



May 5, 2016





The monthly newsletter of the Lancaster & Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club

Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the **Fairfield County Job & Family Services** on corner of W. Main St. and Memorial Dr., Lancaster, OH. Go to the **EMA room until further notice.**

Clubhouse Location:

P. O. Box 3
1611 Grandville Pike,
LANCASTER, OH 43130
Near Lancaster on State Route 37 North (Granville Pike) next to Beavers Field. Across from the Ohio University-Lancaster Branch campus.

Nets:

Mondays at 9:00 p.m.
147.03 MHz (+.6)
146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.

Packet:

BBS 145.53MHz
K8QIK-1 BBS
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

Weather Spotter Net:

146.76 Repeater with 123Hz tone Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Alt frequency 147.24 MHz

www.k8qik.org

ARRL Membership

When you join the ARRL, or renew your membership through the club, we retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more), and we retain \$2 for each renewal. Please support our club, it doesn't cost any more. Send or give all paperwork to Treasurer with your money.

VE Test

VE test sessions on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Red Cross building on W. Mulberry St. just off of Broad St.. Call Robert Northrup, KC8PSW (614-323-1901). For more details go to www.k8qik.org.

Free Swap and Sell

If you have anything ham radio related, you can swap it or sell it here. List your items for free. Give a price and how to contact you. Send the list to Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG or Ragchewer Editor at ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

HAMFESTS

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click [here](#)

Special Event Stations

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

2016 Officers

President:

Paul Flautt, *KB8CMW*

Vice President:

David Jackson, *KD8MOY*

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., *WD8PGO*

Secretary:

Carolyn Spurgeon, *KE8AFM*

Trustee:

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

Volunteer Exam Coordinator:

Robert Northrup, *KC8PSW*

Activities Managers

Adam Cook, *KE8AFP*

Public Relations:

David Jackson, *KD8MOY*

Web Master:

John, *K9ULO* & Carol Dolske
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, *W8BVH*
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

At 7:29 p.m., Paul KB8CMW called the meeting to order.

Paul KB8CMW led the pledge of allegiance. Paul made the announcement that with the resignation of David KD8MOY as Vice-President, that Greg KD8SSJ has been appointed to this position.

There was one visitor to this meeting, Randy Wallace

There was 1 application for vote, Lee Crabtree, KE8DOY. A vote was taken and vote passed to accept Lee into the club as a member.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Carolyn Spurgeon KE8AFM

Minutes of the April meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. There was one correction to the minutes. Robert KC8PSW noted that the count for testing should state 'Three general tests and 6 technician tests were given. All passed except for 4'. Paul W8PDK made a motion to accept the minutes. Robert KC8PSW seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sign-in tonight: 20 members in attendance.

Jack	AE8P	Rod	K1RQS
Carolyn	KE8AFM	Paul	KD8DDD
Charlie	N8KZN	Jeff	KE8AME
Connie	N8LPC	John	W8OF
Dave	WB9PXH	Paul	KB8CMW
Dennis	KB8WR	Robb	KE8AMC
Ed	WD8PGO	Paul	W8PDK
Brent	KD8MGR	Robert	KC8PSW
Ray	W8FLX	Ray	KD8WHY
Gregg	KD8SSJ	Mary	KD8EEI

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed gave the treasurer's report. Robb KE8AME made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Ray W8FLX. All were in favor.

VP Report: Greg Dersarkisian, KD8SSJ

Greg stated that we are in need of a point of contact for weather spotter training and asked for a volunteer. Jeff, KE8AME volunteered for this position.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard W8OF

No report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Kevin Numbers KC8MTV

No report.

Volunteer Exam Coordinator: Robert Northrup KC8PSW

Robert gave a testing summary for April 2016. There were 11 candidates and 16 exams given over all. There were 2 re-tests, 7 technicians, 2 extra, 3 generals which failed and 2 technicians which failed. Next scheduled test date is Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 7p.m. at the Red Cross in Lancaster. Tests will be administered in the basement.

