

W0MG FEEDBACK

Since 1929

April 1999

The Feedback is published by the Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association on a monthly basis. The NIRAA meets the second Saturday of each month (except August) in the lower level of the Hawkeye Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2530 University Ave. Waterloo. Meetings start at 7 P.M.; anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

Feedback editor this month: Earl Taggart (K8YWT)

NEIRAA OFFICERS 1999

President: Earl Taggart (K8YWT)
Vice President: Jerry Jones (KI0IH)
Secretary: Jay Nabholz (KC0AKJ)
Treasurer: Dave Berry (KB0OCI)
Directors: Chuck Angel (WA0INC) >2002
 Dennis Orona (N0RWY) > 2001
 Curt Wilson (NK0T) > 2000

Area Repeaters:

* Indicates 136.5 Tone Coded Squelch

Waterloo/ Cedar Falls

W0MG: 14694 *, 444.975 *
WA0INC: 146.82*, 443.75*,
 444.975* (Linked SEITS)
N0CF: 444.65*
KN0K: 146.655*
NK0T: 224.90

Independence

NI0L: 145.33*

Oelwein

KF0HA: 147.345

Waverly

N0RJJ: 145.43*

Club WEB PAGE

<http://w0mg.nexcommtech.com>

NEIRAA TREASURERS REPORT

3/12/99
General Fund: \$1,089.94
Repeater Fund: \$258.78
Savings: \$25.00
VE Testing: \$25.00

Program providers for future meetings

April: Curt Wilson
May: Jay Nabholz
June: Chriss Conklin
July: Ryon Westendorf
Aug.: No Meeting
Sep.: Wendell Wagner
Oct.: Scott Irwin
Nov.: Christmas Party
Dec.: Dennis Orona

HAMFEASTS

IOWA:
April 11 – Deloit, 7am – 2pm. Denison Repeater Association, Deloit Community Bldg. 320 Maple St. Deloit IA.

April 18 – Shakopee Mn. Southwest Metro AR Transmitting Society, Canterbury Park

April 24 – Des Moines, 8am – 1pm. Des Moines RAA., Iowa State Fairgrounds, Hall of Law under “E” end of grandstand.

SPECIAL THANKS

Tom Brooks N0IGB donated a 40' crankup mast, a ham 4 rotor and a 3 ele. Thunderbird Jr. Beam to the club. Tom is moving and his new QTH does not permit outside antennas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RAGBRI –Waverly – July 28. We need volunteers to assist in communications. The chairman of the communications committee is Steve Butler, Home Phone 352-0484, work – 352-6251

Field Day – We need a coordinator for the event. If anyone is involved with Boy Scouts, we can help with them obtaining their Radio Badge by providing the opportunity to operate during the event. We are also looking for ways to involve the whole family for the event. Perhaps a Family camp out. We would like to end the event Sunday with a cook-out / pot luck dinner. Bring more ideas to the next meeting.

New Age of Amateur Enforcement



FCC Legal Advisor foe Enforcement,
Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH

The Hollingsworth Philosophy

A ham since age 13 who espouses a genuine reverence for the hobby, Hollingsworth hit the ground running in his efforts to remove the tarnish from the hobby. His overarching philosophy is simple: "I think the Commission has an obligation after it issues a license to maintain basic service, so the privileges are worth something," Hollingsworth says.

He started out by attempting to get a handle on the scope of the enforcement problem on the ham bands. Within a few days of opening the Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184) and announcing his e-mail address rholing@fcc.gov, he began detecting a pattern in the reports he was hearing from other amateurs. He talked with hundreds of people on the telephone and received letters and e-mail from hundreds more.

Slowly, he compiled a profile of amateur enforcement issues. He tallied a list of the top-ten Amateur Radio offenders, which he has declined to make public. He sent out hundreds of "informal" warning letters to hams others had complained about, inviting them to get in touch with him to talk things out. Hollingsworth also acted on several cases that had been languishing within the FCC.

