

The Newsletter of W2RAK

November 2011

Volume 17 Issue 11

Nets: Sun 11AM 10m 28.380 & Tues 9PM 2m 146.730R 88.5PL



1964 Amateur Radio Stamp *collecting

Nets ,Club Board, meeting dates

Sunspots Return - The upper bands are coming alive with distant stations all day into the early evening. For September 29th, the Flux # was 135 and the Sunspot # was 116. For a very long time early this year and for years before it was often dead-zero. last week it hit an SN of 185! 10 meters is a great "Brooklyn Mode" where we may work the world with limited antenna possibilities. Being able to make use of our digital modes increases our chances of working DX increases exponentially. CW is a great mode at the band's bottom as well as it is the first place to tune to "see it it's open". As those 10 meter cards come in, scan them and share them with us! - Tony WW2W

Meeting &
Holiday Party
Nov 15th
Thursday 7pm
(Tuesday the 8th
was **not** available)

Have a Happy and Heathy
Holiday and a great 2012!

Detailed Info on meeting, party & membership link
Club Volunteerism

Jeremy WA1ZLF on Apple's Founder.

Steve Mendelsohn W2ML NYCT artic.
NYC Marathon Pix

Crossword puzzle & Answer key to last month's puzzle

Mel Sneider K2KEY/SK Obituary.

membershp applica- tion forms.

***** Year 2011 Executive Board *****

President - Anthony Catalano WW2W

Vice. Pres. - Mel Schneider K2KEY / SK*

Secretary - Frank Grossman WB2BXO

Treasurer - Richard Statfield KA2KDQ

Rec. Secretary * Frank Grossman WB2BXO

***** Executive Board Members at Large *****

Past V. Pres - Howie Brier N2GOT

Treasurer re-elect - Richard Statfield KA2KDQ

***** Appointments *****

Communications Manager - Mel Schneider K2KEY / SK

Membership Chairman - Herb Asherman

***** Trustee *****

W2RAK Station Trustee - Robert Robinson KB2PSM

The Kings County Radio Club <http://www.qsl.net/kcrc>

We are on Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/kingscountyradioclub>

We are an ARRL affiliated club on <http://www.arrl.org>

The Next KCRC meeting is special:
It will combine the meeting, elections AND

The KCRC Holiday Party

The ONLY date available will also be special It will be held on

Thursday December 15th @ 7pm

As agreed upon for over a decade there will be a
nominal charge for this catered event.

(no home-cooked meals, bringing store-bought cookies & cakes is okay)

\$5 one person \$8 for a couple (a guest brought with you)

<http://qsl.net/kcrc/meet.htm>

Share this Newsletter's link also - <http://qsl.net/kcrc/kcrc-2011-12-nl.pdf>

Note the meeting wil **NOT NOT BE HELD ON TUESDAY NOT NOT**

Yes...we are ALSO on FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171849339955/>

The next exam session will be (Possibly for Dec or Jan):

TO BE ANNOUNCED by Charlie – N2YBC

Methodist Hospital @ Executive Dining Room

506 Sixth Street between 7th and 8th Avenue, 11215

Meetings and test sessions are usually held at the same location, unless otherwise announced, but never simultaneously. Our club's website has information regarding mass transit and even Google street level photos of the area.

Parking can be made easier by getting there a bit early, before 7pm.

While you are there, ask Richard Statfield KA2KDQ, our treasurer, when your membership is up for renewal, which is still only \$25/yr for the past 20+ years. (See Last 2 pages for forms & details) We would all be happy to have you as a continuing member in the club. Thank you so much for your support from all of us. Here are the new membership cards. I will bring them to the next meeting. - Tony WW2W Pres.

