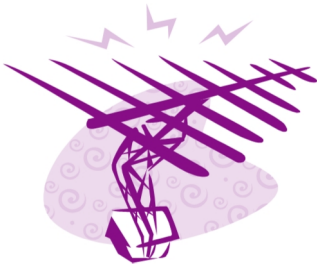


The Feedline



Spring 2015

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- The main antenna on the water tower will have a better brace installed at its base.
- A newly donated Motorola public service repeater will be programed and put in service.
- It is expected that reliability of the main repeater will improve.

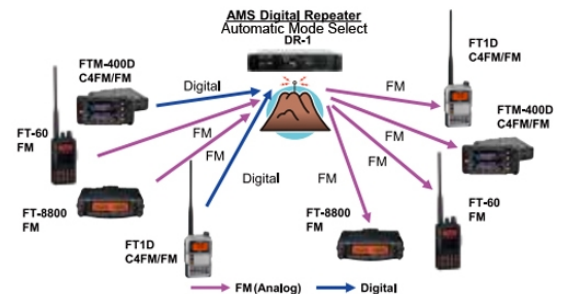
Inside this issue:

- Ontario FMer uses unusual fuel **2**
- Despite problems, Hara still hosting **2**
- FCC paper licenses part of history **2**
- New rules protect open Internet **3**
- Indy repeaters link for bad weather **3**
- Dots and Dashes **4**

New repeater can use digital / analog modes

Placing the newly purchased Yaesu DR-1 repeater on the air is getting closer. The DR-1 supports 144 and 440 MHz frequency bands and runs digital and analog modes. The repeater can be set to accept both analog and digital signals while repeating analog signals on its output, allowing all users access regardless of whether they possess newer Yaesu digital radios. Or it can be set to accept only digital in and retransmit digital signals out.

The digital process allows for features not available when using analog only, like providing information about the sending station that appears on the receiving station's readout.



Initial plans by the CCARC call for the repeater to be used on the 443.650 MHz frequency pairing, but the repeater can be used on VHF also. The C4FM mode used is not compatible with other digital modes, requiring one of Yaesu's portable or mobile radios to communicate digitally. But any analog radio will work.

CCARC repeater PL tones to change

To keep with the request from the Indiana Repeater Council (IRC), the CCARC will soon be changing (or adding) PL tones on its repeaters.

To reduce potential interference, the IRC has requested that repeater owners adopt a new PL tone policy that will necessitate many operators to make changes to existing repeaters. This should help reduce interference from other repeaters operating on the

same channel pairings, and help with interstate coordination.

The 77 Hz tone on the main 147.180 repeater will be changed to 173.8 Hz. The remaining repeater pairs without a PL tone (145.230, 443.650) will also add a PL tone of 173.8.

The change will be phased in with announcements on repeater tail messages of the change.

Ontario FM station uses unusual fuel for power

CFRM-FM, 100.7, Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, uses an unusual fuel source to power its station - used French fry oil. The Sudbury Star reports that station co-owner, Kelly Timmermanns, says her husband, Craig, was noticing that after the annual Manitoulin County Fest, which brings in top name performers from across Canada, vendors were disposing a huge amount of vegetable oil. The oil, used for deep fried foods like fries, was being dumped into landfills.

Craig approached area businesses that had oil and were willing to let him dispose of it. Once a custom power

system was devised to burn the oil, it could help the small station with energy costs. (Right)

Approvals were needed for the system including allowing it to feed excess power back to the grid. The waste oil is refined in Craig's garage, then used to power an old diesel generator, a type of biodiesel.

The station runs 24 hours everyday.



“The aging facility is facing financial problems.”

Hamvention to return to Hara despite problems

Hara Arena has been home to the Dayton Hamvention since the 1960s, but Dayton TV station WDTN has reported that the aging facility is facing financial problems that has led to a cutback in staff. Owners say they are dealing with the problems to find solutions.

News sources cite nearly a half million dollars in back taxes owed, possibly explaining why the facility is deteriorating. The venue is having difficulty

competing with other area convention sites like the Nutter Center and Dayton Convention Center, owners say.

But Hamvention General Chairman Jim Tideman, N8IDS, has stated that he fully expects the 2015 Amateur Radio event to continue there, and for years to come. Comments from several ham radio blogs show interest in moving the Hamvention to more modern facility. This year's dates are May 15 - 17.

