



# THE HAMCALL

The Official Newsletter of The Kentucky  
Colonels Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Bowling Green, Kentucky

Call: KY4BG

page:[www.kcaronline.com](http://www.kcaronline.com)

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## President's Report

Hello to everyone

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Feb 12 meeting

Any one that has not paid 2013 dues need to to get dues to KY3B

Please invite any ham that you know to meeting so maybe we can get some

new members. We have at least 2 new members that I know of. I am doing good after my operation

If any one has something they would like to see as program for meeting, mention at meeting

Ed - N4HID

Contest Calender for February submitted by Ed N4HID

Feb 8 14:00z- Feb 10 02:00z yl-om contest Ph CW DIG

Feb 9 00:00z- Feb 10 23:59z ylIssb QSO Party CW

Feb 9 00:00z- Feb 10 24:00z CQ WW Rtty Wpx Dig

Feb 9 12:00z- Feb 10 12:00z Dutch PACC Contest PH CW

Feb 9 15:00z- Feb 10 03:00z Louisiana QSO Party PH CW DIG

Feb 9 15:00z- Feb 10 15:00z OMISS QSO Party Ph

Feb 9 16:00z- Feb 10 04:00z New Hampshire QSO PartyPh Cw Dig

Feb 9 21:00z- Feb 10 01:00z RSGB – First 1.8 MHz Contest Ph Cw

Feb 11 13:00z- Feb 15 23:59Z School Club Roundup Ph Cw Dig

Feb 16 00:00z- Feb 17 24:00z ARRL Intl CW DX Contest Cw

Feb 18 02:00z- Feb 17 04:00z Run For the Bacon CW

Feb 22 22:00z- Feb 24 22:00z CQ WW160 Meter ssb PH

Feb 23 06:00z- Feb 24 18:00z REF Contest PH

Feb 23 15:00z- Feb 24 03:00z Mississippi QSO Party PH CW Dig

Feb 23 18:00z- Feb 24 06:00z North American QSO Party TTY

Feb 24 15:00z- Feb 25 00:59z North Carolina QSO Party ph cw

Feb 25 01:00z- Feb 25 02:59z CQC Winter QSO Party PH CW

Plenty of activity for anyone that wants to get on radio , the following are some DX stations to look for and work.

JD1/JH1JDI Ogasawara Island

ST2SF Sudan

TM60 Afghanistan

ZK3T Tokelau

Z81D South Sudan

HC2/RC5A Eduador

SV7JD Togo

8Q7AK Maldives

FG/F6ITD Guadeloupe

Dedicated Ham keeps Morse Code Alive by James Careless (Reprint from Radio World)

GLACE BAY, Nova Scotia — On Dec. 17, 1902, from the seaside Table Head radio station at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Guglielmo Marconi made the first radio transmission from North America to Europe.

This Morse code transmission completed his tests. A year before, Marconi had transmitted Morse code successfully from Poldhu, Cornwall in the U.K. to a receiving station on Signal Hill, Newfoundland.

The Morse code signals were blasted from Table Head using an awe-inspiring 35-kW spark-gap transmitter. They were emitted at 500 kHz from a square vertical curtain array antenna, strung between four massive wooden 64-meter towers. This was brute-force broadcasting, using the same engineering paradigm that chose monstrous Saturn V rockets to take men to the moon decades later.

#### LIFELONG PASSION

A few years later, Marconi moved the Table Head towers to a site he deemed more suitable for commercial ship-to-shore wireless traffic. But the tower's concrete foundations still remain at this windswept rock plain, which is now home to the Marconi National Historic Site of Canada ([www.pc.gc.ca/marconi](http://www.pc.gc.ca/marconi)).

Operated by Parks Canada, the Marconi site features a museum with a model of the original transmission structure, a historical multimedia display and tour — and Jim Charlong, who keeps the site's Morse code broadcast legacy alive and on the air.

Charlong is a dedicated Morse code operator with 50 years' experience under his "fist" — fist being a ham radio term that describes the signature speed and style of an operator's key-tapping skills. Since the Marconi museum opened in July 1989, he has volunteered as its resident Morse code radio operator. From his "radio shack" inside the museum, Charlong regularly communicates with other Morse code operators around the world.

"I'm here from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, from the time the museum opens on June 1 to when it closes on Sept. 15," said Charlong. "For a Morse code operator, this is heaven. I'm living the dream."

When Jim Charlong was growing up in rural Nova Scotia in the 1950s and '60s, Morse code was a requirement for anyone wanting to obtain an amateur radio (ham) voice license.

