

# STRAIGHTKEY



OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE PORTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
FOUNDED NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 1976  
February, 2010 ISSUE

Called to order @ 7:40

Pledges & Moment of silence for SK's

Repeater Report: Danny W9DWS no changes.

Treasurers Report: Unavailable

Old Business: None

New Business: Repeater is to be used for ARES Net. They are moving it from the 147.105 to 146.775. Get a backup System for our repeater. Because of responsibility for ARES!!!

ARES meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Next 4 months will be NIMS Certification training.

1<sup>st</sup> RACES meeting next week.

Gene has stepped down as Hamfest Chairman due to health. Matt has agreed to take the position.

Carl Made a motion to accept nominations for elections in February & March. We will hold elections in March after final nominations.

Nominees:

President: Joe Krajacic

Vice President: James Beckner

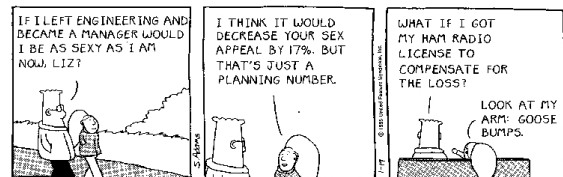
Secretary: Brandie Krajacic

Treasurer: Marge Schick

Board: Carl Konefsky, Dan Sheetz, John Schick

Auction went well, almost everything sold, don't have the totals for the sales.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:15



**DILBERT**  
BY SCOTT ADAMS

The date will be the first Friday of March 5, 2010. Place-Chesterton Library Annex.

# Passing the Tech Test

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I teach One-Day Tech classes. At the start of each class, I go over the following to help focus students on what to keep in mind when taking the test. It occurs to me that these are good tips no matter who is taking the test, so if you know someone who will be testing soon, please feel free to pass along this advice.

## Technical Topics

The Tech test is not very technical, but there are three technical topics that you need to know:

- \* Ohm's Law,
- \* how to calculate power, and
- \* the relationship between frequency and wavelength.

### Ohm's Law

The basic formula for Ohm's Law is voltage (E) equals current (I) times resistance (R), or  $E = I \times R$ . On the test, there are several questions where they give you two of the values and ask you to calculate the third. If you're asked to calculate the current, you use the formula,  $I = E / R$ . If you need to calculate the resistance, use the formula  $R = E / I$ .

### How to Calculate Power

The formula for calculating power is power (P) = voltage (E) times current (I), or  $P = E \times I$ . To calculate the current drawn, when given the power being consumed and the voltage applied to the circuit, use the formula  $I = P / E$ .

**Relationship Between Frequency and Wavelength** There are several questions that require you to calculate the wavelength of a signal or some fraction of

the wavelength. The reason for this is that antennas are often a fraction of a wavelength.

The formula that describes the relationship between frequency and wavelength is wavelength in meters =  $300 / \text{frequency in MHz}$ . One question asks for the approximate length of a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 146 MHz. To figure that out, you first calculate the wavelength:

$$\text{wavelength} = 300/146 = 2.05 \text{ m or about } 80 \text{ inches}$$

One quarter of 80 inches is 20 inches, and the antenna will actually be a little bit shorter than that because radio travels more slowly in wire than it does in free space. The correct answer to this question is 19 inches.

That's all there is to the technical part of the test!

## Safety

There are lots of questions on the test about operating safely and being safe when working on antennas. My advice when answering these questions is to always choose the most conservative answer. The two exceptions are when asked what is the lowest voltage and current that can hurt you. For these questions, the correct answer is the second lowest choices.

## Emergencies

There are lots of questions about what to do in emergencies. There are two things to keep in mind when answering these questions:

- \* You should do whatever you can to help someone who is in an emergency situation.

\* You can even break the rules to help someone in an emergency situation. This includes operating on frequencies you are normally not allowed to operate on and communicating with other stations in other radio services.

#### Miscellaneous Tips

Here are a couple of other miscellaneous tips:

\* The answer is 'D.' If one of the answers to a question is, "D. All of these answers are correct," chances are that is the correct answer. There are 18 questions with this option, and of those 18 questions, there are only two questions--T3B06 and T5B03--where that is not the correct answer.

\* Long-Answer Rule. Where one answer is a lot longer than the other options, chances are that this is the correct answer. I haven't done an exhaustive study of this, but when one answer is very long, take a good, hard look at it.

That's all I have. Good luck on the test!

