



The Feedline



Winter 2012

The Feedline

Special points of interest:

- The number of US Amateur radio operators is increasing steadily.
- Japan is the country with the greatest number of hams.
- There are over three million amateurs in the world.

700,000 hams populate the United States

Data gathered by the ARRL shows the number of amateur radio operators in the United States has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 40 years to just over 700,000.

Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VEC Manager, says around 150 licensing examination sessions are held each week contributing to the growth of the three license classes every year.

The compiled data illustrates the story, decade by decade, over a 40 year span. Here are the totals.

- December 1971 - 285,000
- December 1981 - 433,000

- December 1991 - 494,000
- December 2001 - 683,000
- December 2011 - 700,221

The single country with the most hams is Japan, with over 1.2 million. There are more than three million amateur radio operators worldwide, according to Wikipedia.

There are three classes of amateur radio license, Technician, General and Amateur Extra. Three licenses, Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced were eliminated in 2000, but can still be renewed by existing holders.

(some info via WorldRadio Online)

Inside this issue:

- Sixty meters: more modes, power **2**
- RSGB fights scandal **2**
- Is it déjà vu? Heathkit to return **3**
- Inventor of RFID chip dies **3**
- Remembering the old Radio Shack **3**
- Dots and Dashes **4**

CCARC officers chosen for 2012

At its December meeting's election of officers, members present voted to retain the current slate for 2012.

Phil Snider, W9LVY, remains President; Dave Rothermel, K9DVL, Vice President; Tom Murray, KB9WSL, Secretary and Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ, club Treasurer.

The Directors of Large were also retained. They are Ed Norris, K9PSR;

Bob Minnick, K9AWH and Tom Denton, KB9VMW.

Other positions are appointed by the president and can be found on the back page of the Feedline.

The year 2013 will mark the 60th anniversary of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club. Should the club commemorate this milestone with a special activity?

BBC longwave station to cease VLF broadcasts

The BBC has operated a longwave service with 500 KW on 198 KHz since the 1920s, but that will come to an end.

The historic transmitter will be taken out of service once the last of its transmission tubes dies. The tubes are no longer being manufactured and budget cuts have ruled out replacing the transmitter with a new one.

Published reports say that the station's engineers have stockpiled what remaining tubes they could find, about ten of

them. But once the last tube is gone, so too will be the signal.

The station mainly broadcasts programming from BBC Radio 4, a talk service also heard across the UK on FM stations. But the 198 KHz signal reaches a small, but loyal, audience that has no FM service. The longwave station also carries some unique programming, not carried on FM.

(From DX News)

Sixty meters: new modes, higher power permitted

Users of the 60-meter amateur (5MHz) band are getting some new modes to use. Besides USB, likely beginning in January, hams will also be allowed CW and the digital modes PSK31 and Pactor-III. The allowable power will be doubled to 100 watts PEP.



must set VFOs to 1.5 kHz below the center frequency whereas CW ops would sent exactly to the center frequency.

The new rules will go into effect 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.

In addition, the current channel assignment centered on 5368 kHz will be replaced by one centered on 5358.5 kHz. This means digital and voice users

There are five specific frequencies open to US Amateurs on a secondary basis.

(via CQ Newsroom)

RSGB wants to stay afloat following scandal

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is hoping to overcome the financial scandal it faces following the alleged theft of thousand of pounds from the group by a former general manager.



business and financial expertise to deal with the problem.

RSGB says these directors will serve for fifteen months and will be able to take any action necessary to make RSGB financially sound. The interim board will also recommend to members how the group should be governed in the future.

(via RSGB website)

“Besides USB, hams will also be allowed CW and PSK31.”

Is it Déjà vu all over again? Heathkit returns

One of the storied electronic kit manufacturers, once providing amateur radio equipment in many shacks, has announced that it will return, but not with the intent to build amateur radio items.

Ernie Wake, Heathkit director of Sales and Marketing, says following the overwhelming response from hams, the new company hopes to have one or two amateur oriented kits soon, but any offerings must be high quality.

Headquartered in St. Joseph, Michigan, later moving into a plant in Benton Harbor, the first kit was an oscilloscope

offered in 1947.

Pre-dating common use of integrated circuits and printed circuit boards, building a Heathkit required the ability to solder electrical connections and to follow detailed wiring instructions, identify tube pin numbers and read resistor color codes.

The Heathkit company ceased in 1992.



The DX-100 was the transmitter of choice in many hamshacks in the late 1950s to the 1960s. Heathkit also made hi-fi's and color TV kits.

(from WorldRadio Online)

Inventor of the RFID chip dies

Charlie Walton, inventor of the radio frequency identification chip, called RFID, has passed away at the age of 89.

RFID chips were passive devices that were placed in items ranging from personal ID badges to credit cards, to merchandise stored in warehouses. They allowed nearby scanners to read the information stored on the chips.

Although first developed in the 1970's,

it wasn't until production costs of the chips was reduced to pennies that the market for the chips grew to extraordinary heights. RFID chips are expected to generate revenues in the billions of dollars this year.

Walton, who lived in Los Gatos, California, died November 6.

(via VentureBeat)

“RFID chips are placed in items so scanners can read each chip's stored data.”

Remembering the original Radio Shack

Do you remember Radio Shack? Not the one we see today, but the one from the sixties and seventies?

The one that offered a “65 -in-1 Electronics Kit” for only \$17.95? Or had the “free battery club?”



Then there is a web site for you to check to reminisce. Go to www.radioshackcatalogs.com

You'll find examples of the items that

Radio Shack used to give away, like the beach balls and mini screwdrivers.

The catalogs might be of greatest interest. Sorted by years, one can see some of the earliest portable

transistor radios or the “latest” in tape recorders. And there are brand names that are only part of history now, like Bogan, Uher, and Scott.



Newsletter of the
Cass County Amateur Radio Club

Cass County
Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 1092
Logansport, IN 46947

Phone: 574.722.2102

E-mail:
ccarcinc@culcom.net



www.w9vmw.org

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 Specialist: Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ

Web Site Specialist: Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB

Club Radio Engineer: Mr. R. F. Burns

Club pugilist: Bob N. Weave

Dots and Dashes

Access the CCARC website
with your smart phone!



The Cass County Amateur
Radio Club is an Indiana
Not For Profit Corporation
in continuous existence
since 1953.

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.