

# W9JOZ

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2010

## The President's Corner

Well all club events are over for the season. Next up is Ft Wayne hamfest on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you all there. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Party for the club at 4:30, the cost is \$14.00. Remember that DUES are \$12.00 for next year too. Nominations are coming up at the November meeting so start thinking on who you want to be the officers for the next year. While you got your thinking hat on why not come up with some different events for next year. Coming in January we will be having a Technician Class. I have been working with Ted Bombagetti our EMA director and we have some interest from the District 2 meetings for the class. I will have more information later on the time and location of the classes.

See you at the meeting and Janet and I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

73 Tony W9AL

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## Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>

Time is 7:00 p.m.

The discussion will be on the upcoming Christmas Party and nominations. Don't forget it is 14 dollars each for the Christmas dinner.



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.

## TECHNICIAN CLASS

Starke County ARC is forming a Technician Ham Class. You can get added to a list by emailing [w9joz@w9joz.org](mailto:w9joz@w9joz.org) or by calling Tony, W9AL at 574-896-3510.

## Ramblings from the Vice President's desk

Randy is off working the polls, but he told me he would be back next month with his Ramblings.

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### Birthdays in November

Nov 23rd Jolene

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> Tony

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## Oct.2, 2010 Starke County Amateur Radio Club "Radioville Special Event"

Well, Radioville has come and gone again for another year.

The day started out rainy and cold but by 8:30 am the rain had stopped and the clouds were beginning to brake.

Jolene and I arrived first and had our easy-up tent set up by the time some of the members began to arrive.

First thing first, every one jumped in setting up Tony's antenna so that he could get on the air and take care of his duties with ARES. Next everyone started setting up the rest of the tents, and then we put on the coffee.

The sun was braking through the clouds by 9:00am and warming thing up some. Next we started setting up my antenna so we could get the 40 meter station on the air.

As I was setting up the Buddipole so David and Don could get there station on the air, Hughie was manning the 40 meters station. Before we could get David's radio on the air, Hughie was working a pile-up and yelling for help.

40 meters was wide open, Janet run Hughie over a cup coffee and piece of cheese cake to keep him going.

The 20 meter station was up and running. Jolene made a contact in California, then 2 in Maine, 20 meters was slow into the afternoon then it broke wide open, it was very hard to make a contact with so many on 20 meters. We could hear Cuba but when we broke them, they said, "This Frequency is in use" and went back to talking among themselves. A total of 6 contacts were made, then it happened, the wind pick-up and the Buddipole went down, snapping the dipole. The 20 meters station was off the air. We could have put up a wire dipole, but it was growing late, so we put the station up for the day.

The food was very good and there was plenty of it. We had chili and hash, corn bread, potato chips, also cheese cake, cup cakes and a donuts and a big pot of coffee.

Sometimes the clouds would darken up and look like rain but we lucked out and the rain held off.

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Everyone seemed to have a good time, we had plenty to eat and drink and good friends making a lot of contacts, 44 on the 40 meter and 6 on the 20 meter before it shut down, for a grand total of 50 contacts. Not too bad if I do say so.

I'm not sure how many members and visitors came, Janet kept track. Myself, I think we had a good turnout.

For myself and Jolene, I would like to thank everyone who came and helped with set up, the operation and the take down, and also for all of the great food.

Thank You

Dwight Brown KC9DHD

P.S. The Buddipole has been repaired and is back in service, Next time; I'll tie it down, like I should have in the first place.

## **ARES / RACES FREE TRAINING SITES AND STUFF**

<http://www.kyham.net/emcomm/training/kytest.html>

<http://pgh-net.com/oes/nwsbasicspottersfieldguide.pdf>

<http://www.w0ipl.net/ECom/>

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

<http://www.skywarn.org/about.htm>

<https://www.citizen corps.gov/cert/index.shtm>

<http://www.emcomm.org/>

<http://www.w4ava.org/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

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## Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column. Having said that let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ.

This book is available as a free download in the original Italian ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygyj/enu/ZART\\_ita\\_v20100826.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygyj/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf)) and in an English translation ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygyj/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygyj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)).

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning: "When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure.

When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learnt from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness. This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on." Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster.

He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key. He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one. That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

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When not pondering the psychology of operating CW, Dan actually operates CW. You'll find him almost every day on either 40m, 30m, and as we transition to winter here in North America, 80m. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

Until next month,

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John, W3ML

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