



The FEEDLINE

Newsletter of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club, Logansport, IN



Club celebrates 50th year

It was fifty years ago this May that a dozen or so area hams gathered with the purpose to establish a radio club for amateur radio enthusiasts. They decided to call their group the Cass County Radio Club.

That was then. Now, fifty years later, membership in the present Cass County Amateur Club numbers in the sixties after peaking in the seventies around ten years ago.

To mark the occasion, a Special Event Station will be on the air from the Cass County EMA building North on SR 17. The call sign W9V has been reserved for Oc-

tober 18, 2003. Multiple transmitters will be running, and certificates will be mailed to all who contact the station.

A social event is also planned, probably a cook-out or similar function but that has yet to be decided.

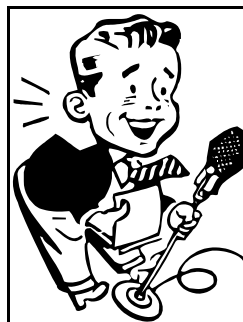
Over the years, the club has undergone a name change (adding the word "amateur"), hosted ham-fests in the 70s and 90s, and has upgraded from one repeater to three (2 VHF, 1 UHF).

The CCARC began offering amateur license testing over ten years ago.

This is not the first

milestone for the club. A Special Event station operated five years ago when the club reached the age of 45, also using the call W9V.

Members have provided communications for past community events like the Iron Horse Festival.



"Hello World! This is Special Event Station W9V calling CQ, CQ, CQ!"

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Protecting your ham bands

A public hearing will be held later this spring to hear testimony on the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, intended to keep ham bands from being taken away. Committee Chairman Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) has as-

sured that the hearing will include a chance for a member of the amateur community to appear before the panel.

Hearing testimony could be critical to HR 713's success in Congress. The bill was filed by Michael

Bilirakis (R-FL) in February. The bill provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary or secondary amateur allocations. (eHam.net)

Special points about the club

- Starting as the Cass County Radio Club, the first meeting was held in May, 1953.
- Several original members are active hams today.
- One of the public services provided is spotting severe weather for the weather service.

Club field day plans move ahead

How many stations should we operate? That was one of the questions posed by CCARC President, Don Hyman, K9EQT, at the April club meeting.

The answer was, "as many as we have operators for."

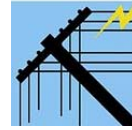
While accumulating points is not the main objective, (testing emergency operating capability is) it was decided that an operator's schedule should be established and to be sure

stations are manned.

For sure, the traditional 40 meter SSB station with the now-famous bobtail curtain antenna will be the main station. There will be an additional HF station, plus VHF. Stations will operate without amplifiers this year.

The carry-in meal on Saturday evening will no doubt be the high point.

WHEN
ALL
ELSE
FAILS...



Field day set for June 28 & 29 at the QTH of K9DVL

Direction to K9DVL will be available on the club's web site or via the repeater. (He's on 75N, West of 450E.) More information will come via the repeater or at the next two club meetings. Plan to attend!

Antenna bill signed by Governor

After an on-again, off-again life, Senate Bill 109 will take effect July 1.

The bill requires local governmental bodies to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio communication antennas when placing restrictions on antenna structures.

At one point, it was believed that the bill would die in a Senate Committee, but last minute lobbying by sev-

The Indiana law encompasses the essential language of limited federal preemption known as PRB-1

eral hams plus the correspondence from many more, brought the bill back to life.

The law prohibits localities from enacting or enforcing ordinances,

resolutions or orders that do not comply with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption.

A similar law was also enacted in Utah and Tennessee this year.

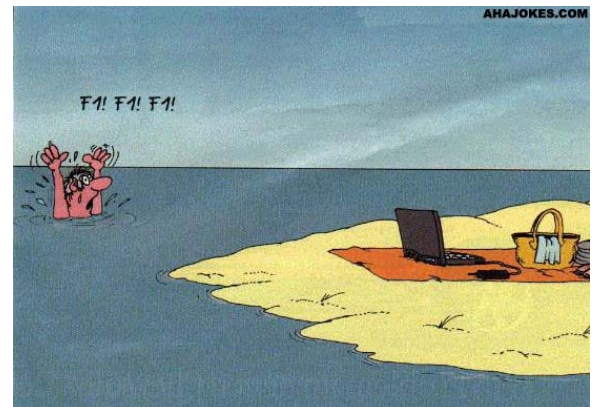
Severe weather?

When severe weather threatens, the weather spotter net will activate. Whenever the sky darkens (and it's not night!) turn your scanner or handheld to 147.180 and listen.

The net will operate either at the specific request of the National Weather Service, or on the initiative of local weather observers.

