

# The Feedline



Spring, 2011

The Feedline

## Special points of interest:

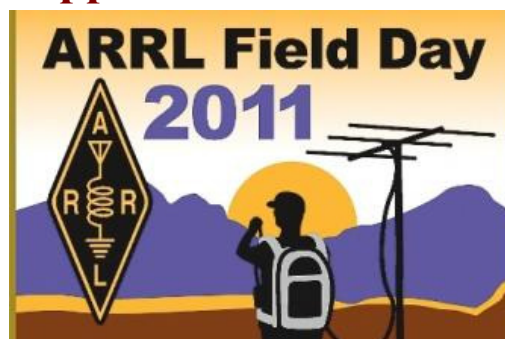
- Field Day will be June 25 and 26.
- Location: the Cass Co. EMA facility on SR 17 N or Logansport
- A Saturday evening carry-in will likely be planned.
- The club's newly installed HF loop antenna will be used.

## New Field Day chairman appointed

A long time CCARC member has volunteered to take on the 2011 Field Day chairmanship for 2011. During the club's February meeting, Marion Bell, KA9BYN, agreed to accept the role of chairman.

ARRL Field Day, set for Saturday and Sunday, June 25 - 26 this year, will be held at the Cass Co. EMA building, located on SR 17 North of Logansport, the same as 2010.

Marion said he would need some other volunteers to handle certain field day planning projects. Tom Murray, KB9WSL, past chairman, agreed to help, as did Rae Ervin, N9YFW, with specific Field Day tasks. Marion also said he would like to inventory equipment available soon



to see what might need to be repaired or replaced. An evaluation of existing accessories, parts and tools that might be required for Field Day will also be completed.

In past years, the CCARC's club station has had a notable presence on 40 meters with it's bob-tail curtain antenna. Other stations have included operations on VHF as well as a couple of additional HF stations.

Besides SSB, the club has operated FM, CW and PSK and will likely do so again this year.

Highlights of past Field Days have always included the carry-in meal on Saturday evening for club members and their families. Another high point has been the raffling of prizes to those attending Saturday evening.

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## Club keeps officers

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. CCARC members in attendance at December's club meeting decided unanimously that the current officers should be retained for another year.

Current elected and appointed officers are listed on the back page.

## AM Radio tower nominated as historic site

The radio station that first brought the Grand Old Opry to life across America has been nominated to be added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

WSM, 50 KW on 650 KHz, first came on the air in 1925 and constructed its unique Blaw-Knox diamond antenna tower in 1932 from just south of Nashville, Tennessee. At 808 feet, the tower is one of only eight such towers still in use in North America, says Wikipedia.

The station has always boasted one of the best coverage areas in the country, covering much of the nation at night.



**The new  
Element 3  
question  
pool will be  
effective  
July 1st.**

## General Class question pool to be released

Applicants for a General Class license will have an examination that draws from a new Element 3 question pool, effective July 1, 2011.

The new General question pool will include graphics and diagrams, and consists of 457 questions. Thirty Five questions are selected for each version of the Element 3 examination.

The Question Pool Committee of the National Volunteer Examiner Coordinators made the announcement in December.

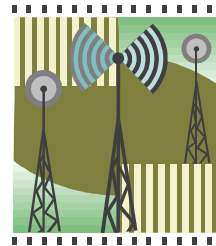
The Technician Class question pool went into effect last July, and new Amateur Extra questions are due to be released July 2012.

## Was it aliens or something else on 7 MHz?

Peter Brogl, DK6NP, thought someone was playing tricks on him during the last CQ World-Wide CW DX Contest last November.

He sent his callsign and 46 seconds later, he heard it coming back to him. He changed frequencies and transmitted his callsign once more. Again, 46 seconds later, he copied his callsign being sent.

What he experienced that day was not



aliens, but rather a phenomenon known as Long-Delayed Space Echoes. A geomagnetic storm was occurring at the time, and Brogl heard the echoes for over an hour.

Long-Delayed Echoes were first documented in 1927 by Jorgen Hals, a Norwegian civil engineer. The phenomenon may possibly be linked to unusual propagation during solar storms, but the echoes occur rarely.

## Double puzzle!

Unscramble each word. Take the letters that appear inside the boxes  to make a new word.

Hint: The final answer is what all CCARC members should do to make the CCARC better!

<b>SAPHE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GPCIPNIL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RAIDO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TNURE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ROEORPAT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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## Noises from odd sources can plague hams

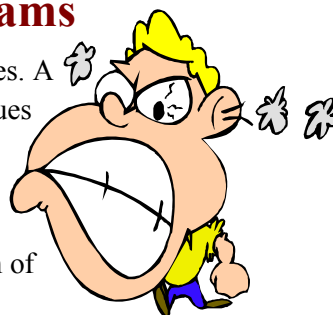
You turn on the HF rig expecting to make a DX contact and all you hear is noise. Noise that pushes the S-meter to S-9 or beyond. No DX today. Noise blankers and noise reducers may help, but the best answer is to find the source.

Often the problem may be coming from a faulty utility pole with a poor connection. Even modest sparking sends out a potent HF signal. But with the advent of more computer chip-controlled gadgets, the problems may be coming from within the home or even the shack.

Noises that can plague hams can come from the most innocent-looking and

unexpected sources. A couple of techniques can be effective.

Use an AM portable radio to track the direction of the noise and its strength. Or just unplug devices one at a time to see if the noise drops.



Here's a partial list of "suspects" for noise interference. Automatic night lights, light dimmers, and light timers. Cheap decorative lights are also problematic. Computer processors, TVs, and monitors can be noisy. Any wall charger (like cell phones) can cause noise.

**Noises that plague hams can come from innocent-looking sources.**

## AM Broadcasters cease operation in Greenland

Greenland has become the latest country to cease operation on the AM broadcast band. The existing AM radio transmitters were getting too old and costly to maintain, according to the Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Transport.

KNR (Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa) provided newscasts and weather forecasts across the country, but will now only be available via low power FM in the inhabited areas of Greenland. Fisher-

men and others may hear weather forecasts from coastal FM stations, but vast areas of the country outside the towns

Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa

**KNR radio**

and villages will have no radio coverage. Fishermen at sea and the Inuit population of Canada also were said to depend upon KNR via AM.

Greenland has only KNR, the country's equivalent of NPR in the United States.



Newsletter of the Cass  
County Amateur Radio Club

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## 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:** Ed Norris, K9PSR; Bob Minnick, K9AWH; Tom Denton, KB9VMW

**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 Guy:** Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

**Web Site Guy:** Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

**Club Radio Engineer:** Mr. RF Burns

**Club Caterer:** Art E. Choke

## 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.

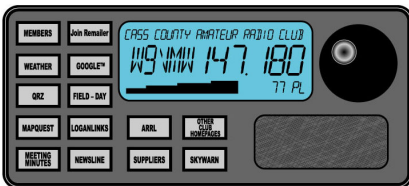
### CCARC Meetings

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.**