Newsletter of the
Cass County Amateur Radio Club

The Feedline

Winter 2014

The Feedine

Special points of interest:

- The CCARC is awaiting delivery of a new Yaesu digital repeater system.
- A special offer resulted in significant savings.
- The unit will allow both digital and analog operating.
- Next: replacing the aging antennas.

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CCARC purchases new repeater system

The Yaesu DR-1 digital / analog repeater system will soon be operating. Details will be forthcoming.

The Cass County Amateur Radio Club has added its name to the growing list of clubs planning to install digital repeaters, thanks to a special offer from Yaesu USA. Yaesu offered it's DR-1 C4FM/FM Digital Repeater to amateur radio clubs for $500, a significant savings from the regular $1,700 price tag.

Clubs receiving the offer must agree to install the repeater, and keep it on the air and active for at least one year. Club members agreed that this would not be a problem as many are welcoming the upgrade and are anticipating getting it operating.

Repeater equipment currently in use has been running for years and much of it was obtained used. The dated equipment requires more time and expense to keep running, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain replacement parts.

Hooking up a state of the art repeater should solve maintenance issues.

The DR-1 repeater is unique in that it will operate in analog or digital modes so current members without digital radios can still use it.

The club's attention will now focus on replacing the aging antennas and feed lines that have also seen many years of service.

New repeater will operate analog or digital

One unique feature of the new Yaesu DR-1 C4FM/FM Digital Repeater is that is does not immediately make analog radios obsolete.

The repeater is really two repeaters in one. It's input can be set to accept analog and digital signals. The Auto Mode Select feature, when enabled, allows the repeater to accept both digital and analog signals and retransmit them in either analog or C4FM digital modes. A color touch screen on the front panel makes setup easy and fast.

The system is not compatible with D-Star or GMSK modes but Internet linking is possible.

Can AM Broadcast radio be improved?

The technology of AM Broadcast radio has it at a disadvantage against FM, satellite broadcasts, and online modes. Is there a way to make it desirable to listeners?

In a recent *Radio World* article, Kintronics Labs President Tom King along with company consultant Dr. Steve Smith met with FCC officials to outline the three critical steps they feel is needed to restore AM. One, enforce Part 15 RF emission limits for power lines and other devices. Two, AM receiver standards need to put it on par with FM, and three, synchronize AM stations to eliminate "beats" and improve coverage for co-channel stations involved, and, low-power synchronous boosters to provide close-in coverage in pattern nulls.

The Kintronics president asked for random testing of devices like TVs, LEDs, etc., to determine Part 15 compliance for AM interference. King also urged the AM radio broadcast industry to tell the FCC they support these ideas.

The Kintronics staff provided audio demonstrations of two wide-band AM receivers that compared favorably with current FM HD radio.

"Linking underused repeaters could increase activity."

Repeater linking discussed by area clubs

How can clubs increase activity on their under-utilized repeaters? Perhaps, by linking them. That is the idea being discussed by representatives from several area amateur radio clubs.

The CCARC has at least one repeater that can be considered under-used, and could be a prime candidate for a linking project.

Representatives from several interested clubs have been meeting regularly to determine how best to make linking a reality while accommodating the individual repeaters involved.

Area clubs considering linking include groups from Logansport, Peru, Kokomo, Marion, Culver, and others. Any linking would allow for individual repeaters to link or unlink as they want.

Involved in the meetings include those involved with the Central Indiana Skywarn linked repeater system.

Field Day official scores

The 2914 ARRL Field Day results have been announced and are reported by CCARC Field Day Chairman Marion, KA9BYN:

QSO = 414

Power = 150 w or less

Participants = 14

Total Score = 1756

This compares favorably with last year's totals of 310 QSOs and a score of 1480.

A "base jumper" may face trespassing charges after attempting to leap from the 1,064 ft. tower used by two St. Louis County, Missouri radio stations. The jumper climbed the tower used by WIL-FM and WXOS and got in serious trouble after he jumped when his parachute got tangled up in one of the tower's guy wires. His lines had to be cut to free him after dangling 120 feet in the air for over two hours. Both stations switched to backup transmitters during the rescue.

(from VHF-UHF Digest)

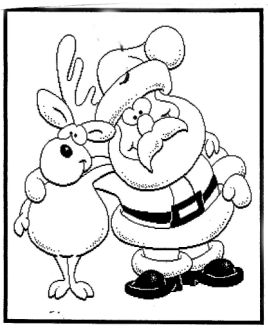
Could paper licenses for hams become obsolete?

The Federal Communications Commission has said it wants to stop issuing printed license documents to wireless users including Amateurs unless it is specifically requested. As far as the Commission is concerned, a ham's listing on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) database is the official document.

But the ARRL has asked the Commission to keep paper licenses coming. It has said in comments filed with the FCC that requiring an individual to go online to either download or request a printed license might be a roadblock to some applicants. The League added that official license documents are still required for taking upgrade examinations, or applying for callsign license plates.

The ARRL proposed sending printed licenses to all new hams with instructions on choosing a preferred method for future renewals or upgrades.

(via CQ Magazine)



Limited space for ham radio? A solution awaits

Have you ever been in a pileup, calling and calling that DX station with no luck? Or there's no space (or permission) to put up a really sizable antenna?

Remote Ham Radio was founded by Ray Higgins, W2RE, and Lee Imber, WW2DX in 2012, after running a successful antenna and tower installation business. They created a method of operating remotely with a real Elecraft K3 radio (face panel only) and connected via the Internet to one of several high-performance Amateur stations. The effect is operating as if one was at a mountaintop site on the east or west coasts, and even Hawaii. The operator chooses the site, and from any of 30 towers and over 150 antennas from loops and dipoles to stacked beams. Transmitters at sites run a kilowatt.

Of course, there is a charge that ranges from $0.09 to $0.49 a minute plus yearly fee.

Check out www.remotehamradio.com for a lot more information.

"Choose from several remote sites and over 150 antennas"

New Shortwave station debuts to world audience

As many countries are ceasing their shortwave broadcasts to world audiences because of shrinking listenership, one broadcaster had decided there is a void he can fill.

Operating 24 hours daily from the WRMI transmitter in Okeechobee, Florida, Global 24 Radio, LLC, transmits in English to a world audience.

Paul Workman, general manager of Global 24, says the shortwave medium is worth preserving with so many listeners around the world.

" Our broadcasts will appeal to dedicated shortwave listeners looking for breaking news, opinion, and music," he said.

The stations can be heard on 9395 KHz.

(Global 24 press release)

W9VMW

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We're on the Web!

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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.

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Club Statistician: Marge N. Oferror

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 my 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.