Monday Night Net Manager: Greg Dersarkisian KD8SSJ

Volunteers were asked to sign up for net control. The schedule is as follows:

May 9 Robert KC8PSW
May 16 John W8AGS
May 23 Paul KB8CMW (John W80F/Newsline)
May 30 Jeff KE8AME
June 6 John W8AGS

Hereafter, Greg will be handling the scheduling of the Monday Night Newsline and Net.

Ragchewer: Ralph Howes W8BVH

No report

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell WD8PGO

Ed reported the next ARES meeting will be held at the Red Cross. Upcoming events that will need volunteers for radio communications include: July 4th Lancaster Parade (Rod K1RQS, Paul KB8CMW, Dave WB9PXH have volunteered), July 16th Tour D' Cause, and July 23rd, 27th, and 30th Lancaster Festival.

Safety: Scott Snoke WD8IXO

No report

Public Relations:

No report. Paul KB8CMW will be contacting David KD8MOY to ask if he would like to continue in this capacity.

Station Engineer: John Hilliard W8OF

John stated that we do have a person lined up to do the repair to the tower arm which is a support to the antenna. John is waiting to schedule the repair when weather permits. At the next meeting, John will propose that the club give a monetary gift to the repair person as he is not charging the club for this repair.

Activities Manager: Adam Cook KE8AFP

Adam requested that an amount be allotted for the purchase of food for the Field Day picnic. Discussion was held and Ray W8FLX made a motion to allow \$100.00 for the purchase of chicken. Mary KD8EEI seconded the motion. All were in favor. Additional food will be provided by those in attendance by bringing a dish of their choice.

Old Business:

The Lifetime Membership requirements proposed by Brent KD8MGR will be posted in the Ragchewer and a vote will be held to adopt the proposal into the by-laws at the June club meeting. Members are encouraged to thoroughly read this proposal before the meeting.

Rod K1RQS gave an update of the current count for Field Day sign-up and is asking for more volunteers.

The auction of club house items scheduled for May 7th will begin at 8:30 a.m. with Paul KB8CMW as auctioneer. There are three items that will be excluded from the original list, which are a file cabinet, fire extinguishers, and a 35 amp Astron power supply.

Paul KB8CMW brought up the issue of whether or not to continue to hold the monthly meetings at the EMA location. Discussion was held and all were in agreement that the monthly meetings would stay at the EMA location. Radio nights and test nights will take place at the Red Cross. Each of these events will take place at their

current locations until further notice.

New Business:

None

Brent KD8MGR made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Robb KE8AMC seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Spurgeon KE8AFM, Secretary



VE TESTING IN LANCASTER

This is a picture of April 21st VE Testing session. We had about 11 candidates with most passing. One guy came from Louisville Kentucky. *Photo is courtesy of John, W8OF.*





The Ohio Section News

"Dale's Tales" for May, 2016

Dale Williams WA8EFK
ARRL Director
Great Lakes Division

As the Great Lakes Division is the hosting division, I will have the opportunity to moderate the ARRL Member Forum and have booked the League's "Heavy Hitters" as guest speakers. We will hear commentary from ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF, 1st VP Greg Widin KØGW, 2nd VP Brian Milesosky N5ZGT and our International VP Jay Bellows KØQB. These people are on top of the latest happenings in our hobby and this is the perfect setting for everyone's introduction to the League's new leadership team. We will also include a member Question and Answer session. Last year's Forum was a full house, and with our new team in place this year, this is an ideal opportunity to introduce and discuss new ideas and plans. Every one of our guest speakers will also be spending time at the ARRL EXPO. Do take to opportunity to stop at the EXPO's Meet-and-Greet area to say hello.

