



QSP



February 2009

February VE Report

The **February 27, 2009**
CKARC Meeting will be
at
**KWU's Peters Science
Hall at 7:30 PM in
Room 211**

Host: **Virgil Yost,**
NØXRS

For the February 11th Session, we had 2 Candidate take 3 Exams, and 3 VE's in attendance. 1 Upgraded to Extra Class. Congratulations to Richard Foster, **KDØGHC**, of Wichita on Passing his Extra Class Exam with a Perfect Score! Upgrade was posted on the FCC site Feb 18th. Now looking for a Vanity call.

William Kump of Jennings, Ks. Attempted the Technician Exam twice, missing a passing score by 1 question both times.

VE's for this session were: Sid, NØOBM, Don, KAØEIC, and Eric, NØYET. I was very happy we had just enough VE's due to the distance both Candidates had traveled. (*Jennings is West of Colby, Ks.*)

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Saturday Feb 21 Session: Held after this issue of QSP was printed. Results next month!

Thanks to all the VE's who helped with the Exam Sessions. I appreciate the help, and so do those who took exams this month.

Next Exam session is **Wednesday March 11th**, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

Minutes of the January Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Club President, Robert, WBØWTM, at 7:30 PM.
After the Pledge Of Allegiance, the Minutes of the Dec, 08 meeting were accepted as printed in QSP.

EC Report:

Siren test net on Feb. 2nd, ARES Net on Tuesday Feb. 3
VE Testing on Wed. Feb. 11th with board meeting after testing.
Storm Spotter Training on Feb. 19th for Lincoln, Ks. At the Lincoln High School
February ARES Meeting on the 19th at 8:00 PM.
W5YI-VEC testing will be held on Feb. 21st at 1 PM at Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.
March 31st, Saline Co. Storm Spotter Training at 7 PM, at 2929 Scanlon Avenue.
April 11th is the Abilene Marathon, race starts at 7 AM and should be over by 2 PM.

The January VE testing session had 4 candidates all passing something. *(as printed in the January QSP, Sid, NØOBM, did not have his copy of QSP with him this evening—Ed.)*

A belated round of introductions with 27 members and guests present at the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Checking | \$ 389.37 |
| Savings | \$ 4154.08 |
| Total | \$ 4543.45 |

Repeater report:

Both CKARC Repeaters are working and the batteries are being checked regularly.
Anyone wishing to help with the Field Day Committee, contact Mark, KBØMQX.
Also Mark thanks all who signed up to be hosts for 2009.

New Business:

Virgil, NØXRS, asked about the possibility of putting a CTCSS tone on the 2 Meter WØCY Repeater.
Robert, WBØWTM, asked about having a card printed, with club information and a contact person's name to hand to anyone interested in ham radio, also about contacting former club members about re-joining the club.
John, KCØJNK, told us about KWU having display in the Library about ham radio in the month of January.
Robert, WBØWTM, asked if there was any interest in the CKARC setting up a 220 MHz Repeater.

Old business:

DUES ARE DUE

Ron thanks all who sent cards
meeting adjourned
Hosts are Ron and Kathleen, Ron's birthday cake was served
Mark had the program about working Satellites

Sec-WØME

Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, March 2nd at 4:30 PM on the NØKSC Repeater (or on 146.730 Simplex) if the Weather cooperates! *[Above 32 degrees at the scheduled test time]*

ARES Net **March 3rd at 8:00 PM** on the NØKSC Repeater (or on 146.730 Simplex if it's not running).

ARRL-VEC Test Sessions on Wednesday March 11th at **7:00 PM**.

Board meeting follows the exam session on March 11th at 8:00 PM (or after Testing—which ever is later) in the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

The McPherson Co. Spotter Class is on March 16th at 6:30 PM at the Community Building

ARES Meeting is March 19th at 8:00 PM in the EOC.

CKARC Meeting March 27th at 7:30 PM at **Kansas Wesleyan University**.

The Ottawa Co. Spotter Class is on March 30th at 7:00 PM in Minneapolis

The Saline Co. Storm Spotter Class is on March 31st at 7:00 PM at Nickell Barracks (2929 Scanlon)

Eisenhower Marathon is Saturday April 11th Race starts at 0700!

There is a full **Calendar of Events** on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centalksarc.com>

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Begins Work on 2010 Technician Pool Revisions

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is currently reviewing the Technician class (Element 2) question pool. According to QPC Chairman Rol Anders, K3RA, the review is part of a regular process: "Each question pool is reviewed on a four year rotation. The next Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010."

According to QPC Member and ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the reason the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are asking for information relevant to the that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green said that the QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC is seeking input from the amateur community concerning the revision. They are accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions.

Anders said that amateurs may also submit questions for the QPC via the NCVEC Web site. If you choose to submit a question for the QPC's consideration, please be sure to observe the following procedure:

- Questions must have no more than 210 characters, including spaces, or a maximum of three 70 character lines.
- Answers must be no more than 140 characters, including spaces, or two 70 character lines in length
- Each question must be accompanied by four possible answers. The answers may be in any order, but the correct answer must be indicated.
- Each question must be accompanied by a resource or Part 97 rule to support the correct answer or explanation of the correct answer.

Green said that the most difficult part of writing the questions and answers is creating the incorrect answers. "We try to stay away from 'All of these answers are correct' and 'None of these answers are correct' for some obvious reasons," he said. "It is a more difficult task to find three incorrect answers that are plausible, but are absolutely incorrect!"

