



THE HAMCALL



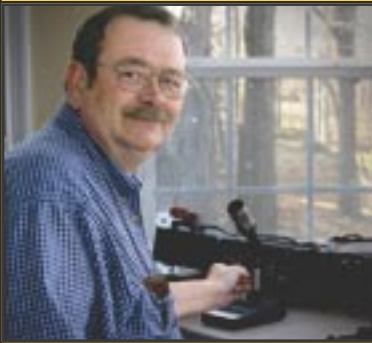
Volume 45

Number 5

May 2006

The Presidents Corner...

By John Coe, KY4COE



No Submission

Minutes & Sec/Tres Report

By Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX
Secretary/Treasurer

No Submission

Monthly Program

By Henry Cantrell, W4HTB
Vice President Elect.

The program for May will be presented by Dean Maggard K4NQV discussing and demonstrating High Definition Slow Scan communications.

ARES News

By Jeff Martin, WB4JM
Warren County ARES EC

- John informed me the other day that the back ordered PowerPole crimper has come in, we will have it at the next

meeting and will show all how to use it with the PowerPole connectors.

- A note that the May meeting of the KCARC will be held a week early due to the Dayton Hamvention. We will be meeting on May 12th instead of May 19th.

- Keep your calendars clear for Field Day as it is just around the corner (June 24-25).



- And lastly, it is that time again for the Bowling Green League of Bicyclist "Tour De Cave" bike ride that we have supported for the past two years. The date is June 3rd, a Saturday. We will meet at the Oakland School at 7:30am and provide communications support until about 2:00pm at the latest. Last year we used APRS to track the SAG Wagons and may again this year. John Coe has asked me to coordinate our support so if you would like to help, please give me a call or send me an email. Several of you have volunteered in the past and I look forward to working with you again. We usually have a lot of fun and no

you do not have to wear those cycling spandex shorts (except for John Coe) unless you want to.

73's

- Jeff

Civil Air Patrol Event

By Tim Robinson, KF4MGU
Vice President

The Civil Air Patrol will be participating in a communications field day exercise on May 13th, 1300Z-1900Z EDT. As a member of CAP I am inviting members of the KCARC to stop by the CAP trailer and participate in the event. The trailer is located at the back entrance of the airport at Airway Court off of Lovers Lane (near Fred Painter's shop). To gain access through the gate we'll probably monitor 144.34 simplex so we can come down and let you in. I may or may not be there according to my work schedule. If not KF4INP, Major Mike Bryant, will be there.

This exercise will also coincide with the Armed Forces Day Military/ Amateur Crossband Communications Test, information about the event can be viewed at:

[http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20\(2006\).doc](http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20(2006).doc)

[editor note: I posted this file on the Yahoo web site.]

Tim Robinson KF4MGU
kf4mgu@insightbb.com

Weaver's Words

In this issue --

- Have a Question?
- We won one! Legislative Action did it!
- Why does ARRL have its hand out so often?
- WAS through Logbook.
- Dayton Hamvention®
- Section Election Contested
- Overheard on the Bands
- My Travel Plans

HAVE A QUESTION?

I'm probably asking for more work than I can easily handle, but I'll do most anything I for an ARRL member. If you have a question about ARRL that you'd like answered, send me an E-mail that contains it. I ask only that you pose serious questions and that you do your best to state your question in a manner that makes the intent of your question easily understood. If there is something you want to know the background for a League action, if you want to know the reason the Board considered a particular action, ask. If you want to know why I do what I do, ask.

I plan to include at least one question per issue of Weaver's Words for as long as the questions last. Neither the Board, our HQ staff nor I have anything to hide. I'll do my best to give direct answers to your questions.

WE WON ONE! LEGISLATIVE ACTION DID IT!

You may not have put the two subjects together to realize we won a great victory in the US House of Representatives, but we did. Your letters urging your Congressmen/women to support H. Res. 230 paid off.

No, H. Res. 230 has not been passed by the House. Instead, the basic provisions of this resolution were introduced as the Ross Amendment into the new communications act bill. This is even better than having the resolution passed.

A resolution by the House or the Senate merely asks that something be considered. A Bill, on the other hand, is law and requires whatever action is indicated.

In addition to the tone set by your letters to your respective House members, letters to specific Congressmen got them to accept the Ross amendment.

