

W9JOZ

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October 2011

President's Corner

September is just about done for another year. This summer went by so fast. Janet said it was because there were so many things to do. With Special Events, Foxhunts, Picnic, Field Day, and meetings, I can see why we were all busy. I hope everyone enjoyed all of the activities this year.

October and November will wrap up the Foxhunts for the season and then Santa comes, so get your list to him early.

October's meeting we are having an AUCTION, so bring a lot of money and stuff when you attend it. If anyone has anything they want to do for the rest of the year or even next year, please bring it up at a meeting.

73 Tony W9AL

Meeting October 20th

Time is 7:00 p.m.

Auction time! Discussions on various topics.



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.

Christmas Dinner

We are confirmed for Sunday December 4th at 4:30 pm for the party (Buffet).

Everybody has to pay for themselves that evening at the Wooden Nickel.

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From The Vice President's computer

Well, as we all know by now we lost a great friend Hugh Vales. It was a shock when I read the e-mail from Tony. I totally forgot about last month's rambling and this month will not be an easy one.

On to something radio related, our fox hunting is almost over for this year and I hope next year we can get more members involved and maybe even a few clubs from around the area. I am trying to get our local fire department to participate in one. Since they had to search for a lost person in the past, the interest is there. The club Christmas dinner is also fast approaching so don't forget.

On another thought our club elections are also fast approaching so put on your thinking caps and nominate someone who you think will do a good job.

The Wednesday night net participation has been down for a while, all it takes is a few minutes of your time to check in.

Well, I have said all that I can for this month, if anyone else out there has any ideas write them down and submit them to John, W3ML and he will put them in the newsletter.

Till next month
Randy Kc9isj

More From Tony, W9AL

Coming up
20th SCARC Meeting
23rd Foxhunt

Birthdays
KB9KE Joe Malec OCT 3
K9CIV Rich Lochner OCT 5
KC9ISJ Randy Stafford OCT 18

HAM FUNNY

Did you hear about the two radio antennas that got married?
The wedding was terrible, but the reception was excellent!

Hi, folks-- This month's column was written by Craig Miller, W8CR. I worked Craig about a month ago, and when he mentioned that he'd written articles for his club's newsletter, I asked if he'd like to provide a column occasionally. I hope you enjoy this column as much as I did. 73! Dan KB6NU

Bitten by the Bug By Craig Miller, W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO. 40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too. Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later.").

I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam – I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAAHHHHHH DAAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAAHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAAHHHHHH." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my callsign let alone his – this isn't gonna be fun.

I have two options: 1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out. 2. Answer him and tough it out. I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now – lotsa questions for him.

As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out. I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise.

Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent. After all, he is a New Yorker.

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===== Craig Miller, W8CR, began his ham career in 1974 as WN8TLC. He lives in Ostrander, Ohio. He enjoys HF CW ragchewing with a little bit of DXing and contesting tossed in. He is an active officer in the Delaware County (Ohio) ARES and a member of the DELARA (www.k8es.org) radio club. ###

Editor Note: The grammar used (or misused) in this article is the responsibility of the author. I will not change anyone article even though it really needs it.

Press Release

Three Hams Purchase HRD Suite Source and rights

Tampa FL, St. Paul MN, Pittsburgh PA - September 19, 2011

Mike Carper (WA9PIE), Randy Gawtry (K0CBH) and Rick Ruhl (W4PC), have acquired the source and rights to the Ham Radio Deluxe suite of software. The trio plans to continue the improving the best ham radio package available.

“Simon has done a fantastic job with this software. His vision for integrating rig control, rotor control, logging, digital modes, and satellite operations into a single integrated feature-rich software suite has captivated the ham radio community. We’d like to see this product continue in a way that respects the hard work put into this package by Simon and others,” said Mike Carper, WA9PIE. “Maintaining that vision, while delivering timely fixes and feature enhancements in the future, will be the number one priority.”

“After many years writing the HRD software it’s necessary to take a break and hand the whole project over to another team,” said Simon Brown, HB9DRV. “The support effort required has become more than I can realistically manage – with many thousands of users, new radios and other hardware appearing all the time and unexpected changes to the infrastructure used by HRD such as QRZ.com I no longer have any time at all for other projects. As some of you will know I have formed a company SDR-RADIO.com GmbH and am now working in the Software Defined Radio arena with RFspace. This is the technology of the future; a future which I want a part of. In 2012 I plan to return to England and get back on the air, something I haven’t done much during the last 25 years.”

The trio is in the process of building a development environment for HRD and plans to begin by addressing some of the bugs in the existing “To Do List” for an upcoming 5.1 release. The 5.1 release will be made available at no charge to registered users when completed.

All three have been working with computer logging and digital mode applications since the 80's. Rick Ruhl, W4PC and Randy Gawtry K0CBH, own companies that have been involved with TNC and Digital Mode software, Timewave (the AEA TNC Line) and W4PC Software (PakRatt, PkTerm and Radio Operations Center). Mike Carper, WA9PIE, is an experienced Fortune 500 technology executive, educator, and featured speaker in the areas of wireless technologies and IT Service Management.

WA9PIE is on the web at <http://www.wa9pie.net/hamradio>

Timewave Technology is on the web at <http://www.timewave.com>

W4PC Software is on the web at <http://www.w4pcsoftware.com>

It won't be long before we will have to pay for updates on Ham Radio Deluxe. What a shame.

This month is the auction. What are you bringing? If you have any BIG MONEY items email and I will send out a list for all members to expect some good items for sale. Just email w9joz@w9joz.org

I am going to try to bring two antennas, well at least one.

Our prayers and get well wishes go out to Ken Whiles W9MTE who is suffering from blood clots in his lungs.

On the DX Front:

There are still some days left to work T32C on Christmas Island, 3D2R on Rotuma Island and YJ0VK and other stations are on the air from Vanuatu Island.

They have been on every band and should not be too hard to work and get a rare country for your DXCC count.



"This is the last time you're coming home late from your ham radio club meeting"!



You will be missed old friend.
Until next month,

73

John, W3ML