

Central Kentucky Amateur Radio Club

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A publication of the Central Kentucky Amateur Radio Club Serving Adair, Taylor, Green and surrounding counties.

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CKARC Officers 2011-2012

The 2011-2012 officers for the Central Kentucky Amateur Radio Club are:

Dale Bennett (President) WA4JTE

Wanda Munsey WM4LM (Vice-President)

**Bobby Barker (Secretary / Treasurer).
KG4CMN**

Lloyd Curry (Trustee) NA4D



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"Prez Sez"

Dale Bennett (President) WA4JTE

Sometimes, when you think you are different you do some research only to find others have taken the same route. What was your first exposure to Amateur Radio?

Mine was in the early 60's. I was in high school, a new friend was into electronics and was talking about what he had heard on a old radio.

While visiting the library I ran across a book "SOS at Midnight" by Walter A. Tompkins. The hero in this book was Tommy Tompkins, a high school senior who was also a ham operator. Tommy was also the hero in at least 2 other books (CQ Ghost Ship and DX brings Danger).

The books were reprinted and updated in 1985 bringing the equipment that Tommy used more in line with current technology of the time.

I did a GOOGLE search on "SOS at Midnight" and that's where I found that several people had their first exposure to Amateur Radio the same way.

With winter coming on it may be time to set back and take a trip down memory lane. How did you get started in Amateur Radio, what was the first radio you had, what was your first QSO?

Things to ponder in the up coming months. Something else to think about, How about a in house completion of some sort? Maybe something in the Digital realm. Let me know what you think.

73's for now. WA4JTE aka Dale





Fun Stuff From The Internet

The Ham Bone

Wanda Munsey WM4LM



As we Silver Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

I had a problem yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like MissionControl and asked him to come over. Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong ?

He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless enquired,

'An, ID ten T error ? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.'

Eric grinned 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before ? 'No,' I replied.

'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.' So I wrote down:

ID10T



Dear Friends,

When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and (duh!)

printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning,

"FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY."

NO wonder I have been gaining weight!!!

I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I am going to start using Dawn Dish Soap instead.

It's label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved!



Lloyd Curry

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CKARC Meeting Sites:

Adair County

911 Center

Columbia, KY



NA4D

I can't believe it, time for the club meeting again. Do we meet every two weeks?

Well, this is not a complaint. I love our club meetings. I love seeing everyone in person. I don't honestly know why more hams don't attend the meetings. We try to have good programs. I find anything presented that I can learn from to be fun.

Years ago, we used to meet every single Thursday. That may sound odd to many but I really liked it. I am not saying we should revisit this idea. Most of us are pretty busy and gas is expensive, so I doubt a weekly meeting would fly right now. That makes the fact that we meet only once a month even more important.

If you miss a meeting, you have missed seeing everyone for two months. Another reason I enjoy our meetings is the fact that I like being with smart people.

By and large, most hams I have met are pretty intelligent. Some of them are so smart it is very humbling.

I also continue to be amazed at the great diversity of personalities, backgrounds, educations and experiences members bring to the club. I guess we are, as they say, greater than our individual parts.

I also know we are creatures of habit. If you miss a few meetings, it is easy to drop out all together. So, try not to miss. We all must, at times. But, come when you can. And when you come, bring a friend. He or she doesn't even have to be a ham. Maybe they'll like what they see and become an amateur. Nothing wrong with more hams. See you at the meetings.

--

Lloyd C. Curry
Amateur Radio NA4D
Greensburg, KY





Harry Mack

WA3UGW

Bits and Pieces

(News and information from various sources)

Compiled by WA3UGW along with commentary (*in italics*)

A V.E.C. filed a petition with the FCC to grant a waiver to give credit to those that had their license expire to keep credit for any portion of the exam they have passed in the past. The petition asks that this credit be for a lifetime.

What are your thoughts on this? As most of us that have been around for a few years, we know that it is difficult to keep up with technology and this would help someone that has let their license expire, for whatever reason, to get a new one much easier or even without a new exam.

