

W9JOZ

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April 2009

The President's Corner

We are one more month closer to Field Day. We are going to be 3A – Indiana this year. Janet and I had a good trip to North Carolina. We visited our new grandson and our 15 month old grand daughter not to mention our son and his wife. 14 hour drive both ways, now that is fun. We have the North Judson Library for classes so spread the word around anyone looking to be a new Ham should attend our Technician class. Let Gary know if anyone is interested. Weather still isn't perfect for antenna work BUT we do get a good day every once in a while. Hang in there though it will get nice soon and then we can all get our work done. I want to thank Joe KB9KE for our membership cards and Terry W9TRG for letting us laminate them. Look for the FOX.....

CU at the meeting

73

Tony W9AL

April Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Starke County Public Library in Knox. Agenda: field day, various other topics.



When was the last time you checked your Driver's License?

I ask because last week, I was buying my wife her fishing license and she said my license expires this year. Then she asked me did yours expire?

Well, sure enough when I pulled out the wallet and looked it had expired in January.

Driving illegally again I drove over to the license branch on Highway 30, since we were in Plymouth and went in to get it renewed.

The woman said I was lucky as a new rule went in effect this year that if your license is 6 months past expiration you must take the tests over again.

So, maybe you should check your license now. It is expired too?
73 John, W3ML

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From Tony W9AL

"Common Denominator: The Phonetic Alphabet"

One indicator of radio operator professionalism is how they talk on the radio. We might have the best of equipment, but more importantly, it's the language we select or use when trying to spell words that makes our transmissions more professional.

The phonetic alphabet is now a standard across the United States. Used by first responders and the military, the phonetic alphabet can also be used by radio operators of any communications service, including CB, or MURS, or GMRS.

Amateur radio operators need to "seize the day" and begin providing any listener with an image of a specialist. Competency is compromised when we fail to use professional language. Every radio operator should want to strive to use the least number of words to transmit a message in the least amount of time.

When radio operators share a common language, mistakes are minimized if transmissions are quickly understood. Shorter transmissions and faster communications result if all radio operators use the phonetic alphabet.

See page 5 for the phonetic alphabet chart

Adopted because it is already a standard, the phonetic alphabet reduces confusion during transmissions because each letter is assigned a unique descriptor. There is only one "bravo" in the phonetic alphabet, and it is easy to transmit over the air when everyone is using the same unique descriptors.

Believe it or not, there are still individuals and organizations across North America that either still don't know (or refuse to try using) the phonetic alphabet. The reason why some communicators still use phrases like "old school house" for OSH is because they haven't yet learned (or just won't use) the phonetic alphabet.

True, using Fried Green Tomatoes to identify as "FGT" may be funny, but it's not very professional and certainly not reflective a desire to be known as a "volunteer communications specialist."

Learning...and then USING...the phonetic alphabet probably is not going to result in our winning an award or anything. There is no "Award" to be given to the radio operator that uses phonetics the most. And there is no big media event just because someone is learning alpha, bravo and charlie for their local radio club or organization.

SIDEBAR ARTICLES

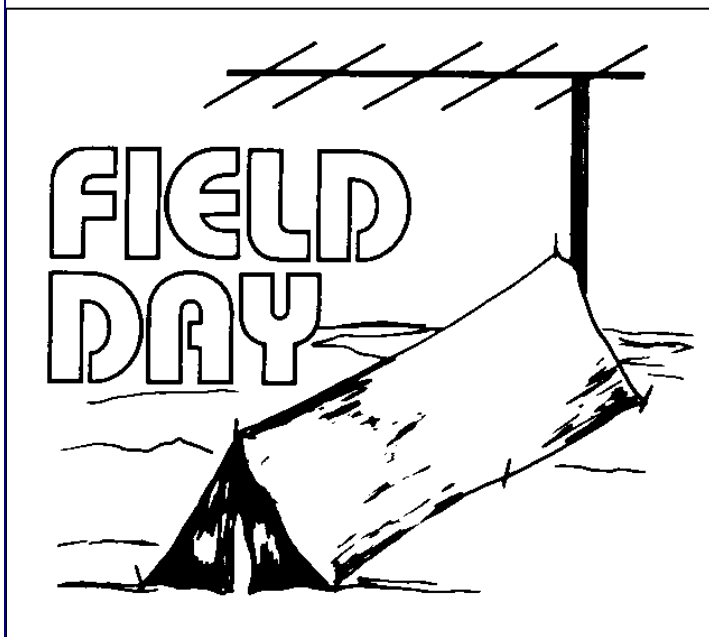
NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA HAMFEST

19 APR 2009

**GRANT COUNTY, MIAMI COUNTY,
BLACKFORD COUNTY, & KOKOMO
ARCS**

[HTTP://WWW.NCI-HAMFEST.COM](http://www.nci-hamfest.com)

**OUR OWN FOR SALE PAGE IS AT
[WWW.W9JOZ.ORG](http://www.w9joz.org)**



Randy, N9CPX is in charge this year.