We plan to have many of our Headquarters staff on hand as well. They will be present at the EXPO Booths to discuss your ideas and concerns and help you with your special interests. Here is the EXPO booth line-up: ARRL Development/Foundation, Education and Technology, ARRL Lab, Radiosport/DXCC, National Parks on the Air, Public Service, ARRL VEC, ARRL Store, ARRL Logbook of the World, NTS, Advertising, RFinder, ARRL News, Amateur Radio Parity Act, Scouting, Discover the HF Experience, US Bank and Liberty Mutual Insurance, Field Organization /Ohio Section, Youth Rally, and IARU. Remember the dates, May 20 - 22.

KUDOS to the Dial Amateur Radio Club as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Based in Middletown, OH, they recently hosted their Anniversary Party and displayed many interesting memorabilia from the club's history, including several hundred video slides collected and compiled for the occasion. Ohio SM Scott N8SY, Vice Director Tom W8WTD and I were pleased to attend and help the club celebrate.

NVIS Test: Ohio SM Scott Yonally N8SY reports that the planned NVIS event went very well last weekend. There were many participants cross Ohio and a number of neighboring states. The object was to simply have fun making contacts with an NVIS (near vertical incident skywave) antenna system and allow everyone to find out how well these low-to-the-ground antennas actually work. Scott's question is now: "Is there any interest in making this a national event?" Let him know at n8sy@arrl.net.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: Our Legislative Action Team is continuing its efforts to achieve passage of these bills in the House and Senate. You can find the latest information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Thanks to so many of the Great lakes Division hams who have sent letters supporting the legislation. If you have not done so, you can find a sample on the listed web page. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Our Legislative Action Team will hand deliver the letters, thus avoiding delays caused by the postal inspection system in DC.

ARRL SANCTIONED HAMFESTS

May 7 - Cadillac - Cadillac, MI
May 14 - Chassell Hamfest - Chassel, MI
May 20-22 - Dayton HamVention - Dayton, OH
May 28 - Ashland - Ashland, KY
June 4 - Fulton County - Tedrow, OH
June 4 - Princeton Hamfest - Princeton, KY
June 5 - Portage Hamfair - Ravenna, OH
June 11 - Luce County - Newberry, MI
June 18 - Midland Hamfest - Midland, MI
June 18 - Milford Hamfest - Milford, OH
June 19 - Monroe Hamfest - Monroe, MI



ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: Dale R Williams, WA8EFK
wa8efk@arrl.org



A friend of Paul's, KB8CMW, wrote a note to him and it is listed below:

Paul Richard Dick Couch here , I would like to invite you and your members to check in on our Coshocton County Jonny Apple Seed net each Friday 9.00 pm 28.450.00 . We are located between Coshocton and Newcomerstown Ohio . We would like to increase 10 meter nets and check in activity. Our latest is Wo8g Milton in Marietta Ohio his club net Thursdays 9.00 pm 28.405.00 . Please forward your net Day , Time and Freq . Paul I want to hope all the best to you , yours and each of your Club Members .
Richard kd8ytn . 73s



ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention^{Â®} to Incorporate International Interests

[ARRL EXPO](#) -- the ARRL's "show within a show" -- at [Dayton Hamvention^{Â®}](#) 2016 will incorporate the interests of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) and of several IARU Member Societies. These will include the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), which will be accepting applications for JARL awards; the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club ([DARC](#)); the Qatar Amateur Radio Society ([QARS](#)), and the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)). Hamvention takes place May 20-22 at Hara Arena, near Dayton, Ohio.

Visitors also may have cards checked to qualify for various JARL awards, and, once you've completed an [application](#), JARL representatives can issue some popular JARL awards ([AJD](#), [WAJA](#), [ADXA](#)) on the spot. JARL also will be accepting applications for the [IARU Region 3 Operating Award](#). Certificates will be mailed to applicants after Hamvention.

