



QST-FROM THE SHACK

By Mike Stewart, K0MBS

Spring has sprung! Early in the month, March kicked off with a well-attended Fox Hunt sponsored by KF4LM. Congratulations to Ed, KD7QOR, teamed with Gary and Doug, who located the Fox first. Although the weather wasn't the most pleasant, all had a good time and learned quite a bit. The interest generated by this event will likely lead to several DF antennas being built. Look for another hunt in the near term. We'll see what the wily fox has up his sleeve this time.

Another all-day practical exercise preceded the annual weather spotter training sponsored by the EOC. This continues a trend over the past few years of a pre-test before the NWS training session. The day's events did highlight the necessity for a NOAA weather radio in every home, school, and work place and reinforced the contribution amateurs make to the county's spotter network. Good job to all who responded to the numerous callouts on March 12th. Fortunately, there were no reports of marble-size hail (hi hi), although Roger encountered some baseball-size stones in Basehor. Ouch.

April has quite a few events to keep us busy. Our first Technician license class of the year takes place on April 8th. The format should make it much easier on the students, and other clubs who have used this format report good results. Volunteers are needed to assist with setup and monitoring of the session. See the announcement elsewhere in the QRZ for additional information. The following weekend, on April 15th, is the annual Ararat Hambash. This is always a good hamfest and usually results in several of us parting with sizable quantities of Washingtons, Lincolns, and Grants. Of course, don't forget our monthly meeting and this month's dinner. Make plans to attend any or all of these get-togethers.

ARRL launched a new amateur radio awareness venture known as the *Hello* campaign in March. This project nests nicely with our ongoing efforts to raise our visibility in the community and to draw new operators into our midst. ARRL provided us with 75 full color brochures to pass out at upcoming events. The newly formed Membership and Education committee will be able to use the products developed by ARRL to inform Leavenworth area citizens of the benefits of being a ham. See the campaign's web site at www.hello-radio.org to learn more about what you can do to reach out.

Speaking of web sites, have you seen ours lately? Dan, Pat, John, and Dennis made needed improvements to the currency of our information and have given it a new look. Thanks to all of you for the extra effort it's taken to bring our site up-to-date.

By the way, it's pretty difficult, if not impossible, to hit the 147 machine from 1100 miles away. Maybe a better antenna would help. I have *got* to get a portable HF station to take on the road if this keeps up. That's one of my objectives at Dayton this year (a portable rig, not more road trips).

See you on the (email) bands!

Mike - K0MDS/4

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| FROM THE SHACK | 1 |
| PKARC Test Date | 2 |
| Announcements | 2 |
| KICKAPOO QRP ARC - A Foxy Tail | 3 |
| ARRL "Hello" Campaign Kicks Off | 4 |
| Study Session Notice Mine Survivor Goes Home | 5 |
| Club Purpose Club Information | 6 |

Special points of interest:

- PKARC Club Meeting - April 6th - 7:30pm
- One Day Study Session - April 8th - 8:30 - 4:00
- Ararat Hambash - April 15th
- PKARC Test Session - April 28th
- PKARC Club Dinner - April 29th - TBD

PKARC TEST DATES

Club members and others interested in taking the FCC examinations for the various license classes should know that testing sessions for the Club have been set at the American Red Cross building on Shawnee Street, Leavenworth. The next testing date for 2006 is scheduled for 28 April. Please notify Martha Auchard at 772-7350 of your desire to take the test, so Volunteer Examiners can be notified and all the elements you need are on hand.

If you need assistance preparing, please ask any of the Club officers. Classes will be held also throughout the year depending on the number of those interested in devoting the time.