Continued from page 2

It's easy to believe that "no one else is listening" to our radio nets or our repeater frequencies. Some of those "listening in" are studying to get their amateur radio license. The habits they "pick up" will be, at least partially, based on what they hear on the frequency. Some may be "listening in" because they are looking for something, maybe a repeater that is more "family friendly" or one that is "focused on preparedness" or maybe one that is busy and popular (but still clean language).

Regardless, the way you communicate on the radio is an indicator of how you will communicate during an emergency or a disaster. Old habits are hard to break, especially when they become more "normal" from daily use and when there is little or no time for practicing skills or for trying to improve existing proficiencies. There are lots of ways to begin using phonetics over the air. One sure method is to ask members to begin spelling their name and identify each callsign using the phonetic alphabet. Using phonetics to spell out the name of a business, or a meeting place, allows everyone to practice and still have a purpose at the same time.

N4KC's TOP FIVE GET-ON-THE-AIR-QUICKLY ANTENNAS

By Don Keith N4KC

Don has this great article on Eham.net, below is the links he listed with his article.

Information sources on the Internet for these basic antennas:

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL's wonderful web site:
www.cebik.com

Wikipedia (good article for beginner):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dipole_antenna

QST, June 1991 article on dipole:
<http://www.arl.org/tis/info/pdf/9106023.pdf>

Athens Amateur Radio club article by KV5R:
<http://athensarc.org/ladder.asp>

N4KC's eHam article on ladderline doublets:
<http://www.eham.net/articles/16690>

W8JI's excellent article on choosing the correct balun for the application:

<http://www.dxengineering.com/techarticlepopup.asp?ID={3E5220F7-2D0F-45B5-85F7-3B654F804C4F}>

Butternut article on verticals:
<http://www.bencher.com/pdfs/00361ZZV.pdf>

Another Butternut vertical article:
<http://www.bencher.com/pdfs/00815ZZV.pdf>

WB2WIK article on verticals:
<http://www.dxengineering.com/TechArticles.asp?ID=%7BA46FA56A-2E82-4AF9-9427-6592FC5CFCB7%7D>

WH2T on the loop antenna:
<http://www.bloomington.in.us/~wh2t/loop.html>

N4KC's horizontal loop article:
<http://www.donkeith.com/n4kc/skywire.htm>

Loop dimension calculator and article:
<http://ka1fsb.home.att.net/loopcalc.html>

Construction guide by G5RV himself:
<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=9756>

Short but informative G5RV article:
<http://diz.faiithweb.com/builders/g5rv.htm>

Very interesting G5RV article by VK1OD:
<http://vk1od.net/antenna/G5RV/optimising.htm>

“Being called an amateur can have a negative connotation, but the term's origin is the Latin word for "lover" and it has to do with motivation, not skill level. As they say, professionals built the Titanic; the Ark was built by amateurs,” said David Sumner, K1ZZ ARRL Chief Executive Officer

VE Testing April 7th Starke County Library

6:00 pm.

For upgrading, you will need a copy of your license.

Study and practice on QRZ.com practice tests.

GOOD LUCK!

NATO Phonetic Alphabet

A - Alpha	K - Kilo	U - Uniform	0 - Zero
B - Bravo	L - Lima	V - Victor	1 - Wun (One)
C - Charlie	M - Mike	W - Whiskey	2 - Two
D - Delta	N - November	X - X-ray	3 - Tree (Three)
E - Echo	O - Oscar	Y - Yankee	4 - Fower (Four)
F - Foxtrot	P - Papa	Z - Zulu	5 - Fife (Five)
G - Golf	Q - Quebec		6 - Six
H - Hotel	R - Romeo	. - decimal (point)	7 - Seven
I - India	S - Sierra	. - (full) stop	8 - Ait (Eight)
J - Juliet	T - Tango		9 - Niner (Nine)

That's all folks for this month.

Happy Hamming!

73
John, W3ML