



# THE HAMCALL



Volume 45

Number 10

October 2006

## The Presidents Corner...

By John Coe, KY4COE



No Submission

## Monthly Program

By Henry Cantrell, W4HTB  
Vice President Elect.

*Editors note: Hank is working on a program for October called "Amateur Radio Balloon Launches and Tracking by Bill Brown WB8ELK." Besides the program, we have our normal activities for October. 1) Elections, and 2) Bridge Watch organization.*

## Minutes & Sec/Tres Report

By Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX  
Secretary/Treasurer

No Submission

## FCC Releases Long-Awaited "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order

**HOT!**

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 11, 2006 -- Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's [Report and Order](#) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10, 2006. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the proposed changes in the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) released back in 2004. The FCC has:

- expanded the phone subbands in the 75 and 40 meter bands;
- permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz;
- permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign *in memoriam*;
- prohibited an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign;
- eliminated certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers
- permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications;

- clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";

- deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for RACES stations; and

- deleted the requirement for public announcement of test locations and times.



In addition, the FCC took several other miscellaneous actions.

In "refarming" the frequencies currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees, the Commission increased the voice segments for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees.

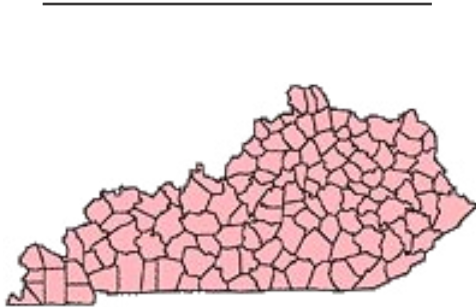
On 75 meters, Generals will be able to use voice from 3800-4000 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz. Advanced class licensees will be able to use voice from 3700-4000, an increase of 75 kHz, and Amateur Extras will be able to use voice from 3600 to 4000 kHz, a generous increase of 150 kHz.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to use voice from 7125-7300 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz. General class licensees will be able to use voice on 7175-7300 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz.

On 15 meters, General class operators will have phone privileges on 21275-21450 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the ARRL's gratitude to the FCC Commissioners in a letter dated October 11: "On behalf of the ARRL and the Commission's licensees in the Amateur Radio Service I want to express appreciation for your release yesterday of the Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules. The Commission's action in clearing this pending proceeding will assist the Amateur Radio Service in meeting its objectives, particularly with regard to providing emergency and public service communications."

The changes will go into effect 30 days after the R&O is published in the *Federal Register*.



## Amateur Radio Fills Communication Gap During Weekend Flooding

ARRL - NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 27, 2006 -- When telephone and Internet service in Kentucky fell victim to flooding over the September 22-24 weekend, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams took over to bridge the communication gap. Kentucky ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, says the deluge, the product of up to nearly 10 inches of rain in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, resulted in states of emergency in 19 Kentucky counties and 12 cities, including Frankfort, the capital. Dodson says the high water, which evoked memories of severe flooding in March 1997, left at least 10 dead and many others homeless. "All phone communications to the state

emergency operations center (EOC) went down as early as 2 AM Saturday, returned and then went out a second time around 5 AM," Dodson reports. Emergency managers contacted Dodson to activate the Kentucky Emergency Net on 3.993.5 MHz to provide support communication between the EOC and Kentucky's 120 counties.

Dodson says telephone service in the EOC came back around mid-morning on September 23, although the Kentucky Emergency Net remained in operation as heavy rainfall began in western Kentucky.

"Within minutes, Shelby Ennis, W8WN, in Hardin County reported via the K4ULW 146.625 repeater that all telephone service, including the Hardin County E-911 facility, had gone down," Dodson said. "Cell phones soon overloaded and also shut down, basically stranding the whole county without outside contact except via Amateur Radio." He explained that conventional telephone systems failed in Hardin County because the provider had installed all its systems in a basement area that flooded.

