President's Corner

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Now, as we enter the last month of 2023, it is a good time to reflect on the year. Field Day was very successful. We reached the main goal of having fun. Field Day point-wise found us 20th in our 3A class.

As Ted (NØTEK) reported, the recruiting for Ensor volunteers was completed for our month before the month began. Thank you for stepping up.

Having the first meeting of the month being a business/program and the second meeting being an expanded program seems to be a successful format. We will need assistance with programs for the upcoming year, especially the expanded programs.

Our only meeting in December is the Christmas party. The party will start at 7 PM at the church. Bring your favorite item to share. Christmas entertainment is being headed up and organized by Tom (NØGSG).

To help stage the for the party, Tim (KBØYQN) has arranged a holiday lights tour. The tour will take place leaving from the church at 5 PM. Seats are limited. He has more information about pricing and how to secure a seat.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bill
KA2FNK

Upcoming Club Events

- Tue. Dec 5 @ 1830 - Club VE Testing - JoCo Library 9875 W 87th St, OPKS
- Fri. Dec 8 @ 1700 to 1900 - Holiday Lights Tour Club Fundraiser leaving from meeting location - See “Announcements” for more info
- Fri. Dec 8 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Club Christmas Party - Bring items to share amongst your fellow attendees
- Fri. Dec 22 - NO CLUB MEETING - Merry Christmas
- Tue. Jan 2 @ 1830 - Club VE Testing - JoCo Library 9875 W 87th St, OPKS
- Fri. Jan 12 @ 1900 - Club Meeting - Biz meeting and program - Topic: 2024 Program Discussion - Bring your ideas of what you would like to learn about and see

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Meeting Minutes 10-13-2023
Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club

These minutes were approved by the membership in attendance at the 11-10-2023 meeting.

Meeting Date: Friday October 13, 2023. The meeting Started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 26 signed the check in sheet. This was followed be the Pledge of Allegiance.

As per the new By-Laws, the Minutes of the previous meeting from September 8, 2023, were posted on the club website instead of being read. The posted minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurer’s report was unavailable.

Old Business:
• We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
• Repeater Update – Bill Brinker, WAØCBW reported that all Repeater are working well.
• Kevin Van der Does, ADØIM reports the Club’s VE team held a testing session on Tuesday October 3. We are averaging 2 or 3 applicants per session. Kevin is very pleased with the VE Team.
• The Ensor Auction will be on Saturday October 28th.
• The FEEBACK Editor is looking for newsletter articles.

New Business:
• The Club’s Annual Christmas Party will be at the Church on December 8th.
• Tim Wiegman, KBØYQN, and Boulevard Limousine is offering a Holiday Lights Tour the night of the Club’s Christmas Party. The tour will leave from the OP Christian Church promptly at 5 PM, returning no later than 7 PM so that riders will be able to partake in the club’s holiday festivities. There are only 14 seats available. Each seat is only $35, a bargain for the experience, and 100% of each ticket minus payment processing fees will be donated to the Club. Register at https://jcracHLT2023.eventbrite.com
• WW1USA Special Event will be October 21st and 22nd. There will also be POTA activation on the Museum grounds as well. More information to come.
• We currently have ALL the museum volunteer spots filled at Ensor for the rest of the month!

Reports:
• 6 m – NR.
• 10 m SSB Roundtable – 4 on 10/12/2023, NR on 10/5/2023, 5 on 9/28/2023, and 4 on 9/21/2023
• HF Activity – None.
• POTA Activation – 1.

Announcements:
• Solar Eclipse Event at the Powell Observatory in Louisburg, Kansas

Business meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Program:
The program was a discussion about the upcoming POTA Event at the World War 1 Museum and Memorial by Dave Porter, KØDVP and Charlie Van Way, NØCVW.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, NØTEK Secretary.
Meeting Presentation 11-10-2023

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

Following the conclusion of the business meeting, David Schulman, WDØERU, discussed the ins and outs of his auction business. David was extremely candid about everything that he does within the business. Discussion included how pieces are acquired, cleaned, marketed and sold on his site. Included in the discussion was some of the more rare items he has come across and sold, the most expensive items he has sold, the most popular items he has sold, and items that he doesn’t have much interest in auctioning. He also showed off the shack that he has located at his business, including the tower and antenna options available and invited any member to visit his northland location to see the warehouse, operate the station, and learn more about his business.

I am certain that many people learned a lot from this presentation about the overall process. With that said, I, Tim, the Feedback editor, will discuss some of these things that I took away from the presentation, things that I found the most interesting. I found it very interesting that David and his team had developed and build testing tools and techniques to test the equipment, especially tubes. The fact that his team is able to test tubes, comparing the readings from the tubes with an index used to state the condition and remaining life of the tubes, has yielded significantly higher bids as people are no assured that they are buying something that actually works and has considerable life left in them. Also, when acquiring a lot to auction, the lot will be spread out across multiple auctions. In the case of a lot that has duplicates of items, specifically higher dollar items like transceivers, spreading out the items from a single lot helps bring in more revenue as you don’t end up with the duplicates competing with themselves. In other words, scarcity brings value.