Weather nets are directed nets. This means that ALL communications go through the Net Control Station (NCS).

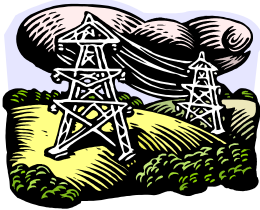
Always follow the NCS's directions and listen before transmitting so you know what's going on.



BPL: Next QRM problem for hams?

BPL, "Broadband over Power Line," is a form of carrier-current technology typically known as power line communication (PLC), and the FCC is about to open a comment period on its implementation.

BPL would place high frequency (2 to 80 MHz) RF to the power grid with the intent of offering inexpensive internet ser-



Using power lines to provide data service could mean more QRM.

vice to rural areas. The comment period will let the FCC hear about interference concerns from licensed users of the spectrum, including amateurs.

The ARRL's Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI, has already expressed concern saying, "Every amateur in a community could have part of the radiating system 'next door' on the

power wiring on his or her street."

BPL would use power lines up to 40 kV to deliver broadband applications, a likely greater interference source than in-building wiring because, "overhead electrical wires are a much better antenna," says Hare.

With the problems associated with power line interference at 60 Hz, it would seem likely that a power line "antenna" is going to provide more than "incidental radiation" as allowed.

Are you ready for Indy Hamvention?

This is the last year of the Hamvention's current five-year contract with Hara Arena in Dayton which has led to speculation. What would happen if Dayton was suddenly not available?

A survey of the big exhibitors inside the arena showed most of them would choose Columbus as a second choice. Hamvention Production Manager, Garry Matthews, KB8GOL, says

plans for this year have been slower to come together, both in vendor registrations and advance ticket sales, but recent weeks have been encouraging. Negotiations continue with Hara.

Attendance at last year's 50th anniversary event was down five percent from 2001.

Eighty percent of 225 vendors surveyed also expressed preferences

for Indianapolis and Cincinnati. Sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Ass'n, "Dayton" was quietly dropped from the official name.

The popular FCC Forum will be missing this year. Scheduling conflicts will keep FCC speakers away.

ARRL

Newsletter returns

After an absence of nearly a year, the Feedline is back! So, what happened?

There were a combination of problems, but most significantly, our printing capability was lost.

Since you've received this, you know that problem was rectified.

With the break, the editor took

the opportunity to make some changes to the format, style, and content.

With luck, you'll find something of interest to grab your attention.

As always, suggestions, corrections, and contributions are welcome. You'll find contact information on the back page.

Enjoy.



The FEEDLINE is now on the CCARC website in glorious color!

Cass Co. Amateur Radio Club

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

We're on the web!
www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc

Bits, bytes and beyond

- A "Happy Meal" and high-speed internet? Ten McDonald's in New York City are testing Wi-Fi Internet service. An hour of web access comes with a combo meal and additional hours cost \$3.
- Twenty years ago there were no mobile phones. Now a third of all calls either originate or terminate on a wireless phone. There are over 140 million cell phone subscribers.
- An Indiana ham club has had its application for a LPFM station denied and dismissed by the FCC. The Hendricks Co. Amateur Radio Community, Danville, had re-

quested 98.9 MHz but it was decided that the proposed station was too close to existing FM broadcast stations.

- Don't click the "unsubscribe" link on unwanted e-mail. That only confirms to spammers that yours is a viable e-mail address. Just delete.
- South Korea leads the world in wireless technology. 70% of homes have broadband, three times that in the US. Korean systems are eight times faster.
- Yahoo has redesigned its search engine to look more like Google, which ranks number one.

Some content from *W5YI Report*

Repeaters

Primary repeaters operate on 147.180 MHz, and 443.650 MHz. The VHF repeater is located at the Chase Park water tower with an open receiver. Additional receive sites are located at the Cass County EMA building and in Delphi. These are accessed with a 77 HZ sub-audible tone. The UHF repeater is located at the EMA building. The VHF transmitter also transmits a 77 Hz tone. Setting your receiver to *decode* will reduce unwanted signals. A second VHF repeater located at the Logansport Municipal Airport operates on 145.230 MHz. Autopatch is available on the main VHF repeater to members. 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 second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Cass County Emergency Management Agency building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. 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 first Friday of each odd month at 6:30 PM at the Cass County EMA building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Cass County Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Don Hyman, K9EQT
Vice President: Todd Ervin, N9PVQ
Secretary: Tom Murray, KB9WSL
Treasurer: Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ
Directors At Large: Dave Rothermel, K9DVL; Ed Norris, K9PSR; Bob Minnick, K9AWH
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Emergency Coordinator: Todd Ervin, N9PVQ
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