

# W9JOZ

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2009

## The President's Corner

Field Day and the SCARC Food drive are here ready or not. June SCARC Foxhunt will be on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> Randy N9CPX will be the FOX. A tentative schedule is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. WB9L will be the FOX for July, more info on the NETS. Next meeting is June 18<sup>th</sup> at the library.

WOW what a meeting we had for May. Great turn out, new member and Levi is the man. I can't wait till Carrot Top (LEVI) Part 2 for June the Continuation of HINTS and KINKS with some Q and A thrown in.

June birthdays are Bill WC20 June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tom WA9NGO and Roger KC9LKW June 8<sup>th</sup>, Roy KC9HUB June 9<sup>th</sup>, Gary KB9OLZ June 15, and Joe KB9GQS June 25th. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL

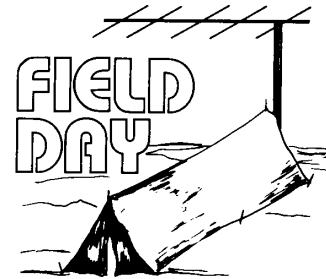
CU at the meeting

73

TONY W9AL

## Meeting June 18th

Field Day will be the main topic.



Only days left now. Are you ready to beat the other counties again? **Are you really ready!**

Want a certificate showing your ham call? Just go here and fill out the information. Then print it out.

<http://www.radioqth.net/certificate.aspx>

Don't forget the  
Food Drive

ARE YOU?

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's comment/Meeting reminder
- 2** HT tips
- 3** 10 Fundamentals
- 4** Fox Hunt Winners
- 5** FCC Special Counsel speaks at Dayton



## HT Tips for extended operation

Ham Simulated Emergency tests are done in a fraction of a day and usually with a lot of advanced notice enough for everyone to prepare by charging up batteries on HTs or fueling generators and being in the right place at the right time scheduling time off of work to participate or working around similar obstacles. In the real world none of the above will apply. Think of it this way, other than a weather emergency which you will typically get some sort of advance warning, all other emergencies / disasters occur on the fly without the courteous notification process, you must be prepared with a response plan should it be under those conditions. You may not be able to go home or to a location to get the equipment and supplies etc.

### **POWER is the most important, without power you are done.**

- Battery shells that take dry cells are good to have, you can get a pack of alkaline batteries and swap them out as needed although it may cost you a few bucks it will power the HT when needed.
- If you have a rapid desk charger, consider buying a 12DC to 120AC inverter, you will then be able to charge the batteries fast from any vehicle if the need arises.

### **ANTENNA second most important, not the radio**

- Get a gain antenna for your HT such as a 5/8 wave or better.
- Rubber ducky helical type antennas that come with the radio do not have any gain and rely mostly on short range point to point or repeater which may not be around after a disaster.
- By using a high gain 5/8 wave antenna or base station antenna with a hand held you can effectively reduce the amount of transmitter power needed for the same range thus conserving battery power extending usable battery time.

### **HAND HELD RADIO specifications:**

- Get one that is 4 watts or more, Hand Helds are typically 5-7 watts
- Get a Hand held that is water resistant that can be used outdoors. Zip Loc bag gallon size freezer bag to seal the Hand Held if used outdoors. If your HT is ruggedized already you need not worry about this at all.

Submitted by Tony, W9AL

Are you ready? Only 25 Days left. Will you be there?

# 10 Fundamentals Needed For Communications Are The Abilities For The Following:

- 1) To sustain a significant emergency power source (not hampered by only low power capability or a hand full of batteries)
- 2) To sustain significant communication distance (HF or high power VHF may be required, good antenna system)
- 3) To sustain personal logistics in your operational area. (Must be able to sustain yourself)
- 4) Good judgment and knowledge of what type of traffic to move, (identify/ analyze what is significant vs. insignificant information, priority/non-priority, best mode if options are available)
- 5) Prior knowledge/plan on how the local networks are structured (frequencies/identify various net controls anticipated/ primary plan/ alternate plan)
- 6) Always plan with capability to relocate (never only from a predetermined stationary site)
- 7) Access to gear/logistics above (will you be away from station without access to any of the above when disaster happens?)
- 8) Create kits/ bags small scale response (tailored kit(s) for limited response versatile)
- 9) Reflect on your objectives (ham radio, FRS, satellite radio, cell phone, or any other means of communication should be used in an emergency)
- 10) Most important of all "hope for the best, plan for the worst".

Submitted by Tony, W9AL



Coming soon to a park near you. Are you Ready?



The radio is ready. Are You?



## May Foxhunt Results

1 N9CPX, KC9ISJ AND KB9GQS

2 WB9L AND KC9MQD

3 KB9OLZ AND JERRY SOON TO BE A HAM

4 WO0P AND CHESTER

5 W3ML AND PAULA

6 WD9BHR AND GUEST

Next foxhunt will be Sunday June 21st at 1:30  
place TBA .