ARRL staff and [DXCC](#) volunteer card checkers will offer DXCC card checking and award application processing. Use the [Online DXCC](#) tool and save money on your application! Bring a printout of your application, card list, and cards -- in the order entered into the Online DXCC. ARRL members also may drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the [ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau](#). Sort cards by DXCC entity.

Greeting visitors on behalf of the IARU will be President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; and Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD; IARU and ARRL President Emeritus Larry Price, W4RA, and technical representative Peter Chadwick, G3RZP.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, K0QB, will also be on hand at ARRL EXPO.

Hamvention will host an International Relations booth within ARRL EXPO's international row to welcome and greet convention visitors from abroad.

For [full details](#) about ARRL activities and programs at Hamvention 2016, visit the ARRL EXPO web page.



The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Open Wire Feed Lines" is the focus of the current (May 5) episode of the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast. Listen...and learn!



Sponsored by [DX Engineering](#), "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on [Apple iTunes](#), or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at [Blubrry](#), or at [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our [beginner's guide](#).



ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Conducting Youth in Amateur Radiosport Survey



The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee ([CAC](#)) has been looking into how to attract more youngsters and youth into Amateur Radio contesting, and it has invited all hams, and especially young people, whether or not they're already radio amateurs, to take the [Youth in Amateur Radiosport Survey](#).

"Please spread the word about the survey among your ham friends and local radio and contest clubs," said CAC Chair [George Wagner](#), K5KG, adding that the CAC would like to see more young people engaged in "the thrill and challenge of competitive ham radio contesting -- also called 'radiosport.'" Wagner and fellow CAC member Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, plan to hand out survey announcement cards at Dayton [Hamvention](#)^Å® -- Johnson at the NCDXF booth and Wagner at Carole Perry's, WB2MGP, Youth Forum and at the

[ARRL Youth Rally](#).

As an initial step, the CAC is gathering information about where and how young people are currently involved in radiosport. It's contacting ham radio clubs, contest clubs, private schools, international youth ham radio organizations, and the general public. The committee is using surveys, focus groups, and even face-to-face meetings to check "the lay of the land" about youth and radiosport in today's world, Wagner said.

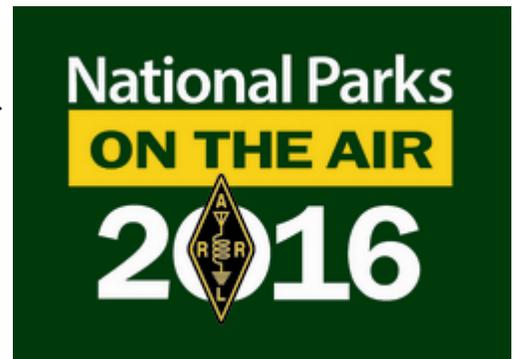
The survey will continue to accept input until August 31. Visit the [online survey](#) to participate.

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National Parks on the Air Update

ARRL has an opportunity for those traveling to Dayton [Hamvention](#) who wants to activate an NPS unit for National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#))! ARRL has secured an operating permit with the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in downtown Dayton. The special NPOTA activity will be available for visiting operators to enjoy activating an NPOTA unit without having to bring their own gear. The event will run from Friday, May 20, until Sunday, May 22, at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Operations will be from 9 AM-5 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 9 AM-noon on Sunday.

ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator John Myers, KD8MQ, is coordinating on-site operations for the event. He is looking for volunteers on Friday and Saturday who would be able to help visiting operators and/or explain NPOTA and Amateur Radio to non-ham park visitors. Even an hour or two of time as a volunteer would be helpful. Contact [John Myers](#) to volunteer or to sign up for a 15-minute operating slot. All slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis and all operators are limited to one slot, to make this opportunity available to as many visitors as possible.



There are 47 activations scheduled for May 5-12, including the first-ever activation of Buck Island Reef National Monument in the US Virgin Islands, and the George Rogers Clark National Historic Site in Indiana.