 Kings County Radio Club	
1 Year Membership	
Name _____	Callsign _____
Signature of President _____	
Good from _____ to _____	

Ham Radio University 2012

It is a purely educational event, NOT a hamfest, which will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at Briarcliffe College 1055 Stewart Ave Bethpage, NY 11714. We hope that as many club members as possible try to make arrangements to attend. Our club will have a table set up in the main lunch room along with many other NLI area clubs. I will bring a good number of club photos from throughout the years. Please feel free to bring any project that you may be working on to display at our table. There will be many seminars where many overlap in time so some tough choices will have to be made such as QRP vs working satellite just as an example. Up-To-Date information is best obtained from the group itself because I'd hate to have incorrect or old information listed here. Thanks to this format, you can travel there from the hyperlink below:
<http://hamradiouniversity.org/> I hope to see you all there. - Tony WW2W



Volunteerism: as in running for a club office

As many of you may know or may not know, I, Anthony Catalano WW2W, am not eligible to run for re-election. We had elections last year, but we all saw it coming at us head-on slowly. There was simply not enough of a membership pool to expect somebody to raise their hand. I will tell you what the KCRC presidency entails: It expects you to preside, for the lack of a better description. To be an ambassador at club, hamfest and other miscellaneous gatherings. Fear not, if family and business matters, override your KCRC club responsibilities, as they should, we have a vice president to take your place and other members if need be. I have been president for 6 years now. The limit is 4. I have done so during my bout with epilepsy where I could not even walk out of the house or even to the next room. Other than dealing with that, I am sure YOU will find it a cinch and lots of fun! Please raise your hand and say you accept the nomination whoever you are.
Sincerely, Anthony Catalano WW2W President.

iPhone Creator was a Heathkit Hobbyist - Jeremy WA1ZLF



I learned early on during the flurry of Steve Jobs coverage prior to his death that he was a Heathkit hobbyist when he was a young lad. I'm not certain what kind of kits he was working on but it is clear that his early interest in electronics started with the Heathkits. Who knows - if he hadn't experimented with Heathkits he may have never invented the Apple computer and ultimately the iPhone... Coincidentally we have all been hearing that Heathkit is coming back - perhaps there will be a rebirth in homebrew electronics development. As I thought about the connection of Heathkit and Apple over the past couple weeks it occurred to me that the iconic Apple Mac Pro tower design must have even been inspired by Steve Jobs early love of Heathkit. In this image you can clearly see the perforated aluminum case design.

The following quotes mention Steve Jobs passion for Heathkits:

From the New York Times article "Apple's Visionary Redefined Digital Age": "Mr. Jobs developed an early interest in electronics. He was mentored by a neighbor, an electronics hobbyist, who built Heathkit do-it-yourself electronics projects. He was brash from an early age. As an eighth grader, after discovering that a crucial part was missing from a frequency counter he was assembling, he telephoned William Hewlett, the co-founder of Hewlett-Packard. Mr. Hewlett spoke with the boy for 20 minutes, prepared a bag of parts for him to pick up and offered him a job as a summer intern."

From the Smithsonian: "**An Oral History of Steve Jobs**":

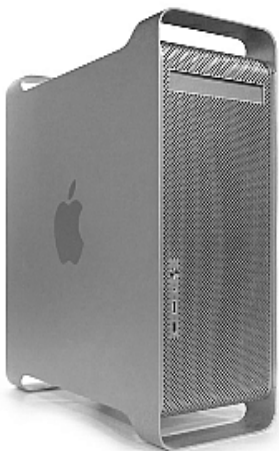
I got to know this man, whose name was Larry Lang, and he taught me a lot of electronics. He was great. He used to build Heathkits. Heathkits were really great. Heathkits were these products that you would buy in kit form. You actually paid more money for them than if you just went and bought the finished product if it was available. These Heathkits would come with these detailed manuals about how to put this thing together and all the parts would be laid out in a certain way and color coded. You'd actually build this thing yourself. I would say that this gave one several things. It gave one a understanding of what was inside a finished product and how it worked because it would include a theory of operation but maybe even more importantly it gave one the sense that one could build the things that one saw around oneself in the universe. These things were not mysteries anymore. I mean you looked at a television set you would think that "I haven't built one of those but I could. There's one of those in the Heathkit catalog and I've built two other Heathkits so I could build that." Things became much more clear that they were the results of human creation not these magical things that just appeared in one's environment that one had no knowledge of their interiors. It gave a tremendous level of self-confidence, that through exploration and learning one could understand seemingly very complex things in one's environment. My childhood was very fortunate in that way. - 73s, Jeremy Moseley WA1ZLF (formerly KD2AOL)

Article links:

