

# Newsletter



**From the Editor: Bobby Barker  
KG4CMN**

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## CKARC Officers 2009-2010

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The 2009-2010 officers for the Central  
are:



Dale Bennett (President) WA4JTE

Wanda Munsey (Vice-President)

Bobby Barker ( Secretary Treasurer). KG4CMN



Kentucky Amateur Radio Club

## September 2009 Minutes

*The Central KY Amateur Radio Club* meeting was called to order at 2000 EDT in regular session on September 24, 2009, by President Dale Bennett.  
3 Present: Dale Bennett, Bobby Barker, Vernon York, Lloyd Curry, Bill, Mac Gaskins,  
3 Harry Mack, Don/Wanda Munsey.  
5 Minutes read by Bobby Barker, Sec/Treasurer. Motion to accept by Don Munsey, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
5 by Bill, motion carried by members present to accept minutes.

### OLD/NEW:

1. Harry Mack discussed the CKNJ listing of clubs in a book and should correct the meeting location.
2. Lloyd discussed that maybe we should stop advertising the location of our repeater. This might preclude tampering, and problems with vandalism. We should probably use the county location. Motion made by Fred and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bobby.
3. Fred, commissioner for the boy scouts in Russell County, presented a program on the upcoming JOTA (Jamboree on the Air). This is not a contest but designated frequencies on the air for the Boy Scouts to do a field day type operation. This will be held Oct 19 probably starting at 10 and lasting to maybe about 3. This is a merit badge for communication and should represent a relaxed QSO. Roger S has agreed to do digital and also Bill will help. There are ARRL publications available and Fred asked the club to purchase the "Scouts and Ham Radio" publication for about \$ 18.69. The club agreed with a motion from Lloyd and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Don M. Twenty dollars was given to Fred.
4. The club received \$100 from Bill (antenna purchase)
5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 with motion from Bill and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Fred. Carried. Prize was won by Bill. There were no presentations.  
Bobby Barker

### Special points of interest:

- CKARC Officers
- September 2009 Minutes
- WA3UGW
- Humor with Wanda
- Trader's Net
- KG4CMN

## How to Connect Your Computer to Your TV

by [Dave Roos](#)

Roos, Dave. "How to Connect Your Computer to Your TV." 17 March 2009. HowStuffWorks.com. <<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/how-to-tech/how-to-connect-computer-to-tv.htm>> 12 April 2009.

In 2005, then-Microsoft Chairman and CEO Bill Gates shows off the company's Windows XP Media Center Edition software, which can be used to deliver video, music and photos from a computer to a TV.

-There's something painfully ironic about sitting on your living room couch, just a few feet away from a beautiful widescreen [HDTV](#), watching a movie on your tiny laptop. Yet this is what most of us do when we download movies or TV shows onto our [computers](#). The same goes for showing off our latest digital photos to friends. We all huddle around the 15-inch computer display while the TV screen goes unused. And what about that PowerPoint presentation you just gave at work? Wouldn't it have looked 1,000 times better on the wall-mounted [plasma display](#) in the conference room?

There are many compelling reasons why we want to connect our computers to our televisions, especially now that HDTVs are so popular. Everything from movies to photos to work presentations were made for the big-screen experience.

The first personal computers used TVs for monitors, but computer graphics technology quickly outpaced the image quality on standard-definition TVs (SDTVs). The typical modern [computer monitor](#) has the ability to display images at a much higher resolution than a regular TV. A computer monitor can display more individual pixels than an SDTV.

Even today, hooking a computer to an SDTV only makes sense if you want to use your computer as a DVD player. If you try to use an SDTV as a monitor, you'll have a hard time getting your full desktop to fit on the screen.

But with the advent of high-resolution, high-definition TVs like flat-panel [LCDs](#), plasma, LCoS, and [DLP](#) displays, televisions now make excellent computer monitors. In fact, that's what the manufacturers of PC-based media centers are trying to achieve. The tricky part is figuring out exactly which TVs work with which computers and how to connect them all together.

### Screen Resolution and Aspect Ratio

Many people are familiar with the concept of screen resolution. **Resolution** is a measurement of how many individual pixels your [TV](#) or computer monitor can display at once. The old cathode ray TV (CRT) in your basement can display the equivalent of about 300,000 pixels [source: [Kindig](#)]. The latest [HDTVs](#) can display more than 2 million pixels. With more pixels, the image can be rendered in greater detail. It's the difference between painting a portrait with a thick sponge block or a small, delicate brush.

The standard way to classify TV resolution is with numbers like 480i, 720p, 1080i and 1080p. The bigger the number, the greater the screen resolution. The little "i" and "p" stand for **interlaced** and **progressive scan**. This has to do with the way in which the image is rendered on the screen. Refresh rates on TVs and [computer monitors](#) are measured in hertz. A refresh rate of 60 times per second translates to 60 hertz. An interlaced-scan TV refreshes half of the screen image 60 times per second. It refreshes the odd-numbered horizontal lines first and then the even-numbered lines. The result is that the full screen refreshes 30 times a second.