One of the services that David and his team can also help with is providing insight for a spouse of a silent key that doesn’t know what to do with the equipment that remains. In many case, he can help someone plan in advance of their passing on how to handle the shack. This may include notating in a will that he is to be called to handle the ham radio portion of the estate. He is very honest with the seller of the items what value the items may hold, if they truly have value worth selling and can be sold, or if the items are better left as a donation to a local club, new ham, or someplace else (I envision an electronics class could benefit). David also shared that he has been contacted by some spouses where friends of the silent key said that they could help clear all radio gear away for a certain price. Truth is these “friends” were friends of the ham and not friends of the surviving spouse. They were clearly taking advantage of the situation and severely undervaluing the gear that existed.

There are also items that David doesn’t want to auction. Those items include things that are truly of no or little value and the boat anchors that can be difficult, and expensive, to ship. And that is something to keep in mind when buying items at auction; there is a cost to ship the item to you unless you are local and able to pick up the item.

It was truly a fascinating presentation. I know that I have already referred David to a friend who was left an estate that includes some ham gear. And of course with the number of auctions, I will be on the lookout for something I can get for myself from Schulman Auction!
This very odd adventure began simply enough at the Engineering Frat House where an all-hands meeting is already in progress.

“That sounds like a lot of fun!” exclaimed Dill. “We can use our ham radios to cheer up kids and have some fun too.”

“Yeah, let’s do it!” shouted a voice from the back.

“That’s all great, but what’s a sleigh-mobile? I don’t get it,” said Tim as he walked in taking a seat at the back of the room.

Dill explained, “Sorry Tim. As I was saying, my uncle has an automotive restoration and customizing business in Topeka. A customer brought in a brand-new Tesla that had been totaled-out. The thing was a mess. The owner said he didn’t want to repair the car and my uncle could keep it. But he did need an estimate to show that it was totaled.

“After the customer left, my uncle inspected the pile of junk and noticed that although the body and the interior was history, the chassis, including the motor, brakes and steering, was repairable.”

“Was the battery still good?” asked Hambone. “That’s usually the most expensive part.”

“Yeah, it was still good and actually ran the motor.

“Anyway, my uncle didn’t know what to do with the naked chassis, but then he got a crazy idea. Maybe it was the Christmas spirit creeping in or something. I don’t know.”

“Gees, just tell us!” said Dude, getting bored with this whole pseudo-dramatic discussion.

“Okay, okay. My uncle remembered a sleigh he’d been keeping in his warehouse. Not a real one, just a prop from some kind of old display.

**Hambone**

"Hambone Goes Sleigh Mobile"

*A Hambone Christmas Story filled with suspense and awe by Jaimie Charlton ADØAB*

“To make a long story short…”

“Thank Goodness”, interrupted Dude.

“As I was saying,” continued Dill. “All it took was a little cutting and drilling and a few mounting brackets and my uncle was able to mount the sleigh on the Tesla chassis. Suddenly, you have a Sleigh Mobile! Which is parked out in back.”

The boys raced out the back door and there, before their wondering eyes did appear, a sleigh mobile, without eight tiny reindeer. Still, it looked pretty good - as long as you didn’t look too closely.

Imbued with the Christmas spirit, the boys hatched a plan. They would dress up like Santa’s elves and drive the sleigh mobile to places where there’s lots of kids, like orphanages and day cares. They would use the sleigh’s special *Santa radio* to let the kids talk to Santa at the north pole. ‘Santa’ would be one of the guys hidden a few yards away with a handie talkie. He would use the HT to talk to the kids through the radio.

Driven by their boundless teenage energy, the boys put on elf costumes, stocked the sleigh mobile with candy and small toys and drove to a local orphanage. They were careful to drive slowly and only on back streets because, as good as it was, the sleigh mobile lacked a few things, like seatbelts and a license plate. But it had an excellent special Santa radio also known as an ICOM 2730 VHF transceiver.

The orphanage manager was thrilled to see the boys and their sleigh and agreed that the children would love it, too. That turned out to be an understatement. Tiny rug rats overwhelmed the elves, each wanting to talk to Santa on the special radio.
The parents loved it, too. They loved listening to their children ‘secretly’ express their Christmas wishes.

As before, the kids asked for the usual stuff like bicycles, dolls, action figures. The parents guided the voice-of-Santa as to what to promise and what to offer alternatives.