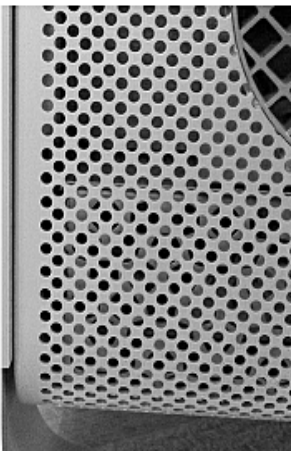
NY Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/06/business/steve-jobs-of-apple-dies-at-56.html?_r=1&sq=heathkit&st=cse&scp=1&pagewanted=all

Smithsonian: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/comphist/sj1.html#apple>

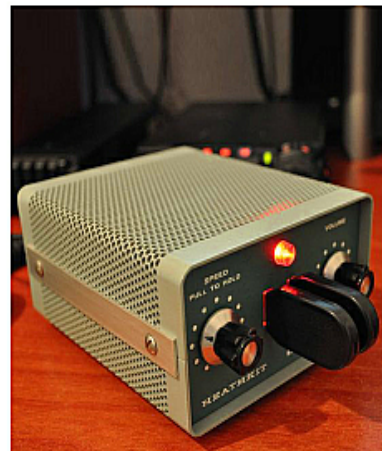
Heathkit is back: <http://www.eetimes.com/discussion/break-points/4219631/Heathkit-returns->



Apple Mac Pro Tower



close up Apple Mac Pro case



HeathKit electronic keyer

Cancer won't keep this marathon volunteer down - by Wayne Coffee

Article from The Daily News, November 5th 2011 - Thank You.



Steve Mendelsohn W2ML

The happiest man in the marathon this morning will be wearing an orange jacket and orange hat and be spending 26.2 miles with his upper body sticking out of the sunroof of an SUV. He is 67 years old, a self-described geek, and you've never heard of him. His work is indispensable but he won't be getting a penny for it. It's not glamorous, what Steve Mendelsohn does, and neither is he, not with the maelstrom of chemicals he has swirling inside him. Go ahead finding anybody in the whole sprawling expanse of the world's biggest marathon who is more thrilled to be here, spending one more Sunday as

the marathon's CEO of wires and wavelengths, a volunteer presiding over the race's technological underbelly, tumor be damned. "I've had a magical life," Mendelsohn says. "I'm a very lucky man." This will be the 36th running of the five-borough marathon. Mendelsohn is the only person who has been on the course for every mile of every one of them, always in the lead vehicle. His official title is Communications Director, which means he's in charge of 400 ham radio operators who provide the communications pathways for all aspects of the race. "We're the gears of the marathon; we keep it all moving," Mendelsohn says. He is sitting on the edge of a sofa in his modest roadside colonial in New Milford, N.J., wearing gloves and layers of sweats on a 60-degree day. Nearby is an oxygen tank that he sleeps with every night. "It's not nearly as much fun as sleeping with your wife, but it helps keep you alive," Mendelsohn says, and then he starts to talk, with disarming humor and candor, about his year from hell ? a hell that began last Jan. 17, when doctors found a golf ball-sized mass and he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and told he might have only three to five months left. Long before he ever had his first chemo treatment ? that's what makes him so cold, he says ? Mendelsohn made a vow to himself that he would still be around marathon Sunday. And here he is. "It's like a deadline, to use a bad pun," he says. "When you are facing something like that, you work harder. Push harder. Do more. "Physicists say that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, but the energy of the marathon keeps me going. It's a palpable thing. Getting to the marathon this year has kept me alive." Mendelsohn talks about how having a goal, a pursuit you love, is the currency of life ? and better than any cancer-fighting drug. He has been smitten with the ham radio world since he built his first one at age 14 as a kid in Amityville, L.I. He talks about frequencies and channels as if they were a winning lottery ticket. He talks about them with more animation now than ever before. Mendelsohn pauses. "The marathon means everything to me," says Mendelsohn, who got started in the race after a chance meeting with Fred Lebow, the race's co-founder. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

(Cancer won't keep this marathon volunteer down - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Mendelsohn has a dining room full of ham-radio gear, transmitters and receivers, a thicket of wires and boxes and twitching needles. He has had some life with the gear. He has been a Navy cryptologist, a senior chief petty officer whose job was to decode Russian transmissions.