Those that are old enough to remember Heathkit® know that they produced some nice rigs that were fun to build. Many of them are still around and well liked. There is some hope. They announced that they would again begin to produce kits for sale. Although there are no Ham rigs yet, they are restarting with a garage parking assistant, a device to help you find your car in a crowded parking garage.

I predict that we won't see any Ham gear from them again. I don't think the market is big enough and with today's modern integrated circuits and multi-layered circuit boards, it would be impossible for anyone to build an up-to-date rig. About the only way that could be done is to have major subassemblies already assembled and have the builder connecting them all together. As an added note, I just saw an ad in the latest edition of Popular Mechanics that show how to build a tone generator using a 556 chip and a RS printed circuit board and parts. It looks like they are trying to get some new tinkerers started building and experimenting. Let's hope some of them take interest in Ham radio.

By the time this goes to press, it will have been too late but if you are going to get a vanity call sign, your cost has gone up. A vanity call sign will now cost you \$14.20 after 9 September according to the FCC.

Of course that doesn't include the cost of new QSL cards, a new baseball cap with your new call sign and the cost to change your call sign license plates on your car, so a few cents to the FCC is nothing compared to these costs.

For those of you in ARES, don't forget the 2011 Kentucky ARES Conference. This year it will be held on Saturday, 8 October at the Nelson County Civic Center in Bardstown. As a bonus, it just so happens that the 31st Annual Bardstown Arts, Crafts and Antique Fair is being held at the same time. For more info, go to: <http://www.kyaresconference.com/>

Need a job? The ARRL is seeking a treasurer. You need to be a licensed Amateur radio operator and full ARRL member to qualify, among other requirements. Oh, the position does not pay anything but they do cover your expenses. Apply now!

New information is out that adds hope to my comments above about Heathkit having Ham radio kits. The word out is that they have been convinced to develop some Ham kits and hope to have them out by the end of the year.

KG4CMN

Bobby Barker



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I know it's not quite the radio topic but lately my geological beginnings have been shaken by some new discoveries.

I remember back in the early 60s when I visited the Frankfurt Museum (Germany) for a visit by our 6th grade class. I found the limestone imprint with the bird-like fossil heralded as the Archaeopteryx. Geologists were so sure that the ill fated dinosaur hadn't just died out but changed into modern day birds with evidence of feathers.

Ever look at a chicken or a modern day bird up close and just imagine that just maybe dinosaurs looked like that? Scary isn't it? Now there is so called evidence that maybe good ol' Archaeopteryx isn't what we thought.

The eleven specimens of *Archaeopteryx* are some of the most iconic and captivating fossils in existence. The fingers end in claws, the tail is long and bony, and the head – arched back in the throes of death – contains toothed jaws. But the splayed arms are lined with the faint but unmistakable outlines of feathers. This was an animal halfway between a small flesh-eating dinosaur and a modern bird. In fact, *Archaeopteryx* is widely heralded as the first bird, occupying a pivotal position in the origins of this group.

But Xing Xu from Linyi University thinks that this first bird was nothing of the sort. The Chinese palaeontologist, who has found one fascinating dinosaur after another, has identified a new species called *Xiaotingia* that threatens to oust *Archaeopteryx* from its position.

By comparing *Xiaotingia*'s features with those of *Archaeopteryx* and other related birds and dinosaurs, Xu has drawn up a new family tree (see slideshow below). In it, *Archaeopteryx* sits with *Xiaotingia* among the deinonychosaurs, a celebrity-filled group of small, predatory dinosaurs that includes *Deinonychus* and *Velociraptor*. The lineage that led to modern birds perches on a different branch of the tree.

This doesn't change the fact that birds evolved from dinosaurs – it merely relegates *Archaeopteryx* to the sidelines of that process. In its place, species like *Epidexipteryx* and *Epidendrosaurus* take up the mantle of earliest birds. It is a tentative revision but a bold one (Xu himself admits that the new family tree is statistically weak). "It's been a good run for *Archaeopteryx*," writes Larry Witmer in a related editorial. "This finding is likely to be met with considerable controversy (if not outright horror)."

