

KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

More Than 25 Years of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service to Our Community

Officers

President

Dick Bishop, W4NWD
633-7157

Vice President

Joe White, KA1KO
634-2028

Secretary

Sam Brandes, N2OF
642-8519

Treasurer

Bill Love, W2LOV
634-2749

Committee Chairpersons

Club Room Manager

Joe White, KA1KO

KPARC Web Master

Bill Barron, W1WAB

Antenna Managers

Lew Merrill, N4LD

Jim Malanowski, W3SKI

Weather Station Manager

Alan Blackwell, K9YI

Program Chairman

KPARC Repeaters

2 Meter

147.090 PL 146.2

70 CM

442.450 PL 146.2

Echo Link Node

311633

Meetings

First Monday of every
month in the main
clubhouse craft room at
2:00 p.m.

www.kparc.org



From The President

Welcome back to our returning members.

Greetings club members,

So far so good for our hurricane season. We have two more months to go so let's keep our guard up and preparation ready. October still has a high potential month for tropical development. It was just six months ago that that we were following the aftermath of the Haiti earthquakes. Just think

about all the logistics required to establish the needed communication links in Haiti the then super impose that onto what our area could be like following a major storm. It's a sobering thought.

October is the beginning of our search for club officers. We will soon appoint a nominating committee, and begin collecting names for 2011 officers. We have always needed volunteers, but we especially need more members to take a turn holding office. All the jobs are easy, just take a little time and thought, and offer great rewards and satisfaction. Give it some serious thought this year. Nominations are in November and elections will be in December.

Club plans for the fall and winter season are still open, but several activities are on the list. Things like fox hunting, mini transceiver kit building, and QRP expeditions, are a few things on our radar. There are also possibilities of short classes on some operating modes and techniques, like PSK 31, SSTV, Winmor, D-Star/ D Rats, and Ham Radio Deluxe. Like I said, the list is open so get your request and suggestion in so we can develop a schedule.

Without checking, it is safe to say that our local repeaters are under used. So many of us have VHF radios and none of them came with the restriction of "net use only" so let's get the radios on and take advantage of our local repeaters. There is a lot of fun and info to be had with so little effort. Hope to hear you on the air and also to see you at our next meeting.

73's,

Dick - W4NWD

One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU
CW Geek, Ham Radio Instructor
Station Manager, WA2HOM at the Hands-On Museum

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are

records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

October Field Trip Planned

There will be a trip to the Yuengling Brewery on Thursday, October 21. It is located at 1111 North 30th St in Tampa. We will meet at 8:45 AM at Beall's lot on SR 674 and Cypress Blvd to check in then proceed on to the tour site. The tour begins at 10:00 AM. Lunch facilities are not available at the brewery. Therefore, we will take a short walk to Stingray's Bar and Grill at 11101 N. 30th Street where we will be able to enjoy lunch and continue this social activity, Please wear closed toes shoes, NO sandals. There are lots of steps and it is not handicapped accessible.

**Come join us for the fun!
Please call Eileen Bishop at 633-7157 for**

KPARC MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY

**OCTOBER 4, 2010
AT 2:00 p.m.**

**Main Clubhouse
Craft Room**
