



The Feedline



Winter, 2016

The Feedline

Activities being considered:

- A remote station could operate in connection to Indiana's Bicentennial.
- Sites might include a local park or at Little Turtle Waterway.
- Another club activity could be a hidden transmitter or "fox" hunt.

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CCARC considers projects for 2016

What activities can the Cass County Amateur Radio Club pursue in 2016?

Members are considering several possibilities to include the operation of stations either at the club station location at the EMA building or at a remote "field day" like location.

Since 2016 is Indiana's bicentennial year, discussions have centered around participating in an activity that connects to it. This might include a remote operation in September, perhaps in a city park or near the Little Turtle Waterway downtown Logansport. If not part of an official event, the club may set its own "rules" for equipment, power, date and time, etc. Mike Laird, N9LMC, has offered to lead the preparation for a remote operation activity.

Another possible activity is a "fox hunt" or hidden transmitter search. A



A hidden transmitter or fox hunt has participants locate a hidden transmitter as quickly as possible.

low power VHF transmitter is hidden somewhere in the area and participants try to locate it as quickly as possible. Transmitters might put out a steady signal, or it may be intermittent, adding to the challenge.

Generally, handheld, directional antennas are used to pin point the signal and follow the direction where it is strongest.

CCARC officers retained for 2016

At the December meeting, CCARC members voted to keep the current slate of officers for the coming year.

Phil Snider, W9LVY, is President, Dave Robhermel, K9DVL, Vice President, Tom Murray, KB9WSL, Treasurer, and Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ, keeps the Treasurer's slot.

The remaining elected positions are the Directors at Large spots and are held by Marion Bell, KA9BYN; John Flint, KC9MVQ; Ed Norris, K9PSR.

Other positions are either appointed by the President or covered by volunteers and are outlined on the page 4.



CCARC repeater systems upgrading

Improvements plus changes are coming to the CCARC's repeaters. New technology required local law enforcement to upgrade its equipment meaning its current radios were no longer needed. Thanks to efforts by Dan McDonald, KV9N, a replaced Motorola MSF-5000 was donated to the club. The club expects to receive a similar unit from the local hospital. The first MSF-5000 will be reprogrammed to operate (and replace) the main 147.180 repeater. This will go in service after the needed controller and other accessories are obtained.



When the second MSF-5000 is acquired, it will be set up to operate in place of the 145.230 repeater, the one expected to be part of an area repeater linking project.

The newly purchased Yaesu Fusion digital / analog repeater is operating on 443.650 MHz.

PL access changing

In keeping with the guidelines of the Indiana Repeater Council, all repeaters will soon be using a PL tone of 173.8, if not already. This means repeaters will not respond without receiving this tone.

"ARRL Field Day will be June 25 and 26. It's always the 4th June weekend."

Field Day score published, plans for '16 underway

The CCARC's club station, W9VMW scored 1,800 points during last year's ARRL Field Day exercise. Announced by the ARRL late last year, the total contacts were 371 in operating category 3F. The club operated several stations covering HF and VHF with SSB, CW, FM, and digital modes.

Field Day is always the fourth weekend of June (not necessarily the last weekend), making it June 25 to 26 this year.

CCARC Field Day Chairman, Marion Bell, KA9BYN, says serious planning for the next Field Day has begun with antennas and feedlines being checked.



Ramsey kits are gone

Ramsey Electronics, Victor, New York, making kits for hobbyists since the 1970s, has shut down its kit division. The company cited "rapid changes in technologies" that now make it difficult for a do-it-yourself hobbyist. It's easier to just go to the big box store to buy what you want for less.



Ramsey sold off remaining stock and stopped selling new kits January 1, but technical support continues in 2016.

Sixty meters now worldwide

DXing many be possible in the future after approval by the World Radio-communications Conference (WRC-15) late last year. A secondary Amateur allocation between 5351.5 and 5366.5 KHz was approved with power limited to 15 watts effective isotropic radiated power. It's not clear if this will change the current U.S. Amateur's use of this band since this is a smaller band with power limits. Nothing would change until the U.S. puts new rules in place.

