



# The Hilltopper

HAZARD, KY.

June 2009

**Kentucky Mountains  
Amateur Radio Club**

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## MAY MEETING:

The May meeting was all but washed out with widespread flooding, storms, and power outages in the area. As it turned out only one member made it to the meeting, and others were in various stages of disarray or forgetfulness.

## JUNE 20th MEETING:

Field Day is coming up. . This Saturday's Club Meeting will be 10 AM, at the Civil Air Patrol Building at the Hazard Air Port between Hazard and Jackson on KY Hwy. 15. Plans will be made at the meeting for this year's Field Day, we will get the site prepared for the 2 day event. We will mow as needed and do whatever else needs to be done.

Also at the meeting we will discuss the possibility of setting up an IRLP node here to work with the Challenger Center at the Hazard Community College to allow actual NASA Astronauts in training to talk with students at the Challenger Center via amateur radio and VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). There would be an amateur radio link at each end, and the club will be discussing the link (node) at this end.

We will also need to start work on the 2009



JUNE 27-28  
MARKS THE DATE  
THIS YEAR.  
PLANS FOR THE  
EVENT WILL BE  
MADE AT THE  
CLUB MEETING  
THIS SATURDAY at  
10 AM.

Hazard Hamfest, which will be held on October 31st., at the National Guard Armory, in Hazard. Everyone I have asked has said this should be a big site improvement, and hopeful it will bring out lots of area hams and vendors.

We expect to be able to resume exams at the hamfest and have an ARRL and perhaps other forums with the larger space at the armory. The time of year away from other events but not during bad weather should also be a plus for the change.

We will have a cookout at the meeting on June 20th., so bring whatever you want to drink and any chips or other side items for hot dogs or hamburgers. We will eat after the meeting and work session.

**Hope to see you at 10 AM on the 20th., Saturday..**



## THE BIG ONE!!!

The main attraction at the Dayton Hamvention was this giant telescoping tower that had been brought in with heavy equipment. It also was self-erecting in that it tilted over as shown.

The display took up a large portion of one of the wings of the arena, and every one with a camera was taking a photo of it.

Other big towers and big antennas were also popular with the browsers and those asking questions.

The other big (?) item seemed to be LED's or Light Emitting Diodes. Every other small or large vendor seemed to have a display of them and I suppose there was a contest to see who had the brightest and the cheapest. Guess this is a foretaste of things to come.

## HAMFEST SCHEDULE:

With June mostly gone, we are in the lull time for Hamfests at present, unless you want to do some travelling in the middle of the summer. The Kentucky Fall Hamfest season, however promises to be a busy one. It will kick off on Sunday, AUGUST 9th., with the Bluegrass Hamfest in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, on the other side of Frankfort.

On Saturday, September 12th., the Greater Louisville Hamfest will be held in Bullitt County.

Following Saturday, September 19th., finds the Richmond Club having its hamfest in Madison Co.

A popular Hamfest with Kentuckians is also the Ten-Tec Hamfest on the last weekend in September at the Ten-Tec Plant in Sevierville, Tn. This year's fest will be on Saturday, Sept. 26th.

Another popular hamfest in this area is the Tri-Cities Hamfest in Gray, TN., which will be held at the Fair Grounds on Saturday, October 17th.

Finally, the Hazard Halloween Hamfest will be on Halloween, October 31st., 2009 at the National Guard Armory, in Hazard, KY.

## FIELD DAY SUGGESTION:

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.



Your never know who you will run into at Dayton. Martin Jue, founder of MFJ on the left is surprised to run into your editor at the Hamfest. Martin is one of the great success stories in Amateur Radio, and very supportive of all its operations.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.



JOIN THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS ARC  
Membership dues for the 2008 year are payable as follows:

**Full Membership.....\$12.00**

**Family Membership..all in one household.. \$18**

**Student (any level).....\$8**

**Associate Memberships - ..... \$8**

Pay at the Club Meetings or mail to John Farler, K4AVX,  
1264 Hall Mountain Rd., Vi;er, KY 41774

.....  
(email [k4avx@k4avx.net](mailto:k4avx@k4avx.net), make checks to KMARC)

- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

**Kentucky Mountains ARC Field Day**  
**Saturday & Sunday, June 27- 28, 2009**  
**AT THE CIVIL AIR PATROL BUILDING**  
**REGIONAL AIRPORT ROAD**  
**OFF KY. RT. 15**  
**HALFWAY BETWEEN HAZARD AND JACKSON**  
**TALK-IN 146.07/.67 REPEATER, 103.5 TONE**