However, even though he learned the code and earned the right to broadcast his voice at age 16, Charlong has stuck to the key. "I have no use for the microphone," he said. "Morse code is a better medium, because it can go places the voice can't."

Charlong is correct: The dot-and-dashes used in Morse code transmission are much easier to pick out amidst RF static and lightning crashes that make voice transmission unintelligible.

#### VAS HOME

In recent years, the Morse code requirement has been dropped from the ham license. But there are still Morse code hams on the airwaves. One can hear their rapid code streaming from the speaker of Charlong's Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver. It sits on a shelf with various vintage ham radio transceivers

at the museum's radio shack.

In truth, the museum's shack is a spacious part of the exhibition hall. It is dominated by the letters "VAS" on the wall. They stand for "Voice of the Atlantic Seaboard," the call sign of Marconi's Nova Scotia radio station until it ended service in 1946.

Thanks to Charlong, VAS is on-air and heard around the globe. The proof can be found on a world map mounted beside the VAS logo. The map is studded with colored pins, to mark the places Charlong has reached. There are pins everywhere.

Of course, Charlong's range is boosted thanks to an excellent multiband antenna, which sits on the museum's outdoor tower (with rotor head), plus a 100-W transmitter to kick his signal up into the ionosphere, which it bounces around to the other side of the world and back. (All the equipment is maintained by the Sydney Amateur Radio Club of Nova Scotia, a group of ham enthusiasts to which Charlong belongs.)

Madeleine Harvey is the Marconi National Historic Site's visitor experience manager. She cannot believe the museum's good luck in having such a dedicated and qualified volunteer on site.

"The passion Jim has for wireless is infectious," Harvey said. "It brings it alive for our visitors — and it helps us tell the story of Marconi, a genius who truly was the 'Wizard of Wireless.'"

#### LIVING TREASURE

In honor of his efforts, Parks Canada gave Charlong a Volunteer Recognition Award in 2011. Yet no matter how much he appreciated the recognition, Charlong sees his real reward as being allowed to keep VAS alive — and having daily access to a quality of equipment and transmission power not available at his seniors' residence in nearby Sydney.

"The romance of Morse code and wireless has never faded for me," said Charlong. "Being able to send and receive it from the site of Marconi's first North American transmission — literally working where he and his operators made broadcast history? It just doesn't get any better than this."



Jim Charlong works his Morse code key. All photos courtesy of Parks Canada.



Jim Charlong at his radio shack.



The Marconi museum with Charlong's multiband antenna

My first experience with Windows 8!

Loading Windows 8 on the hard drive was easy and with no unexpended problems. The start up is very fast for Windows. After Windows loads, everything is completely different from the Windows in the past, from the looks to the operation. For example, the start button is no longer a start button. To access anything you have to move the mouse pointer to the very bottom right-hand corner of the screen. The bottom left corner has a start button but it does not do much. The bottom and top right corners brings up a bar that has 4 or 5 icons that you can select. These icons do not seem to do much but with a lot of trial and error you can finally find things that were easy to find on the other windows systems. After working with Windows 8 for a few hours I seemed to get the hang of the operating system. Now it was time to turn off the computer, it took me about an hour to find the shut down button. What a learning experience, it turned over brain cells that have not been used for quite a while, which might be good. Maybe later on I will give a better review.

Greg KY3B

**Club Programs- Anyone interested in putting on a program or knows of a program please contact Tim KJ4ARE**

### **Up and Coming Events**

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup> KCARC Club meeting 7 pm BGPD community room 911 Kentucky St.**

