

# W9JOZ

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 2009

## The President's Corner

Here it is in the middle of July. I have almost finished my President Corner for this month's newsletter and my computer crashed. So now I am rewriting this for you again. The first one consisted of how good the club is doing and I was wondering why we haven't got over 100 members. A quick check showed at least 200 hams in the area. But I have changed my mind and don't want to write about that. So this rambling of mine is going in the newsletter. I also have a couple of nice articles, too, I will submit, but my question is how come we haven't seen anything from you for the newsletter? Last month I asked a few of you to write your experiences on Field Day for Hugh. We had a great collection of letters from our members. So I know there are some talented members in the club. I don't want to complain BUT I need help, I am running out of IDEAS. (Ideas for the newsletter, Ideas on how to keep our meeting interesting, Ideas on keeping everyone motivated) Please someone come up with some other IDEAS soon.

The next meeting is August 20<sup>th</sup>

CU there

73

## Meeting August 20<sup>th</sup>

Time is 7:00 p.m.

You won't want to miss this meeting as the one and only wizard of knowledge, the dynamic ham:

### CARROT TOP

Will be back with part two of his presentation.



Besides the presentation, discussions will be on the technician class, a general/extra class, picnic in September, and the special event in October.

Club Picnic in September at N.J. Park

Be sure to come to the meeting with the name of the dish that you are bringing to the share for the picnic. That way we can publish a list of what is coming in the next newsletter so there will be no duplicates. 10 potato salads are a bit much.

Radioville is coming soon.

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## **Field Day 2010: Planners Needed**

To all Starke County Amateur Radio Club members;

Now that the 2009 Field Day is in the record books, I'm already thinking about Field Day 2010. I would like to ask for volunteers to form a small committee to start planning now for the Starke County Amateur Radio Club 2010 Field Day activities. My thoughts right now are for the group to have a 3A setup with NO GOTA station. I would also like to get at least one station set up to do some digital modes. In addition, I would like to see that same station also do some CW. It would be nice to have a complete schedule of modes and frequencies set in place a month or two before the event. I like the Knox Park and what do you think of some antenna changes possibly a tri-band antenna for 2010? If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact me at [wnineal@gmail.com](mailto:wnineal@gmail.com) or catch me at the club meeting. Thanks for being an important member of the Starke County Amateur Radio Club.

Tony, W9AL

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Editor's note:

We had 728 contact points plus 1190 bonus points giving us a total of 1918. James, KC9KTV reported that the three clubs that participated in LaPorte County scored 1,190 QSO points and 1,170 bonus points for a total score of 2,360.

Since they were in a different class than we were, there is no comparison for points earned. Maybe next year we will be in the same class and once again be able to have some friendly competition.

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### **Vice President's report**

Well field day has come and gone and I would like to congratulate our club for doing its best. As for the club to the west and north they beat us like they said they would the only difference they were 5a and we were only 2a. They beat us by 442 points. We had a gap in trying to make contacts of about 3 hours everyone there including myself were asleep.

If someone was awake if more people were there if someone would have woke someone up. A whole lot of ifs we could have done better and I hope we do.

We do need to try and recruit younger people to our club. Right now we are a bunch of graying old farts myself included. If we don't the amateur radio like we know it will disappear.

I have only been an active amateur for going on 3 years and am still learning so don't say you cant teach an old dog new tricks we all have some aspect of radio we know little about and would like to learn. Each and every one of us could teach someone something useful. So everyone put on your thinking caps and think of something you could share with the club

73's

Randy

Kc9isj

## Preparing for an Emergency

There's more to being prepared for an emergency than just having the right supplies on hand. Any emergency brings with it lots of stress and anxiety. Much of this stress can come just from "not knowing" how those you care about are doing or from not being able to let you're loved ones know how *you* are doing. Anxiety often increases when large distances are involved making it virtually impossible to find out "what's going on". Making advance plans for emergency *communications* as well as supplies can help reduce stress and anxiety when a major disaster strikes. This list gives you some suggestions for what you can do **right now** to prepare for contacting loved ones during an emergency:

1. Arrange with out-of-state friends or relatives to act as "message contacts".
2. Find out the names of Amateur Radio Operators in your area.
3. Find out the names of Amateur Radio Operators in your family's area.
4. Ask your local chapter of the American Red Cross or ARES group for their policy and procedures concerning "health and welfare" traffic (messages).
5. Talk to family members and agree on a plan for exchanging messages with each other; make sure everyone is clear on what to expect.
6. Be realistic about what can be done during the first 72 hours immediately following a major disaster.

### The first 72 hours

**A word of caution:** in a major disaster, health and welfare traffic will not be handled until after the emergency has cooled down. Emergency communications are first dedicated to handling messages for life-threatening situations and then those for property loss. The traffic pace is very hectic and the volume of traffic is great. Health and welfare messages are given lower priority and probably won't be handled until after the first 72 hours.

Because of these factors, it's important that you discuss with your family *realistic* expectations about how soon you will be able to make contact with them, either directly or through your message contact. At a time when it is most difficult, it will be most important to be patient and not panic.

Submitted by Tony, W9AL

### K9CIV submitted the New Q-Signal List below.

Bruce Small wrote:

Here is an expanded list of Q-signals, courtesy of N2CU of WNYDXA:

Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that many agree would be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

QLF I am sending with my left foot.

QLF? Are you sending with your left foot?

\*Ya But, what if I'm "/left-footed/"?\*

QRC Warning, rag chewer on frequency.

QRC? Are you a rag chewer?

\*Naw. Can't stand the taste.\*

QOK Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.

QOK? Was my last transmission OK?

QFH This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.

QFH? Is this frequency hogged?

QBS It's getting deep in here.

QBS? Did I tell you about the one that got away?

QZZ I fell asleep at the mike.

QZZ? Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

\*Not me. I use "Snore-no-more" - - -\*

QBA My antenna is BIG!

QBA? How big is your antenna?

QHI I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.

QHI? Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QBO Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

QBO? Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QNO I am sending through a non-standard orifice.

QNO? Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?

QCW I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)

QCW? Why are you whistling Morse?

QET Phone home.

QET? Has anyone called me from another planet?

# KN9OX Repeater System

The repeater is up and running on 147.315+ with a PL tone of 131.8.

**This is an OPEN Repeater.** Unlike from what I have heard that this is just for RACES, that is **not true**, this is an open repeater system. **This repeater is for all club members to use.**

Like any other repeater, if an emergency arises, then it will be used, if Amateurs are asked to assist in communications, in the emergency only.

Please use it so that we can see what and how it is going to work. We are still working on the configuring of the controller and we have a problem with de-sense on receive, which we are working on.

It can be heard as far away as New Buffalo, MI as I was up there last week and heard it ID, of course my 40 watts could not hit it, but then it was designed to cover Starke County and not far away places.

Until next month,  
73

John, W3ML