For the next several hours, Dodson said, communication between the state EOC and Hardin County took place via the Bullitt Amateur Radio Society's KY4KY 146.700 repeater in Brooks. "The American Red Cross headquarters in Louisville also used this machine to communicate with their shelter and Hardin County emergency management," Dodson said. While the KY4KY repeater supported command-and-control communication, other operations took place via the W4BEJ 146.98 repeater in Elizabethtown and the neighboring K4ULW 146.625 repeater in Meade County.

Dodson said repeaters in Lawrenceburg, Lexington, Louisville, Louisa, Mammoth Cave and Madisonville ultimately were pressed into emergency service during the flooding event.

Communications Supervisor Bob Stephens, WA4CMO, of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs said the Kentucky Emergency Management command vehicle was positioned adjacent to the state EOC to provide communication on both Amateur Radio and MARS frequencies. Pat Compton, KF4FMZ,

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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.)

and Bull Uschan, K4MIS, staffed the Amateur Radio side, while Richard Howe, KB5WCH, represented the Civil Air Patrol during the Saturday operation, which continued for several hours.

"We operated all systems during the afternoon and provided critical communication between the EOC and Hardin and Meade counties," Stephens reported.

The American Red Cross summoned members of ARES District 6 -- the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro area -- to assist with damage assessments and to maintain communication with the Hardin County shelter operation. According to Jefferson County Emergency Coordinator John Hesse, KF4IZS, those operations continued on Sunday as additional damage assessment details deployed in Louisville and in Fisherville in Spencer County.

The Franklin County Chapter of the American Red Cross also contacted Woodford County EC Jerry Mueller, KC4WZO, Sunday morning seeking Amateur Radio volunteers to support communication in the flooded Millville area. "The Red Cross had three disaster relief teams in the Millville area, and cell phone communication was not reliable," Dodson said.

Paul Harrington, KB4ENQ, Rob Hutchinson, KI4ODT, and Mueller responded, joined by Compton from the Capitol Amateur Radio Society. Hutchinson and Compton went to Millville for several hours to provide communication for the Red Cross and to help deliver meals, drinks, ice and supplies. Harrington and Mueller remained at the Red Cross Chapter to handle net duties in case communication assistance was needed in another area.

Dodson said Stephens told him afterward that Kentucky Adjutant General Lt Gen Donald Storm and Kentucky Division of Emergency Management Director Maj Gen Maxwell Bailey "were pleased with the way

Amateur Radio functioned in providing communication when all else failed. They extend their thanks to those amateurs who gave of themselves in this effort."



## Using ICS Form 213 (General Messages)

By Ron Dodson, KA4MAP  
ARRL KY Section EC

Since 1935, radio amateurs have been taught to send all written messages in disasters using the standard ARRL Radiogram message form. In the years since 9/11 much has changed in our world. To remain a valuable resource to our served agencies we will have to adapt our thinking with regard to message formats. ICS General Message Form 213 is not new. It was around before 9/11. What has occurred in the days since 9/11 is the creation of the National Incident Management System or NIMS and the mandate of its use by federal officials. If state and local agencies refuse to comply with the new standards set by NIMS for their operations, they risk loss of future federal dollars which are vital to their existence. While some may feel that the old standby ARRL Radiogram is the best form to use, our served agencies are being placed in a position of using the ICS 213 and we must learn to use this form if we are to continue serving them in emergencies.

All formal, outgoing traffic sent by your station to any agency should be on Form ICS 213. Until all agencies make the change over to this form, you may still receive traffic from someone in the ARRL format, so you DO still need to be familiar with it too! Amateur radio

internally may continue to use the radiogram for years to come. Do not pitch all of your ARRL formatted sheets or Word templates by any means!!! The important thing to remember is that whatever format it arrives in, it stays in. Do not convert or change any message unless someone messes up and sends it using ARRL numbered message format terms such as ARL Four! Under NIMS, all messages are to use PLAIN TEXT. No codes or abbreviations!