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

New Web-site Design Makes Debut

A newly, re-designed club web-site made it's debut to the World Wide Web in March. Thanks to the efforts of Dan Borneman, W9JXE; John Bennett, KC0VRN; Dennis Pearson, KC0TJY; and Pat Atkins, KF0YN; the new site puts needed information within easy reach to visitors. The new design also maintains a consistent look through-out, and is easily updateable with minimum effort. Give it a look and let them know what you think. The web-site can be found at:

<http://www.pkarc.org>



Volunteers Needed

April is shaping up to be a busy month, and radio volunteers are needed. Please help out with the following events:

- April 8th - Technician Study Session - Various positions needed throughout the day. See elsewhere in the QRZ for positions needed and how you can help
- April 23 - Lansing Fun Run - Approx. 4 to 5 volunteers to man positions for this event.
- April 23 - Road Race - Approx 4 to 6 volunteers to man locations for this event. Should NOT be same individuals for the Lansing Fun Run.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please notify Mike - K0MDS, Doug - KC5VKG, or Mac - W0ROO (For the road race, and RF only...hihi).

For Clarification

Just to clarify, there will be 2 (two) test sessions held in the month of April. The first one being the 8th in conjunction with the One-Day Study Session, and the regularly scheduled test session on the 28th. Also the Element 1 (Morse Code) test will **NOT** be given at the April 8th session. Cost for the exams **ONLY** will be the standard \$5. Please notify Martha Auchard if you plan to attend either session.



FROM THE KICKAPOO QRP ARC OPERATING DESK

GARY, WB0MNA

A Foxy Tail

The Pilot Knob ARC held its first Fox Hunt of 2006 on March 4, 2006. The weather for the hunt was wet and cool but did not stop the hungry hunters from tracking down the sly and tricky Fox.

The Fox (Rick – KF4LM) deployed many tricks in his attempt to stay hidden, but in the end skill and a little luck on the part of the hunters prevailed.

This was the first Fox Hunt for most of the participating club members and as such turned out to be a real learning experience. Many lessons were learned in the Direction Finding process and new skills were gained in this area of operation.

A total of 8 people turned out for the event. The Fox was already in hiding when the hunt began around 8:30 a.m. so the seven hunters divided into two teams. One team consisted of three members and the other had four. When the beacon frequency was announced the teams jumped on their mounts (Autos) and headed in the direction their Direction Finder antennas were leading them.

The signals started out strong leading them in a southwestern direction from the Red Cross, but soon became weak and misleading. One team ended up on the eastern side of Leavenworth while the other team stayed on the west side. After decoding the transmitted audio information and using an effective DF antenna the team on the west side found the sly Fox hiding in a shelter house in Wollman Park. The total time needed to find the Fox was approximately one hour and 15 minutes.

The first person on the team to reach the Fox was Ed – KD7QOR who earned a dinner for two at Sherry's Outpost for his efforts. The other members of the team (Doug – KC5VKG and Gary – WB0MNA) received Fox tails for their participation.

The second team was made up of John – KC0VRN, Glen – KC0TIE, Dennis – KC0TJY and a visitor destined to soon become a new ham.

Lessons learned from this exercise were as follows:

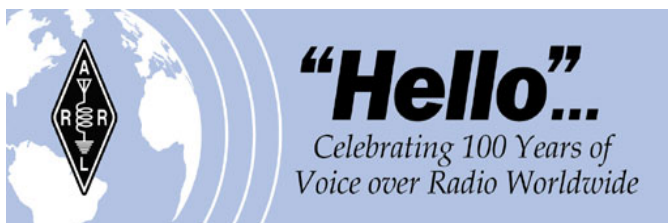
- 1 Work in teams. Preferably groups of three or four members to a team. One for driving, one for using the DF antenna and one for note taking and radio operator if necessary.
- 2 Use a good radio along with the DF antenna. It should be designed to operate specifically on the range of frequencies you are trying to locate. A scanner is not selective or sensitive enough to work well for this purpose and prone to nearby interference.
- 2 If using a simplex frequency to communicate between teams, make sure each chase vehicle has a radio capable of putting out 25 or more watts to a vehicle mounted antenna. Hand held radios can be too limited on range and power for simplex operation.
- 3 Look for high locations that are free of nearby building to take position fixes on the Fox. This helps minimize the signals being reflected off of large buildings and giving you false information.
- 4 Define roles for the people involved in the search/exercise.
- 5 Keep a roster of the people in the search so you know where everyone is at all times.
- 6 Learn how to use the direction finding equipment effectively. Learn its strengths and weaknesses.
- 7 Bring a working GPS receiver along with each search team.
- 8 Think out of the box. Don't try to out think the Fox by looking for the most obvious locations or vehicles he may be hiding in.
- 9 Make sure you have an attenuator built in to the DF antenna so you can weaken the sending signal as you get close to the fox. Otherwise, you could lose directivity due to receiver overload.
- 10 Remove the antenna from the radio when you're close to the Fox. It can help to locate the Fox by acting as an attenuator while still having some directivity.
- 11 Wear gloves on a cold and wet day. Especially if you hold the DF antenna outside the vehicle while driving.
- 12 Don't drink too much coffee prior to heading out to chase the Fox.
- 13 Above all, have fun and be careful and stay on public property.

