

W9JOZ

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2008

The President's Corner

My 1st meeting as president went well I guess. I haven't heard anything at least. Our March meeting will be at the North Judson American Legion on the 20th. Jan and I along with Lisa and Russell attended the Laporte Hamfest we talked to some of you and I spent time talking to Jim Sellers (K9ZBM) Indiana's SM. I didn't see many deals; I hope LPARC will do one next year. I think hamfests are not looking good lately; they might be a thing of the past. We will have to see in the next few years if the trend continues. Don't forget Matt still needs pictures and videos and everybody send Mike WB9L things so we can keep him busy (hi hi). March is a big Skywarn month hope everyone gets to attend a Skywarn Seminar. Check out the clubs web pages for all information about our hobby.

Cu at the meeting

73

TONY W9AL

March Meeting

Don't forget the meeting will be held at the North Judson American Legion bingo room.

Agenda: continue discussion on shirts, field day and whatever anyone thinks of.



Members for 2008

Dawn reports the following are the only paid members for 2008

WB9L-Mike	KC9HUB-Roy
WB9CAO-Levi	N9CPX-Randy
W3ML-John	KC9GKZ-Garland
KC9HUD-Dawn	WC2O-Bill
N9LV-Mathew	AA9YQ-Joe
KB9GPW-Steve	KB9OLZ-Gary
WA9KRT-Don	W9AL-Tony
KC9ISJ-Randy	KC9HUG-Janet
KC9ISI-Bob	N9QYK-Paul
WA9NGO-Tom	WO0P-Hugh
N9JU-Russell	N9LU-Lisa
KC9MRS-David	

Remember to vote on Club plans you must be a paid member.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Speaks/ Meeting Reminder/Paid Members List
- 2 Designated Friends
- 4 Battery facts
- 5 Emcomm and Amateur Radio
- 6 Indiana Television Reporter

Designated Friends

By Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX
kb7hdx@arrl.org

January 23, 2008

A little preparation can be a big help.

Scott, N7FSP, a friend of mine, called recently after he nearly died due to a misdiagnosis and shared a few thoughts with me. His story is not as important as the message he wanted to share with others in the amateur community and that is just what will happen to our stuff when we are gone. I don't want this to appear to be all gloom and doom, but let's face it, we are all going to become a silent key (SK) at some point. If that were to happen unexpectedly, do you have your shack in order? This article is to promote a bit of thought process when you are sitting in the shack, and the bands are a bit slow.

What Is This Stuff?

We recently lost a fellow here, and he, like many of us, was a total pack rat. It appears that he was not able to walk through a hamfest, flea market, yard sale or any location related to acquiring stuff without bringing some of it home. He passed away quietly in his sleep, and his daughter was left to dispose of his "stuff." I have been involved in a number of SK estate sales, and know first hand what can happen when the survivor, be it a daughter, son, wife or husband, has no idea what things in the shack even are let alone what they may be worth. And I think we have all seen at some point what happens when the "vultures" move in after the death of a ham. Items that may be worth thousands of dollars are let go for pennies. I was fortunate to have been called by the widow of another local ham who told me she would like to just give the stuff away to Goodwill. I talked her out of that, and

after taking an inventory and making a trip to a local swap meet, she was shocked when I was able to hand her a check for nearly \$5000.

