



The Hilltopper

HAZARD, KY.

May 2009

**Kentucky Mountains
Amateur Radio Club**

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<http://www.k4avx.net>

APRIL MEETING:

The club met Saturday, April 11th., at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Hazard Airport. Most of the members enjoyed the fly-in/drive-in breakfast that the CAP Wing held at the mail terminal building before the meeting.

There were 11 members at the meeting, and the first item for discussion was the fall Hamfest date. It was decided to try to get the National Guard Armory for the first or second weekend in October. The hamfest went well when it was held there, and there was only one year when it was not available.

The 146.07/.67 Club Repeater antenna update was discussed and it was decided to get a commercial antenna for around \$600. The motion passed, and the antenna has been purchased. The one antenna now up on Rx has been there since 1976 or so, and fell down from several hundred feet with the WSGS tower several years ago, was repaired, and is now many years past its usefulness. The antenna work will be carried out as the weather and the tower contractor allow.

Tim Osborne discussed the 145.35 Whitesburg repeater which should be on the air as the weather permits. The Harlan repeater has had its antenna raised and feedline replaced, and now has tremendous coverage. If you haven't done so, give it a try on 147.105+, t103.5hz.

The Harlan Club has changed its meeting date to the first Sunday of the month. The club is off to a great start, with exam sessions at each club meeting as needed, so keep this in mind if you are thinking about upgrading. We have noticed a bunch of new checkins on the Sunday night Emergency Net from Harlan Co. Good work for Wayne and the guys in the club.

FIELD DAY:

Field Day is coming up on June 27-28th. This Saturday's 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



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

made at the meeting for this year's Field Day, so we hope everyone can be there to help plan the weekend.

HAMVENTION:

The Dayton Hamvention is next week, on the 15th.-17th., at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. If you haven't been to Dayton HV, you should go. It is also the ARRL National Convention, and many interest groups such as QRP'ers, DX'ers, VHF'ers, etc. either have meetings, forums, or Dinners during the weekend.

With the price of gas much less than last year, this will be a good year to go - it will never be cheaper, especially after we start running our vehicles on grass clippings and sunshine.



==> HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

From ARRL Letter

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives.

This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response."

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce . If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

- * Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- * Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- * Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- * Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
- * Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee --who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

HAMFEST SCHEDULE:

- MAY 15-17 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.
- JUNE 6 Little Sandy Hamfest, Grayson, KY.
- JUNE 13 Knoxville, Hamfest, Kerbela Temple, Knoxville, Tn.
- AUGUST 9 Bluegrass Hamfest - Lawrenceburg

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE CLUB MEETING THIS COMING SATURDAY...73, JOHN, K4AVX

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	
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(email k4avx@k4avx.net, make checks to KMARC)	