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When not helping people pass the Tech test and become good amateur radio operators, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands and collect QSL cards from stations whose callsigns spell words. To see what else he's up to, go to [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)

## Area Hamfests

<b>6 Mar 2010</b>	Dugger ARC <a href="http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html">http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.775 (PL 136.5) <b>Contact:</b> Kyle Shipman, KB9ZGN 7084 East Monroe Street, #D Dugger, IN 47848 Phone: 812-648-2487 Email: <a href="mailto:kb9zgn@sbcglobal.net">kb9zgn@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>7 Mar 2010</b>	Sterling-Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society <a href="http://www.sterlinghamfest.com">http://www.sterlinghamfest.com</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.850 (PL 114.8) <b>Contact:</b> Paula Portner, KC9FQK 1302 West 2nd Street Dixon, IL 61021 Phone: 815-284-5650 Email: <a href="mailto:pportner@comcast.net">pportner@comcast.net</a>
<b>13 Mar 2010</b>	Wabash Valley ARA <a href="http://www.w9uuu.org">http://www.w9uuu.org</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.685 (PL 151.4) <b>Contact:</b> Nick Vinardi, N9WG PO Box 172 New Goshen, IN 47863 Phone: 812-870-9459 Email: <a href="mailto:n9wg@hotmail.com">n9wg@hotmail.com</a>
<b>20 Mar 2010</b>	50th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society <a href="http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html">http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.660 repeater -600 Hz offset <b>Contact:</b> John Davidson, KC8WMM c/o SMARS Marshall Hamfest PO Box 934 Battle Creek, MI 49016 Phone: 269-962-7145 Email: <a href="mailto:hamfest@w8df.com">hamfest@w8df.com</a>
<b>27 Mar 2010</b>	Columbus Amateur Radio Club <a href="http://www.qsl.net/carc">http://www.qsl.net/carc</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.790 (PL 100.0) <b>Contact:</b> Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN 11941 West Sawmill Road Columbus, IN 47201-8000 Phone: 812-342-4670 Email: <a href="mailto:carc_in@bcremc.net">carc_in@bcremc.net</a>



## Articles Needed

New articles needed for the newsletter. If you see something or want to write an article please send to my email me at [kc9ktv@pcarc.net](mailto:kc9ktv@pcarc.net)

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## Ham Fest Reports

Looking for Hamfest reports, were they bigger or smaller and was the attendance up or down from the previous year? Please send to my [kc9ktv@pcarc.net](mailto:kc9ktv@pcarc.net)

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## VE Session Report

We had 4 examinees in February, resulting in two new Technicians and one new Extra Class. Next test session is March 13th.

73,  
Stan W4SV

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## The Treats List for 2010

Jan	
Feb	
Mar	
Apr	
May	
Jun	
Jul	
Aug	
Sept	
OCT	
Nov	
Dec	

Please pick a month you would like to bring treat and let us know at the next meeting.

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## Items For Sale

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For sale: Yaesu FT-817 QRP transceiver with CW filter and extra batteries \$375 OBO.

KC9QPC, George Cairns (219) 395-9347

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## Club Monthly Events & Officers

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VE TEST SESSIONS</b></p> <p>Test sessions are normally scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of (almost) every month, 9:00 A.M.          Valparaiso Library Room "A"          103 Jefferson Street</p> <p>Contact Stan Vandiver, W4SV          ARRL/VE Team Liaison          219-797-5605  <a href="mailto:w4sv@arrl.net">w4sv@arrl.net</a>          with test or licensing questions</p> <p>QRZ.com offers Online Ham Radio Practice Sessions  <a href="http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl">http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl</a>          This site offers a training aid for passing the Technician, General, and Extra Class exams.          All questions are presented one-on-one with immediate feedback</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLUB MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Held at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month at the Chesterton Library (Annex) meeting room, 100 Indiana Avenue in Chesterton, Indiana</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PCARC OFFICERS</b></p> <p>President          Carl Konefsky W9TAD          Vice-President          Joseph Krajacic II N9TAX          Treasurer          Toby Hoover N9FDF          Secretary          Zacc Sweet KC9JMY</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLUB WEB SITE</b>  <a href="http://www.pcarc.net">http://www.pcarc.net</a>  <b>CLUB ADDRESS</b>          Porter County ARC          P. O. Box 1782          Valparaiso, IN 46384</p>	<p>Tower clean-up every First Saturday of the month, weather permitting. Call on the club repeater to make sure that the detail is "ON". Members meet for breakfast at 8:00 and then go to the tower site at approximately 11:30 A.M.</p>
<p>Straight Key Editor: Requests, comments, corrections, items for sale or trade and items needed. Send to:</p> <p>James B. Beckner Sr. KC9KTV          3961 N. 250 E.          Rensselaer, IN 47978  <a href="mailto:kc9ktv@pcarc.net">kc9ktv@pcarc.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOARD MEMBERS</b></p> <p>James Beckner KC9KTV          Gene Kemp WE9C          John Schick W8OCG</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BREAKFAST</b></p> <p>Every Saturday, 8:00 A.M. at the Viking Chili Bowl-- Highway 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REPEATER DIRECTORY</b></p> <p>2 METER REPEATER          K9PC 146.775(-) MHz          PL 131.8</p> <p>440 MHz REPEATER          K9PC 442.25 (+) MHz          PL 131.8</p>