reported all Repeaters were up and repeating.
- Field Day 2023 – June 24 – 25. Set-up will be on Friday afternoon June 23. We will have a Club meeting at the Field Day site Friday evening at 7:00 pm with free ice cream afterwards. Field Day operations begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday June 24 and end at 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm. We will be having BBQ for dinner on Saturday. All hands-on deck for tear down clean up and beginning at 1:01 pm Sunday.
- A motion was made and seconded to increase the amount spent on Field Day by $1,500 for a total of $3,500. A vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.
- The Club’s VE team held a testing session on Tuesday June 6. Three candidates were present to take the exams.
- Ensor Museum May volunteer $100 Gift Certificate to Associated Radio drawing – Winner was Mike Ralls, KØKCK. Congratulations Mike!

New Business:
- Annual Elections were held. Because the current president can’t run this portion of the meeting, Herb Fiddick, NZØF was volunteered to do so. A nomination was made to retain the current slate of elected officers. This motion received a second. A vote was taken, and all nominated positions received unanimous approval.
- JCRAC Elected Officers are Bill Gery KA2FNK – President, Jaimie Charlton ADØAB – Vice President, Cal Lewandowski – KCØCL, and Ted Knapp NØTEK – Secretary. Elected officers will take office on August 1.

Reports:
- 6 m – NR but it’s open!
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – NR on May 18, 5 on May 25, 3 on June 1, and 7 on June 8.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR on May 17, 5 on May 24, 4 on May 31, 6 on June 7.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – For the month of May (5 nets) there were a total of 50 check-ins with a low of 9 check-ins on May 24 and a high of 12 check-ins on May 31.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – For the month of May (4 nets) there were a total of 71 check-ins with a low of 14 check-ins on May 4 and a high of 21check-ins on May 11.
- HF Activity – Greece and Israel on 15m.
- Pota Activation – 12
Rescheduled from 7/14/2023 due to cancellation resulting from severe weather.

For this club meeting, there was a business session conducted prior to our meeting presentation. The Meeting Minutes from this business session have not been approved by the membership at the time of this publication, but they are available for review on that club website at www.w0erh.org and will be voted on for approval by the membership at the August 11, 2023 meeting. Once approved, they will be published in the following issue of Feedback.

Included in the business portion of the meeting, it was announced the club has purchased a military-grade mast, and at a great price, capable of configurations of 48 or 75 feet and a camera we can use for projection of objects to the big screen during presentations. Below are some photos from Bill KA2FNK of the mast. When cooler, some club members will erect the mast as a test to verify all parts work as they should and familiarize the club it. This should be an exciting additional to Field Day ops.

Upon conclusion of the business meeting, Jay Greenough, WJØX, led the club a hot wash recap of Field Day 2023. We discussed setup, operation, teardown and all aspects of Field Day. Both positives and negatives of the event were reviewed, including how well our batteries and solar panels worked, the slightly lower than last year's numbers, expenses, the weather, the teamwork, and the complications of "visitors" carrying on conversations in "work" areas. Notes were collected on how to improve Field Day for next year. Overall, the attendees all agreed it was a successful Field Day.
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!

General pool questions changed effective July 1 2023. Amateur Extra pool questions will change effective July 1, 2024.

1. T9A03 – Which of the following describes a simple dipole oriented parallel to Earth’s surface?
   A. A ground-wave antenna
   B. A horizontally polarized antenna
   C. A traveling-wave antenna
   D. A vertically polarized antenna

2. T2C01 – When do FCC rules NOT apply to the operation of an amateur station?
   A. When operating a RACES station
   B. When operating under special FEMA rules
   C. When operating under special ARES rules
   D. FCC rules always apply

3. G3B02 – What factors affect the MUF?
   A. Path distance and location
   B. Time of day and season
   C. Solar radiation and ionospheric disturbances
   D. All these choices are correct

