

W9JOZ

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July 2009

The President's Corner

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Well, Field Day is over and I am tired. Our group was extraordinary this year with many participating. I want to give a special thanks to David KC9MRS and Janet KC9HUG. The weather cooperated for us even though it was HOT and STICKY on Saturday but Sunday was great, it cooled down a little and was breezy. I know you can't wait till 2010 Field Day.

Check out the W9JOZ website for information on everything we are doing, did or thinking about doing. John W3ML has been doing a fine job keeping it updated for all of us. The dog days of summer are here, for activities over the next few months we will be doing our monthly Fox Hunts that will be getting harder after July's. (We are doing pretty well so why not, starting in August we will be hiding a little better and won't be visible from the Highway.) The Club Picnic in September and Radioville in October and for the ARES/RACES members we will have a more active SET in October too. At the next meeting if anyone wants to do something special bring it up and we can discuss it. I am always open for suggestions. I am still looking into our Hamfest/Swap meet, hopefully I can find someplace by the July's meeting. HEY! If you have a place let me know. Well I rambled enough; I'll see you at the meeting.

73
CU at the meeting

Meeting July 16th
Special Time 6:00 pm
Guest speaker is from
WNDU TV



Cindi Clawson
Weekend Meteorologist

Cindi is a native of St. Louis, MO and has always had a passion for meteorology, geology, and astronomy. Her undergraduate years were spent at Southwest Missouri State University, where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Science. Cindi's graduate work was completed at the University of Missouri in Columbia and in May of 1999, she received a Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science. In 2001, Cindi was granted the Television Seal of Approval from the American Meteorological Society.

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During the month, plan to schedule EDITH and DAN:

- EDITH: Exit Drills in the Home -- Preparedness plans that do not include testing (drills) are only partially complete.

Review, Test, Evaluate, and Modify your plans so you will be better prepared to exit safely when disaster strikes.

- DAN: Drills At Night -- Darkness presents a whole new set of challenges, especially to small children and to those who may be sleeping upstairs. Practice EDITH during the day and then schedule EDITH with DAN to increase preparedness and to improve your chances of getting "out" quickly and safely.

"ARES/RACES Communicator Priorities"

#1 Always maintain a safe operating environment. Be aware of your surrounding and the actions of those with you.

#2 Always monitor you assigned frequency. If the radio starts talking...everyone SHUT-UP and listen!

#3 Always know your location, and be able to report it if an emergency situation developed unexpectedly.

#4 Never leave your radio without first obtaining confirmation from the Net Control Station (NCS).

Submitted by W9AL

Wednesday Night Simplex Net

Originally the purpose of the net was to test our equipment to ensure everything was operational and to let everyone see that simplex frequencies can work if the repeater goes down. It surprised everyone on the range and usability it had. I have to admit it even astonished me when I had a QSO with WC2O in Merrillville from my house. The net was also a meeting place for everyone to share their experiences and ideas they might have had. We started off as a rag chewing net but someplace along the way we lost ambition or something. We used to hear upcoming announcements for club activities. We shared technical advice and even discussed interesting QSO we had. It was always a good way to meet new hams from around the area, share ideas, questions and opinions. Talk about buying a new radio or what was the best antenna. The net had all kinds of experts to answer anyone's question whether we knew it or not. Sometime it was just a roundtable rag chew just for the fun of it. I really miss that, I remember sitting at the radio and having 10 or 12 hams taking turns on a particular topic mostly antennas or how we can do something better. Maybe this fall we can start it up again on the repeater or simplex. Either way it was a good memory.

Field Day Viewpoints

It was nice to see some of you at Breakfast and then out at Field Day. The day started off pretty good and when we started transmitting we thought an antenna was bad so we changed that, and also found that the coax connector for the HF side of the radio was pushed in too far for the center pin to make connection. A quick repair job of that was made by John, Joe, Randy and Paul. Contacts were slow to start with, but the night crew made several when they started to pick up. The food was too bad, but my system didn't like something. I was late getting out there on Sunday, but still able to pick up about fifty new contacts before we decided to call it quits at about 1:30. Tony and I received 10 traffic messages that our club could use for 100 points.

I would say that we had a successful Field Day once again. Hopefully, out the 34 members we have all will show up next year. Hugh, naturally, had a good excuse for not being there, what about some of the others that didn't make it?

Hope you are getting the care you need to get out of there and back on the radio. Get well soon buddy.

73

John, W3ML

Ah...Yes. Field Day 2009 has come and gone. The most popular and anxiously awaited contest among the Amateur Radio operators world wide!

I am the Satellite Op, WB9L for our club, the Starke County Amateur radio Club – W9JOZ. My day started out with me arriving a little late, but in plenty of time for the first pass. I use an Arrow antenna for 144 Mhz, and 432 Mhz in the field. It's mounted on a (cheap) camera tripod because it gets a little heavy swinging it around freehand. Also, it's a little steadier. This is connected through a 10 watt diplexer to my W32A Icom handheld. Normally the satellite operators like to keep it full duplex. That is, both frequencies on at the same time. It is nice to be able to hear your own voice coming down from the satellite. You know you are 'making the trip'. Unfortunately, this can not be done with the handheld. It must be operated in the half duplex, or receive must be muted upon transmitting. Otherwise, all you hear from the satellite is a very large feedback squeal! Which, by the way is very embarrassing and will bring joking comments from the other operators!

As I ramble on... After arriving and setting up, I patiently awaited AO-27, the first one up. Time rolled by as I listened for the "bird". Come and gone and nothing but static.

