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It's Hard to be a 'Ham'

An insurance company asked for more information regarding a work-related accident claim. This was the response:

"I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. I am an amateur radio operator and I was working on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items using a pulley.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools into a small barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow

descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in Block Number 11 of the accident report, that I weigh 225 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower.

In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar-bone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. I regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At the same time, however,

the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in Block Number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations on my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools, so only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope.

The barrel falling on my front side accounts for the 4 broken ribs, the broken nose and the many cuts, bruises and multiple lacerations about the face, arms, thighs and belly. Also the many splinters that we are still removing "

Quote of the Month

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

-Albert Einstein

Article Submitted by Gene Ferguson, W4FWG.



The K4KTR Repeater, 443.000+, Color Code of 1.

“Digital radio has many advantages, including clearer audio, and a narrower operating bandwidth.”



The W4CMY Repeater, 442.050+, 91.5 PL Tone

Digital Commutations, a new way to talk around the world

If you have your radios set to 443.000, you may have recently heard what sounds like machine gun fire. Don't worry, us hams are not being attacked, you are hearing the sound of digital radio!

Kyle Robinson, owner of the previous K4KTR UHF analog repeater, has recently converted his repeater to use MotoTrbo digital technology, also known as DMR.

Digital radio has many advantages over traditional analog radio, including clearer audio, and a narrower operating bandwidth. Digital radio can do other technologies such as sending “text messages” from one radio to the other, given you know the other radio's ID number.

Kyle, furthermore, has tied this repeater into the Ham Radio DMR MARC network, through an Internet link. This allows operators that use the DMR repeater to talk on different “talk groups”, such as “Local”, “North American”, or “World-Wide”.

When Kyle was asked, “Why DMR and not D-Star digital format?”, he responded with, “There are many reasons, the first being DMR uses an open source TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) format and because it is open source, it means that radios can be cheaply produced.” He adds that for only \$150, you can buy a DMR handheld, versus a D-Star handheld, which starts at \$600. D-Star uses a propriety digital format developed by Icom.

To use this repeater, you do need a MotoTrbo, or DMR radio. The frequency is 443.000 with a +5 offset and a color code of 1. To use the radio on the DMR network, you must apply for an ID at this link: www.dmr-marc.net.

For more information about the K4KTR DMR repeater, please visit k4ktr.org or email Kyle at k4ktr@k4ktr.org.

Written by Chandler Young, W4CMY

SkyWarn Nets begin on KARS repeater

I am very excited about our jump into SkyWarn storm spotting. The first thing I want everyone to have, is the web site where you can actually become a certified storm spotter, <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk/?n=spottertraining>. On this site you will be able to get 4 different certifications, and then you will be able to register with the National Weather Service as a spotter. I am also very

pleased to announce our SkyWarn net meets on Tuesday nights at 8:30 PM on the Kentucky Amateur Radio Society 2 meter repeater, 145.470 with a negative offset and a 151.4 PL tone. Be sure to check in next Tuesday!

Written by Chris Matheny, KM4DRJ



Analog UHF Repeater is Revived

A new analog UHF repeater has been put into commission in Nelson County to replace the newly-converted digital 443.000 MotoTrbo repeater.

This writer has been coordinating the commission of the new UHF repeater, but with much help from the local ham community. Special thanks goes to Jerry, N4PEI for the use of his tower site; Kyle, K4KTR for

donating equipment for the repeater; my dad who is not a licensed ham for helping arrange the antennas on the tower; and Mike, KK4VGM for moral support and always being ready for a repeater check!

The repeater's frequency is 442.050 with a +5 offset and a 91.5 PL tone. This repeater is located in Botland, KY on a 50 foot tower. The repeater is com-

posed of two UHF radios. A Hytera TM-800U as the receiver, and a Vertex VX-2500 as the transmitter with a ID-O-Matic III repeater controller.

The repeater covers most of Nelson County and some areas outside of the County (as Mike can attest to!). Everyone is welcome and encouraged to talk on the repeater! Thank s to the community for the support!

Written by Chandler Young, W4CMY

Kentucky 1 Bourbon, Kentucky 1 Bourbon!

No, we're not referring to alcohol, although the K1B callsign was used at the Kentucky Bourbon Festival!

Local hams including K4KTR, KM4DRJ, and W4CMY worked a special event station in the Haz-Mat 5 Trailer at this year's Kentucky Bourbon Festival. The idea sprang up the week before the Kentucky Bourbon Festival and K4KTR filed the paper work for the K1B special event call. The ARRL approved the special event call on the Monday before the start of the Bourbon Festival. Permission was acquired to use the radios in the Haz-Mat 5 Mobile Command

Trailer which was already to be stationed at the Bourbon Festival in case of an emergency.

On Friday, the team began working 20 and 40 meters, but with little success, as it was discovered the antenna was not suited well for 40 meters.

On Saturday, the team began working 15 meters, with great success! Totaling together both nights of working the K1B callsign, a total of 19 contacts were made, including 4 international contacts (3 from Canada, 1 from Germany).

Plans are already underway to work the K1B callsign at the

Kentucky Bourbon Festival next year. All hams are invited to take part next year!

Written by Chandler Young, W4CMY



Radio that K1B was worked on.