Formal messages are used only at certain times in disaster communications. You need to know and understand when and when not to use written formats. Disaster record keeping is important! Always, always use a written ICS 213 for the following: station activations, damage assessments, shelter or EOC updates, declarations of a state of emergency in a jurisdiction, and station closures. Formal written messages are not necessary for the majority of tactical communications that take place. You should however keep a running track of ALL verbal traffic that passes over your station just to cover your back in case a question arises. Many states are now going to the use of a Form 309; Communications Log <http://www.saroutfitter.com/ICSforms/ICS309.pdf> which many search and rescue units have used for quite some time. Some issues which normally would not be in written form are: direct conversations between third parties, matters of life safety when timing is critical (ie; Dam failure is imminent! Evacuate the area immediately!), routine task assignments (ie; Truck 64 meet Engine 42 at Main and 6th streets) , routine task completions (ie; Team Four returning to quarters) and routine resource coordination (ie; We need Red Cross to take some food to the crews at the high school).

ICS Form 213 is a simple form and it should not be too hard to get used to so that you will soon not even need the form in order to copy or send messages in this format.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/assets/ics213.doc>

Download a copy from the above link and then follow along as we explore this document.

At the top of the form is the TO line in which you list who the message is going to and their position title.

Directly below this is the FROM line with information about who is sending the message and their position title.

Under that you will see a SUBJECT line and a place for the DATE/TIME to the right of the SUBJECT. Always state time in local time 24 hour format unless advised to use UTC by local officials! (ie; 0900 Eastern or 1900 Eastern).

One thing you will notice missing on this form is a place for a "group count" or "Check" as we had on the Radiogram form. NOTE: Some states are adapting the form to include a space for this though I am not sure how this will develop in Kentucky or nationally.

Under SUBJECT and DATE/TIME is the place where the message text will go. A hint to make it easier for you to achieve a group count in case the receiving station has questions is to write or copy five words per line as we did in the radiogram. This makes counting fast and easy. Use plain English, no jargon or codes here!

Under the message text is a space for the signature line and position title to authenticate the message.

Under the message text area is room for a REPLY and the DATE/TIME and SIGNATURE of the replying party.

When sending this over the air, it will not be that much different as far as pro-signs go from what we have always done. Let's try a message on this form.

TO: General Maxwell Bailey POSITION: Director KyEM

"TO, General Maxwell - I spell, Mike, Alpha, X-Ray, Whiskey, Echo, Lima, Lima, Bailey- I spell, Bravo, Alpha, India, Lime, Echo Yankee. Director KyEM - I spell Kilo Yankee Echo Mike."

"FROM, Ron - I Spell Romeo, Oscar November. Dodson - I spell Delta Oscar Delta, Sierra, Oscar, November. Director Meade - I spell Mike, Echo, Alpha, Delta, Echo County EMA - I spell Echo, Mike, Alpha"

"SUBJECT, Local Declaration State of Emergency DATE, October 1 2006 TIME, 1900 Eastern Time"

"BREAK FOR TEXT" At this point the receiver can either ask for fills "Say Again" or say "GO" to proceed.

"MESSAGE TEXT, Effective 1900 Figures One Niner Zero Zero hours this date Meade County has declared a local state of emergency due to a severe storm causing power outages and damage to many structures along US- I spell Uniform Sierra 60 Figures Six Zero Period Damage assessment to follow in two hours Period

BREAK"

Again, at this point the receiver can either ask for fills, "Say Again" or say "GO" to proceed

"SIGNATURE, Ron Dodson POSITION, Meade County EMA Director"

Some notes:

Any fills can be requested by saying, "Say Again .", "All after .", "All before ." or "word before .", or even "say again all between."

To use the word "CONFIRM" to verify correctness at the receive point, say, "CONFIRM US 60?" An affirmative reply from the sender would then be sent, "CONFIRM - Go".

SOME PROCEDURAL NOTES: In

ARRL-NTS practice, it is considered "bad form" and unnecessary to say the line headers. But We DO NEED TO DO SO IN THE ICS Form 213 because the receiving station may be unfamiliar with the ICS message form. It is also possible that you may need to read the message over the telephone to a non-amateur government worker for transcription. In NTS practices we use "Initial X-Ray" to indicate the end of a sentence. This is not the case on ICS Form 213. Here we use PLAIN LANGUAGE. Because the non-amateur secretary or whomever on the other end who is transcribing the message will not have the faintest idea what an "Initial X-Ray" means. So say: "PERIOD. instead and if conditions are bad, also use "I SPELL," if needed.

