

The Feedline



Summer, 2008

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- Cub Scouts enjoyed learning about ham radio.
- Scouts took turns trying Morse code and listened as club members made on-air contacts.
- They listened intently to how hams can talk to astronauts.

Club gives scouts a first-hand look at ham radio

Members of Cub Scout Pack 3203 got a first hand look at amateur radio following the January club meeting. Club members talked about all aspects of ham radio, from using Morse Code, to communicating with astronauts aboard the space shuttle. The scouts were fascinated with all of it.



Cub Scouts Levi Meyers and Gage Benish check out a Morse code reader while Ryan Lythgoe observes.

Club members let the youngsters try out a Morse code key connected to a tone generator so they could hear their sending efforts. They also participated with members who

attempted to make a contact or two on the club station, W9VMW, despite the less than ideal band conditions.

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Dave, K9DVL, makes a call from club station W9VMW, as scouts Gage Benish and Ryan Lythgoe watch.

One of the most intently followed presentations was the one presented to the troops by Dan, KV9N. Scouts seemed to hang onto every word as he described how hams can actually talk to astronauts as they travel aboard a space shuttle or stay on board the International Space Station.

CCARC Field Day adds up to fun, success

The 2008 ARRL Field Day struck a high note with members and other participants.

Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW, CCARC President and Hamfest Chairman, says the Club scored 2,760 total points during the Field Day event. He said a lot of the points came from bonuses like having a teaching session, having local officials visit, and public relations. This year's number was higher than the 2007 total of 1,358 and the 2,000 point total tallied in 2006.

A yearly feature of CCARC's Field Day

exercise is the Saturday evening gathering of club members and families. The carry-in was again termed a great success.



Planning has not yet begun for 2009 as CCARC President, Chuck, N9PMW, has indicated that he would like someone else to take on the Field Day Chairman's duties. Any member who would like to volunteer should contact Chuck.

“Famous amateur radio expert says there are two tools a ham must have in his workshop”

Ham radio expert shares expertise, suggestions

Famous amateur radio expert Ray Dio III, has offered his personal insight into some of the basics for amateur radio operators to enhance their enjoyment of the hobby.

First, he says, there are two tools a ham must have in his workshop: *WD40*, and duct tape. If something doesn't move, but it should, use the *WD 40*. If it moves, but shouldn't, use the duct tape.

Ray Dio also says there are some other indispensable items. Hams need a sharp utility knife to open boxes of new radio gear. Hams also need some strapping tape and address labels for sending the equipment back for repair.

Ray Dio III's comments were quoted in a recent issue of *World Radio*.

Notes from all around

Important birthdays:

The Peoria (Illinois) Superfest hamfest turned 50 this year.

Collins Radio (now Rockwell Collins) has celebrated its 75th year.

Hollingsworth retires

After announcing he would retire in 2007, then changing his mind, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Amateur Radio rules enforcer for the FCC, has now retired to private life.

Tom Kneitel

WX4XAA, also known previously as K2AES, passed away recently at his Florida home. Kneitel was editor emeritus of *Popular Communications* and had written for many publications including *Popular Electronics* magazines that covered the whole gambit of hobby radio. He created a "call sign" program to register short wave listeners.

Randy Lanning, W9CFI, celebrates 100 years

When Randy, W9CFI, was born, there were 46 states in the United States, William Howard Taft was just elected President, and the Wright Brothers had just announced their latest aircraft, Wright Flyer 3. An open house was held recently in Randy's honor to commemorate his 100th birthday.

Dozens of former colleagues, many friends, and fellow amateurs greeted Randy at the birthday reception. Randy is widely known after having served in county elected offices as Clerk, Treasurer and County Commissioner, as well as a Board of Education member.

Randy says he earned his first amateur license while he was in high school nearly 85 years ago. Up until recently, he remained active on HF and VHF.

Randy may be reached at Millers Merry Manor in Logansport.



Randy, W9CFI, greets many well-wishers during his 100th birthday reception held recently in Logansport.