Upcoming Events/Hamfests

Vette City Hamfest: 10/04/2014; Bowling Green, KY; <http://www.vettecityhamfest.com/>

The KARS October Meeting: October 13th, 2014

The KARS November Meeting: November 10th, 2014

The KARS December Meeting: December 8th, 2014

Local Nets

KARS—The Kentucky Amateur Radio Society Net held every Sunday night at 9:00 PM on the KARS repeater; 145.470 with a 151.4 PL tone. The purpose of this net is to provide a forum for promoting club activities. All licensed amateurs are welcome to take part. Net Control is Bill Adams, KD4NSU.

Nelson Co. SkyWarrn Net is held Tuesday evening at 8:30pm on 145.470 with a PL tone of 151.4. Net Control is Chris Matheny, KM4DRJ.

KEN - The Kentucky Emergency Net is held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. Eastern, 6:30 p.m. Central time on 3972.5 kHz. The purpose of this net is training for emergency and is an ARRL sponsored net. Net Manager is [Kentucky Section Manager, KY4Z](#).

KDN - The Kentucky Digital Modes Net is held every Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. Eastern, 7:30 p.m. Central time on 3585 kHz using PSK31. The purpose of this net is training in the use of digital modes. Net Manager is Jim Rayburn, KC4BQK.

KDN-2 The Kentucky Digital Modes Net 2 is held every Monday night at 8:30 p.m. Eastern, 7:30 p.m. Central time on 3585 kHz using PSK31. The net follows the weekly KEN on Mondays, and you can find some of the regulars hanging out on the KEN frequency of 3972.5 kHz offering help to those with questions about the operation and use of digital modes on the KDN and KDN-2. The purpose of this net is training in the use of digital modes. Net Manager is Jim Rayburn, KC4BQK.

KYN - The Kentucky CW Net is held at 9 PM ET daily on 3535 kHz and runs at about 15 WPM. Information is available from the Net Manager for the format and procedures of the net. Net Control Stations will send to match the speed of those who check in. For more information, contact Net Manager [John Farler, K4AVX](#).

KY Weather Net is held every Monday evening at 7:00pm on the BARS Repeater 146.700 with a PL tone of 79.7.

The Fellowship Net is held every Sunday night at 8:00 PM on the BARS Repeater; 146.700 with a PL tone of 79.7. This purpose of this net is to offer fellowship, friendship and prayer support. Net Control is Mary Jo Krueer, KT4GB.

“Totaling together both nights of working the K1B callsign, a total of 19 contacts were made, including 4 international contacts (3 from Canada, 1 from Germany).”



Kentucky Amateur Radio Society

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Where Nelson County Hams meet!



The Kentucky Amateur Radio Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Nelson County EMS building at 1301 Atkinson Hill Ave in Bardstown, KY. All licensed Amateur radio operators, or anyone interested in Amateur radio is invited to attend our meetings.

Please feel free to check in to our repeater net every Sunday night at 9:00 PM on a frequency of 145.470 with a 151.4 PL tone.

We're on the web!
kb4ky.com
facebook.com/groups/kb4ky

History of the Kentucky Amateur Radio Society

Amateur radio operators have been present in Bardstown for many, many years. They are bankers, teachers, businessmen and women from all walks of life.

The first hint of an organized radio club was kicked off by the then-editor of the local newspaper who was both a native son and amateur radio operator, Dave Greer, N4KZ. Several small articles were published regularly in The Kentucky Standard regarding an organizational meeting for anyone interested in ham radio and computers.

The year was 1986.

CLUB FOUNDED. From these meetings the club had its start, and by mid-1986, monthly meetings were being held. Late that year, the club announced it would conduct a Novice license class. This writer and his brother, along with several others entered the hobby via this class, which was completed in early 1987.

KARS has never been an extremely formal club, and its structure has always been very loosely knit. There were no club dues for several years. At some point \$30 was the suggested amount for dues to help defray the

costs of the repeater insurance. All amateurs were welcome at club functions regardless of dues-paying status.

CLUB OFFICERS. Seldom were more than 3 officers ever elected; these typically would have been president, secretary and treasurer. Sometimes the secretary and treasurer's position would be combined.

The list of past KARS presidents includes Dave Greer, N4KZ; Gary Miracle, KM4BG; Dick Baynham, N9RR; and Jim Brooks, KY4Z (my apologies to anyone left off the list). Ed Fowler, KI4JGU, Kyle Brooks is currently serving as president.

Like any radio club, KARS has seen both active and dormant times. In the end, a club is nothing with its members, whom volunteer their services to make the club function.

NETS & REPEATER. In an effort to support the new license privileges that were allowed by Novice Enhancement which gave Novices 10 meters phone privileges in March 1987, the KARS 10-Meter Net was launched. At the time there was no repeater in Bardstown, and most Bardstown hams met on the Springfield 2-meter

repeater owned by Murray Walker, W4SJH. A 2-meter net was also started for the same reason.

Like the club itself, the KARS nets were also informal, but served as meetings "on the air" and a place for hams to discuss radio-related events and enjoy the hobby together.

FIRST BARDSTOWN REPEATER. The very first 2-meter repeater in the Bardstown area was owned by the writer, KY4Z. It first was coordinated for 147.39 and later changed to 145.47. The repeater featured a VHF Engineering transmitter and a Hamtronics receiver, ID'er and controller. It first operated from the writer's backyard before installation on the roof of the Bardstown High School building.

CURRENT REPEATER. The repeater is currently a GE Master Exec II, highly modified, with a RC-1000 Controller and a TS-64 Tone CTCSS Encoder-Decoder owned by Gene Ferguson, W4FWG, and is currently installed at a commercial tower site owned by Arnold Koeber of Concept Communications.

For more about our history, please visit:

<http://kb4ky.com/about/>