If phone numbers are sent in the message text, as with the ARRL Radiogram, they will count as three groups when you write it down, (Area Code, Exchange and final four numbers)

Some Punctuation Hints:

Remember, "PERIOD" ends a sentence. THIS IS NOT spelled out when sending unless operating conditions are poor enough to require "fills"

"DOT, I spell ..." used for a single period within a group or in email address with "dots." Never to end a sentence saying "DOT". Use PERIOD to end any sentence!

"DASH, I spell..." for a hyphen

"AT SIGN, I spell" for symbol "@"  
"DECIMAL, I spell," for those used in any figure groups such as a radio frequency (ie; 3.993.5 MHz.)

If there are more messages to follow, say "More to Follow". If this is your last message to be sent, say "End, no more" after the last of your message.

Final thoughts

When delivering the message: read the TEXT and SIGNATURE of the message to recipient. If you must leave the traffic

on an answering machine or with a third party not the final recipient ALWAYS, ALWAYS give your callback telephone information for any follow-up.

As with training from the past, NEVER, EVER pass names of injured or fatalities over open voice or other circuits and do not discuss any traffic received within ear shot of media or with anyone not directly concerned with what you are discussing.

If media asks you for information, know who the PIO contact is and refer them to that person or persons.

As always, the served agency depends on your abilities to send and receive messages and your discretion in keeping a professional demeanor. Do not openly discuss knowledge of events you gain during an on going incident without a good reason! Judgment is key, use the good kind!

- Ron Dodson, KA4MAP

*(Editors note: I have uploaded the 213 form to the 'ARES' folder on the Yahoo Group site.)*



## Weaver's Words

- K4FQT did It!
- Ambient BPL Becoming a Better Citizen?
- Will ARRL Appeal the FCC Action?
- Correction on Barry Goldwater's Second Call
- Kentucky Emergency Net Moves to Winter Home
- Sanctioning Hamfests/Swaps/Conventions

- Who to Write When You Have a Beef?

K4FQT DID IT!

In case you don't know this, K4FQT is none other than ex-W8FQT, Dick Mondro, our former Vice Director. Dick and Sandy, who is now KC4SM, moved to Florida nearly a year ago. No longer a resident of the Great Lakes Division, Dick could not run for re-election here.

Also if you didn't know it, Dick is an outstanding business consultant. In fact, he is personal consultant to the owner of the Detroit Tigers baseball team. Dick's influence in structuring the Tigers' organization and its concept for running the team on the field for the current season is largely responsible for the success the club has had in copping the American League, Central Division pennant.

Great job, Dick, but watch out for the Chisox next year!

AMBIENT BPL BECOMING A BETTER CITIZEN?

I've just learned that Ambient, the provider of some of the dirtiest BPL systems around, may be coming to realize it should be a better corporate citizen. At least one new Ambient BPL system that has been installed within recent weeks has notched every amateur band. The report is that the ham bands are essentially devoid of BPL interference even though frequencies just outside these bands are plagued with interference. With a couple of new Ambient systems planned for activation in the Great Lakes Division (at least one is by Duke Energy), we can hope the actual version of BPL used is effectively notched.

WILL ARRL APPEAL THE FCC ACTION?

As noted on [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), the Board of Directors is considering a legal appeal of the recent FCC ruling that nearly gives the store to BPL providers. This is the decision in which the Commission concluded that licensed radio services such as Amateur Radio do not necessarily deserve to be protected from interference caused by Part 15 devices, and that mobile operators of licensed services

definitely do not warrant protection from interference from Part 15 devices. The ruling was made in a Memorandum Opinion and Order that became effective September 29.

The effect of the ruling actually goes beyond concerns over BPL itself. It brings into focus the apparent belief by FCC it can issue radically new and changed rules through the "back door" and, thereby, avoid following established procedures for developing and adopting rules changes. The basic premise that rulemaking should be done by thoroughly considering public input is at stake.