Ultra light portable radio could revive AM DXing

Can the fun of AM DXing many of us knew as kids be rekindled? The answer may be yes, and it can happen with a radio that will fit in your hand.

The Sony SRF 59 has surprised many with its outstanding sensitivity and high selectivity. Its performance rivals or beats that of radios costing over \$100. Yet it can be purchased, including delivery, for less than \$20.

Sony's proprietary CXA1129N integrated circuit is the key to the radio's phenomenal operation. This model has an analog dial, but for a bit more money, digital readout is available. But an analog dial brings back the old days and counting the channels to figure out what frequency you were on!



“The CXA1129N integrated circuit is the key to the radio’s phenomenal operation”

National Hurricane Center ARC at the forefront

The National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida is always on alert. When hurricanes are found, amateur radio plays a significant part in reporting weather conditions and relaying information.

WX4NHC, the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Club station, is at the forefront. Established as a club station in 1980, WX4NHC resides on the Miami campus of Florida International University.



During a hurricane that threatens the United States, WX4NHC operators are active collecting “surface reports” from other hams. Surface reports are real-time reports of

weather conditions that might not be as

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Benton Co. wind farm generates megawatts

When the final phase of the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm project is completed, there will be nearly a thousand wind turbines generating electricity in Benton Co. Currently, there are already several hundred either being constructed or already in operation, with most sitting in fields surrounded by corn stalks.

The wind farm extends for many miles around the town of Fowler and can be seen from miles away. Each tower has to be hauled in by rail and on multiple trucks a piece at a time. Large construction cranes had to be assembled on site to hoist each part into place. Each structure really does “tower” above the landscape with the turbine hub at 262 feet high. The diameter of the props when installed range from 269 feet to 314 feet, larger than a football field.

Not all you see is in the air

Each concrete pad contains over 100,000 cubic feet of concrete plus reinforcing steel and anchor bolts. So far, there are 23 miles of above ground lines installed to reach substations that will transfer power to electrical grids. 95 miles of



The diameter of a single wind turbine prop can equal the size of a football field. The speed at the prop tips can reach 120 MPH.

underground wire connects each tower to the collector system.

Crunching the numbers

The present phase will generate 400 Megawatts of power with nearly 600 MW of power expected to be produced as future phases are completed.

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“The hub of each wind tower sits 262 feet above the ground.”

WX4NHC (continued)

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accurately obtained by other means.

Jerry Jarrell, the director of the National Hurricane Center, has said: "Despite satellites, hurricane hunter aircraft and radar, there are large areas where surface weather reports are not available. Often amateur radio is the only link to remote storm locations." Hurricane Forecasters use this information to supplement data obtained from other

sources.

When a hurricane develops, the Hurricane Watch Net activates on 14.325 MHz, the main frequency, along with secondary frequencies on 80 and 40 meters, and VHF covering the south Florida area. EchoLink / IRLP is also used.

The National Hurricane Amateur Radio Club has over 30 volunteer members. The club website may be found at www.wx4nhc.org.

Benton Co. wind turbines

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Towers cost up to \$4 million each to build. Consider that there will be nearly a thousand towers and you add up the total investment. Farmers are receiving around \$9,000 per year per tower on their land. Each tower requires about a quarter acre of land, but the rest of the land can be farmed as normal.

How do you get to the top of a wind turbine? According to the company information, you climb! Or if you're too tired or lazy, there is a "material hoist."

A large construction crane is assembled on site to be used to place each part of the wind turbine in place. Note the conventional – size yellow crane to the left. The crane has to be able to lift pieces nearly 300 feet into the air. The crane is slowly "walked" from one concrete pad to the next.



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The size of the Benton Co. wind turbines is brought into perspective by noticing the trucks just to the left of the vertical structure just placed on its concrete pad. A prop is on the ground.

“How do you get to the top of a wind turbine? The contractor says, ‘climb!’ ”



Tom, WB9WSL, gives one more call in an attempt to reach a station in the Pacific on 40 meters early Sunday morning during the CCARC's field day exercise.



**Newsletter of the Cass
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**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!**

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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 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.