

# Kings Point

## Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Bringing together all levels of ham operators, both newcomers and veterans, to share in the enjoyment of shortwave radio and emergency communications

Volume 3 Issue 8

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**The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Club-house Craft Room.**

### From The President



KPARC Members and Friends,

I am writing this note on one of our newly donated PCs. The Sun City Center Computer Club graciously donated two Dell PCs which we have checked out and both will serve our radio needs very well. Last month Larry Brown donated a PC which is in operation on our HF station. Thanks to Larry and Jack Fischer of the Com-

puter Club.

PCs are a natural companion to amateur radio. In our own small club we use PCs to run Radio Deluxe for HF rig control and PSK 31 on our Kenwood, plus Winlink and Airmail on the Yaesu. Our weather station PC uses UI-View 32 to collect the weather data from our Peet Brothers Weather Station and send the data to our packet station. Echolink is also operated by the weather station PC and a 2 meter rig.

Our third operating PC is used for web surfing, radio and weather sites of course, printing and word processing. We also use this machine to study and teach the ICS courses for ARES/ RACES certification..

As you can see we have a lot of capability, but there is more. We use PCs to track APRS positions of members and friends. We watch satellite loops of developing weather systems, look up info on ham contacts, and use Google Earth to see the QTH of the ham on the other end of the QSO. We can send digital messages over D-Star. Finally we program HTs and mobile rigs with all the local repeater frequencies and PLs.

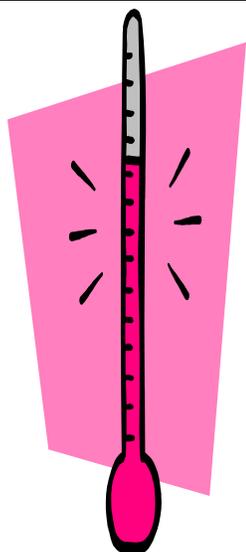
All members are encouraged to pick a favorite mode of operation utilize our club room and PCs, and become an expert. This way we can learn from each other.

The biggest news around KPARC is the progress on our repeater project. The base repeater has been ordered, and will be delivered about August 15. We need to do more planning on antennas, feed lines etc. so that all the components are available about mid August. Current plans are to utilize our old tower for the repeater antenna. A request has already been made to KP Management for space to house our repeater console near the tower.

Our repeater fund is healthy enough to support the purchase of the repeater and controller, but we are seriously shopping for affordable duplexers that will not break the bank. If you have any leads on 2 meter duplexers, pass along the info. Of course all donations to our repeater fund will be appreciated.

Don't forget our club meetings on the first Monday at 2:00 p.m. and our Saturday morning open house.

## We Are Almost There



It is really wonderful to see the KPARC Members and Friends respond to a request for donations. Several of our members have dug deep into their pockets and moved us near our Repeater Fund goal of \$1500.00. At this time we have enough money to purchase the repeater and controller. But there is still some big items that need to be purchased.

Our club has a very small treasury and we are very prudent when it comes to spending.

Wherein we have spent months searching, evaluating and meeting with repeater groups in order that we are satisfied that we are getting the best bang for our bucks.

With this in mind we continue to request our members who have not contributed to the KPARC Repeater Fund to please do so by sending your check to our Treasurer Bill Love, W2LOV, at 2007 Grantham Greens Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Contributions will also be accepted at our regular meeting on August 4th or during our Saturday get-together at the club room.

## KPARC SUMMER INFORMAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

**NEXT MEETING**  
**2:00 p.m. AUGUST 4, 2008**  
**MAIN CLUBHOUSE**  
**CRAFT ROOM**

## KPARC WEBSITE



Often it is a good idea to send out a reminder about meetings, special events, etc. In keeping with that thought we would like to remind our members and friends about the Kings Point Amateur Radio Club website. Typing in <http://www.kparc.org/>

brings you to the page with the opportunity to gain access to several useful and interesting sites for weather related information, the KPARC Newsletter, both current and past issuers, local repeater information, SCCARC website, Emergency Information and others.

It is a good idea to add the website to your internet favorites for easy access to important weather radar, lightning strikes and potential dangerous storms.

## RANDOM FACTS

- The average human eats 8 spiders in their lifetime at night.
- A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white, but actually clear.
- Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- Shakespeare invented the words "assassination" and "bump."
- If you keep a goldfish in the dark room, it will eventually turn white
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do.
- The names of the continents all end with the same letter with which they start.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.
- The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top. (who leaves champers in their glass long enough to find out?)

### **THOUGHT PROVOKING ESSAY: 25 THINGS VANISHING FROM AMERICA**

Ham radio is one of the top 25 things vanishing from America. In fact its number 16 according to author Tom Barlow, N8NLO, in his opinion piece.

In a July 17th article, Tom Barlow says that an easy way to prolong a disaster is to have the respondents use dozens of different, incompatible communications systems, or operate them with no protocol as was the case during Hurricane Katrina. He also laments about what he calls the vanishing American treasure of the amateur radio operator.

According to N8NLO, over the past five years alone, the number of people holding active licenses has dropped by 50,000. This, even though passing a Morse code exam is not longer a requirement to obtain a license.

And while some might take issue with that 50,000 figure and others will provide other numbers to prove ham radio is growing Barlow says that something else is far more important. That being the tradition that hams have always been there to volunteer. He says that he knows them to be among our nation's best trained and most capable respondents in time of disaster.

Barlow concludes by saying that when amateur radio as we know it disappears, it won't be the radios we'll miss. We'll miss the operators.

The Essay "25 Things Vanishing From America" explores aspects of our nation that may soon be just a memory. And whether or not you agree with what he says you can read the complete Tom Barlow article about ham radios possible disappearance on-line at

[www.walletpop.com/2008/07/17/top-25-things-vanishing-from-america-16-ham-radio](http://www.walletpop.com/2008/07/17/top-25-things-vanishing-from-america-16-ham-radio).

### **E-MAILS ASKING PERSONAL INFO ARE NOT FROM THE ARRL OR ARNEWSLINE**

Both Amateur Radio Newslines and the American Radio Relay League appear to have had our e-mail addresses spoofed once again. Spoofing is a method that criminals on the Internet use to get you to reveal your personal information to them by pretending to be someone or something else. Maybe a bank, a credit company or even a person you know and trust. The information request itself is called phishing. It's the Internet version of throwing out an offer and hoping that some sucker will respond.

In our case, last week we began receiving bounced e-mails with our e-mail address. The messages asked people to click a link and provide information so that they would be eligible for a prize. If you got one, don't click on it. Just delete it. It was a phishing expedition but we cannot tell you what was on the click to website. We never looked at it because our web browser Firefox warned that it was an infected site and never let us get there.

If you did go there, we suggest that you run your anti-virus and anti-spyware software so as to be sure your computer was not infected with some malicious mail-ware or spyware.

Meantime the ARRL reports on its website that it has received several notes from members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have also recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information. The ARRL says that these e-mail requested personal information such as user names and passwords.

The League says that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. It says that there is never a time when it would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users.

The bottom line: If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from Amateur Radio Newslines or from the ARRL, please do not respond or click a link. Just delete it. Your bank account and you will both be a lot happier that way.