Bigger Problems
Then one little girl asked for a pony. She was sure she could keep the pony in her room. Off mic, the girl’s mom explained that they lived in an apartment and instructed the voice-of-Santa to offer a tricycle instead.

Of course, transmissions between Santa and the sleigh were solid and perfectly clear, but sometimes the words that came out of the sleigh radio weren’t exactly the words that Santa said into his HT.

In this case, for example, Santa offered a pink tricycle with a bell. But the sleigh radio said something to the effect that a pony was a great idea and Santa would try to deliver one. The shocked parent quickly ushered the little girl away.

Another little girl wanted a brother. Her mom said no more kids, but the sleigh radio said it was a good idea.

The frat boys were shocked. What was happening?

Santa’s voice from the radio sounded exactly like Hambone – who was ‘Santa’. At first, his words reflected the parents’ guidance, but then things changed. Had Hambone gone rogue? He seemed to be promising presents to some of the children that couldn’t be delivered. Yes, Santa was promising ponies, a Harley Hog (bigger kid), a hippopotamus and a daddy to come home.
Hambone cont'd

The parents became alarmed and Dude stopped the event claiming technical difficulties at the north pole. Hambone vigorously denied everything and swore he was not ‘going rogue.’ But it sure sounded like his voice.

At first, the boys thought that someone, maybe another frat, was playing a mean practical joke. But they found nobody nearby let alone someone with a radio powerful enough to completely override their signals.

They moved the sleigh to a park behind the building and began thoroughly checking their equipment. They were going to find where that strange voice was coming from.

They found nothing wrong with their equipment and found no voice.

Although Hambone and Dude were greatly upset by this mystery, Tim was less so. While the brothers checked the VHF radio, Tim fired up his QRP rig and set about activating the park for POTA, Parks On The Air.

After a few contacts, Tim announced that the air was alive with talk of a huge solar event. A monster Coronal Mass Ejection, CME, had just hit the earth. All HF radio was disrupted, the power grid was acting weird and northern and southern lights could be seen almost down to the equator.

Finding nothing wrong with their transceivers, Hambone and Dude reluctantly blamed their problems on the solar event. Of course, that didn’t explain how the words were changed.

While Hambone and Tim were getting their sleigh ready to move on, Dude noticed a similar vehicle about a hundred yards ahead. Approaching it, he discovered that this vehicle looked just like the sleigh mobile and the inhabitants looked just like them!

“Why are you guys disguised as us?” Demanded Dude. He got no answer. In fact, it seemed those look-alikes didn’t even hear him. He shouted again, waving his arms to attract attention. This time his doppelganger, we’ll call Dude2, waved back and held up a handle-talkie.

Dude got the hint, and shouted into his HT, “Why are you guys disguised as us?”

Dude2 responded through his identical HT, “You don’t need to shout. We’re not disguised as you, we are you.”

Using his HT, Dude called back to the sleigh mobile, “Hammy, Tim, come here. I think I found where the voice was coming from. These guys are mocking us. They’re trying to steal our gig and make us look bad.”

“Stop! Stop!” cried Dude2 through his HT. “We aren’t mocking you or stealing your stuff. We are almost exact duplicates of you guys and your stuff, too.”

“This is some kind of a trick. What are you up to?” Demanded Hambone and Tim who were now on-site with their HTs. “And, why do you insist of only talking through HTs?”

Resolution

“No Trick. We are you in an alternate universe,” explained Dude2.

“Yeah, right. An alternate universe, give me a break!” sneered Tim. “Do you have unicorns, too?”

“We do have unicorns, but that’s beside the point.

“You must have heard of the theory that claims an infinite number of universes exist, each one slightly different. Every time you make a decision, your universe splits. What happens next depends on the decision. It’s called the multiverse theory. Each universe is called a brane, like membrane. Think of each universe as an infinite sheet hanging in an infinite void.
Dude2 continued, “There is also speculation that a similar event happened more recently, Christmas, 2000 years ago. Christmas is a very special time in our universe. Like you, we have stories of super bright stars and angels and things like that. To the people of that time, the northern lights would be frightening and mysterious.”

“So, you guys are trying to debunk Christmas?” challenged Tim.

“No, no, not at all! I’m just saying that physics can explain some of the celestial phenomena. But it can’t explain the force that caused two universes to touch at exactly the right time. What force is so great that it can move entire universes? We don’t know. But we know it’s there.”

Hambone chimed in, “I’m not sure I believe your explanation, but the CME was very huge and we are having incredible northern lights. If you’re right, how do we get our universes apart again? I don’t really like having my double running around copying me like in a mirror.”