The current Technician question pool, effective July 1, 2006, will expire on June 30, 2010. The General class question pool is effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The Amateur Extra class pool became effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012. If you have any comments or suggestions on the current Element 2 question pool, please contact Anders via e-mail

30 Ham Radio Contesting Tips:

1. **Schedule your Contests.** The really great thing about contesting is they are regularly scheduled — regardless of great propagation, DXpeditions or the mood of the sun.
2. **Create a contest goal.** Goals are good and help motivate you while participating.
3. **Contest on your terms.** Contest for and be motivated by your reasons. Not everyone is out to win the contest; it could be you want to learn a new mode.
4. **Have an operating plan.** Having a plan provides you guidance for the contest and a baseline to compare against reality in the midst of battle.
5. **Test equipment before the contest.** You do want your stuff to work, right?
6. **Update Multiplier Files.** Downloading the latest ensures you won't miss a juicy multiplier during the contest.
7. **Read the contest rules.** You'd be surprised how often this bites you — even experienced testers.
8. **Work a contest one month before the real contest.** The sun rotates once a month (27 days)...so work a contest the month before to experience the propagation you will have before the one you really want to concentrate on later.
9. **Test ergonomics.** Sitting in a chair contesting a long while will test how well your station is laid out for operating.
10. **Have a guest op checklist.** What should you bring as a guest op?
11. **Compete with a partner.** Work a contest with someone in your club (together or at your individual stations). Discuss what worked and what didn't about the contest.
12. **Review Newsletter for Contest DXpeditions.** Lots of people travel for contests. Make sure you take a look at the list from your favorite ham radio newsletter.
13. **Have propagation plan.** Propagation programs can suggest what will be open where. Having a propagation plan can give you a guide while contesting.
14. **Filter your packet connection.** If the contest allows packet clusters, filter the connection to match up with your station.
15. **Accurate logging.** A contest is about working stations — and logging them accurately. If you don't you get penalized.
16. **Send in your log.** Even if you didn't work many stations, you can help the contest by sending in your log to help enable log checking.
17. **Logbook of The World.** Want to reduce your QSL'ing chores for contests? Submit your log to Logbook of The World for instant confirmations for you and the people you contact.

18. **Review UBN's.** Uniques, Busted, and Not in the Log. It's how your log is viewed for accuracy.
19. **Have a QSL System.** Even if you use Log of the World, testers get a lot of QSL card requests. Have a system for processing them.
20. **Use a Grey line map.** Grey line propagation is the cat's meow. Having a visual representation of where the Grey line is right now can help you point your antennas the right way.
21. **Learn a single band.** Want to learn propagation on a band fast? Do a contest on a single band. You'll learn.
22. **Challenge your operating skill with QRP.** Get frustrated fast. Operate a contest QRP from your station. Then learn how to get through the mess for points. It will make you a better operator.
23. **Do an After Action Review.** Did we achieve our goal, what went right, what could be improved. Record the results for the next contest.
24. **Join a contesting club.** Amp up your contesting knowledge and motivation.
25. **Learn from contesting pros.** They are out there. They can teach you a lot.
26. **Leverage your strengths.** Great CW operator? Great antennas? Whatever your strength, leverage it for the contest.
27. **Go on a contesting DXpedition.** Even if it is to a different state. It's a very different experience and will teach you a lot.
28. **Practice CW before contests.** Notice how much better you are at CW at the end of the contest compared to the start? You need to practice before the contest.
29. **Participate on a contesting team.** Many contests offer team (versus club) entries. Join a team to up your motivation for the contest.
30. **Find joy in contesting.** It's there. You know it. Go find it.

There are many more contesting tips, of course. But thirty to start out the fall contesting season seemed like the right number for me.

I had great fun writing these. Enjoy the resource.

Scot, K9JY (*from the K9JY web site*)

<http://k9jy.com/blog/2007/10/10/30-days-30-ham-radio-contesting-tips/>

A Note from the President

I would like to start off by saying thank you for electing me as your president! I am honored to serve you and I pray that I will do an excellent job for each of you and our hobby in general. Yes I did just call what we do a hobby, but amateur radio is so much more as you all know. Especially when our country needs us when an emergency strikes, like weather troubles or attacks on our soil like Katrina or 9/11. I do believe that we will be called upon again in the near future, including our immediate area as well. So I am asking our membership to double check your equipment, and if you plan to expand on your shack sometime soon please get it done as soon as you can. If you need help don't hesitate to ask your fellow club member's that is what we are here for to help each other excel in our "hobby".

We have quite a few projects as a club to do this year and a few I would like to add like getting the fox hunts started again on a regular basis. But the club needs more volunteers to accomplish this, and we need more volunteers to help our fellow hams with getting their shacks and antennas in good order as well. So I am asking all of the excellent members of our fine club to find any extra time they can to help the club and its membership excel as much as possible in our unique field of fun and emergency communication support for our community and country.

If you have any questions or suggestions about ANYTHING for me please call me at 785-254-7070 or E-mail me at wb0wtm@hotmail.com

I thank you for your support and I hope to see everyone at our meeting on the 27th of this month. I wish you all the best S-9s and 73!

Robert WBØWTM

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 2493
Salina, Ks. 67402-2493

QSP Editor: Sid Ashen-Brenner, NØOBM
Phone: 785-823-6560
Fax: 785-823-6560
Email: OBM@centralksarc.com



[Http://www.centralksarc.com](http://www.centralksarc.com)

Your issue of QSP is Here!

March Meeting is Friday, March 27, 2009

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH QSP IS MARCH 18, 2009**

CKARC March Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|------|
| F/Member | JoAnn | Matthews | 3/1 |
| KAØEIC | Don | Fitzgerald | 3/5 |
| F/Member | Mary | Constable | 3/9 |
| WØUB | Vance | Eckstrom | 3/14 |
| WØUTS | Bert | Voth | 3/26 |
| KCØVDV | Barbara | Mallon | 3/28 |
| KAØLTQ | Dennis | Kelley | 3/29 |