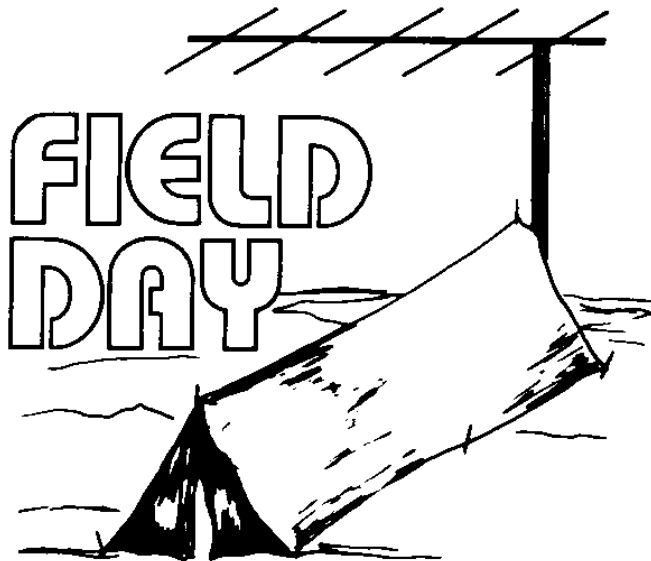
Some Things to Think About

Now as I write this, I am guilty of not being prepared myself, but I felt it more important to share this information with others, to get folks thinking about this before another untimely death leaves a survivor wondering just what to do with it all.

So, here are my suggestions, but I think they are sound ideas.

1. Like the title of this article states, designate a friend or two who can help if something were to happen to you. Ask them first, of course, and make sure others know about them. Perhaps even name them in your will. (You might check with your lawyer about this.)
2. Make an inventory of everything in your shack that you feel is worth more than a buck. Okay I know this may take some time, but you can work on it waiting to nab that "rare one" or while listening in on the local net. If you have a box of things that are just miscellaneous items list them as such, but if you repack or rearrange them later, make a note in your list.
3. For all the items that are higher dollar amounts, list the price you paid and the amount it is worth now. You may need to update this every few years, but it will help those who need the help when the time comes. Just because you paid \$800 for it new does not make it worth that now. Many estate sales fall into this trap in that "well we paid that much for it." We all know that the value of gear drops pretty fast for most items, so let's give our survivors a good head start on the price.

Continued on page 3

SIDEBAR ARTICLES**NORTH CENTRAL INDIANA
HAMFEST****20 APR 2008****GRANT COUNTY, MIAMI COUNTY,
BLACKFORD COUNTY, & KOKOMO
ARCS****[HTTP://WWW.NCIHAMFEST.COM](http://www.ncihamfest.com)****OUR OWN FOR SALE PAGE IS AT
[WWW.W9JOZ.ORG](http://www.w9joz.org)**

Field Day is coming, are you prepared?

4. Towers, masts and feed lines: If you are the only one on the planet who knows how you got that 85 foot tower up in your 60 x 20 back lot, let someone in on the secret. I have helped to take down many towers over the years and some of them were real buggers until we figured out how they were put up. Hams are very creative at tower installations, and when the procedure is lost with the original installer, things can go wrong. A map or diagram of how the feed lines and control cables are routed out of the shack and out to the antenna support is very handy as well.

5. Repeaters and packet nodes: These are another whole problem, if you are a packet sysop, or repeater owner, do you have a plan so your most often used equipment will continue to serve the amateur community? Does anyone know who your leases are with? Are they written or verbal? If verbal does anyone know whom to contact to make arrangements to take over the lease? And then what becomes of the equipment? Are you planning to donate it to a club or group if you depart this world? Or will someone be forced to have to deal with it after you're gone? I hold two leases for packet nodes with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Do I have a "successor" for these sites? No, but I am working on it now. Do you have a written plan for your site?

This could go on forever with things to think about, but is intended to get your thought process going on just what will happen to your gear. I know I am going to work on mine so if anything happens, those who live on will not be left with a burden to remember me by. Much of this could have legal implications, so if you do have a will it would be beneficial to talk to your lawyer to insure what you have stated is what will actually be done.

Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, has been licensed since 1989. He is involved in search and rescue as well as other service organizations in the Yakima valley. He has served as president of both the Yakima ARC and Yakima County Radio Amateurs. He is currently ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager. ☺

Battery Facts – W9AL

Facts For Those Of You Who Use Batteries' Batteries don't rank high on anyone's list of hot tech topics. But without them, screens go dark, calls drop and tunes die.

Today, lithium-ion (Li-Ion) is the battery of choice. Other types you may see are nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad) and nickel-metal hydride (NiMH).

Here are five things to remember about batteries:

1. Consider conditioning

Lithium-ion batteries typically arrive in a partially charged state.

Most manufacturers will tell you to completely charge them before use.