It was a fun rainy Saturday morning activity and everyone had a good time....even the losing team!

Join us again when the next Fox is planned and learn the DF process in case we ever need to chase down a problem signal on one of the repeaters or find a lost ham on field day.

See you then,

Gary Auchard - WB0MNA



"Hello" Campaign Provides Rallying Point to Promote Amateur Radio

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 15, 2006--The first components of the ARRL's "Hello" Amateur Radio public relations campaign now are available. "This

campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who conceived the campaign and is its principal Headquarters contact. The "Hello" campaign is aimed at recasting Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focus on its universal appeal. At the same time, it will mark the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden.

"For years, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) and others interested in promoting Amateur Radio have been looking for leadership and a rallying point from which we can join together in a major promotion for ham radio," Pitts said. *This is it!* Tools include a distinctive "Hello" Web site and radio and TV public service announcements.

Pitts describes the promotion is "quite simply the largest PR campaign that ham radio has ever attempted." Based on the word "Hello," which he calls "possibly the most pleasant word in any language," the coordinated campaign will set "a positive, upbeat tone that highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio," he explained.

The "Hello" Web site is designed for *non*-hams to learn a little bit about Amateur Radio and to arouse more interest, Pitts explains. "We stay upbeat, positive and hopeful. Nothing threatening, too difficult or scary is included."

Pitts says the site points prospective Amateur Radio licensees to groups that have indicated they will provide a warm welcome to newcomers--a good "Hello!" The national "Hello" campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham radio groups, but it will be up to local radio amateurs to make them truly welcome, Pitts maintains.

"The key to creating a new ham operator is to develop a relationship with a current ham operator," says Pitts, who spent the better part of the past year meeting with various ham radio groups and leaders to sort out "what could realistically be done" to make the campaign take off. Behind the effort is "an army of dedicated, truly motivated PIOs and others who want to see ham radio flourish," Pitts says.

"I believe that by placing good tools into your hands, you will use this opportunity to the fullest," he added. "There will be more to come as the year unfolds."

What's Available Now?

A series of 30-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) has been developed for the "Hello" campaign. The plan is make a new one available about every eight weeks. These "mini-commercials" for ham radio are already being played on dozens of stations across the country, and the numbers keep growing.

"You can help by downloading the PSAs from the ARRL Web site onto a CD and taking it to your own local radio station," Pitts suggests.

A broadcast-quality video for the "Hello" campaign will be available in April. Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure are available from ARRL Headquarters for use during presentations to non-ham groups. (Full details on the "Hello" campaign plus a pull-out copy of the brochure are available in the April issue of *QST*.) Pitts suggests the brochures are suitable for talks to schools, clubs, displays and other venues promoting Amateur Radio to the public. There is a space on the back page to add your local club info.