Dude2 tried to explain, but his voice through his HT seemed to trail off, “With the changes that have occurred in the – WAKE UP! of the CME - and PRESENTS - seems to be around a TREE…”

“Hammy, Hammy wake up!” Shouted Dude. “Santa has been here and there’s lots of presents around the tree!”

Merry Christmas from the entirely virtual, but spiritually real, Hambone family.

Jaimie "Unck" Charlton
ADØAB
Author of Hambone
**Intentional QRM**

Which of Santa’s reindeer are dinosaurs most afraid of?  
*Comet!*

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?  
*Frostbite!*

What do snowmen wear on their heads?  *Ice caps!*

Did you know the cost of operate Santa’s sleigh is 8 bucks? It’s 9 if the weather is bad.

Knock knock! Who’s there? Anna? Anna who? Anna partridge in a pear tree!

Die Hard is in fact a Christmas movie. Taking place on Christmas Eve, it is about a man taking part in a social obligation with his wife, Holly, in which he doesn’t want to. The whole evening spirals out of control into a nightmare ending with a guy in a suit flying at the end of the movie.

**Upcoming Public Service Events**

In the November 2023 issue of *Feedback*, I erroneously posted a wrong date for one of the new 2024 Douglas County bike ride events that Ray Erlichman, KØRSE, had been contacted for by the Lawrence Bike Club. The correct date for the Lizard Under the Skillet is July 21, 2024. So, for those that like participating in those events, mark it on your calendar and let us show the bike community in Lawrence how awesome we are!

With that, no other PSEs are on the nearby horizon. Johnson County Emergency Communications Service (ECS), which serves as the county’s RACES organization, will soon begin training for its members in next month. If you are interested in becoming an ECS member, especially if you are interested in storm spotting, visit www.k0ecs.org for those upcoming training sessions. Training sessions including NWS Storm Spotter Training, ECS Protocols Training, online FEMA training, and a protocols exercise. This training is sure to improve your PSE radio communication!

**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!

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

1. **T7D09** – What is the characteristic appearance of a cold tin-lead solder joint?  
   A. A rough or lumpy surface  
   B. Excessive solder  
   C. A bright shiny surface  
   D. Dark black spots

2. **T3B10** – What frequency range is referred to as HF?  
   A. 3 to 30 MHz  
   B. 30 to 300 MHz  
   C. 300 to 3000 MHz  
   D. 300 to 3000 kHz

3. **G3A09** – How can high geomagnetic activity benefit radio communications?  
   A. Increases signal strength for HF signals passing through the polar regions  
   B. Creates auroras that can reflect VHF signals  
   C. Reduce long delayed echoes  
   D. Improve HF long path propagation
How did you do?

If you got all the questions correct, Congrats! If you hold a Technician or General class license, this may be the sign you need to work on that upgrade. Plenty of resources are available for study. The JCRAC VE Team holds testing sessions on the first Tuesday of each month at the Johnson County Library at 87th & Farley in Overland Park. The VEs start arriving and setting up about 6:30 PM, but as long as you arrive by around 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter, you should be able to complete your test. The library does close at 8:00 PM.

Are you ready and don’t feel like you can wait? Contact Kevin, ADØIM, and see if a pop-up VE session can be held. Only 3 VEs are needed and there are plenty of Club VEs, so it usually isn’t too difficult to arrange. They understand that when you are ready, YOU ARE READY!

From the Editor

First, I want to apologize for being a bit tardy on curating this issue of Feedback. This time of year, with the number of Holiday Lights Tours I sell for my limo business keeps me rather busy. I haven’t even really had time to play radio. And speaking of the Holiday Lights Tours, make sure to join us on the fundraiser tour before the party on December 8th. There are more details on the next page.

Now, if you are looking for something to put on your wish list for Santa this year, Yaesu seems to have blesses us with some amazing deals through the end of January. HTs, mobile rigs, and even new HF units all have some great instant coupons available. Check them out and see if Santa cannot bring you something nice this year. Or if you need something to place under the Christmas tree for yourself, this will help save some room in the budget. Our significant others may ask how many more radios we need? “Just one more!”

Happy Holidays!

Tim Wiegman, Jr.
KBØYQN
Club Fundraiser Holiday Lights Tour

Come along for a ride with fellow JCRAC club members on a Holiday Lights Tour donated by Boulevard Limousine.

Seats are **ONLY $35** each with 100% of the money being donated to the club. Seating is limited.

The tour will leave from the church at 5 PM on Friday, December 8, 2023 returning back by 7 PM, just in time for the party!

Call Tim, KBØYQN, at (913) 712-8375 to reserve your seat!
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 nets 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 Fusion net via Kansas City Room, also accessible from select local KC repeaters (visit www.kansascityroom.com for a list)
Wednesday @ Conclusion of Fusion 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 *near* 28.475 MHz USB (within Technician Class portion of band)