He worked for CBS Radio for 21 years, and almost as long for ABC, helping design the mobile production trucks for Monday Night Football. He is also the game-day frequency coordinator for the Jets, making sure the coaches' headsets and walkie talkies work. He has met four presidents, and Rex Ryan, who took a photo with Mendelsohn and signed it. It hangs in the living room, right over the signed photo of Mark Sanchez. "Rex and Mark, those are my guys," Mendelsohn says. "They've been so great to me." Steve Mendelsohn is stooped and frail ? his weight plummeted from 154 pounds to 110 after his diagnosis ? and describes his weekly chemotherapy as "being run over by your basic bus." But all he wants to do is thank people, and get ready to run this year's race, figuratively.

"Being in the lead vehicle the way he is, if something comes up or there is a problem, you deal with it and keep going, no matter what," says Mary Wittenberg, CEO of New York Road Runners. "That's how Steve is on marathon day, and that's how he is in life. He is an indomitable spirit."

Steve Mendelsohn had a life-threatening bout with sarcoidosis, a lymph system disease, five years ago, and beat it. He makes no promises to outlast Steve Jobs, who held off his pancreatic cancer for eight years, but it would be foolish to underestimate him. He may be a geek, but he is a tough geek.

"If the Good Lord says this is it, my last marathon, I want to know that it's absolutely the best one I've ever had," Mendelsohn says. "That's my goal. That's what I want to achieve Sunday. I want this to be the best marathon ever."