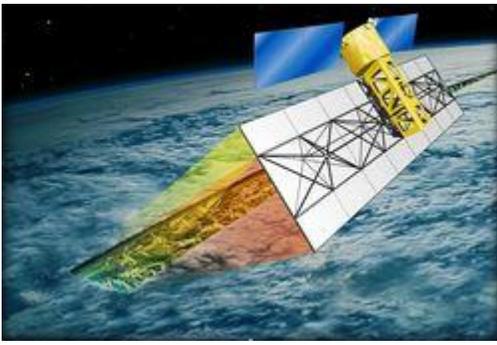
[Details](#) about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on [Facebook](#). Follow NPOTA on [Twitter](#) (@ARRL_NPOTA).

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No Need for Panic Regarding Synthetic Aperture Radars on 70 Centimeters, ARRL CTO Says

A recent BBC [news article](#) regarding synthetic aperture radar (SAR) contract award for operation within the 70 centimeter band has raised some concern within the Amateur Radio community. The contract to Airbus Space would involve determining the density of Earth's forests using a P-band (432-438 MHz) SAR. That band segment was allocated for use by the Earth Exploration Satellite (Active) Service (EESS Active) at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, said SAR activity has not been found to be a significant problem to Amateur Radio activity on the 70 centimeter band. Both EESS (Active) and Amateur Radio are secondary on the band in International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) Regions 2 and 3 (Amateur Radio is co-primary with the Radiolocation Service in ITU Region 1), and Price said SAR operation is subject to significant constraints.

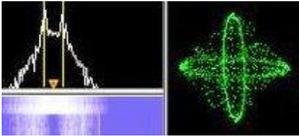


"The interference potential from one orbiting SAR to one fixed Amateur Radio station is on the order of less than 1 minute over an orbital period of more than 10 days," Price said. "Practically speaking, nearby electrical lines and Part 15 devices are more likely to be bothersome."

Price said news items in articles aimed at the general public are "often notoriously short" on technical details. ITU-R *Recommendation* RS.1260-11 -- incorporated by reference in the ITU *Radio Regulations* and binding on EESS (Active) stations -- spells out the WRC-03 consensus on SARs operating at 70 centimeters. Among other things, RS.1260-1 states that EESS (Active) instruments operation profile "shall be campaign-oriented, targeted to specific geographical areas and shall limit the instrument active time to the minimum required to achieve the campaign objectives." Read [more](#).



Digital Ops Invited to Take Part in 2016 Most Wanted DXCC Entities Survey:



Digital mode operators are invited to participate in the 2016 [Digital Mode Most Wanted Survey](#) -- previously known as the "RTTY Most Needed [DXCC Entities](#) Survey." More than 350 digital mode operators took part in the last survey, conducted in 2011.

Participants should read the "How to use the 2016 Digital Mode DX Most Wanted Survey" at the top of the survey web page. The survey will be open until 2359 UTC on Friday, May 13, and results could be available prior to Dayton [Hamvention](#)^{Â®}. A new "Resume Later" feature has been added to the 2016 survey. Read [more](#)



Hi everyone,

I wanted to bring you up to speed on the Dayton On the Air event that the Ohio Section will be doing during the Dayton Hamvention. We are still looking for volunteers to mind the store between 12 & 2 on Friday, and 10 & 2 on Saturday.

Saturday AM is really important as that Saturday is a very busy day for everyone and we definitely need to have this booth staffed. If you are able to take an hour or so out of your busy schedule, we would greatly appreciate your help with this big project.

The site is at 22 South Williams Street, in Dayton; about 6 miles from Hara Arena. There appears to be a parking area in the rear. I'll be there around 8 AM each day to set up the stations, and again around 4:30 - 5:00 to tear down

If you know anyone who may want to do a couple hours at the site, please ask them to contact John, KD8MQ at kd8mq1@gmail.com
73, for now..
Scott..