Well, I wondered what I did wrong. I really doubted that the satellite had died. I checked everything. Radio, antenna... Ahah! There hanging down was the BNC connector for the 2 meter side of my antenna! Now THAT was embarrassing. There was another really good pass of SO-50 coming up at 81 degrees, an extremely good angle. I should be able to hit this one with a tennis ball! Again, come and gone with only the hissing of the radio ghosts. Dejected, I did not stay the night at the Field Day site, but went home to the computers to figure orbits and times. I live on EST, and the site is in CST, an hour difference. I had that figured in. I could not find anything wrong.

Next satellite up Sunday morning was AO-27 again at about a 62 degree angle. Not a bad pass. I had moved my setup over to W9AL's tailgate so I had a clear sweep of the sky. I was sitting there chatting with friends that came by. I had about an hour to go.

Why I did it, I'll never know, but I reached over and switched on the radio, and lo and behold, there was AO-27 chatting up a storm! Lots of action! I didn't think I would get through with my 5 watt HT, but I nailed W9XXX (call withheld to protect the innocent).

That gave us our 100 points, anyway. It was then I realized that I never set my satellite time clock that I use in the field back to CST! I was listening an hour ahead of the pass!

AO-51 came around a bit later and I nailed another one, but I think I messed up his call. At least we got one.

Story Dedicated to Hugh Vales – WOOP – hospitalized from a car accident and sorely missed at our Field Day.

73

Mike WB9L

Hugh, had a good time during field day event. Food was good: hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, biscuits & gravy potato chips, root beer. get well, Paul n9qyk

Hey all

Well, we survived another field day minus one of our favorite members Hugh.

I had another project Saturday morning and missed breakfast but I made it back in time for setup. The club radio was hooked up but was having some problems so we opened the radio up and did some major surgery and "walla" it worked. We had a few visitors some seemed interested in getting their ticket time will tell. I came back for the over nighter and worked until I couldn't stay awake. I slept awhile and returned to the radio while everyone napped (we lost a couple of hours due to everyone snoozing). I stayed around long enough to get a bite of breakfast that Tony and Janet made and I took off for home. All in all I think we did pretty well considering the noisy conditions and the heat. Could we have done better sure, but as a club we are still learning and growing. Did the club's in LaPorte beat us maybe, but we did it by our self. No permanent site, we just brought our stuff and went from there. If we had 40 or 50 more people and a few more radios we could have done better.

Until next year

Randy

kc9isj

PS Hugh we missed you get better from all

Since I'm a new Ham, this was my first Field Day. I was there to help set up and stayed until closing. I was a bit afraid to get on the radio and it took a while until I did. (I didn't want to mess up.) Finally Gary was able to talk me into getting on his radio. I made some contacts with him writing everything down. Oh did I tell you about the food? Well if you didn't eat, it was your own fault as there was plenty. I spent the night in my tent and got up the next day with a great breakfast. Again I was talked into getting on a radio. This time I got on Tony's. I got to wear headphones so I could hear and made some mistakes, but made some more contacts. We had great weather for the weekend and I had a nice time. The only problem I had was getting sunburn!

Pam KC9QAP

contacts- contacts - and more contacts

Field day started at the Country Garden Restaurant with Joe M, Steve, Joe, David O, Bob, Ken N, Janet, Tony, Paul, Paula P. John, Joseph O., Garland, and Dave NE9F. Then we went to the park. The guys were setting up their antennas, radios, tuners, microphones, extension cords, Christmas lights, and of course the generator. Joseph V, Mike S., Pam and I helped each other put up the clubs banners. David KC9MRS, Joseph KC9NFD, Pam KC9QAP, Paul N9QYK and I helped set up the food prep area and the water cooler area. We purchased 6 large bags of ice and gallons of water. Donations were given to us by Pepsi, Coke, Alco, Frito, Jay's, Five Star, Julia's and Pizza Hut. Club members also donated for field day thanks everyone.

Mike (KC9KPG) cooked our delicious lunch for us. Thanks Mike. Lunch was served, chips, hamburgers and hot dogs and a donation of root beer from Julia's B&K was the drink of the day. Dwight and Jolene brought their delicious cakes to sample. yum. We also had a pasta salad, baked beans, snack cakes, brownies, everything you could imagine. David and Joseph made gasoline runs for the generator. In attendance at field day was: KB9OLZ, KC9QAP, KC9NFD, KC9MRS, KC9ISJ, KC9HUG, W9AL, NE9F, KC9GKZ, KB9GQS, N9QYK, W3ML, WB9L, K9CIV, KC9LCW, KC9ISJ, KE9ML, N9CPX, WA9KRT, WA9NGO, N9CPX, WB9CAO, KC9HUB, KC9NFC, and KC9DHD. Our ham radio operators made a lot of contacts. The temperature it was in the 80-90's, but we had fun. At 6 p.m. we ate 2 free pizzas from Pizza Hut, along with more hamburgers and hot dogs. Gary, Pam, Randy (ISJ), Dave S. (NE9F), David (MRS) and Bob T (ISJ) stayed over night Saturday. Sunday morning Tony and Janet had breakfast for the morning gang, they had scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy and coffee. yum yum. More contacts were made and at 11 a.m. we had 4 more pizzas from Pizza hut along with cinnamon rolls and garlic bread sticks. A lot of contacts were made. Between Saturday and Sunday 21 people visited our set up along with Sheriff Oscar Cowen on Sunday. Around 1:30 p.m. we shut down for this year's Field Day. Tony is totaling the contacts up and we'll let you know how we did. Hope to see everyone next year.

73's

Janet



We ended up with 364 contacts, which gives us 728 contact points plus 1190 bonus points making a total of 1918.

More pictures can be found at Tony's site <http://picasaweb.google.com/WNINEAL/FIELDDAY2009#>

That is it for this month,

73 John, W3ML