



The Feedline



Fall, 2011

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- CCARC members garnered 1910 points
- HF and VHF contacts were made on voice, CW, and PSK modes
- ARRL reports a record number of log entries this year
- About two dozen area businesses donated food and prizes

Field Day

Field Day 2011 has come and gone and the logs have been submitted to ARRL.

CCARC Field Day Chairman, Marion Bell, KA9BYN, announced the club point totals and called the effort a success.

The unofficial totals (until confirmed by ARRL in November) show the number of contacts like this: 42 CW, 152 digital modes, 366 SSB, 790 bonus points, for a grand total of 1910. Contacts were made on 80, 40, and 20 meters HF, plus 6 meters.

Field Day was not without its dignitaries stopping by. Alvin Beckman, Cass County EMA Director, and Cass

County Sheriff Randy Prior were among the visitors checking out the radio activities. Dan McDonald, K9VN, a club member and also Cass County E911 Director was on hand.



Honorary chef Rae Ervin, N9YFW, prepares burgers during the Saturday gathering.

The Saturday evening cook out and get together was still popular, enhanced by approximately two dozen area

businesses who contributed food and raffle prizes.

ARRL says that 2,654 log entries were received, an all time record.

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Is this your last Feedline?

A survey in the last Feedline requested members receiving the mail edition to respond if they could NOT get the Feedline electronically; that is, by email or via the CCARC or W9VMW Groups web sites.

No one responded. Hopefully this means CCARC members are able to

access email or at least have Internet access and not that they don't read it!

So, the Feedline is going to feature an on-line only edition the next time. Speak up now if you need the printed version mailed to you. If you haven't done so, sign up for W9VMW Groups. Details on page 3.

Will Voice of America nix some SW broadcasts?

Is the Voice of America (VOA), about to cut back on shortwave bands? The Strategic Report from the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), the agency that oversees VOA, suggests that this will happen, with a shift toward new media like the Internet, social media, and mobile phones.



VOA is presently transmitting news and information in 44 different languages to countries around the world. The service shutdown will likely be done one country or one language at a time with

shortwave broadcasts to China already halted.

The report outlines improvements to VOA's aging equipment and lack of backup systems.

Wikipedia says that VOA reaches 123 million listeners (and viewers to its TV broadcasts) with about 1,500 hours of news and information programming each week. Besides VOA, the BBG also oversees several other U.S. owned broadcasters including Radio Marti, Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia, plus several more.

“Automated systems gathering data were bogging down the site.”

Data harvesting leads to QRZ.com restrictions

Those who use the on-line database QRZ.com to find amateur licensee information have discovered that the info is no longer available unless the person seeking the information is registered.

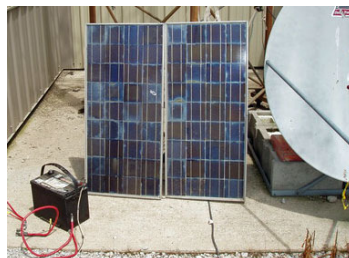
QRZ.com owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, said that more and more automated systems gathering large amounts of data at one time were bogging down the site.

Registered ham users may still look up as many as 150 callsigns each day for free, and non hams are restricted to 25 per day. For subscribers, lookups are unlimited.

To use the site, one must first register with his or her call sign, and select a password. Check it out at www.qrz.com.

(info via WorldRadio Online)

2011 Field Day in pictures



Left, Using solar power to make some Field Day contacts was worth extra points.

Right, a VHF / UHF beam was employed in an attempt to make a Field Day contact via an amateur satellite. The attempt was not successful mostly due to the many other stations attempting to do the same thing at the same time.



All photos courtesy of KA9BYN

Stay informed - Join the W9VMW Group

Amateurs as a group are generally fairly technically advanced. So it is a bit surprising that many members of the CCARC are not zoned in on the CCARC's Internet group. It is easy to do, but it does require Internet access.

Here's how to do it. Go to this web site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/W9VMW/> (Type it carefully!)

You should be able to see some of the latest activity of the "W9VMW Group." Now look to the upper right of the web page and find the button, "join this group." Click it. The next page will ask

for a user name and password. If you don't have a Yahoo account, you will need to select a user name and password. Follow the on screen prompts and you should be a group member.

Future Feedlines will be delivered via the W9VMW Group, and you will find other information there as well, like a club calendar, pictures, and other info of interest to members. Once a member, you do not need to sign in to this page to send or receive club messages. Just send to the email address: w9vmw@yahogroups.com with your email program.

Geo-Alerts will continue on WWV and WWVH

Geo-Alerts, the propagation forecasts broadcast regularly on WWV and WWVH, were destined to be stopped, but protests by listeners caused the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) to change its mind. The broadcasts were to cease on September 6, but remain available via the Internet.

But now the alerts will continue via the shortwave broadcasts. Listeners told

SWPC that they relied upon the alerts at 18 minutes past each hour on WWV to learn of solar storms, mid-latitude A and K indices, and other data.

The programming cuts had been considered as a cost-saving move as SWPC faces budget cuts and costs of operating WWV and WWVH are high, according to SWPC's Patrick Gajdys.

(info via WorldRadio Online)

"Protests from users of the information prompted the alerts to continue."

Ham radio magazines going digital this month

CQ Communications, publisher of *CQ Amateur Radio*, *CQ VHF*, *Popular Communications*, and *World Radio Online* has announced that all its publications will be offered in a digital format beginning in October with November editions of each publication.

"The digital editions will supplement, not replace, current print editions and will feature enhancements not possible in print medium," said Editorial Director Rich Moseson, W2VU, in a recent

press release. World Radio Online is no longer offered in a print version.

Examples of new features not available in print copies include links to all the Internet addresses in each issue, plus added content like photo albums, audio and video files, software, and more.

Online platforms will be compatible with PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, and Adroid 2.0 or greater.



Newsletter of the
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Club's Legal Counsel: Will N. Testament

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.



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