



The Feedline

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



Ground connection a must

While it may be true in the radio world that you can never have enough grounding for your equipment, The National Electrical Code might not agree with the philosophy of installing a separate ground rod at your home for your radio equipment.

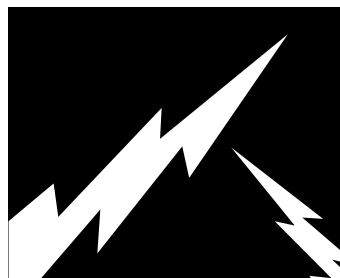
According to the National Electric Code, the telephone service, cable TV, satellite, and other antenna grounds must be connected to the same ground point of the incoming electrical service to provide proper protection. Many times this is not done correctly.

Power surges can enter the house through the electrical, cable TV (or satellite dish cable), or telephone services. According to the National Electrical Code, when designing and building a new ham shack, you should locate the cable TV service and telephone service entrance into the house near the electrical service entrance. This will help in two ways:

It is very important that each of these systems be grounded to the same physical ground point as the electrical service. In all cases, the cable TV and telephone grounds must be

physically connected to the ground of the electrical system. A ground wire must be run from the telephone and the exterior cable TV boxes to the electric service ground point. But cables this close together may add to ham RFI.

(e-ham.net)



Proper grounds help protect against electrical surges.

Meeting sites varied since '53

The CCARC has passed its 50th anniversary. One of the many interesting factoids about the club's history is the varied meeting locations since 1953.

The City Court Room in the Logansport City Building is believed to be the

first meeting site.

Other meeting places included the City Lockup, Legion Club in 1956 (next to Memorial Home), Smit Brewery on 5th St., Loner Lumber Co., Cemetery Sextant's Office, and the Water St. Sub Station, around

1973-74.

Club members also met at the YMCA, Cass Co. Highway Garage, Harvey's Restaurant in 1989, the Public Library, and the current meeting place, Cass Co. EMA, 1991 to now.

Were there more?

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Special points of interest:

- Records of the club's activities in the early years are sketchy. Do you have a memory to share?
- Meeting days have varied over the years. After different week-nights and Sundays, the club settled on Saturdays 15 years ago.

Universal Licensing gets new look

The FCC has unveiled a new look to its Universal Licensing System (ULS).

The ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications



in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern

Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322) (via ARRL)

CCARC Remailer available to members

The Remailer is one of the features offered through the Cass County Amateur Radio Club, but many members don't take advantage of it.

The remailer provides information to anyone who has signed up to be part of the group, posted by other members. Information about the CCARC, or any other topic of interest, can be readily sent to listees by just

The Remailer is used to easily provide information to members that have signed on. Spam has been effectively limited.

sending to ccarc@culcom.net.

Currently the Remailer is handled through Culcom.net and the system operator is Rich Sytsma, N9GPY, in Culver.

Rich, with the Mailman software

he uses, effectively limits spam so excess messages are not a problem. For more information or to sign up, go to: www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc.

Historical radio society plans meet

Do you have an interest in antique radios? Do you remember when they weren't antiques?! The Johanning Civic Center in Kokomo this spring could be the place for you.

The Indiana Historical Radio Society has planned this site for its 32nd Annual Vintage Radio Meet, Friday evening, May, 2nd and Saturday the

3rd.

The Society is comprised of around 250 members from Indiana and surrounding states with a common interest in preserving old radio equipment. The group is most visible through its antique radio museum, located in Legonier, IN.

The Kokomo Meet agenda includes

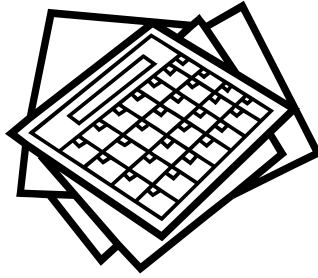


such items as a demo on "aligning AM radios," swap meet, silent auction, and listening to a variety of antique radios.

For more info, check the web site: <http://home.att.net/~indianahistoricalradio/index03.htm>

Taking a leap through time

The concept of a leap day is as old as the calendar itself. The ancient Roman calendar, based upon the motions of the Moon, threw in leap days, weeks, and months to make things balance. This system was replaced in 46 BC when Julius Caesar instituted a new calendar.



The difference between the calendar year and true year is a full day every 3,300 years.