While the formal warnings and violation notices to some alleged high-profile offenders generated some initial fanfare, Hollingsworth often prefers to counsel rather than condemn those accused of violating the rules. He tries cajoling them into compliance rather than immediately letting go with both barrels. These sorts of warning shots are a deliberate part of his plan.

Hollingsworth has even showed up on the air a couple of times. His foray onto a well-known 75-meter "hot spot" January 13-a first for an FCC official of his stature-came about when he attempted to break up an argument between two hams that was becoming increasingly nasty. Hollingsworth then stayed around to discuss compliance and on-air deportment with the assembled multitude. "You could have heard a pin drop," recounted ARRL member Neal Fisher, N4HAF, of North Carolina, who listened in awe.

Even as he attempted to conciliate, someone tried to jam Hollingsworth's transmissions - although the majority of those on frequency behaved politely. He also caught some flak from self-appointed critics who felt he was being "too friendly" with an alleged offender on the air. "I was not befriending anybody but imploring everybody," Hollingsworth later explained.

Some also have criticized Hollingsworth for not taking a stronger stand and clearing the decks through heavy fines and suspensions. That very well might happen, Hollingsworth says. He's just not there yet. As he sees things, he's still making up for lost time, rectifying the damage wrought by the FCC's years of apathy toward amateur enforcement.

Hollingsworth's "informal" warning letters program has led to demonstrable improvement. "In almost every case, the recipient has contacted us," he said. "In one case, the licensee apologized, and reports since that time indicate that the licensee has become a model operator."

Things improved so much that the ARRL Board of Directors in January indicated a

willingness to postpone a request to the FCC to further privatize amateur enforcement.

In late January, Hollingsworth and FCC engineering staff further put the fear of God into the hearts of Amateur Service violators by paying a visit to two amateurs in the Carolinas who had been the subject of complaints.

Commission personnel, local sheriff's deputies in tow, inspected the stations of John A. Abernethy, K4OKA, an Extra licensee in Hickory, North Carolina, and Richard Whiten, WB2OTK, a General licensee in Easley, South Carolina.

Hollingsworth said both operators "were the subjects of many complaints about their operations on the 75 and 20 meter amateur bands." Results of the inspections were "under review," the FCC said, declining further comment.

But word of the FCC's up-close-and personal approach generated extensive comment, both on the air and the Internet. Hollingsworth sees station visits as yet another weapon in the Commission's arsenal

"I think you'll see more of that, and more routinely too," he said, "sort of like an audit function."

Hollingsworth also has acted in several cases of alleged amateur license fraud. In one ongoing investigation, serious questions were raised about how four individuals received credit for the Amateur Extra license. All four subsequently were stripped of their Extra privileges (one of the four had been unlicensed prior to the examination session in question), while the FCC looks into allegations that the examinees might have been coached or given test answers. More recently, he called in at least one amateur for retesting, an FCC prerogative.

Last Month's Program

John Walter (KB0DBI) provided a video tape explaining the origins of Ham Radio. It was an excellent presentation and showed the setup and operation of the spark gap transmitter and reception using xtal detector receivers.

VHF/UHF Antenna Project

The following is a very simple antenna that can be built for very little and will provide very good performance for those with limited space.

List of materials needed:

1ea. SO-239 connector
(Radio Shack PN 278-201) \$1.99

5ea. lengths of stiff wire (Coat Hanger will work)

4 - 20"