ARRL Ohio Section
Section Manager: Scott D Yonally, N8SY
n8sy@arrl.org



Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed every year on the last Monday in May. It honors those who died serving the United States military. It is also seen as the start of the summer season. All non-essential government offices are closed including schools, people usually have the day off work, and some local businesses may not be open as well.

Celebration\ Observance

Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives while in the military service. It is traditional to fly the American flag at half-mast. Many

people visit national cemeteries where volunteers will place the American flag on each grave. Memorials are attended as well. It is a day that marks the start of summer and vacation season. People will attend picnics, BBQs, sporting events, and spending time with family.

History

Memorial Day originated after the American Civil War to honor both the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war. The holiday was extended by the 20th century to include all American soldiers. Memorial Day is formally known as Decoration Day. This day is not to be confused with Veteran's Day which celebrates the service of all United States military veterans.



**Remember
Memorial
Day this
year....
May 30, 2016**

Lifetime Member requirements have been discussed and decided to put them in this month's issue of the Ragchewer so that members would be able to review it ahead of time and vote at the June's meeting whether or not to adopt into the by-laws.

Lifetime Membership Requirements

b) Lifetime Member requirements include the following:

The status of Lifetime Membership shall require a valid amateur radio operator's license at all times. Lifetime Member shall not be obligated to pay dues, shall have full voting authority, and be able to take advantage of all other club benefits. Should Lifetime Member's amateur radio license lapse, the process to obtain the status will start over. Candidate for Lifetime Member must fulfill a minimum of two (2) of the requirements listed.

1. Payment of membership dues without lapse for a consecutive period of twenty-five years.
2. Contribution of service to the club to benefit the club's purpose and its members.
3. Contribution of equipment, real estate, or monies in the amount of \$750 or more (beyond required dues) to the club.
4. Contribution other than financial, to the existence of the amateur radio community as a whole at any level, whether local, state, federal or world-wide.

Any member in good standing with the club may recommend another member at a regular or special meeting for this status. Recommendation will be posted in the Ragchewer and at the next club meeting, motion will be made to give member Lifetime Member status, discussion held, second to the motion, and vote to either accept or deny motion determined by two-thirds (2/3) majority.

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the socialist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). It was originally published in *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. Bellamy had hoped that the pledge would be used by citizens in any country.

In its original form it read:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. At this time it read:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1954, in response to the Communist threat of the times, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today. Bellamy's daughter objected to this alteration. Today it reads:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Section 4 of the Flag Code states:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.", should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute."

The original Bellamy salute, first described in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, who authored the original Pledge, began with a military salute, and after reciting the words "to the flag," the arm was extended toward the flag.

At a signal from the Principal the pupils, in ordered ranks, hands to the side, face the Flag. Another signal is given; every pupil gives the flag the military salute — right hand lifted, palm downward, to a line with the forehead and close to it. Standing thus, all repeat together, slowly, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." At the words, "to my Flag," the right hand is extended gracefully, palm upward, toward the Flag, and remains in this gesture till the end of the affirmation; whereupon all hands immediately drop to the side.

The Youth's Companion, 1892

Shortly thereafter, the pledge was begun with the right hand over the heart, and after reciting "to the Flag," the arm was extended toward the Flag, palm-down.

In World War II, the salute too much resembled the Nazi salute, so it was changed to keep the right hand over the heart throughout.

May all Americans truly pledge their allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

