



## KI4LA/SK2022

I love amateur radio. Ham radio is a true passion for us all. There is no other hobby quite like it, and there are no friendships like ham radio friendships.

I have been licensed since 1973, devoting most of my efforts to public service: providing communications support in several disasters over the years (tornados, floods, hurricane Marilyn in the Virgin Islands, etc.) and was with the FBI and NDMS during the 1996 [Atlanta Olympics Bombing](#).

I'm a member of 10-10 International #8361, the Cincinnati Area Ten Tuners CATT #2153, the A1 Operators Club, Rag Chewers, Past Director & Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division, and former Ky District 7 (now 6) Emergency Coordinator (DEC). I'm also a Life Member of the ARRL and member of the Diamond Club.

I worked as an EC, then DEC, then Assistant Director to 5 Directors before being elected Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division (KY, OH, MI), and elected as Director and then as Vice Director again. As a League official I've traveled from Sault Ste. Marie and Lupton, Michigan to Murray and Louisa, Kentucky, and throughout Ohio promoting amateur radio.



I chaired three financially solvent Great Lakes Division Conventions (2003, 2005 and 2007), created the GLD Division Awards program, and served as Division webmaster. At the national level I served on the League's Volunteer Resource Committee, Public Relations Committee and chaired the ARRL Historical Committee.

I enjoy working CW and DX as well as APRS and other digital modes including PSK31, JT65, FT8, EchoLink, DStar and DMR. I've traveled the world with my FM rig, receiving reciprocal licenses from Austria to Australia. F0BQG, G5BMJ, WB4FAT/OE, WB4FAT/DL, WB4FAT/HB0, KI4LA/VK4 and KI4LA/ZL1 are all my calls.

I have been a member of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club since 1973. In 1997 I was voted NKARC Ham of the Year for my efforts in helping the club to secure a \$250k grant and repeater site on an AT&T cellular tower.

These last few years I have devoted to Elmering and to working with the students at Dixie Heights High School (KY4DH) in Edgewood Ky in particular. I have found this to be most gratifying in passing the love of Amateur Radio to the next generation.

In March 2020, I was honored to receive the ARRL Great Lakes Division George S. Wilson, III W4OYI Lifetime Achievement Award. George was the only ARRL President to come from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and a lifelong friend, so having been chosen for this award was a humbling experience.

Professionally, I'm a retired (2013) university music professor (46 years) and computer consultant. I was the founding Director of Academic Computing at Northern Kentucky University. In my community I serve as Trustee & past president of the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Northern Kentucky, and past president of the Riverfront Kiwanis of Cincinnati. I continue to serve on several committees, including the NKU College of Informatics Advisory Council, the NKU IT Advisory Committee as an emeritus member, the NKU Friends of SOTA (School of the Arts) Board, and the Executive Committee of the Kenton County (KY) Republican Party. I have toured with numerous performers as lead trombonist over the years, including the Righteous Brothers, Bob Hope, Mel Torme, and many others. I'm a 50+ member of the Cincinnati Musician's Association Local #1. For the past 25+ years I have conducted the 18 member Cincinnati based brass choir, the Mt. Auburn Brass Fellowship. I am bass trombonist and past president of the Cincinnati Community Orchestra. And I have been a Kentucky Colonel since 1963.

So far, there are 8 hams in my extended family:

Dick Johnston WA4KUB (My Dad, SK 1999)  
Allison Johnston Marx KB4LEW (Daughter) - licensed at age 8!  
Chris Marx KG4JMI (Son-In-Law)  
Lynwood Johnston KG7PAH (Son)  
Mariana Huerta Johnston KG7PAF (Daughter-In-Law)  
Alfredo Huerta KD8ZOV (Daughter-In-Law's father)  
Nancy Huerta KD8ZOW (Daughter-In-Law's mother)

73 de Gary KI4LA (ex WB4FAT, ex WB8WSZ)

[Kentucky-Historical-Society-honors-former-ARRL-director](#)

[NKy Tribune People of Northern Kentucky](#)

[Hams In Space](#)





This is a shot out the window of my shack taken from my operating position. Lake Woe-be-gone is stocked and attracts ducks, geese and turtles. Foxes, blue heron, deer and a bunch of other critters stop in depending on the season.





View from the shack in winter...





And Remember, 186,000 Miles Per Second is Not Just a Good Idea...

**IT'S THE LAW!**