On a progressive scan television, the entire screen refreshes 60 times a second. The result is that progressive scan TVs have a noticeably smoother image when watching sports or other video with fast-moving action. All computer monitors are progressive scan [source: [PCMag.com](#)]. Some even have refresh rates faster than 60 times a second. This is why interlaced SDTVs make for lousy computer monitors. When you scroll, the image can't refresh fast enough to keep things smooth. As a result, you see that telltale flicker.

Resolution is important, but you must also take a screen's aspect ratio into account. Your goal when hooking your TV up as a monitor is to make the entire image fit within the boundaries of the TV screen. SDTVs use a 4:3 aspect ratio -- the ratio of the screen's width to its height is 4 to 3. HDTVs have a native 16:9 aspect ratio. While many computer monitors share those aspect ratios, not all of them do, and your computer may support many different screen resolutions with different aspect ratios.

In fact, your computer's preferences are unlikely to tell you the aspect ratio, and instead will tell you the resolution. The horizontal x vertical measurement is also the most common way to label computer monitor resolution. Some typical monitor resolutions are 640 x 480, 800 x 600 and 1024 x 768. If you don't know your monitor resolution, you can find out by going to [whatismyscreenresolution.com](#). If you aren't connected to the Internet and you're using a Windows PC, right-click on the desktop and choose Preferences. Then choose the Settings tab. On a Mac, go to System Preferences and click Displays.

The trick is to find the resolution that best fits the TV's aspect ratio. This may not be as big a deal as it sounds, though. Modern operating systems can usually match the attached monitor's aspect ratio automatically. If your computer doesn't, you can manually adjust the settings in your computer's preferences to make it fit.

But there's more to hooking these two machines together than resolution and aspect ratio. You still have to get the information from the computer to the TV. In order to do that, we've got to solve the cable conundrum.

### Computer TV Cables

#### S-Video cables

-If you read our article "How do I know which cables to use?" then you know there is a baffling number of audio/video cables on the market. You'll have to make some sense of the different types of wiring necessary to connect your computer to your TV. First you need to figure out what kinds of audio/video outputs your computer has and what kinds of audio/video inputs your TV has. If you're lucky, you'll find a match right away. But depending on the type of equipment you own, you may need to get creative.



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**Adair County**

# WA3UGW

## Harry Mack

Harry's column can be read at the following address:

<http://chroniclenewspapers.com/articles/2009/10/14/fairfax/columns/col08.txt>



## The Ham Bone



**Wanda Munsey**


Wanda WM4LM **Fun Stuff From The Internet**

I doubt if this is a true story, but it's a fun read, nevertheless. It illustrates how easily we can go wrong with just the single omission of a word or letter in an e-mail. Enjoy.

**Subject: Florida vacation** A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years before. Because both had jobs they found it difficult to coordinate their travel schedules, so it was decided that the husband would fly to Florida on a Thursday, and his wife would follow him the next day. Upon arriving as planned, the husband checked into the hotel in his room there was a computer so he decided to send his wife an e-mail back in Minneapolis. However, he accidentally left out one letter in the address, and sent the e-mail, without realizing his error. In Houston, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. The dearly departed was a minister who had been called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow checked her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. Upon reading the first message, she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

**To: My Loving Wife Subject: I've Arrived** You're probably surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.  
**P. S. Sure is hot down here!**

 I'm in the *initial* stages of my golden years.  
**SS, CD's, IRA's, AARP...**  
[www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm](http://www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm)

 When I was younger, all I wanted was a nice **BMW**.  
Now, I don't care about the **W**.  
[www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm](http://www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm)

I was always taught to respect my elders.  
Now I don't have anyone to respect.  
  
[www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm](http://www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm)

First, let's talk about which cables you'd use to connect a computer to a standard-definition TV. The most common video inputs on an SDTV are composite, S-video and component video. On computers, the most common video output is S-video. On a desktop PC, you'll find the 9-pin S-video jack on your graphics card next to where you connect your monitor.

Some Windows laptops also have S-video-out jacks, but most have 15-pin VGA jacks for connecting to external monitors. Luckily, it's easy to find adapters and special cables that have VGA connectors on one end and S-video connectors on the other. Apple also sells a wide variety of adapters to connect Mac desktops and laptops to the S-video or composite jack on SDTVs.

Even if you have an old TV that only accepts coaxial video cable (the one-pin variety that's mostly used for cable TV and satellite connections), you can use something called an **RF converter box** that can convert S-video or VGA input into coaxial output.