For more information, visit the "Hello" campaign website at

<http://www.hello-radio.org/>



Amateur Radio One-Day Study Session - April 8th

Remember, the Technician Class Study Session is coming up on April 8th from 9am - to 4pm. We still need volunteers to help out. Assistance is needed in the following areas, and the times needed:

- **Room Set-up** (1 hour starting at 8am) - set-up chairs tables, study materials
- **Registration** (1 hour starting at 8am) - check IDs, fill out necessary forms
- **Doughnut Procurement** (1 hour starting at 8am) - obtaining necessary food stuffs - cash will be provided - bring back food and receipts
- **Coffee/Juice Bartender** (1 hour starting at 8am) - need ingredients and someone with mixing skills
- **Session Monitors** (rotating throughout day) - ruler optional, but bring your own
- **Clean-up** (half hour after 4pm) - we may get a little

If you can be able to assist, please contact Mike - K0MDS, Doug - KC5VKG, or Ed - KD7QOR by email or RF on any of the three weekly nets.

Instructors Being Sought for New Ham Class

Also, instructors are being lined up for the New Ham Class on May 13th. Topics include: operating protocol, setting up your radio for repeater access, participating in a directed bet, message handling (NTS format), safety, and equipment operation safety. For more information, see the class description in the files section of the PKARC Yahoo! Group. Not a member of the group? Contact Doug - KC5VKG about signing up. If you'd like to help with the May 13th class, let Mike - K0MDS know of your interest.

Injured Miner Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, Goes Home

(From the ARRL) Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia, left a rehabilitation center and headed home March 30. "I'd just like to thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers," McCloy remarked on his departure. Neurologist Julian Bailes told reporters that he believes McCloy, 26, has a great potential for "a possibly complete" recovery. On March 2, McCloy's wife Anna told CBS *The Early Show* co-anchor Hannah Storm that her husband has told her he remembers "bits and pieces" of the mining disaster that left 12 of his co-workers dead of carbon monoxide poisoning. Earlier this month McCloy visited his home in Simpson for the first time since the mine tragedy. Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. A fund has been set up to accept donations for McCloy's benefit: The Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505

Congratulations ED - KD7QOR

Congratulations go to Ed Menard - KD7QOR. Ed was the first to locate the wily fox during PKARC's first fox hunt held in early March. In addition to winning dinner for two, Ed also wins the right to be the next fox. We look forward to finding out when the next hunt will be (hint, hint).

**THE PLOT KNOB
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 632
Leavenworth, KS 66048
<http://www.pkarc.org>

MEETINGS

Date: First Thursday of each month
Time: 7:30 p.m., Central Time
Location: The American Red Cross
525 Shawnee
Leavenworth, KS

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - MIKE STEWART, K0MDS
VICE PRESIDENT - DOUG THOMAS, KC5VKG
SECRETARY - ERIC HALL, KC0RUR
TREASURER - ED MENARD, KD7QOR
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - DOUG THOMAS, KC5VKG
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER -
DENNIS PEARSON, KC0TJY

AFFILIATIONS

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY
LEAGUE
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the club is to further the exchange of information and cooperation among members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual efficiency, to provide assistance to the best advantage in the event of emergency, and to conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio.

Anyone interested in the activities of this organization will be eligible for membership. Members must comply with FCC rules and regulations, as well as rules established by the club. Dues are \$20 per year (no extra cost for spouse or minor children who are amateurs).

Editor's Note: QRZ is a monthly publication of the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club and may be quoted in other publications provided a credit line is included and the author (if known) is given acknowledgment. Items related to amateur radio will be advertised free of charge. Articles for publication in QRZ are always welcome and willingly accepted in any form. We reserve the right to edit material as necessary. Please let me know if you experience problems getting your issues of QRZ, or if it is received in a difficult to read state. Members are encouraged to receive their QRZ via E-mail, rather than paper copy. Requests to receive the hard copy version will be honored. Your effort to reduce club expenses will be appreciated.

Comments or suggestions regarding the QRZ format are welcome and appreciated.

Doug Thomas, KC5VKG, QRZ Editor

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