The Kaw Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

THE TRANSCEIVER

March 2015

Editor: Doug Dunton

www.kvarc.org
ARRL Affiliated Since 1926

President's Corner

Bigger, Higher, Better!

As a general observation, the more copper/aluminum in the air, the higher that metal, the better will be the received and transmitted signals.

More metal, in the form of antenna elements or stacked arrays, give us more 'gain', or 'effective radiated power' (ERP). However, nothing comes without tradeoffs. The only way to get that 'gain' is to concentrate the power in directions that meet our needs. For DX (long distance) on HF, we want that signal to travel as far as possible before bouncing of the ionosphere. For many applications from 2-meters through 23-centimeters, it is desirable to keep signals close to the earth. If our local repeaters were to send signals skyward, they would go off into space, where the signal would serve no purpose. However for moon bounce or satellite communications, we would beam these signals at very specific locations in order to get our signals to destination. Most communication above 23-centimeters, we focus on specific targets. So by using more metal to concentrate our signals, we can maximize our communications.

Antenna height is important for several reasons. On the HF bands, it is important to be above the average terrain to keep ground features from limiting our communication. HF antennas that are less than ½ wavelength above the earth will have high takeoff angle. High takeoff angle means that the signal will bounce off the ionosphere sooner, and thus reduce the distance traveled. Sometimes we take advantage of low HF antennas, generally in the range of ¼ wavelength to 1/10 wavelength above ground (sometimes lower) for communication within

about 500 miles. For 2-meters and above, communications is generally considered to be 'line-of-sight', thus the higher, the greater the distance the signals will travel. One problem that can occur with high vertical antennas having high gain is 'dead spots' at close range.

Club meeting is 6th of March. We will be discussing transmission (coax) line losses. See you there!

73 de ACOHY

Reminders:

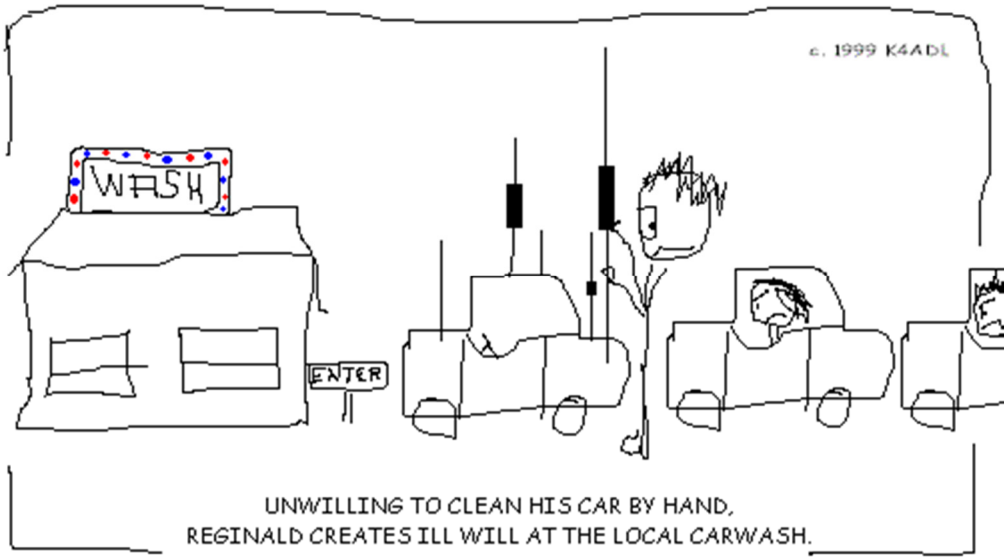
Annual 2014 Membership form at KVARC Application

Ham FAQ: For Hams new to the area or are just licensed - Ham FAQ

- KVARC Club meeting March 6th 730pm at Topeka Public Library. Eyeball QSO starts around 7pm
- Regular test session at April 14 at Topeka Library at 1pm. Pre-register with Paul at ham.test@kvarc.org
- Regular test session at March 13th at Carbondale City Hall at 7pm. Pre-register with Paul at ham.test@kvarc.org
- Tuesday night ARES net on 145.27 at 830pm
- Thursday night Carbondale net 800pm on 147.30+ KB0WTH repeater
- Wednesday night simplex net on 147.440 at 730pm run by KB0WOW –Dan

Other info:

Please send any equipment you have for sale and I will include in next month's issue



Attn: We have a need for an Elmer. The person lives on the North side of Shawnee county. So we thinking someone that live There or maybe on the south side of Jackson county. If you are willing to spend some time. This person is seeking help from the ground up. Please let me know if you are interested. Doug WD0DBS

Elmer-ing

Attached is a form for letting me know what you might be interested in having help with. Or If are available to help someone. Please fill in as appropriate and email back to me or bring to the club meeting Friday.

I have mentioned this new item to a few people, I would like to suggest adding a get together some other time of the month as a learning session. I am open to suggestions as to a day and time. I can try to schedule time at the library or if a different location is available I would take that as a suggestion also.

So what do you think? Let me know by email or at the club meeting.

ARRL Affiliate since 1926

“Need”/”willing to be” an Elmer Info

Call _____

Name _____

How to contact

Phone _____

Email _____

Other _____

Location

City _____

Long/Lat_____

Grid square_____

want/need help	Interests	level of expertise	Willing to help
☐	Antennas		☐
☐	CW		☐
☐	Digital		☐
☐	General Info		☐
☐	Radio to buy		☐
☐	APRS		☐
☐	ATV		☐
☐			☐
☐			☐
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Level of expertise (1-5) 1=beginner, 5=expert

Give to Doug(WD0DBS) or email to wd0dbs@arrl.net