CORRECTION ON BARRY GOLDWATER'S SECOND CALL

Every now and then, I make a mistake that confirms my firm belief that I am not infallible. In the last issue of Weaver's Words, I gave Barry Goldwater's second call as K3UGE. At the time I typed this, I would have put money on being correct, but Charles Ring, Jr., W3NU of Brookfield, OH corrected this error and has told me it was K3UIG. He was merely the first to let me know of my failing memory. Sorry to have made the mistake and thanks to Charles and the others for correcting me. Incidentally, Goldwater's last name originally was Goldwasser in the family's native Germany.

KENTUCKY EMERGENCY NET MOVES TO WINTER HOME

Effective October 2, 2006, the once-weekly Kentucky Emergency Net (KEN) moved from 3.993.5 MHz to 3.972.5 MHz. This is also the home of the Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN) that meets three times a day. This frequency will remain the KEN frequency until the April 2, 2007 net session after which the then-new Kentucky SM & SEC will choose either to remain on 3.972.5 or move back to 3.993.5. In a true spirit of cooperation, KEN management requested the concurrence of OSSBN management for the move before deciding on it. OSSBN management agreed enthusiastically. The likelihood that OSSBN evening sessions will run into the beginning of KEN is small, but this may happen, occasionally.

KEN serves as an administrative and training net for Kentucky ARES. The reason for the shift in frequencies is that German digital SW broadcasting often covers 3.993.5 MHz as propagation extends during fall and winter months.

## SANCTIONING HAMFESTS/SWAPS/CONVENTIONS

I want to make certain everyone realizes I have no intention of trying to keep any affiliated club from obtaining ARRL sanctioning for its hamfest/swap/convention. The opposite is true. I'd like for every one of these events to be sanctioned. My purpose in discussing the sanctioning is to call attention to a fact I believe is poorly known by many people. This fact is that sanctioning is not a one-way street. It is not just for ARRL to put its stamp of approval on the event and to pass on the benefits of sanctioning (publicity in QST, prizes for the event, information useful in organizing the event) to the event sponsors. The event sponsors actually owe ARRL a few small acknowledgements in return. These include having an ARRL table in a conspicuous location with ARRL literature neatly placed on it (preferably manned with a club member knowledgeable about ARRL if there are no ARRL officials present), placing the ARRL Diamond logo on event literature and publicizing the fact that prizes given by ARRL are from the ARRL. I don't know about anyone else, but the exchange seems to be very fair to me. It is a win-win situation. You can read the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/rules.html>.

This month, I want to make readers aware that I have established a simple, supplemental procedure I will follow before I sign off on sanctioning requests. This process is as follows:

1. When a sanctioning request is forwarded to me for approval, I will E-mail an appropriate person of the club sponsoring the event and ask them to confirm they understand and are complying with the guidelines. I offer to work with the club to reach mutually acceptable resolution to any areas in which compliance is not readily achievable.

2. As soon as I receive assurance from the club representative that they understand and comply with the guidelines, I send my approval to HQ for sanctioning the event. If there are issues that need to be addressed before approval is given, I'll work with the sponsors to find prompt, agreeable solutions to the issues.

This simple, 2-step process can be accomplished within 24 hours.

Why have I established this new process? I've attended dozens of hamfests/swaps/conventions throughout the Great Lakes Division during the nearly 4 years that I've been Director. Most of these events do a pretty good job of meeting ARRL guidelines for sanctioning. Unfortunately, a small number do not.

I do not judge the reasons a few events fail to meet the guidelines. My guess is that the people involved with them merely don't know about the guidelines. My objective merely is to help event sponsors meet these guidelines. Why?

It is unfair to allow organizers of some hamfests to fail to implement the guidelines when organizers of other hamfests make the effort to meet them. In exchange for this effort, sponsors who comply with guidelines receive publicity in QST and on the ARRL web site, prizes, the ability to have ARRL officials appear at the event and other organizational benefits. Organizers who choose not to comply with the guidelines do not deserve to receive these perks. Some may not choose to be sanctioned. Most others will. I'd like it if all organizers did.