The final battle has not been fought, though. Some time after the new bill has been assigned a number, you will be asked to write your Congressman, again -- this time to support the bill. As a matter of fact, I've just learned the bill has been assigned H.R.5252, but now is not yet the time to write. There are a number of things that go on within the House that need to shake out before the time is right. To be most effective, we need to wait until our experts on Capitol Hill give us the word to write. When this word comes, the more writers, the better.

Grassroots legislative action does pay off. The Ross amendment would not be part of the new communications act if it was not for our legislative activity! We have power and not all of it is directed through our antennas!

If you wrote on H. Res. 230, pat yourself on your back and know that I would personally be giving the pats if I could reach you. If you didn't write, please do so the next time the call comes out. There will be a next time and your letter can help.

Thanks.

QUESTION NO. 1. WHY DOES ARRL HAVE ITS HAND OUT SO OFTEN?

Members occasionally ask why ARRL sends so many solicitations for donations. The sentence that follows the question most often is a statement that we should live within the income from our dues.

First of all, I'm happy questions are asked. I fully believe having dialogue

2006 KCARC OFFICERS

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Vice President Elect:

Henry Cantrell, W4HTB

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2006 KCARC Meeting Dates (Third Friday)

January 20

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 12

May 19-21 Hamvention

June 16

June 24-25 (Field Day)

July 21

August 18

September 15 (Picnic)

October 20 (Elections)

October 31 (Bridge Watch)

November 17 (Annual Dinner)

December 16 (Sat Morn.)

between the Great Lakes Division members and me is good and very desirable. The following is my attempt to answer this one.

To the question.

The dues for ARRL membership are established essentially to provide the basic services of the organization. Just as is true of many similar organizations, our dues structure is not intended to cover all expenses for services your organization performs to support you and Amateur Radio. To speak bluntly, if my fellow Board of Directors members and I were to set a dues level that would cover the expenses for everything the League does, we would probably need to charge about \$100 per year. Even though this figure could be justified very easily, I suspect that many current members would run away as fast as possible when the postman brought the next dues statement. You can imagine that our membership numbers would fall faster and further than a lead fishing sinker in a fish bowl.

On balance, we believe it is better to keep the dues low – and \$39/year is low considering the benefits members receive -- and to ask for donations from members who are interested and can afford to support special programs, than to make the dues cover all necessary activities performed by ARRL.

Running a donation program has an added benefit. It offers choices to members. The choices? First, you have the choice to participate or not to participate in the gifting. Second, there is the choice of which program(s) to support -- to fight poorly-constructed BPL, to support all frequency defense efforts, to support W1AW, to support the education programs ARRL manages, to support . . . you get the idea. You can choose to support -- or

not to support -- whatever you wish and still maintain your basic membership at a low cost.

One more fact many members may not realize is that they even have full control over whether or not they receive requests to donate. If receiving these requests disturbs you, all you need do is to send an E-mail to our very nice Development Officer, Mary Hobart, K1MMH (k1mmh@arrl.org) and ask her to take you off the Development mailing list of potential donors. I know Mary quite well from working with her at HQ and can assure you she'll remove you from the list without argument. She is far from being "Mary, Mary, quite contrary!" but don't tell her I think she is such a nice trooper.

So, what is the value of the ARRL donor program to each of us members? 1. It keeps dues for ARRL to a minimum. 2. It allows people who choose to do so to supplement their dues payments with donations that enable your League to support the membership and Amateur Radio in ways that would otherwise be impossible. 3. It does this in a manner that allows you and me to choose voluntarily if we will provide the added support and, if we do, to choose the projects and programs we support. 4. It allows your ARRL to pursue programs that strengthen Amateur Radio and ARRL. 5. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Fair enough?

WAS THROUGH LOGBOOK

In case you missed the news, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been configured to support the Worked All States award in addition to the total DX Century Club (DXCC) program. During the past month, nearly twice as many WAS applications were processed through

LoTW (9) as through the submission of hard-copy QSLs (5). As of a couple of weeks ago, nearly 100,000,000 QSOs were entered into LoTW. This figure is growing rapidly.