NYC Marathon Photos 2012

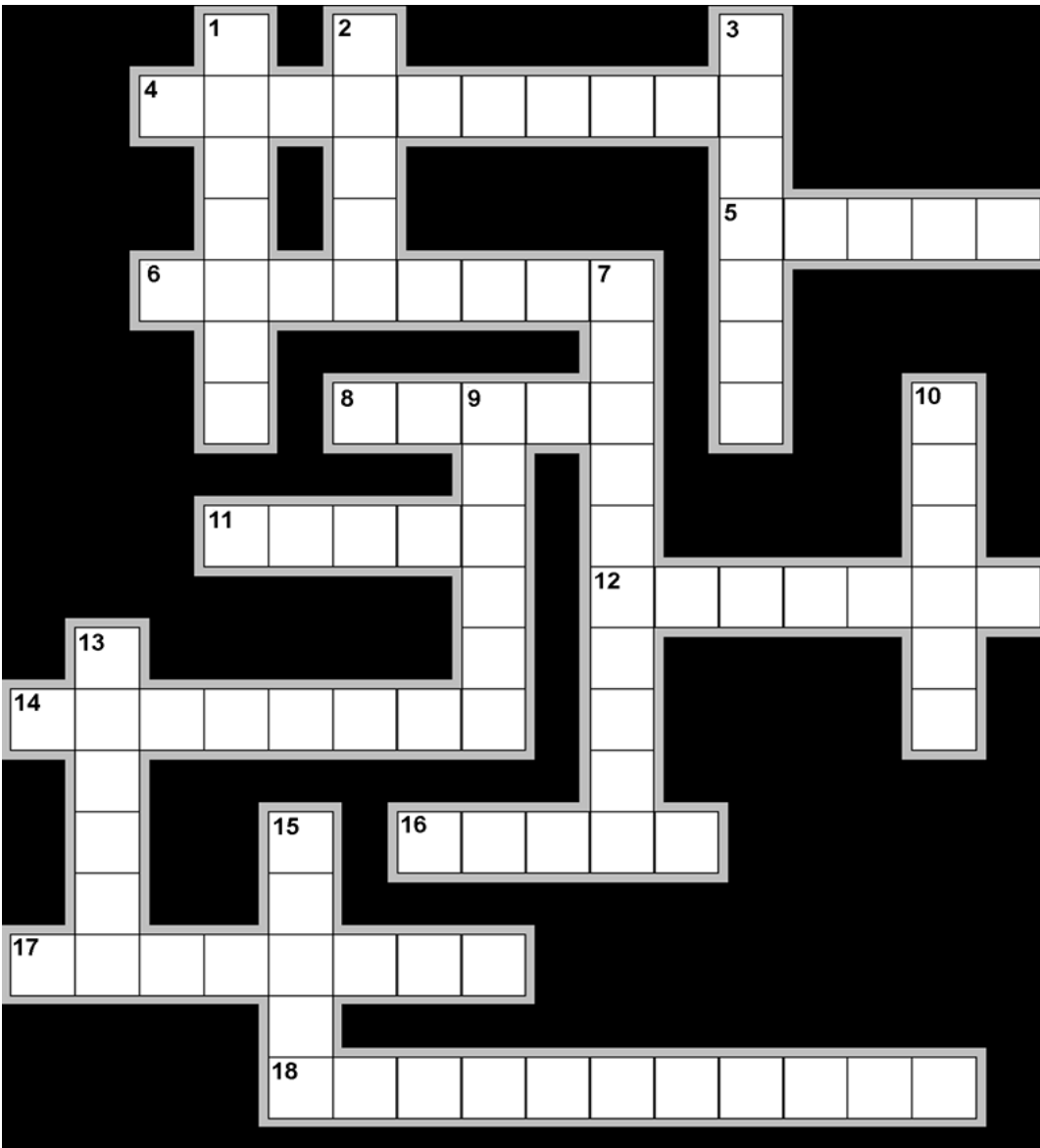


Kevin Glynn N2TO, Frank Grossman WB2BXO and also at Mile 11, Tony Catalano WW2W.
CU NXT YR HR!



Kevin N2TO deals with a Japanese dropout runner past the official closing of the race. They finally found a Japanese passerby. She was a great help and I think they offered him a ride.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SINE WAVE?



Across

4. Power = Current x _____
5. _____ cavities are often used with a repeater system.
6. AM can also be called a double _____ mode.
8. You need to come into direct contact with a high tension wire to get a shock. True or False?
11. color of wire often used for ground in a dual power supply
12. Name of both a car and a radio
14. _____ polarization is often used for satellite work.
16. a BFO is often called _____ control on older radios.
17. The BNC connector is _____ (country).
18. hfe refers to the _____ current amplification of a bipolar transistor.

Down

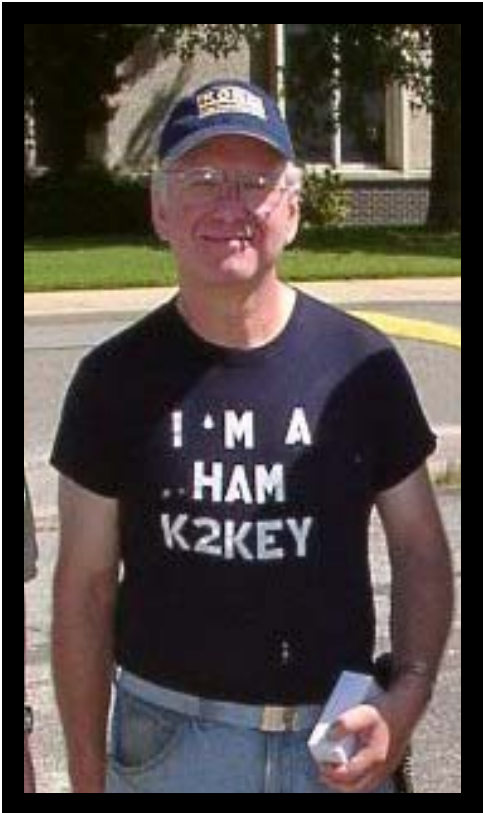
1. Most pocket AM radio typically use a _____ rod antenna.
2. A _____ is usually place across a relay's coil to protect the solid-state device switch that activates it.
3. The Standby switch on a tube radio keeps only the _____ on.
7. What the matter between the conductors of a transmission line is called.
9. An amplifier that accuratelt reproduces the input faithfully is often called _____.
10. HFE refers to the _____ current amplification of a bipolar transistor.
13. _____ is the best natural conductor of electricity.
15. ELF - What does the E stand for?

Answer key to October's crossword



Mel Schneider K2KEY / SK

It is with great sadness that I report the passing last week of our dear amateur radio friend, Mel Schneider K2KEY. The news spread quickly through the NLI section and a good handful of hams came from near and far to pay their respect at the services held in Brooklyn for Mel were his daughter spoke lovingly about her father, did her best in explaining how he was always there for her and how much she will miss him. I'm sure it is more that we can fathom.