Xiaotingia lived in China during the late Jurassic period, and was about the size of a pigeon. Until recently, its beautifully preserved fossil sat innocuously in the Shandong Tianyu Museum of Nature, among a thousand-strong collection of feathered dinosaur skeletons. Xu noticed it when he visited the museum. "I immediately recognized that it was something new, but honestly did not expect that the discovery would change the dinosaur-bird family tree."

Also there is more evidence about connections with fossils of primitive man and ape found in Africa. Now there is a hominid that purports to take us back more in our early developing history as homo erectus. I know some don't believe much in the big "E" word but the earth and man are changing. All you have to do is look about you and you can see the changes. As a I find it interesting but also hard to believe they can tell you all that information from just small pieces of bone. They must know more than I do!

This image released by the journal Science shows the right hand skeleton of the adult fossil.

A startling mix of human and primitive traits found in the brains, hips, feet and hands of an extinct species identified last year make a strong case for it being the immediate ancestor to the human lineage, scientists have announced.

These new findings could rewrite long-standing theories about the precise steps human evolution took, they added, including the notion that early human female hips changed shape to accommodate larger-brained offspring. There is also new evidence suggesting that this species had the hands of a toolmaker.

Fossils of the extinct hominid known as *Australopithecus sediba* were accidentally discovered by the 9-year-old son of a scientist in the remains of a cave in South Africa in 2008, findings detailed by researchers last year. *Australopithecus* means "southern ape," and is a group that includes the iconic fossil Lucy, while *sediba* means "wellspring" in the South African language Sotho.



CKARC minutes

August 25, 2011 CKARC Meeting

The Central KY Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 2000 EDT in regular session at the 911 Center in Columbia, Adair County, on August 25, 2011, by President Dale Bennett.

Sec/Treasurer Bobby Barker reported on the last minutes and treasury report: Motion made by Jack and 2nd by Harry Mack to accept as read. Motion carried.

Treasury report: We are solvent:

OLD:

1. Repeater Issues – Lloyd reported nothing new. Mr. Willis no contact, there had been discussion on electric meter or \$20 per month payment for repeater site.

NEW:

2. Xmas Dinner was briefly discussed, President Dale asked all to be thinking about dates etc. in December.

3. HamFest at Paroquot Springs September 10, 2011 was briefly discussed.

4. Briefly discussed was the presentation to be given by Lincoln Trail Radio Club concerning hands on applications, i.e. making of dipole and solder technique workshop.

5. Lloyd asked if we could help get Benny on the air with a gift of a 2 meter rig from the club. All agreed.

6. Officers for the 2011-2012 was discussed. Lloyd Curry made a motion to keep same officers by acclimation. Greg 2nd, motion carried.

7. KC4MIT – Brian from Glasgow (Jack's son) was briefly discussed.

8. Reminder – email for CKARC is ckarcmail@yahoo.com

Meeting was adjourned at 20:34 EDT. Motion made by Bobby and 2nd by Lloyd; motion carried.

Prize won by Larry Fletcher

Bobby Barker

Sec/Treasurer CKARC

Top 10 Ben Franklin Inventions by John Fuller

Benjamin Franklin's influence on modern life is enormous.

Most people in colonial Pennsylvania were content to do their reading in a simple wooden chair. Ben Franklin, on the other hand, insisted on kicking back in a reading chair fitted with a foot-powered fan. If he needed to grab another book from a high shelf, he simply flipped up the seat of his specially engineered library chair, transforming it into a small step ladder. To check the time, he glanced at a bizarre one-handed clock of his own design that only used three gears to keep time. Franklin was clearly a man who never stopped inventing.

Between running a print shop, engineering the U.S. postal system, starting America's first lending library, and helping sow the seeds of the American Revolution, Franklin also found time to draw up a vast collection of new devices. What's more, he never patented a single one. Although the decision likely cost him a fortune, Franklin saw his inventions as gifts to the public. "That, as we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours; and this we should do freely and generously," he wrote in his autobiography. Pretty good for a bored-looking guy on the \$100 bill.