### **Hamfest**

**Cave City Hamfest March 2, 2013**

**Dayton Hamvention May 16,17 &18**

Ed Gann	N4HID	270-843-8911	<a href="mailto:edwardgann@insightbb.com">edwardgann@insightbb.com</a>	Extra
Leon Garrett	K4CIT	270-842-5307		Extra
Gary Hext	k4UU		<a href="mailto:k4uu@hotmail.com">k4uu@hotmail.com</a>	Extra
Mary Hext	KB4RCV			Tech
Greg Lake	KY3B	270-842-1022	<a href="mailto:lakegl@accessky.net">lakegl@accessky.net</a>	Extra
Dottie Lake	KJ4PKN	270-842-1022		General
John E. Moser	KG4TOO	270-879-9299	<a href="mailto:kg4too@hughesnet.com">kg4too@hughesnet.com</a>	Extra
Bonniejean Moser	KG4ZYG	270-879-9299	<a href="mailto:kg4zyg@hughesnet.com">kg4zyg@hughesnet.com</a>	Tech
David Perkins	KD4FJL		<a href="mailto:kd4fjl@att.net">kd4fjl@att.net</a>	General
Tom Williams	WB4SCV	270-202-9633	<a href="mailto:tmwilli@insightbb.com">tmwilli@insightbb.com</a>	Advanced
Tim Meyer	KJ4ARE		<a href="mailto:timmeyer@insightbb.com">timmeyer@insightbb.com</a>	General
John Renfrow	K4FRO	270-282-1522	<a href="mailto:ukrenfrows@att.net">ukrenfrows@att.net</a>	General
William Feldkamp	KI4B		<a href="mailto:ki4b@insightbb.com">ki4b@insightbb.com</a>	Extra
Robert Doughty	KK4AVI	270-495-5189	<a href="mailto:kk4avi@att.net">kk4avi@att.net</a>	Tech
Toby Wolford	WA4UIF		<a href="mailto:wo4uif@aol.com">wo4uif@aol.com</a>	General
Marshall Love	KC4WFN	270-843-8267	<a href="mailto:kc4wfn@bellsouth.net">kc4wfn@bellsouth.net</a>	Tech
Claire Rinehart	KF4IWX	270-843-9028	<a href="mailto:claire.rinehart@wku.edu">claire.rinehart@wku.edu</a>	General
Diane Rinehart	KI4EJR			Tech
John Trent	W4JHT	270-622-7308	<a href="mailto:jrtrent@nctc.com">jrtrent@nctc.com</a>	General
Mark Alderson	KK4NPE		<a href="mailto:mark@hairitagebarber.com">mark@hairitagebarber.com</a>	Tech
Ken Embry	N4GGW		<a href="mailto:kenembry@bellsouth.net">kenembry@bellsouth.net</a>	Extra
Nunzio Rizzo	KK4KRJ		<a href="mailto:nunziorizzo@gmail.com">nunziorizzo@gmail.com</a>	Tech
Henry Cantrell	W4HTB	270-793-4822	<a href="mailto:w4htb@ieee.org">w4htb@ieee.org</a>	Extra

Repeter Name	Frequency	Offset	Tone	Time
Bowling Green	147.165		None	
Bowling Green	147.330		107.2	
Bowling Green	444.100		None	
Glasgow	146.940		None	
Tompkinsville	146.775		151.4	
Russellville	145.450		77	
Franklin	147.135		136.5	
Campbellsville	146.640		None	
Short Mountian	146.910		None	
Morgantown	146.655		None	
Grayson Co.	146.625		141.3	
Grayson Co.	147.225		179.9	
Ohio Co.	146.715		None	
Muhlenburg Co.	146.820		107.2	

KY4TV	Amateur Television	Repeater	BG, KY
	Output 421.25mhz	(cable chan 57)	
	Input 439.25 mhz	(cable chan 60)	
	Input 1280mhz	fm mod	
	Output 1280 mhz	fm mod	

Country Cousins	3.970	8:00 PM CT
Sunbelt Service	3.990	7:00 PM CT
I Bank	3.970	6:00 PM CT
Tenn Phone Net	3.980	7:00 PM CT
Ky Phone Net	3.916	6:00 PM CT

## ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS

**BatteriesPlus is offering 5% Discount to KCARC members**

Just present your membership card when you make a purchase

**Traders Net -**  
**Each Monday 1900 cst**  
**147.330 rpt.** Tone 107.2

**KCARC Net -**  
**Each Tuesday 1900 cst**  
**147.330 rprr** (Tone 107.2)

**4<sup>th</sup> ARES NET MEETS 7 NIGHTS A WEEK AT 9 PM LOCAL TIME.**

Frequency: 147.165

MHz. W4WSM Repeater.

Secondary

Frequency: 147.330 MHz. PL Tone 107.2

KY4BG - KCARC Repeater

**10 Meter Net**

Sunday Night 8:30 p cdt 28.460 mhz KY3B net control

#### **2011 KCARC OFFICERS**

**President: Ed Gann N4HID**

**Vice President: Tim Meyer KJ4ARE**

**Sec-Treas: Greg Lake KY3B**

**John Renfro K4FRO**

**Hank Cantrell W4HTB**

**Dottie Lake KJ4PKN**

**Ben Runner W4WSM**

**Gary Hext K4UU**

**HAMCALL EDITOR: W4HTB (for this issue)**

**Web Master: Chris Scott W4NEQ**