What value does LoTW offer to users? Here are a couple of answers: 1. LoTW QSLing is usually much, much more rapid than when hard-copy QSLs are exchanged regardless of whether this is done by direct mail or by the Bureau. 2. The cost of QSLing is much in the order of pennies as compared with the cost of direct-mail QSLing which is in dollars and even through the Bureau which is about a dollar. 3. LoTW is the only digital form of QSLing that is sufficiently secure and reliable to be usable to obtain DXCC and WAS awards.

For info on LoTW, go to <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. LoTW was developed by ARRL at ARRL expense and is available only to ARRL members.

DAYTON HAMVENTION®

I'll be there. Will you?

If you make it to the Greatest Ham Radio Show On Earth this year, look me up. I'll be in the ARRL Expo area in the Ball Arena most of the time -- at the Grassroots Legislative Action booth. Friday morning will find me at the Grassroots Legislative Action forum at 9 AM in Forum Room 1, and after this is over at the ARRL Forum at 10 AM also in room 1.

These two fora, forums if you prefer, present great opportunities to hear in person from League leadership just what is going on and why it is going on. Considering the amount of misinformation being spread around the Internet about some ARRL actions, it might be still more important to realize this is a place where you can look the League

President or other officials squarely in the eyes and learn what is NOT going on!

SECTION MANAGER ELECTION CONTESTED

For the first time in many years, there will be a contest in the Ohio Section election for Section Manager. I wish each of the contestants well. There is still time for additional candidates to file for the office; therefore, I will not give the names of the two, current candidates and give them a possible unfair advantage over anyone who decides to enter the race later.

I encourage each member in Ohio to understand the tasks assigned to the elected Section Manager and determine how well the respective candidates can be expected to fulfill these tasks. The SM responsibilities are outlined at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sm.html>. The SM clearly has the power to mold the character of the ARRL Section he/she represents. It is up to the members of any Section that host contested elections to determine just what the character of their Section will become after the election is over. The Ohio Section is the one having an election this year. Kentucky and Michigan will have their turn in future years.

OVERHEARD ON THE BANDS

I overheard a few of you calling S01R, the YXs and the VU4s. I hope you all got into their logs. I was fortunate and made it.

MY TRAVEL PLANS.

My pending travel schedule through JJuly is as follows. Stop by and say hello.

May 19-21 -- Hamvention®, Dayton, OH and associated activities.

Jun 16 -- Salem Area ARC, Salem, OH.

Jun 18 -- Monroe County Radio Commun. Assoc. Hamfest, Monroe, MI.

Jul 8 -- Cleveland QCWA.

Jul 21--22 -- ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

Tnx for taking the time to read this issue. Write me with any questions or suggestions or merely to write.

73, CU on the bands.

Jim Weaver, K8JE
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ARRL, the Reason Amateur Radio is!
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If you do not want to receive further messages, go to the site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html?modify=1>

Log in with your username and password and change your email options.

Unchecking the "News and information from your Division Director and Section Manager" box will prevent messages such as this one from being sent to you.

**May Meeting
to be held at the
Bowling Green
Police Station
Community
Room.**

**May 12th
7:00pm
Social time
at 6:30pm.**

Hamstick Dipole Is A Practical and Portable Limited-Space HF Antenna

© 2001-2002, Virginia RACES, Inc. - For Educational Use Only
Steve Cuccio, NB30, NM, Old Dominion Emergency Net
And Ed Harris, KE4SKY, VA State RACES Training Officer

When setting up portable or space restricted antennas, stand-alone mobile whips are often avoided due to the lack of a good grounding method. Stringing ground radials or using a ground rod in the field or the attic becomes increasingly difficult. While using one mobile whip by itself requires a good ground or counterpoise (usually the car body), a pair can be operated as a dipole. Lakeview (www.hamstick.com) makes a universal dipole mount for \$13.95. They also supply quickdisconnect fittings with 3/8" X 24 threads which allow push-and-twist assembly of the mobile whips to the dipole mount within seconds for those of us wishing to make a quick setup or band change without tools.

Pro-Am makes Valor HF linear loaded whips that disassemble in half using a single threaded nut. This has the advantage that tuning adjustment is not lost when the antenna is disassembled. Hamstick whips have two small set screws that must be loosened to remove the stinger portion. Both brands cost about \$24 per whip. The eight-foot whip disassembles to two four-foot pieces. Each whip is designed to cover one amateur band and can be adjusted from the phone to the CW sub-bands by changing the stinger length. The 2:1 VSWR bandwidth is narrower on the lower bands since the whips are proportionally smaller compared to the longer electrical wavelengths. The 20-meter whips measured about 100 kHz, the 40-meter at 40 kHz and the 75-meter about 20 kHz. If your HF rig has a built-in tuner, the useable frequency span approximately doubles without significant loss of antenna efficiency.