Franklin's inventions are all models of practicality. It's one thing for a team of engineers to design the Segway, but quite another for an elderly, 18th century man to think of throwing a set of stairs on a library chair. Most of the items in this list likely had fellow colonists slapping their foreheads and exclaiming, "Why didn't I think of that?"

10: Urinary Catheter

The catheter has changed a lot since Franklin's time, but he helped make the device more flexible.

It might not be the most impressive device on Franklin's resume, but his modification of the urinary catheter was no doubt a welcome relief for hundreds of Americans with bladder problems.

Then, as now, a catheter was a thin tube inserted into a patient's urethra in order to drain urine from the bladder. But at the time, catheters were nothing more than rigid (and painful) metal tubes. Franklin's older brother John suffered from kidney stones and needed to undergo an excruciating daily ritual of jamming a bulky metal catheter into his nether regions.

To make these daily attacks on his brother's loins less painful, Franklin ran to his local silversmith with plans for a flexible catheter. "It is as flexible as would be expected in a thing of the kind, and I imagine will readily comply with the turns of the passage," he wrote to John.

9: American Celebrity

In the mid-18th century, America was regarded as little more than a dangerous frontier -- a rough-around-the-edges collection of trading posts where Europeans bought their fur and cotton. Most of the world's most well-known musicians, artists and scientists were headquartered in European capitals. As a witty Renaissance man who could also chop wood, Franklin slipped easily into their ranks, quickly gaining renown as a superstar from a relatively unknown land. He was to 18th century America as Bjork is to modern Iceland.

First gaining acclaim as a respected electrical scientist, then as a statesman and international voice of the new United States, Franklin was handed honorary degrees and awards throughout Europe. France, especially, took to the portly American (England's honeymoon with Franklin ended after he sided with the Americans during the Revolutionary War, of course). When Franklin came to France as the United States' first ambassador, Parisians snapped up all manner of Franklin kitsch. His image was plastered on snuff boxes and medallions, and engravings of the man adorned the walls of any stylish French apartment. After Franklin died, the first published edition of his autobiography would be a French translation.

Like all good American celebrities, Franklin also had a charitable cause. In the years before his death, Franklin freed his two slaves, George and King, and became a vocal abolitionist. "Slavery is such an atrocious debasement of human nature, that its very extirpation, if not performed with solicitous care, may sometimes open a source of serious evils," he wrote in 1789 [source: Franklin].

8: Swim Fins

Franklin was an avid swimmer in his youth.

Although Franklin was a bit soft around the middle in his later years, in his youth he was a strapping, broad-shouldered specimen of a man. Well, at least that's what he claims in his autobiography.

Either way, Franklin credited his physique to being a vigorous swimmer. When he was posted to London in the 1750s, he was known to take daily dips in the Thames. When he was an 11-year-old in Boston, Franklin's first invention was a pair of oval planks with holes through their centres. Grasping the two planks with his hands, Franklin used the "fins" to give him a bit of extra thrust underwater.

The fins did allow the young Franklin to swim faster, but he soon ditched them after he noted that "they fatigued the wrists." He also strapped boards to his feet like sandals, but also gave them up after finding them awkward and clunky. In his later years, Franklin would leave his inventions for dry land, preferring to splash around without so much as a swimsuit.

In the days before heated pools and shark nets, swimming in colonial America was largely the domain of shipwrecked sailors and skinny-dipping children. Franklin's early advocacy for the sport has since earned him recognition in the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the United States Swim Schools Association Hall of Fame.



7: The Odometer

Mail was a haphazard affair in colonial America. Letters between cities were carried by whoever was available, and post offices were little more than sacks of mail stashed in the back room of your local tavern. Many colonists would make up to 5 copies of a letter and send them in five different directions just to make sure one of them made it to its destination [source: PBS].