American Pledge of Allegiance Meaning of Words

"I pledge..."	Meaning: A binding commitment and a guarantee, to promise solemnly and formally. Example: The word 'pledge' is used in the Declaration of Independence "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."
"...allegiance"	Meaning: Allegiance is an obligation to a ruling power promising commitment, dedication and loyalty
"...to the flag..."	Meaning: The flag indicates nationality and is a symbol, inspiration and emblem of the country requiring respect at all times
"...of the United States of America"	Meaning: The USA flag represents the 50 States and all their inhabitants. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies and reflect the history of the America. The US flag serves to remind those that take the oath that it refers to America rather than the country of their birth.
"...and to the Republic"	Meaning: A form of government without a monarch. The head of state in a republic is the President. A nation in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them.
"...for which it stands..."	Meaning: This refers to the flag as a symbol of the country, its values, principles and aspirations
"...one Nation..."	Meaning: Reflects the motto of the United States of America meaning "Out of many, one"
"...under God..."	Meaning: The belief in a supreme being
"...indivisible..."	Meaning: Incapable of being divided, separated, or broken
"...with liberty and justice..."	Meaning: These words express the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, of freedom and of justice. It reflects the history of the country and the patriots who fought in the American War of Independence (1775–1783)
"...for all."	Meaning: For every person regardless of race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, disability, marital status or age

Portable 12-Volt Power on the Cheap

from Randy Cook, K6CRC

Portable 12-Volt Power on the Cheap

By Randy Cook, K6CRC

I was looking for a portable power system for QRP. But, I thought it would be nice to have a simple way to manage the batteries and simplify the process of charging and verifying them.

For picnic bench style operations, I could take the power system with me. Since I probably wouldn't be walking too far to set up my rig, weight was not a major issue. And, in a few cases, I would have mains power, so the battery would be a backup. The solution would include small Gel Cell batteries and an appropriate charger. There should be a low battery indicator. And, I would want electronics to auto-switch to battery power if mains supply goes down.

My needs were simple, one to two amps at 12 volts for operation on HF frequencies. Operation for an hour or two on a battery would be fine.

I looked at several commercial solutions, and decided that I could probably find a lower cost system if I was willing to dig a bit. In the spirit of Ham DIY, I hit a local surplus store, and saw there were many computer UPS backup boxes for sale. They varied in size and features, and generally did not include useable batteries. Prices were \$20 and up, plus the cost of the battery. But, it would be an inefficient solution. And they were very heavy. So, UPS devices were ruled out.

Where did they come from and why were they in surplus stores? AT&T rolled out their UVerse TV/Internet/Phone system several years ago. To provide emergency 911 services to customers with the VOIP phone option, AT&T included a Belkin battery backup box. The box contained a replaceable Gel Cell 12 volt battery, a battery charger, mains power-fail switchover, and a simple diagnostic system. All in one compact box. As the UVerse system has evolved, AT&T replaced the original vendor gateway/modem boxes with newer Arris branded equipment. The newer equipment included an internal 7.4-volt Lithium Ion battery. It appears that the Belkin boxes are obsolete, and now hitting surplus. They can be found new or used on eBay with prices starting at about \$5 plus shipping. Warning, these are a bit heavy to ship and batteries are problematic for some carriers. I paid \$20 for what appeared to be a new unit, with a battery at a local surplus store.



Internally, there are three boards – a small display board, a switching power supply, and a battery management board. A power switch is on the back, and three status LEDs plus an alarm off/on switch on the front. They come apart, but the disassembly is tricky, and you can easily break the plastic tabs and connecting cables.

A nice feature is a power on diagnostic that will indicate the battery needs charging or replacing.

Many small rigs and test boxes have the matching jack to this power supply. For instance, my MFJ antenna analyzer can run off the Belkin unit directly for extended antenna testing sessions.

For a more universal solution, remove the power plug and add Power-Poles. The battery is easily removable, so it is practical to just use this as a charger and tester. A user manual is available on-line, just do a Google search.

So, for \$20, you can have a QRP 12 volt power system including battery, charger, tester, and automatic switch, all in a small, portable box. Heck of a deal!

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Well that's about all for this month. Hope you get some use out of the articles and have been inspired to participate more in all of the club activities. We could use your services with the Monday night net on 147.03 (tone 71.9MHz). Don't forget to check for Special Events going on. Look at your club's web site often for up to date info; www.k8qik.org. Stay Safe and get on the air. "HAM RADIO IS A CONTACT SPORT"

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