4. G9D04 – What is the primary function of antenna traps?
   A. To enable multiband operation
   B. To notch spurious frequencies
   C. To provide balanced feed point impedance
   D. To prevent out-of-band operation

5. E0A08 – What does SAR measure?
   A. Synthetic Aperture Ratio of the human body
   B. Signal Amplification Rating
   C. The rate at which RF energy is absorbed by the body
   D. The rate of RF energy reflected from stationary terrain

6. E5C07 – Where is the impedance of a pure resistance plotted on rectangular coordinates?
   A. On the vertical axis
   B. On a line through the origin, slanted at 45 degrees
   C. On a horizontal line, offset vertically above the horizontal axis
   D. On the horizontal axis

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 each month at 7 PM at the JoCo Library at 87th & Farley in OP.
**Intentional QRM**

Why did the capacitor kiss the diode?

*He couldn't resistor!*

Random CW thought: Is Mrs. Dash Mr. T's wife?

I think my ham radio gear may have fallen in love with me. It hasn't said anything to me, but I've been picking up a lot of signals.

**Ensorfest 23**

100 years of Amateur Radio on Ensor Farm!

The celebration is on **Saturday, August 12, 2023** starting at 4:30 PM CDT. Some activities include:

- A Morse Code Workshop
- Tours of simulation of Marshal Ensor's woodworking shop at Olathe High School
- Tractor and Implement Display and Demonstration (1941 John Deere)
- First Responder Vehicle Display
- Disc Golf (provided by Maverick Disc Golf)

Starting at 6:45 PM, the Pheasant Pluckers will serenade the grounds with Bluegrass music.

Food will be available on the grounds.

Suggested parking donation of $10 per vehicle.

More info at www.ensorparkandmuseum.org

Ensor Park and Museum is located in Olathe at:

18995 W. 183rd Street, Olathe, KS 66062

Take US 169 south from I-35 in Olathe approx 4 miles. Turn left on 183rd St. and go east approx 1 mile. Ensor Farm is on the south side of the street.

**From the Editor**

In July, there were two events that occurred that made me proud to be a ham and, more specifically, a member of this fine club. We already know how giving the ham community is, but locally, we really jump when we are called.

First, on July 11th, Kevin, ADØIM, received a call from someone ready to take their license exam. Kevin was quick to contact the VE team and coordinate a pop-up VE testing session. It was quite the successful testing session with multiple applicants and multiple exams passed.

Then, on July 14th, severe storms with extremely damaging straight line winds impacted the area. Those damaging winds resulted in widespread damage across the area including several downed trees, some falling on homes and vehicles, and numerous power outages. But prior to the storms arriving, several members of the club are also ECS members and stepped up with the need arose for a spotter activation.

Those two calls from the community and how members of the ham community and our club responded reaffirms how great this hobby is. And these two instances were unplanned events and we responded. This doesn't include all the other scheduled activities and public service events where we volunteer our time and resources. We are such a giving group. It truly is a hobby in which I am proud to be a member.

Thank you for being such an awesome club!

73

Tim Wiegman, Jr.
KBØYQN
What's Your Traffic?

Have something you'd like to announce to the club? What about a useful Tech Tip? Is there club member that should be spotlighted? Photos from a presentation?

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

Thank you to those that submit photos for events and meetings as well as provide tech tips and other information.

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

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

Club Nets

The club has weekly next on Wednesday and Thursday. It is a great way to test your equipment. Many public service events conduct their communications in a similar way, so this is also a great way to gain experience applicable to assisting in public service events.

Wednesday @ 1900 - Yaesu System Fusion net via Kansas City Room, also accessible from select local KC repeaters (visit www.kansascityroom.com for list)

Wednesday @ Conclusion of YSF net - 40M Roundtable near 7.273 MHz LSB

Thursday @ 1900 - Wheatshocker analog net on 145.29 MHz club analog repeater (negative offset, PL Tone of 151.4 Hz)

Thursday @ Conclusion of analog net - 10M Afterglow net on 28.475 MHz USB (within Technician Class portion of band)