## **Laura Smith, FCC Special Counsel responsible for Amateur Radio Enforcement**

The Dayton Hamvention was one of the first events Smith has attended in her role as Special Counsel. Cross introduced Smith, explaining that he used to work for her and that she was "one of the best people that we possibly could get for this job, because before she came to the Wireless Bureau, she had worked in mass media. After she had been in the Wireless Bureau, Laura had been the president of a trade association in Washington. Many of the issues that come up with other entities using amateur spectrum are entities that are either in mass media services or in land-mobile services and they are basically lusting after your bands. So we are fortunate now that when someone calls up, Laura has this breadth of knowledge of not only what the amateur stuff is, but where [land-mobile and mass media services] actually really should belong. And she can counsel them very gently that they need to get licensed here and not, you know, where they think they are. This is something you don't see. Believe it or not, this is a tremendous help to you."

He mentioned that Smith plans to stay in this position for the long haul: "So if you have any ideas about a short-timer or think you're going to get away with it, plan on about 15 years down the road. In the meantime, behave yourselves!"

Smith explained that when she took over the Amateur enforcement position earlier this year, the job had changed a bit from when Hollingsworth was in the office. "This job used to be in the Spectrum Enforcement Division down in DC; it was a remote position in a DC office," she explained. "It is no longer in that Division. I am actually a Field Agent. I'm attached to the FCC Field Office, I'm in the Northeast Region and my supervisor is the Regional Director for the Northeast Region." She told the crowd that she has spent a large portion of her time going through all the files that had accumulated, about 430 cases, while the position was vacant.

She explained the different types of complaints her office receives, such as complaints dealing with criminal investigations, technical violations, harassment and language complaints, malicious interference complaints and unlicensed users.

Smith also handles RFI complaints. Saying that these complaints are "ultimately going to be the most troublesome," she explained that there are two kinds of RFI complaints. "The first type of RFI complaint I get are the ones where your neighbors are complaining about you. You guys are causing interference to their television or to their radios or their telephone. The Commission generally tells them if you are a licensed amateur operator operating in the parameters of your license, then the Part 15 device that you are causing interference to is subject to that interference, and the rules state that very clearly. We suggest that they either work with you or they get a filter; those are the two suggestions."

Smith, in cooperation with the ARRL Lab, also handles utility line interference complaints. "This one, you would think, would be easy to resolve -- the power line is causing interference, the utility will come out and fix it and everything will be fine. Not quite so easy," she explained. "Those of you that have been experiencing it for 3, 4, 5, 10, 12 years know that in fact, that is not what happens. What I am discovering is that the utilities quite simply don't know how to fix the problem. They can't identify the noise. What they will do is they will go out and will find 15 sources of noise. They will fix these 15 sources of noise and then they will come back to me with this detailed list of these 15 sources of noise that they have fixed. Yea! We're all done. No -- they haven't fixed *your* noise. So they don't quite understand the concept of 'Don't just run out and fix everything you see, that's irrelevant to the amateur.' The amateur wants you to fix *their* noise."

---

Smith described that the first step the utilities need to do is to go to the amateur's house and listen to the noise and determine exactly what they're hearing. "This way, when they fix it, you can ultimately figure out if you have in fact fixed their noise. I'm trying to figure out a way with the Lab as to how we can best tell the utilities that they really need to think about how their processes work and what we can do to educate them so they can get out and fix this."

Smith has also given utility companies time limits to fix the noise complaints. "I am telling them, 'If you go out and you can't fix it, every two weeks you have to report back to me in writing why you can't fix it.' Utilities are, generally speaking publicly traded companies, so what happens is that they have a Board of Directors that they answer to. Those people are not going to want them to waste time and energy writing this crazy woman in Gettysburg every two weeks a detailed report. And believe you me, if they miss their deadline, I call them and tell them 'You've missed your deadline. I need your report.' I have spoken to more heads of utilities in the last three weeks than I ever care to speak to again. They have no qualms about calling me, saying 'We can't meet the deadline.' And I explain to them that's fine, I'll just write up this nice little letter [saying] you can write your check to the federal government."

Smith suggested to the amateur community "that we as a collective -- you guys and me -- we can have a great relationship, we can do this the easy way. You guys can, in fact, follow the rules and remember that when you signed up to become an amateur, you actually committed to adhere to the Commission's rules. I'm going to strongly suggest that you hold to that. If you don't we can do this the difficult way, and I am more than willing to that if it comes down to it."

---

Starke County Amateur Radio Club May Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report are located on the web page at <http://www.w9joz.org>

That's all for this month.

73

John, W3ML

# I'm Ready! Are YOU?