

Kings Point

Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

24 Years Of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service To Our Community

www.kparc.org

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

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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.



Dick Bishop, W4NWD

From The President

I wish you and your family a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. The arrival of January 2009 is a renewing milestone in the life of the Kings Point Amateur Radio Club. We can rethink the past years, but more importantly, we can set goals and make new plans for the future. For a quick flash back, I looked up our Club Purpose Statement of Objectives of 2003. Although we achieved many of our objectives, there is still a ways to go. One club objective, number 5, stated:

“To provide an atmosphere that will foster social and educational activities within the

Amateur Community”. I am proud of our club and the efforts made by our 2008 team to make this objective a reality.

The upcoming year should build on our past and at the same time look to the future. Thinking over all the possibilities for our future, a few facts stick out as

a guide:

1. D-star was used in half of all named storms in 2008.
2. Digital interfaces, modems, and ham radio software takes a fare share of advertising.
3. The sun spot cycle is switching to *favorable*. More DX?!!
4. DX methods did not sit idle as the sun spot activity declined. CQ-100, Echolink, IRLP, and D-star all helped to fill the gap. Let's see if it swings back to HF - DX.
5. Planned club social events are as well attended as our meetings.

With these thoughts in mind, think about what you would like to see in the growth of KPARC. What would you like to see more or less of in 2009? Ideas: more operating modes, how-to classes, programs, equipment, social radio events, involvement with other regional clubs, field trips, contesting, build or assemble antennas or equipment.

As always I need feed back so do not hesitate to let the board know your thoughts. Let's make 2009 another banner year.

See you in January,
Dick

Second Roll Out of D-Star

The second phase or revision of D-Star is out there. Both Icom and Kenwood are selling radios for it, it's general name is NXDN - FDMA.. It's known as Icom IDAS (Icom Digital Advanced System) and Kenwood calls it NEXEDGE.

This is a brand-new digital format was co-designed by Kenwood & Icom that is geared towards the business sector. It is designed for those that want to meet the up-coming FCC mandate for 6.25 KHz channel spacing, but that can't (or don't) want to move to the APCO P25 Phase-II equipment that will soon come to market. The format is based on the AMBE+2 voice codec (similar to ICOM's D-STAR), but uses a 4-level FSK modulation (FDMA). The radios are capable of narrowband analog, along with 12.5 KHz & 6.25 KHz digital emissions. Kenwood is offering the system under the name NEXEDGE, and the radios are capable of both conventional & trunking operation. The attached sound file contains all of the formats the system is capable of producing, including the raw data streams of both digital formats.

D-Star, developed by ICOM, is the forerunner to the commercial counterpart of the technology we now know as IDAS (ICOM Digital Advanced System).

IDAS, also known as FDMA is the system generally best suited for commercial use since it meets all FCC technical standards through 2018 and is backwards compatible with 25 kHz, 12.5 kHz analog systems plus capable of operating in the digital mode on 25, 12.5, and 6.25 kHz channel spacing.

We have been to be Icom's lab for their rollout of commercial P-25 Phase-2 products. It's nice to know that the AMBE codec that was chosen for D-Star is slated to replace the IMBE codec in Phase 2 of APCO 25. For once it puts us as ham radio operators into state-of-the-art in communications for the first time in about 10 years. It's so nice to say that.

It uses AMBE+2 codec and 4FSK (4 level FSK) / FDMA (frequency-division multiple access scheme) digital modulation. AMBE+2 codec is compatible with IMBE used by P25 phase I.

NexEdge/IDAS was built off D-Star. Unlike D-Star, the NXDN repeaters can repeat analog or digital so you can have a smooth user migration.

It supports unit ID auto-roaming/registration much like how D-Star works.

Looks like the pricing to get going with NXDN will be about half the cost of D-STAR implementation. NXDN is like MOTOTRBO in that it can support mixed mode, but what's nice unlike MOTOTRBO & D-Star is more than one manufacture making radios & costs less on both accounts.

An ID-RP2C Repeater Controller for D-Star runs about \$1500. You need to add a band specific RF voice module such as the ID-RP2000V for 2 meters which is another \$1400

Where as the Icom IC-FR5000 Series VHF and UHF Repeaters run about \$1500. This NXDN route also provides the analog/digital mixed mode backwards compatibility that D-Star doesn't.