Otherwise, they don't need to be conditioned.

Nickel-based batteries require conditioning.

They must be completely charged and discharged several times before initial use.

Otherwise, they won't function to their full potential. Check your manual.

2. Charge them properly

Batteries can be troublesome. They lose their capacity over time.

Further, they have a limited number of charge cycles.

You can prolong the lifespan. Failing to properly condition nickel-based batteries could lead to the formation of crystals. That can cause memory problems, in which batteries won't hold a full charge.

With lithium-ion batteries, partial charges and discharges are best on a regular basis. These batteries do not develop memory problems. A gauge that is not reset periodically could become inaccurate.

This can be critical in laptops, because their power management may rely on the gauge. Completely discharge lithium-ion batteries about once a month to reset the gauge.

Fuel gauges should not be a problem with nickel-based batteries, assuming they are discharged and charged regularly.

3. Store them correctly

It's best to use your batteries regularly. But sometimes you have to store them. And you guessed it – storage poses problems. Don't store batteries completely discharged. A 50 percent charge is optimum. If you store them for six months or longer, re-condition nickel-based batteries. This will help regain lost capacity. Simply charge lithium-ion batteries before use.

4. Batteries don't last forever

It's a fact of life. No matter how well you care for a battery, it will eventually die.

You'll have many options when you buy a replacement battery. Third-party replacements are available online. Prices are often a fraction of manufacturers' prices. Sellers might also boast improved performance. Fight your frugal urges. Manufacturers test their batteries to ensure a good fit. They also test the batteries rigorously for safety. If something goes wrong – really wrong – with a third-party replacement, you've probably voided your gadget's warranty.

And please, dispose of your batteries correctly. They contain hazardous chemicals not suitable for landfills. Many electronics retailers have in-store collection points.

Continued on page 5

5. Batteries are about to get exciting Advancements are on the horizon for batteries. And they're exciting.

Toshiba recently announced a rapid-charge battery. This lithium-ion battery achieves 80 percent of its charge in just one minute. A few more minutes, and it's fully charged.

Additionally, the battery is smaller, less susceptible to extreme temperatures, and boasts a longer lifespan. It will debut in 2006, primarily for automotive purposes. Expect adaptations for personal technology use.

Fuel cell batteries are also coming for gadgets. Several companies are developing them. Fuel cell batteries aren't recharged, per se. Instead, they're refilled with a chemical such as methanol.

This means instantaneous power. The chemical reacts with air to produce power. Fuel cells have roughly 50 times the power potential of comparably sized lithium-ion batteries. 😊

EMCOMM AND AMATEUR RADIO

Tony Langer, W9AL

Amateur Radio is a great hobby. Emergency Communications is a commitment as well as volunteering. What we need to do is to convince our local agencies that we can do communications for them better than they can do for themselves. The only way we can do that is by training and by practicing, by doing SETS, table top exercises, and practicing message handling.

Some people say that we are volunteers and we don't have to train, but I say that if we want to be taken seriously we are going to have to take extra steps. Look at the volunteer fireman nobody thinks they are amateurs. Agencies look at them as equals because they act like professionals. They are constantly training and testing their abilities. Why should we be different, we have to train and practice like they do.

We need to read, test, and train to excel. We have to learn how to communicate, message handling, and have proper etiquette, and just passing tests isn't enough. We need to train and practice over and over again. Look what we have accomplished, we studied and practiced to get our ham license!

So why should Emergency Communications be different. For years we all complained that we wanted to be taken seriously, now it's our chance to prove them all wrong. We are not a bunch of ratchet jawers.

We have to see our own weaknesses and immediately work to correct them. Whether we are lacking knowledge or experience, we have to work harder. Reading articles more than once to really understand what we read, or train and practice over and over until we get where we want to be.

The flexibility of Amateur Radio is what gives us the edge, during a real disaster. The commitment is more than weekly nets or a monthly social meeting. We need to have long range plans and written procedures and our training has to focus on one plan, Emergency Communication. Whether it's RACES, ARES, SATERN, or the RED CROSS we all have to be prepared. 😊



Here is what a Weather operator's desk looks like.