For connecting a computer to an HDTV, it's the same story. The most common HDTV inputs are component video, DVI and HDMI. If your graphics card doesn't have one of these outputs, then you'll need to buy a special converter box or adapter. For example, if your computer only has a VGA jack and your HDTV only accepts HDMI, then you'll need to buy a small box that will convert the signal for you.

If you're serious about playing high-definition content from your computer on your HDTV, then you should upgrade to a graphics card with a DVI or HDMI output. Most newer Apple laptops come with a Mini DisplayPort video output that easily connects with the DVI or HDMI inputs on an HDTV.

All of the cables that we've mentioned so far are video-only cables, which means that you'll need separate cables to handle your audio. The easiest solution is to connect some computer speakers to your audio card's headphone or audio-out jack. If you want to use your TV's built-in speakers, then you'll need to buy a 1/8-inch stereo mini-plug-to-RCA cable.

For the best possible audio, you'll need to invest in an audio card for your computer with either an optical or digital coaxial audio output. These connections carry high-bandwidth digital audio signals using cables that can be plugged directly into your home theater receiver.

Even if you have the right cables and have done your homework about resolutions, you still might have some problems connecting your computer to your TV. In the next section, we'll share some troubleshooting tips.

## Computer to TV Troubleshooting

The biggest problem with connecting your computer to your TV is that, generally speaking, computers and TVs don't display at the same resolutions. For example, the closest thing to the HDTV resolution 720p (1280 x 720) is a monitor display mode called XGA (1280 x 960). Not quite the same. And the closest thing to 1080p (1920 x 1080) is a monitor display mode called WUXGA (1920 x 1200). Again, not quite the same.

The result, in most cases, is something called **overscan**, where the full computer screen image doesn't fit on the TV screen. Overscan is a bigger problem on SDTVs where the native screen resolution is much smaller than your computer's display. If you're going to use an SDTV as a monitor, plan on lowering your screen resolution to 800 x 600.

HDTVs also have overscan problems, but usually only the very edge of the computer image gets cropped. A bigger problem with HDTVs is when the TV refuses to display a signal that doesn't fit its native resolution.

Luckily, most HDTVs have the ability to **scale** incoming signals to match their native screen resolution. This involves either **upconverting** lower-resolution signals in the attempt to bring the resolution up to high definition or **downconverting** higher-resolution signals for lower-resolution screens. It's not perfect, but for most casual viewers, there's little to no noticeable loss in image quality.

In rare cases, the HDTV won't recognize the resolution of the signal sent by your computer. When you connect an external display to your computer, most graphics cards will automatically try to find a good match for the display's native resolution. If this doesn't work, you will probably need to edit your resolution with third-party software.

Two programs are considered the best solutions for solving connectivity problems between a computer and a TV: PowerStrip for Windows and DisplayConfigX for Mac. Both of these programs allow you to match your graphics card's resolution precisely with the native resolution of your TV. If your HDTV is 1080p, you can go into one of these programs and switch your computer's resolution to 1920 x 1080, even if this wasn't previously an option.

Avoid increasing the refresh rate on your graphics card, unless you have a 120-hertz HDTV. If you send a signal with a refresh rate over 60 hertz to a normal HDTV, you could damage the TV [source: Komando].

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## KG4CMN Bobby Barker

This month is really going by fast. Hope we all are having fun?

I first need to touch on a sad note. I received word that Dale Bennett's father had passed away. Dale's comments were that his father hung onto life until all could get there to be together. Please keep Dale and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

My son continues being a busy UK student and recently presented me with 2 tickets for the Big Blue Madness October 16. I didn't know what to expect and of course going to Rupp Arena is always a blast. The other times I went was to see UK play basketball and its entirely way different than what you see on the boob tube. We got tickets that put us up with the pigeons and you never see those folks on TV. Also they all stand the whole time, wearing your feet out.

Well this time I was in the lower concourse next to the stage and really had a great view, along with 24,000 others. The UK cheerleaders, the dance team, the lady Cats and of course the men's basketball team. Wow, all I can say, there will be great expectations of the number one recruiting class this year! Dick Vitale was asked if he agreed with the preseason picks of North Carolina #1 and UK #2. Heck no he said, UK's 1st team should #1, then UK's 2nd team would be #2, and then the others. Man, is UK loaded! Wall and Bledsoe, Cousins, Patterson, Orton, Jon Hood etc. Josh Harrelson the #3 center made 18 points in the practice game. The first 7 games are all patsies including the first game with Campbellsville University. Then North Carolina and Louisville Jan 2. The season to behold for a lot of folks.

Well I finally turned on the heat in the house after the first frost. Couldn't take it anymore. Seems as I get older the weather is more effective on this old body.

Tomorrow is 25 years of employment at Fort Knox and coupled with being 60 a time to retire if I want. Have to really think about that one.

Hope you all are doing well, in good spirits and frame of mind. Toodle loo!

Bobby