(info for these two stories via the CQ Newsroom)

Radio station once heard nationwide turns 90

WSM, Nashville, Tennessee, first signed on October 5, 1925. It was owned and operated by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company, and the call letters were meant to signify the company motto "We Shield Millions."

The station quickly became noted for its broadcasts of the Grand Ole Opry with live shows from its studios. By 1928, WSM was assigned 650 Kilohertz becoming one of the elite broadcasters operating Class 1A on a clear channel. By 1932, a new 50kw transmitter gave it coverage in most states at night. This was also the time that the station's unique Blaw-Knox, diamond-shaped broadcast tower was built, guyed only at the center.

At the time, the 878 foot tower, located just south of the city, was the tallest antenna in North America. The height was later shortened when it was discovered the signal was being reduced in fringe areas.

There was a time during World War II the tower was designated to provide transmissions to submarines if ship-to-shore communications were lost. It is one of the oldest broadcasting towers in

the U.S., and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

In 1941, WSM's owners were the first commercial broadcaster in the U.S. to be issued a commercial FM license.



TV's Wheel of Fortune host, Pat Sajak, was an afternoon DJ on the AM station in the 1970s. He also worked as a voice-over announcer and weatherman on WSM's sister TV station.

WSM celebrated it's 90 years by having listeners and country artists suggest the 90 most popular songs over that time, which were then broadcast. Other events included listener contests and an open house at the tower site.

(info via Radio World and www.wsmonline.com.)

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on 650 KHz
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ARRL: Retailer selling QRM-causing lighting

The ARRL has filed a complaint with the FCC that alleges Home Depot is selling light fixtures and parts including ballasts to home users that are intended for only commercial use. ARRL says it acted following numerous complaints that such lighting was emitting interference over a wide frequency range up to a half mile away. ARRL general council, Christopher Imlay, states that this is a clear viola-



tion of FCC rules under Parts 15 and 18 that limit the amount of interference electronic devices may generate.

Commercial units don't have to meet the same standard, but ARRL says Home Depot was displaying and selling both types interchangeably and that employees didn't understand the difference. ARRL is asking that all non-consumer lighting devices be removed for sale to consumers before interference issues become worse.



Newsletter of the
Cass County Amateur Radio Club

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*Access the CCARC website
with your smart phone!*



**The Cass County Amateur
Radio Club is an Indiana
Not For Profit Corporation
in continuous existence
since 1953.**

Cass County Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Phil Snyder, W9LVY

Vice President: Dave Rothermel, K9DVL

Secretary: Tom Murray, KB9WSL

Treasurer: Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

Directors At Large: Marion Bell, KA9BYN; John Flint, KC9MVQ; Ed Norris, K9PSR

Testing Coordinator: Dan McDonald, KV9N

Emergency Coordinator: Dan McDonald, KV9N

The FEEDLINE Editor & Publisher: Ed Norris, K9PSR

Trustee of Repeaters: Phil Snider, W9LVY

Education & History: Anna Hendrickson, KC9IDO

Membership Coordinator: Marion Bell, KA9BYN

Web Site Specialist: Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

Club Travel Advisor: Desti Nation

Dots and Dashes

Repeaters

The primary repeater operates on 147.180 MHz and is located at the Chase Park water tower. An additional receive site is located at the Cass County Emergency Management Agency building 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. These are accessed with a 173.8 Hz PL tone. The VHF transmitter also transmits a 173.8 Hz tone. Setting your receiver to *decode* will reduce unwanted signals. A second VHF repeater also is located

at the Emergency Management building and operates on 145.230 MHz. A UHF repeater transmits on 443.650 MHz from the EMA building. All transmit offsets are standard with 173.8 PL.

Repeaters ID with the club call sign W9VMW and are open to all Amateurs.

CCARC Meetings

Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the EMA building. Dues are \$15.00 per year. Immediate family members may join for an

additional \$5.00. The club is affiliated with ARRL and the Indiana Repeater Council.

Amateur License Tests

Test sessions for all classes of amateur radio licenses are offered the third Saturday of each month at approximately 11:00 AM, immediately following the club meeting at the EMA site. Pre-registration is preferred but not necessary. The CCARC is affiliated with The W5YI Group.