For those who choose to seek sanctioning, I'm here to help. This offer includes helping to work out what may appear to be obstacles to being sanctioned. When sincere people put their minds together to reach honest goals, they will succeed.

As a formerly well-known Cincinnati attorney used to say, "If you need me . . . call me."

## WHO TO WRITE WHEN YOU HAVE A BEEF?

OK, so you have a beef with something ARRL or an ARRL official did (maybe me?). Who should you complain to about this? The answer depends on who or what caused your displeasure.

First, it is generally good to start with the lowest person on the totem pole for the area of ARRL that was involved. This may be the local EC if your beef relates to something that happened in the local ARES. If it relates to something an OO did, contact him and discuss the matter -- calmly. If it was something the SM did, contact him. If it was done by someone who reports to the SM, start with this someone.

The first thing in problem solving is to define the problem. What was actually done and what does it actually mean? The answer to this question may be quite different from how things appear on the surface. For example, a few years ago, a ham in SW Ohio became very irate when he received an OO report that said he had been heard violating a rule on several occasions. This ham was certain the notice had also been sent on to Riley Hollingsworth and that this OO was going to be responsible for the FCC canceling his license. This very vocal on-the-air flap continued for several days before the ham learned from another amateur that this isn't the way things work. A polite call to the OO (a local) would have solved the confusion right away.

If the beef relates to something that happened in the Section organization, but you don't know whom else to contact, get in touch with the SM. This is the person the members elected to head the ARRL Field Services Organization in the Section. In Kentucky, the SM is John Meyers, NB4K ([nb4k@arrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrl.org)), in Michigan he is Dale Williams, WA8EFK ([wa8efk@arrl.org](mailto:wa8efk@arrl.org)) and in Ohio he is Joe Phillips, K8QOE ([k8qoe@arrl.org](mailto:k8qoe@arrl.org)). Each of these men is quite intelligent, dedicated to Amateur Radio and highly capable of managing the SM duties.

If your beef relates to something I did or to a policy established by the Board of Directors or the performance of our

HQ staff, you can get in touch with me (k8je@arrl.org). As tempting as it may be to want to write to the ARRL President, our two Vice Presidents and the entire Board of Directors don't follow this shotgun approach. It will not prove helpful. I am the guy you members of the Great Lakes Divisions elected to represent you in policy and HQ management issues. I may not be the person who will actually solve your problem, but I am the guy who is here to do my best to see that it is solved. Send your complaints to k8je@arrl.org. If I am unavailable, contact Vice Director Gary Johnston, K14LA (ki4la@arrl.org).

Regardless of to whom you complain, write down what happened in calm, courteous and logical terms. If you believe particular people caused the problem or are the problem, say so, but keep it polite. I've occasionally received letters that have lashed out against someone so violently and in such heated terminology that the problem being reported has been nearly impossible to figure out. Stay cool, calm and collected. You'll have much more success in getting people to understand your concern and to take action about it. Besides, calling someone highly unflattering names is not the way to put them into a mood in which they want to help you. The squeaky wheel may get the grease, but the obscenely squeaky wheel most often is discarded to the junk heap as being defective, itself.

### BACK TO SCHEDULE

With this issue of Words, I have gotten the newsletter back to its early-in-the-month publications schedule. I hope to be able to keep it here. Several newsletter editors have asked for this schedule.

73, CUL, write to me at any time,

Jim

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ARRL, the Reason Amateur Radio is!  
Members, the Reason ARRL is!



**American  
Red Cross**

## BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES

The ARES E-Letter  
September 20, 2006

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In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.

The overall results of the background check are not shared with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required.

When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company. Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross. This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross will understand the importance of performing this due diligence.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org or 1(800)507-3960.

*(Editors Note: I have already submitted my information and received my certificate. If you are interested in volunteering for anything (not just communications) regarding the Red Cross, then I would suggest you get your background check completed - It is Easy.)*

# THE HAMCALL

Volume 45

Number 10

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

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.

**Next Meeting:  
October 20th  
7:00pm  
BGPD  
Community Room**

## 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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