This is the SEC's set-up where he monitors the conditions.

Indiana Television Reporter Receives Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award

At the ARRL Board of Directors meeting last month, on the recommendation of the ARRL Public Relations Committee, the Board voted to confer the 2007 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award to a Fort Wayne, Indiana television reporter.

Alyssa Ivanson, of WANE-TV News brought public attention to Amateur Radio by producing and reporting a television story on the efforts of Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, also of Fort Wayne, to create and promote Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. McClendon traveled to Washington, DC and met with First Lady Laura Bush as part of his promotion of Amateur Radio.

The annual award honors a professional journalist whose outstanding coverage in TV, radio, print or multimedia best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of Amateur Radio. The award was created as a tribute to the late CBS News President Bill Leonard, W2SKE. He was an avid Amateur Radio operator, and most active on the air during the 1960s and 1970s.

As the winner of the Bill Leonard Award, Ivanson will receive a plaque and a cash prize of \$500. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGO, said, "There were nine excellent nominations for the award this year, and voting was tight. Submitted materials were judged by the ARRL's national Public Relations Committee and their final recommendation was approved by the Board of Directors at the January 2008 meeting."

"I am honored to win the Bill Leonard Award. It was a privilege to meet Emery and tell the public about his efforts to bring a little bit of 'home' to the troops through Ham radio and ARMAD," Ivanson said.

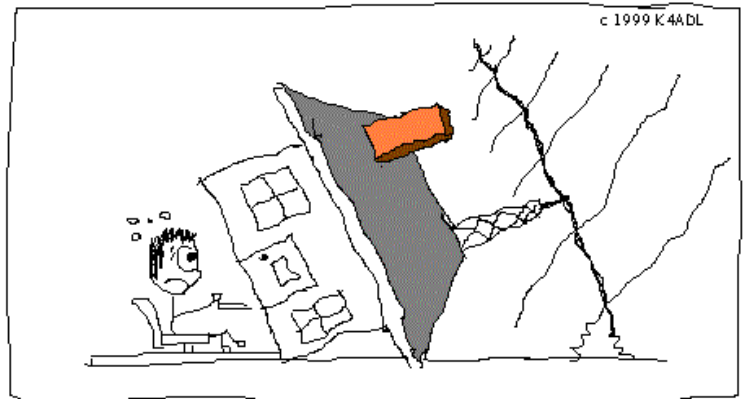
Ivanson, the weekend anchor at WANE, graduated magna cum laude from Ball State University's Honors College with a degree in telecommunications; she joined WANE in January 2006. "The news business is exciting; each day presents new challenges and rewards. I love meeting so many new people and never knowing what each day holds," she said.

Ivanson is no stranger to journalism awards. In her first year at WANE-TV, she was awarded third best reporter in the state by the Indiana Associated Press. In college, she was awarded the prestigious Edward R. Murrow award for her work on a morning radio program. She was the first recipient of the Jack McQuate Associated Press Scholarship and a three-time winner of the Indiana Broadcaster's Association Scholarship.

When she's not at work, Ivanson, a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to the theater, hosting dinner parties and spelunking. According to Emery McClendon, there are two hams in the WANE newsroom who will be "encouraging" Ivanson to add Amateur Radio operator to her list of accomplishments very soon. ☺

Dawn, KC9HOD reports:

After the meeting on the 17th of January we collected \$105.00 from the members. On Monday (21st) deposited that amount into the club account. Total came to \$237.98, Don WA9KRT paid his dues which then brought the total to \$242.98. At the February meeting Dawn reported the club had \$252.98.



DONALD HAD BEEN WARNED TO CENTER THE 40 METER BEAM ON HIS ROOF.



Northern snakehead

Photo reprinted with permission of USGS, <http://www.fcsc.usgs.gov/>

If you catch one, kill it. Then call the DNR and report where you caught it, and save it for them. Watch out, they have some strong teeth and will attack you. Some say they walk on earth, too.

That's all folks for this month.

Happy Hamming!

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John, W3ML