

The Feedline



Winter, 2009

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- Phil Snyder, W9LVY, takes the reins of the CCARC
- The position of CCARC Field Day Chairman is open
- Have an idea for a club meeting activity or tour? Share your idea with an officer.

2009 Officers selected, new committee formed

As one of his last official acts, outgoing CCARC President, Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW, established a “Ways and Means” Committee to explore ways for the club to raise funds to help pay for new projects.

Bob Minnick, K9AWH, was appointed head of the committee and directed to choose its members. Bob selected Phil Snyder, W9LVY, Marion Bell, KA9BYN, and Dave Rothermel, K9DVL as members. The committee will report on a regular basis to club members at meetings.

Officers were elected during the January meeting. They are President, Phil Snyder, W9LVY; Vice President, Dave Rothermel, K9DVL; Secretary, Tom Murray, KB9WSL, and Treas-

urer, Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ. Directors at Large chosen were Ed Norris, K9PSR; Bob Minnick, K9AWH; and Tom Denton, KB9VMW.



Have an idea for a club project, guest speaker, or a tour? Share it with a club officer.

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Will the Field Day tradition continue?

The Field Day Chairman for the CCARC, Chuck, N9PMW, has said that he will not continue in that position. Besides other obligations demanding his time, he said he felt it was time to allow someone else to oversee it. So the opportunity is here for a member to step into the role.

For many years, the CCARC has had a multi-band and multi-mode presence during Field Day weekend featuring its well-heard bob-tail curtain antenna on 40 meters.

A popular Field Day feature has always been the carry-in dinner on Saturday evening.

So, how did the ARRL get its name?

It was in 1914 when a Connecticut engineer and inventor named Hiram Percy Maxim wanted to obtain a new “Audion” radio vacuum tube. Maxim, a member of the Radio Club of Hartford, heard that a nearby operator in Springfield had one for sale.

But Maxim was unable to raise Springfield. He solved the problem by calling Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and requesting his message be relayed.

Maxim had long felt the need for a local radio club in Hartford. The “relay idea” represented an ideal basis for the needed

national organization. Maxim thought of the name for his national organization: American Radio Relay League.

The future of Amateur Radio was in limbo after having been silenced during World War I. The war had just ended when Congress considered legislation to prevent Amateur Radio from returning to the bands.

At the pleadings of the ARRL’s Maxim, the bill that would have ended Amateur Radio was defeated and the wartime ban was lifted in 1919.

The only magazine to focus on the human side of amateur radio has ceased print.

World Radio ceases its print publication

After a run of 37 years, World Radio, the only ham magazine to focus on the human side of the hobby, has been purchased by CQ Publications and will stop its print edition.

World Radio will have a presence on the Web as an internet publication, and will be available free.

With the purchase agreement, CQ Publications will transfer current World

Radio subscribers to CQ or one of its other magazines.

Long time editor, Armond Noble, said that being in his 70s meant it was time to slow down. He recalled recently that he started the magazine because other publications at the time saw no need to publish human interest articles.

Most of the columnists and editor will continue with the online edition.

Milestone passed, but most of you didn’t know it

November 22, 1968. That was the date in which many hams, through no fault of their own, had privileges taken away that they had previously earned.

“Incentive Licensing” pushed by the ARRL was meant to grant spectrum-based privileges to new licensees, but thousands of Advanced and General class operators lost frequencies they had been allowed to operate, and viewed this as outrageously unfair.

As John Johnston, W3BE, noted recently in World Radio, “An Extra Class ham with no telegraphy skills can operate CW in the lower 25 KHz, but one who previously earned privileges at 13 WPM cannot.”

After 40 years, most hams affected by this either upgraded, or become silent keys, but band planning is still a controversial issue.

“Russian woodpecker” remembered, not fondly

From July, 1976 to December 1989, it was the greatest cause of radio interference and the source of thousands of complaints from commercial and amateur radio operators around the world.

The giant antenna system, that radiated as much as 10 megawatts, was called Duga-3, Russia’s over-the-horizon-radar system. It was named the Russian “woodpecker” because of its rapid tapping sound.

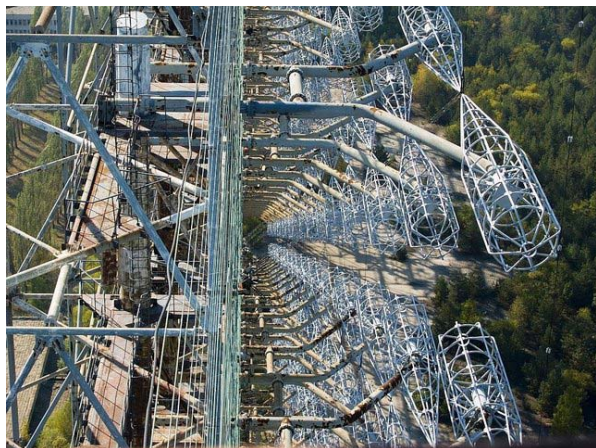
The system, located at Prypiat near Chernobyl, disrupted legitimate short-wave, utility, and amateur radio services



around the world with its random broadband transmissions from multiple transmitters. It was even reported that some landline services were adversely affected because of the high RF.

The widespread interference helped promote the sales of “woodpecker” filters as Ham operators tried to alleviate the QRM.

The giant steel antenna system, sometimes referred to as the steel yard, could be seen from miles away over the surrounding flat terrain. The site has been abandoned since its shutdown.



The now silent “Duga-3” system caused QRM to legitimate signals worldwide.

Do digital converter boxes mean TVI problems?

With the imminent implementation of digital TV, viewers using over-the-air antennas will need converter boxes, if they don’t have a digital ready TV. But does this pose a new TVI problem for hams operating close by?

Gordon West, WB6NOA, reported in a recent issue of CQ Magazine that it is believed that many of the new converter boxes can overload from a VHF or UHF signal near the box or TV antenna. He said the TV picture would

either freeze or go black. So a neighbor reporting that his picture goes black when you transmit on two meters is most likely caused by an overload.

All hams should be extremely cautious when helping anyone with the DTV conversion. Advise, but DON’T do any actual work on their equipment. Anything that happens from that point forward could be assumed to be caused by something you did.





**Newsletter of the Cass
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**WE'RE ON
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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: Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW

Emergency Coordinator: Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW

The FEEDLINE Editor & Publisher: Ed Norris, K9PSR

Trustee of Repeaters: Phil Snider, W9LVY

Education & History: Anna Hendrickson, KC9IDO

Knows Where the Stamp Goes Specialist: Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

Color Copy Imir: Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW

Web Site Specialist: Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

Club Radio Engineer: Mr. RF Burns

Club Chronologist: Justin Time

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.