Most years in the Julian calendar consist of 365 days, with a leap day added every fourth year. Yet the year is actually about 11 minutes shorter than 365.25 days, so the

Julian calendar drifted out of phase with the seasons. So in 1582, Pope

Gregory XIII instituted a slight update. Leap days are still added in years divisible by four, with the exception of "century years" like 1900. But century years that are divisible by 400, like 2000, are leap years.

With this change, the difference between the calendar year and the true year adds up to one full day every 3,300 years.

(From *StarDate*)

How cold is it? Check NOAA's chart.

How cold does it feel? The National Weather Service (NWS) originally developed a formula to tell us just that by computing the effects of wind on human skin along with temperature. Antarctic explorers in 1945 had provided the science used by NWS in the original project.

In the fall of 2000, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) formed a group consisting of several Federal agencies, MSC, the academic community (Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI), University of Delaware and University of Missouri), and the International Society of Biometeorology to evaluate and improve the wind chill formula. The old formula had been used since 1973.

The current formula uses advances in science, technology, and computer modeling to provide a more accurate, understandable, and useful formula for calculating the dangers

from winter winds and freezing temperatures.

"The new wind chill index provides us with specific warning of time-to-frostbite at given levels of wind chill," said Retired General Jack Kelly, di-

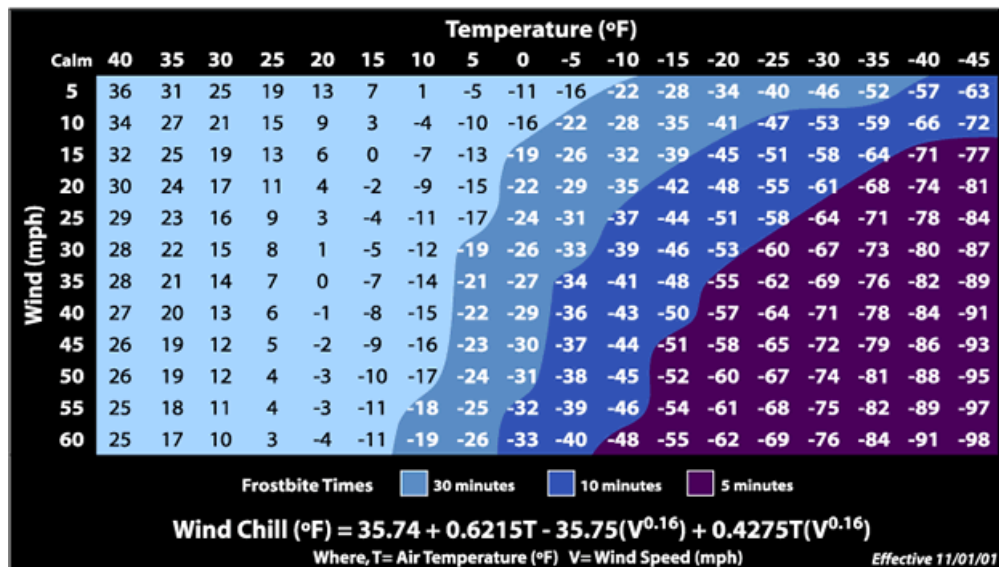
rector of NWS.

Conclusion? Bundle up when doing winter antenna work!

Frostbite can occur within minutes of exposure at low wind chills.



Wind Chill Chart



Cass Co. Amateur Radio Club

The mailing address is:
CCARC, P O Box 1092,
Logansport, IN 46947.

Phone: 574 753 3635,
574 753 2102.
Email: ccarcinc@culcom.net

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

- At the annual election of officers at the December club meeting, it was decided by the members present to retain the current cast of characters for another year!
- The club station, W9VMW, was originally licensed in 1954, the year following the club's initial organization.
- These are believed to be the charter members of the CCARC, minus one.

Eugene Buntain, W9MBG
Harry Burkhart, K9HFC
Walt Downham, W9RDF
John Frye, W9WGV
Bob Gharis, W9ZYR

Randy Lanning, W9CFI
Chuck Mays, W9HST
Paul Mays, no call sign
Bob Minnick, K9AWH
Nelson Shepherd, W9ILU
Herman Smit, W9WT. Does anyone recall the name and callsign of the remaining charter member?

- Want some practice copying CW? W1AW operates a regular schedule of broadcasts. Although the operating schedule runs mornings and evenings on many frequencies and speeds, listeners here might have success at 7:00 PM, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on 3.5815 or 7.0475. These are slow speed transmissions.

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 third 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

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Emergency Coordinator:

Todd Ervin, N9PVQ

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Education & History:

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Travel Coordinator:

Desti Nation