In the 1760s, the British government tapped Franklin to make some sense of the colonies' slapdash postal system. A man of letters himself, Franklin dove into the task with a firm resolve to speed up communication between the colonies.

He started by touring America's major postal centers, studying ways to standardize streamline mail delivery. Along the way, Franklin charted the distances between postal stations by attaching a geared device to the rear wheel of his horse carriage. Every 400 revolutions made by his carriage wheel would cause the device to click ahead one mile (1.6 kilometers). By the end of Franklin's tour, he had gathered a stunningly accurate survey of early colonial roads.

It wasn't the world's first odometer; rudimentary mileage recorders had been appearing as far back as ancient Roman times. Franklin's design also wasn't the last odometer; inventors in Nova Scotia and the Midwest would independently conceive of similar devices in decades to come. However, none would put the odometer to such practical use as Franklin.

Most modern automobile odometers are electronic, but you can still see a slightly worn version of Franklin's odometer at Pennsylvania's Phillips Museum of Art [source: Ben Franklin Tercentenary].

6: American Political Cartooning

Franklin's famous cartoon urging the colonies to unite and resist British rule. In 1752, the American colonies stood on the brink of war with France. As English-speaking settlers moved inland, they were constantly bumping against French territory (France, in the mid-18th century laid claim to a portion of the American interior stretching from New Orleans, up through the American Midwest into what is now Eastern Canada).

Franklin owned the Pennsylvania Gazette at the time, and believed that a defensive union of the colonies was essential to protect against possible French attacks. In a published drawing entitled "Join, or die," Franklin depicted a snake cut into eight pieces: One piece for each of the colonies. The engraving referenced a popular superstition at the time that if the pieces of a decapitated snake were arranged together before sunset, the snake would come back to life.

It's no Doonesbury, but "Join, or die" is widely believed to be America's first political cartoon. The simple drawing was reproduced throughout the American colonies, and even staged a comeback during the American Revolution. Meanwhile, other publishers took Franklin's lead and began using graphics and snippets of text to communicate their own political ideals. Franklin had unwittingly kicked off a new American art form, and today, more than 300 editorial cartoons are published daily in American newspapers.

5: Glass Armonica

While living in England as a Pennsylvanian diplomat in the 1750s, Franklin stopped by Cambridge University to take in a concert by Edmund Delaval, a professional wine glass player. Delaval arranged a collection of wine glasses on a table, "tuned" them by filling each with a different quantity of water and then played them by carefully rubbing their rims in succession. As the audience soaked up the smooth, ethereal sound of the glasses, Franklin couldn't help but notice room for improvement.

Playing wine glasses is woefully time-consuming to set up -- and hard on the wrists to play. Franklin wracked his brain to figure out he could create music from glass without needing to empty out his kitchen cupboards. Two years of experimentation later, Franklin debuted his glass armonica, a collection of different-sized glass bowls arranged on a rotating shaft. By spinning the shaft with a foot pedal and running wetted fingers over the rotating bowls, Franklin found he could coax out chords and melodies that Delaval could only dream of.

The new instrument was soon making the rounds of parlors and concert halls across Europe and America. Mozart and Beethoven penned music for the new instrument, and Franz Mesmer, a pioneer in hypnosis, used the instrument to guide his patients into deeper trances. In the 19th century, however, the popularity of the instrument died out as a rumour spread that the ghostly sounds it produced could provoke insanity in the listener.

4: Reaching Device (the Long Arm)

Looks like someone needs a reaching device.

At 5 feet, 11 inches, Franklin was actually on the tall side for a Founding Father: Not a guy you would expect to invent a reaching device. But Franklin liked his books -- even going so far as to become a vegetarian at 16 so he could save more money for books -- and by late adulthood, Franklin's homes were jammed with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves.

To reach the top shelves without using a step ladder, Franklin fashioned a "long arm" in his workshop. It was simply a piece of wood with two "fingers" mounted on the end. By pulling on a cable, Franklin could bring the fingers together to grip a book off a high shelf.