Mel was the type of person who believed that you should always keep yourself busy, you are never too old to learn and you should always be available to share one's knowledge with others. He was a kind, unassuming guy, you know that not too deep down he could be as tough as nails if need be: Especially for a friend or in the face of even the tiniest injustice. In our club he had held the office of vice president and also of communications manager. He was instrumental in our Field Day setup for a good number of years and was kind enough to let the club use his place to store equipment regarding that annual operation. He devoted many hours answering questions live on LIMARC's Sunday Night 146.85MHz 8pm Tech Net for a number of years along side of Dick Knadle

K2RIW. Hear Mel sharing his knowledge, wonderfully archived here: <http://amateurradio.tv/TechNet/index2009all.htm> Already via 'social' media people have been commenting on Mel's memory on the club's Facebook area:

*Howard Brier Good bye Mel, I will really miss you. So long my friend.

*George M Donahue - Mel was a ham's ham. A very fine man.

*Anthony Catalano - He will be remembered as (I also said) "A Ham's Ham", one of the all-around good guys, a hard worker. The man was as good as a gold ground plane. Dependable, sweet, selfless and a brave patriot. Request at in Pace.

*Phyllis Napolitano Robinson - will miss you MEL.. what a patient man... and so nice too *** * So many comments and like are sure to come.

Good bye my friend and 73. BTU where your live as a good man speaks volumes.

KCRC Membership Application

Support your local ham radio club and join in on the fun and the camaraderie!

This application to join the ARRL affiliated Kings County Radio Club for a one year period as a member with full rights and privileges is straight forward and simple. A minimum of information is requested and the checking-off of supplementary questions is optional. Our club not a "repeater club" per se, but we do use a local two meter repeater KB2MQT/R on 146.730 -600KHz (no PLL at this time) owned by John Przychocki under his callsign. Club net 9pm Tuesdays. Our meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month whenever possible. The KCRC makes available the taking of ARRL ham radio tests via the VE system of testing on a number of interested persons basis. This tends to happen about 3 to 4 times per year. Picnics and group outings to hamfests are encouraged. Welcome to the KCRC club. A membership card will be issued to you as soon as possible signed by the president or other executive member of the club.

Band	CW	SSB	DIGITAL	MOBILE	HOME
160m					
75/80m					
40m					
30m					
20m					
17m					
15m					
12m					
10m					
6m					
2m					
23cm/440					

Circle your interests and involvements below. [other: _____]

homebrew teaching old radios mobile DFing V.E.
 ant build RACES echolink repeater ARRL mbr DXing

Today's Date: ___/___/___ Birthday Optional ___/___/___

Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Bus.): _____ (Cell): _____

Callsign: _____ Class: _____ First Licensed in _____

Email (optional) _____ Repeater often on: _____

What are some of your present/future interests in Amateur Radio?

Are you a member of A.R.E.S., R.A.C.E.S., M.A.R.S., S.A.T.E.R.N SKYWARN or N.T.S.? If so, which ones? _____

Would you like to learn more about any of the above public services? If so, which ones? _____

Are you presently a Volunteer Examiner (V.E.)? _____ If you hold a General License class or above, would you like to learn about or become a V.E.? _____

Would you be interested in assisting with the Club's Technician Radio Classes? (theory, code and/or demonstrations) _____

Would you be available as an Elmer for a new Ham or Club member?

Are you a member of the American Radio Relay League (A.R.R.L.)? _____ If not, would you like more information? _____ You may join or renew through the Club.

Active Member (Licensed Amateur): Full Dues \$25.00

Senior Citizen Member (Over 65) : 80% Dues \$20.00

Associate Member (Unlicensed): 75% Dues \$18.75

Student Member (Under 18/Full Time) 50% Dues \$12.50

Novice Class Graduate (1st Year of Membership) 50% Dues \$12.50

Family Member (of paid Active Member) 50% Dues \$12.50

(3rd and additional Family Members of Active Members may join free of charge.)

After June 30th, all new applicants will be prorated at a discount of 50% for half year membership. Persons holding previous membership in the Kings County Radio Club will be responsible for full payment of dues at the applicable rates throughout the membership year. Note: Membership shall be defined by the terms of the Kings County Radio Club's By-Laws, Section 2.

Payment Method: Cash Personal Check Money Order

If paying by check or money order, please make it out to Kings County Radio Club

For payment, you may send your check to our Club Treasurer:

Richard Statfield KA2KQJ

1826 East 23rd Street - Brooklyn, NY 11229