

The Feedline



Winter, 2010

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- CCARC members vote to change the club's constitution
- The change sets the quorum needed to conduct business at seven members
- This is the first change to the present Constitution since its adoption in 1993

CCARC votes quorum change at Dec. meeting

The Cass County Amateur Radio Club has formally changed its constitution to lower the quorum necessary to conduct club business. This action came at the December meeting.



At the previous meeting in November, members voted to recommend this change, and the CCARC Board of Directors affirmed the action.

The decision to change the quorum from ten to seven members was taken after careful deliberation by members at the past several meetings, noting that attendance has been low enough to prevent action by the club on

matters such as paying bills, and purchasing equipment for repeater maintenance.

While efforts will continue to involve more members at club meetings, the quorum change will allow business to be conducted when there is a low turnout.

This represents the first change to the club's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws since the latest version was adopted in August, 1993, and is the second constitution adopted by the club since its inception.

Inside this issue:

- New Tech exam questions approved **2**
- RFID tags are everywhere **2**
- The world is coming to an end! **3**
- First EME contact 64 years ago **3**
- Ham license class will soon be gone **3**
- Dots and Dashes **4**

CCARC votes to keep '09 officers for 2010

In a meeting focusing on the club's constitution, the annual election of officers was handled quickly.

The group voted to keep the current slate of officers for 2010. The officers are listed on the last page of this publication.

Besides the elected offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, the CCARC also has three Directors at Large. These seven positions comprise the CCARC's executive board.

Other positions are appointed by the President.

New Technician exam questions approved

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes - Technician, General and Amateur Extra - is reviewed every four years. This new Technician class pool becomes effective on July 1, 2010.

ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, says the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are

kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as to address information relevant to that particular license class.

The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. Questions may contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. This question pool will remain in use until June 30, 2014. The General class question pool will be redone in 2011 and the Amateur Extra question pool will be revised in 2012.

(info from ARRL)

A well-equipped hacker can scan and clone RFID chips from a distance.

RFID tags are everywhere. But are you safe?

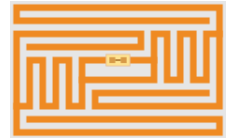
Radio Frequency Identification or RFID chips surround us by the millions. Most of the time, items we may buy or items we use utilize RFID chips to communicate information to nearby monitors. Credit cards and ID badges frequently have imbedded RFID tags.

Up until now, RFID tags have been used mainly for inventory monitoring. Chips placed inside containers can pass by monitoring devices that can immediately read the information stored on the tag. It's a more efficient way to manage container contents and control inventory. Products can be tracked from the manufacturer, through all stages up to reaching the final consumer.

But questions have arisen about personal security with RFID tags being inserted into passports. These tags carry much more information than just inventory. The passport holder's personal identifying information may be contained in the chip. Not only can such information be read by governmental

scanners, someone close by with the right equipment could also read the data, raising privacy concerns.

Although there are several types of RFID tags, the most common is "passive"



requiring no internal power. It is energized by an external power source.

Normally, scanners will activate and read RFID tags when the distance away is just a few inches. But a hacker driving around San Francisco airport recently showed that with a laptop, some software, and an external antenna, passport RFID chips could be read and cloned. And the victims had no clue it had happened. Fortunately, the hacker was a "good guy" only wanting to show the security risks.

Government officials claim that the data will be encrypted, but it would be only a matter of time for hackers to break the code.

The world is coming to an end, this time for sure!

The world will end in 1997. Viruses from the tail of Comet Hale-Bopp will filter to earth and kill us all. No, wait, that didn't happen.

The world will end January 1, 2000, when the new millennium hits. No, that's not right. OK, this one must be right. The world will end in April, 2002. That's when several planets align in close proximity. (Darn, this doomsday business is tough!)

Ah, wait, now we're sure. The world will end December 21, 2012, when the last Mayan calendar comes to an end

and the world will be destroyed.

The Mayan were clever and conducted detailed observations of the sky, which helped them construct three calendars. The longest calendar was 5,000 years, which ends in 2012.

But there is no scientific evidence that the world will end, just that the calendar will reset itself, just like we start a new calendar every year after December 31st.

(Info from StarDate, McDonald Observatory, University of Texas)



First Earth-Moon-Earth contact 64 years ago

Men felt like they had "touched" a celestial body for the first time when in 1946, a team from Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, bounced a signal off the moon's surface. Sending a signal to the moon and back for the first time proved that a signal could pass through the Earth's atmosphere and that space communications could be possible.

The feat was accomplished using a



modified radar set running 3,000 watts on 111.5 MHz feeding a "bedspring" dipole array. The signal was sent out in quarter second pulses, and took 2.56 seconds to make the round trip.

Now sixty years later, hams can routinely bounce signals from the moon's surface, often with low power and home brew antennas.

(from WorldRadio)

Men felt like they had touched a celestial body for the first time.

Amateur license soon gone, but you won't notice

The last time an Amateur Radio license class disappeared was in the 1970s when the Conditional Class went away. Soon, the Technician Plus license will suffer the same fate.

The Technician license came about in 1951 and became for many a gateway between Novice and General. It required passing a 5 WPM code test. With the advent of the no-code license in 1990, the FCC just dropped the code requirement from the Tech license

requirements. But this left two types of Techs, those who passed a code test (and had Novice privileges), and those who hadn't, but FCC database wasn't immediately changed to reflect the difference. The Tech Plus license then emerged.

Then, license classes changed once more, and renewing Tech Pluses became Techs again, one of three license classes. So who will be the last Tech Plus?

(From N2EY via eham.net)



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

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Gettin' the printin' done: Ed Norris, K9PSR

Web Site Specialist: Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

Club Radio Engineer: Mr. RF Burns, ret.

Club Strongman: Muscles Marinara

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.**