Although they're rarely seen in libraries, versions of the long arm remain popular among anybody needing a bit of extra reaching power. Dwarfs (adults who are under four feet tall) will sometimes carry reaching arms to grasp door handles and countertops. Highway cleanup crews carry stainless steel arms to pick up litter on the side of the highway, people suffering from severe arthritis will use reaching devices to take the strain off their joints and the nation's lazy use the device to grab a beer without getting up.

3: The Franklin Stove

In Franklin's day, colonists staved off the chilly Pennsylvania winters by stocking their roaring fireplaces with oak, hickory and maple logs carried in from the surrounding countryside. Only a few decades after the city's founding, however, the forests around Philadelphia were growing thin, forcing Philadelphians to travel as much as 100 miles to find fuel -- not an easy task on a horse and buggy. Franklin resolved to combat the growing energy crisis by finding a more efficient way to heat colonial homes.

Fireplaces are woefully inefficient: They consume fuel uncontrollably, and most of the heat shoots up the chimney. Franklin solved these problems by enclosing the fire in a cast-iron box positioned in the center of the room. The stove radiated heat from all four sides, and users could control the rate at which wood burned by adjusting the stove's airflow. Safely enclosed, the stove also eliminated the risk of fires being ignited by stray sparks. Versions of Franklin's original design are now a staple of cabins and cottages around the world.

2: Bifocal Eyeglasses

No one thought to join near-sighted and far-sighted glasses together until Franklin did.

As he reached old age, Ben Franklin found himself becoming both near- and far-sighted. Outdoors, he needed a set of long distance lenses to see where he was going, but when he examined something close-up, he would need to swap out his outdoor glasses for a pair with different lenses. It quickly became a frustrating ritual, so Franklin simply cut the two glasses in half and joined them together in one frame.

With the new glasses, Franklin could see long distances by peering through the lens at the top of the glasses. To read, he would simply peer through the bottom of the lens. Amazingly, both far-sighted and near-sighted glasses had been around for centuries before Franklin's birth, but nobody had thought to join them together.

Aside from a few improvements, Franklin's original bifocal design has remained unchanged until modern times. In 2006, however, a team of Arizona researchers announced they had designed eyeglasses with lenses that could switch from far-sighted to near-sighted with the push of a button [source: National Academy of Sciences].

1: The Lightning Rod

Lightning was a supernatural scourge to the wooden cities of the 18th century. Churches were particularly susceptible, since they were often the tallest structures around, and a single electrical storm was known to lay waste to buildings across entire regions. In Franklin's lifetime, a bolt of lightning even killed 3,000 people in Italy after it struck a church basement packed with gunpowder. Aside from fervent praying, no one knew how to protect buildings from this "electrical fire."

Franklin retired from the publishing business at 42 to work full time on electrical experiments. After countless hours spent tinkering with static electricity, Franklin figured that if a metal rod could be fixed to the top of a building and wired to the ground with a cable, it could gently extract the "fire" from a cloud before it had a chance to do any damage.

Franklin sent news of his protective rod across the Atlantic, where it was first adopted in the churches and cathedrals of the French countryside.

Advertisement

WA3UGW has had a book published. For those that are interested, you can get a copy at most online booksellers. He will be happy to autograph your copy at the next meeting.

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The Treasure Mystery Clues is a work of inspirational fiction. It follows the adventures of a brother and sister after they find a strange clue in the attic of their new home to find an unknown treasure. Each rhyming clue leads to a new location and a follow-up clue that takes them to interesting places and has them meeting some interesting people. The clues refer to ancient texts that guide the children as they do their research to find the treasure. What is the treasure and do they find it? *The Treasure Mystery Clues* is a fast read and is written for both children and adults; it won't take you long to find out.

The author, Harry Mack, has been writing for years in many different ventures. He is now retired from his job with the Federal Government and has more time for his writing. He has been published in the past in local newspapers and other publications but *The Treasure Mystery Clues* is his first book.

THE TREASURE MYSTERY CLUES

Harry Mack

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