The user end radios between D-Star and NXDN appear to be very similar in price.

Patron Saint of Amateur Radio Operators

GI70MY writing in the 30 meter psk yahoo group says that during the WW2 German occupation of Poland, a Ham radio Priest, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved in espionage and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941. After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution.. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men. On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is now considered the Patron saint of Amateur Radio Operators.

A bit of history about a ham who truly cared about his fellow man. One who cared enough to forfeit his own life to save another.

FCC ASKS HAMS TO ASSIST IN FEBRUARY 2009 DTV CONVERSION

Hams across the United States are being asked by the FCC to assist in the upcoming conversion of all television broadcasting to digital operation. This, as the ARRL reports that it has received a request from the regulatory agency asking its members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the Digital Television conversion in their geographic areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this because they believe that local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not.

Pitts said that in early January the FCC will ask ARRL Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials that groups and clubs may need in this effort. FCC regional staff members may even visit with larger organizations to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations. The request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials only. In other words you are not to do anything other than hand out literature and answer questions. Nor can you charge anyone for your time or effort as this is a volunteer undertaking.

Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager. More information on this request from the FCC is on line on the ARRL newspapers at www.arrl.org.

HELP WANTED

Looking for folks who might want to help in developing the club web site. In particular, we need someone to help write up descriptions of the equipment and capabilities of the various work stations within the club room. Photographs of each workstation would also be utilized. The write-ups hopefully will include explanations of each of the technologies (or link together sites that might help explain the technologies) in use at each station (e.g., Echolink, D-Star, APRS, Weather tracking systems, etc.) Any other ideas for content for the site would be extremely welcome.

Contact Bill Love (W3LOV) at welove@tampabay.rr.com or 634-2749

MEMORY JOGGERS

RAG CHEW NET

The rag chew net is on at 5:00 p.m. Jump in at any time. No net control and very informal. Great time for our new Techs to get some experience.

LADIES NET

The Ladies Net scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays is under construction. Plans are to move the net to a time when more ladies are available. Meanwhile ladies are encouraged to join in the Rag Chew Net.

KPARC MEETING NOTICE

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE KINGS
POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IS
JANUARY 5,2009 AT 2:00 P.M. MAIN
CLUBHOUSE CRAFT ROOM**

SEE YOU THERE

CHANGE YOUR RADIO DIAL

After seventy (70) years of broadcasting Canada's official time, NRC's shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change will occur on 01 January 2009 at 0000 UTC.

CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada, broadcasting 24 hours a day from a location approximately 20 km south-west of Ottawa. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to set computers.

The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories in Ottawa, at the National Research Council Canada. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), which is now the reference for official time used by all countries. UTC is the modern implementation of Greenwich Mean Time.

"Coincidentally, this frequency change comes at a time when NRC is investing resources to refurbish the aging transmitters at CHU in order to provide clear, dependable shortwave services as part of NRC's mandate to disseminate time to all Canadians." said Ray Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility "The shortwave time service is especially beneficial for those in remote locations where there is limited access to internet and telephone communication. CHU also provides a back up against failure of other services."

In April 2007, the International Telecommunications Union re-allocated the 7300-7350 KHz band from a fixed service to a broadcasting service. Since then, interference on the 7335 KHz frequency has come from many information broadcasters around the world.

CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference. We have heard from amateur radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers, and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. As well, comments were received from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment.

To give notice to users, CHU will broadcast an announcement in both English and French. More information can be found at http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/main_e.html and http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/main_f.html

KPARC/SCCARC CHRISTMAS PARTY



Thanks to the hard work of Chairperson Eileen Bishop and her committee: Annette Friolet, Virginia Rihm, Rita Hale, Dee Madigan, Bev Wilson, Kay Weeks, Bob Hibbard, Mike Friolet. We extend a hardy round of applause to all of this committee for a job well done.

The Annual KPARC/SCCARC Christmas Party is the highlight of the year and enjoyed by all the members and guests that attend. This year is no different. The abundance of door prizes and the hilarious exchange of fun gifts was an added attraction to this years event.

A very instructive presentation by Russell Akridge on the Star in the East from a scientific view point in astronomic and astrological terms capped off the evening.