An on-the-air comparison was made between the portable whip dipoles up 20 feet and half-wave dipoles for 40 and 75 meters. On 40 meters, two whips were about 1-1/2 S-units (about 10 dB) below the half-wave 40-meter dipole. Two 75-meter whips were almost three S-units (about 18 dB) below a halfwave 75-meter dipole (no wonder, since a 75-meter half wave dipole is 130 feet compared to the 16 feet of the two whips). On 20 meters, we were surprised to see only about one S-unit (6-dB) difference from a G5RV dipole antenna. Getting the portable whip dipole higher than 20 feet would also improve efficiency on the lower bands.

This portable dipole system was used to make contacts with European Russia on 20 meters from a condo in San Luis, CA as well as by Ed to San Juan Puerto Rico, Prince Edward Island and Mexico City from the Pentagon south parking lot in Washington, DC during the 2000 Marine Corps Marathon.

A pair of Radio Shack 10-foot TV mast sections supported my antenna parallel to the plastic rain gutter on the corner of the house. Bungee cords were used to hold it in place. Raising and lowering the antenna and masts to change bands can be done by one person, but two make the job easier when the wind is blowing.

Ed uses four 5-ft. mast sections for ease of storage in a vehicle. He recommends that whips all be equipped with quick-disconnects, be color-coded by band and stored with a 4' ground rod in capped 3" diameter PVC pipe. RACES may need to set up in a paved area such as an EOC parking lot. To do so bolt a folding 3-ft. TV roof tripod onto a triangular support frame constructed of three 5' pieces of 1" angle iron, using 1/4-20x3" bolts and wing nuts. Similarly attach a length of 2x6" across the open end opposite the TV tripod. Park a front tire of your vehicle on the board or place sandbags across it to provide wind stability. All stash easily in an SUV. With practice, you can erect the antenna in 5 minutes!

A variation provides dual HF band coverage with a single coaxial feedline. Two hamstick dipole mounts were bolted together with their center-isolated posts connected together using #12 gauge wire. Two sets of whips for 40 and 75 meters were assembled. Coax was attached to one of the mounts. There is minor interaction between the whips, although the #12 gauge wire looks slightly capacitive. Connecting the coax to the lower band dipole mount reduces the effect of the #12 gauge wire. A 25-foot length of coax was coiled at the base of the mast as an RF choke to reduce any stray RF from coupling onto the shield. The same could be accomplished by using ferrite beads on the coax feed near the dipole mount.

Either arrangement provides a viable, convenient, portable, horizontally polarized, high-angle antenna for NVIS operation on 40 and 75 meters. It is also a directional antenna on the higher frequencies, which is an effective performer for those who live in antenna restricted communities.

As with any transmitting antenna, be sure the radiating elements, especially the stinger end sections, are kept safely away from bystanders. 73.

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KCARC CLUB MEETS AT THE BOWLING GREEN POLICE STATION COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM. 911 KENTUCKY ST.

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THE FORTH DISTRICT ARES NET MEETS 7 NIGHTS A WEEK AT 9:00PM LOCAL TIME. REPEATER FREQUENCY 147.330 MHZ, KA4CFW. SECONDARY REPEATER 147.165 MHZ, W4WSM.

Local Repeaters

Two -Meters

147.060+	PL156.7	K4LOL (CLUB)
147.165+		W4WSM
147.330+		KA4CFW
146.655-		W4WSM
145.450-		KG4FEJ (Echo-link)

440MHz

444.100+		W4WSM
444.700+	PL136.5	WB4JM (IRLP 4678) (Use the # key before dialing any IRLP node number)

444.850+	PL103.5	N4GER (Horse Cave)
444.475+	PL103.5	N4GER (Mam Cave)
444.425+	PL103.5	N4GER (Morgantown)
444.900+	PL179.9	N4GER (Leitchfield)

ATV

439.25 AM IN - W4HTB
1280.00 FM Out - W4HTB
421.25 AM Out (CH-57) - W4HTB

THE HAMCALL

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