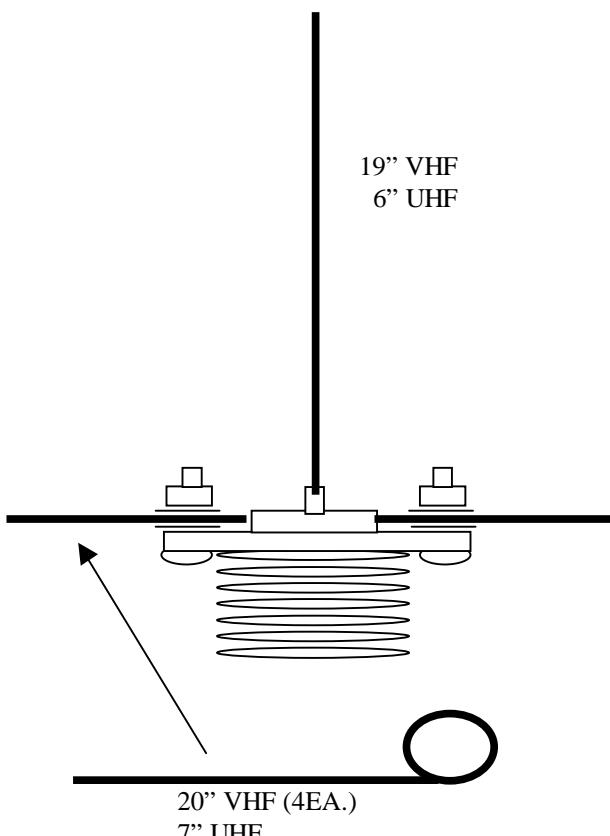
1ea. - 19" long

4ea. 4-40 machine screws 3/4" long
(Radio Shack PN 64-3011) \$1.49

4ea. 4-40 nuts (RS PN 64-3018) \$1.49

8ea. washers (RS PN 64-3022) \$ 1.49

Check your junk box, you may have the hardware already and save the trip to Radio Shack or the hardware store.



The 19" VHF/6" UHF wire is soldered in the end of the center conductor of the SO-239 connector and makes the vertical radiator portion of the antenna.

The 4 - 20"VHF/7"UHF wires form the ground plane and have a small loop bent on one end to fit around the screws. Place a washer on either side of the wire when bolting in place on each of the 4 mounting holes of the SO-239.

Connect a coax cable with a PL-259 connector to the Antenna, and the other end to your radio. You can bend the 4 ground plane wires slightly downward to help support the antenna and hold the radiator vertical.

K7UGA ANTENNAS DISMANTLED, SOLD

The Amateur Radio antenna system that the late Sen Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, used to complete thousands of phone patch messages for troops during the Vietnam War now is history. Five members of Goldwater's club, the Central Arizona DX Association, recently dismantled the K7UGA antenna system. "It took us about five hours to remove them from the 77-foot rotating mast," said club member Mike Bill, N7MB. Bill said the antennas have been sold. Goldwater died last May 29. Bill says Goldwater's widow, Susan, recently asked the club members for assistance in taking down the antennas at the Goldwaters' Paradise Valley, Arizona, home. Goldwater used a Hy-Gain RP-75H rotating pole assembly turned by a ¼-HP electric motor. The antennas were Hy-Gain LongJohns for 10, 15, and 20 meters as well as a 3-element 40-meter array, "very big and very heavy," Bill said. The system had been installed in the mid-1960s to support Goldwater's extensive phone-patch activities on MARS.

Others on the antenna-removal crew included Paul Nyland, K7PN, Paul Playford, W8AEF, Rod O'Connor, W7EKV, and Mike Fulcher, KC7V. Bill says the buyer of the K7UGA antennas wishes to remain anonymous. The sale price was not revealed. For more information, visit <http://www.azhub.com/goldwater/listings.htm>!

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FCC sets aside New Yorker's ticket:

The FCC has set aside a new Technician grant to Raymond S. Graham, KC2EQQ, of Bronx, New York, while it evaluates allegations of earlier unlicensed radio operation. A letter to Graham March 11 from the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth noted that Graham had been formally warned about unlicensed operation on January 6. Graham's Technician license was issued February 17.-FCC

Michigan ham called for retesting:

The FCC has asked Joseph Walker, W8JCW, of Gaylord, Michigan, to retake his General and Advanced class amateur examinations under an ARRL-VE team. Walker must complete the retest by May 15. The FCC said that if he fails to appear for retesting, his license will be canceled.-FCC