Paper FCC licenses now element of the past

As of February, the FCC no longer will be printing out Amateur licenses for mailing, although licensed hams may still go online to print a “copy” of his or her license.

The Commission noted that including Amateur licensees in its online database has been the official record authorizing hams to operate on the air.

You may still make a specific request to receive a printed license from the FCC.

The ARRL had wanted the FCC to issue printed licenses to new hams. The Commission said no, adding that license application forms routinely include email addresses allowing the Commission to send an official electronic authorization.

The FCC believes this change will save more than \$300,000 yearly.

(info from CQ Newsroom)



FCC adopts rules to protect open Internet

The Federal Communications Commission has ended the lingering uncertainty about the future of the Internet by announcing sustainable rules that will “protect free expression and innovation” while promoting investment in the nation’s broadband networks.

In a press release, the Commission acknowledged that its previous attempts to implement enforceable, sustainable rules protecting an Open Internet have faced losing battles in court. This ruling, says the FCC, confirms that Broadband networks must be “fast, fair, and open,” a sentiment shared by the overwhelming majority of nearly 4 million commenters

to the Commission. The FCC reclassified broadband Internet service as a telecommunications service, allowing regulation as with other services like telephone.

The decision bans practices by providers known to harm an Open Internet. One, providers may not block access to any legal content. Two, providers may not impair or degrade any Internet traffic (throttling), and three, providers may not favor some lawful Internet traffic in exchange for “consideration” of any kind. In other words, no “fast lanes” for those who pay more.

Indy area links repeaters for emergency wx nets

The Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters has been around since 1975. Founders wanted to provide open access, high profile repeaters to serve Indianapolis and central Indiana. The group obtained the callsign W9ICE, and has now grown to include 11 repeater systems covering VHF, UHF, and higher with modes from FM to digital that can be linked.

The linked systems show their value during severe weather when weather

observations can be reported from several participating counties. Because of the high potential coverage area, protocols are established to limit multiple stations submitting the same reports.

During severe weather nets, audio is streamed live via the Internet. When linked, D-Star coverage extends from Ft. Wayne to Bloomington, and up to Lafayette.

Learn more at www.w9ice.com.

“Indy area repeater systems linked during severe weather.”

Local repeater linking project moving forward

Could Northern Indiana develop a repeater linking system to rival the one covering Central Indiana? That possibility was expressed at a recent meeting of the CCARC by club president Phil, W9LVY.



He said that besides the CCARC, repeater ops in Kokomo, Peru, Culver, Galveston, Rochester, and possibly Warsaw are interested in linking repeaters together, at least part time.

It has already been decided that the local 145.230 repeater would be the repeater of choice for linking. A UHF link would connect the local repeater to one in Marion, then to the other repeaters.

This year’s Field Day exercise is set for June 27 and 28. The site will again be at the Cass Co. EMA building on SR 17 N. CCARC Field Day Chairman, Marion, KA9BYN, expects to have 4 transmitters in operation, and all antenna repairs completed well ahead of time. One leg of the Inverted VEE antenna had dropped down across the HF loop antenna, possibly a result of workers performing roof work.



Newsletter of the
Cass County Amateur Radio Club

Cass County
Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 1092
Logansport, IN 46947

Phone: 574.722.2102

E-mail:
ccarc.ind@gmail.com



www.w9vmw.org

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

Mailing Specialist: Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

Web Site Specialist: Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

Club Radio Engineer: Mr. RF Burns

Club Astrologer: I. C. Stars

Dots and Dashes

Repeaters

The primary repeater operates on 147.180 MHz and is located at the Chase Park water tower with an open receiver. An additional receive site is located at the Cass County EMA building. These are accessed with a 77 HZ sub-audible tone. The VHF transmitter also transmits a 77 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.

Repeaters may be out of service from time to time for repairs or upgrades. The club station is W9VMW.

CCARC Meetings

Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Cass County Emergency Management Agency building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR 17. Dues are \$15.00 per

year. Immediate family members may join for an additional \$5.00.

Amateur License Tests

Test sessions for all classes of amateur radio licenses are offered the third Saturday of each month at approximately 10:00 AM, immediately following the club meeting. Testing is held at the Cass County EMA building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. Pre-registration is preferred but not necessary. The CCARC is affiliated with The W5YI Group.