

STRAIGHTKEY

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

Called to order @ 7:50

Pledges & Moment of silence for SK's

Treasures Report: Unavailable

Minutes: Unavailable

Great Christmas Party!!!!

Repeater Report: Danny W9DWS no changes.

Notified members that John Schick is the new EC for ARES. The ARES meetings will be held at the Porter County EMA EOC the second Wednesday of each month.

Presentation:

Gene WE9C talked about DC Motors.

John KA9PGC showed an antenna tuner that he built and a counter poise that he uses on his motorcycle.

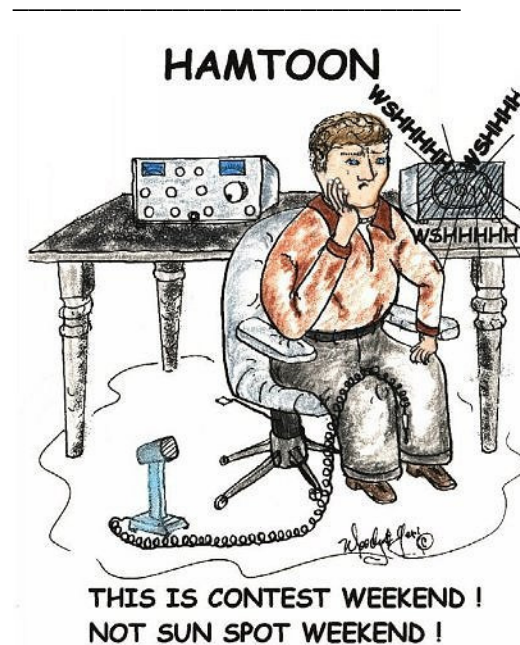
Guests:

Rich N9QLQ
Bryon
Paul AE9P\

Total Attendance

Members: 8
Guests: 3

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:15



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

What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.

4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

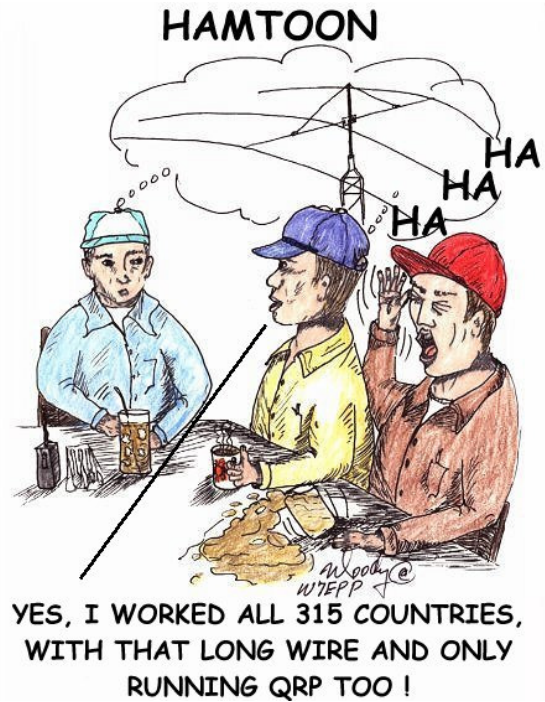
This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Area Hamfests

14 Feb 2010	Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show InterCity Amateur Radio Club http://www.w8we.org/hamfest.htm Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9) Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG 1094 Beal Road Mansfield, OH 44905 Phone: 419-589-2415 (1-7 PM please) Email: metal07man@yahoo.com
21 Feb 2010	Swap-n-Shop Livonia Amateur Radio Club http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm Talk-In: 145.35 (PL 100) Contact: Doris Kelterborn, KD8DXJ PO Box 51532 Livonia, MI 48151-0532 Phone: 734-941-5043 Email: president@livoniaarc.com
27 Feb 2010	Cabin Fever Hamfest LaPorte Amateur Radio Club Talk-In: 146.610 (PL 131.8) & 146.52 Simplex Contact: John Rozinski, N9ROH PO Box 30 LaPorte, IN 46352 Phone: 219-380-9684 Email: n9roh@csinet.net



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.

Items For Sale

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

KC9QPC, George Cairns (219) 395-9347

Articles Needed

New articles needed for the newsletter. If you see something or want to write a article please send to my email me at kc9ktv@pcarc.net

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

VE Session Report

We had 5 examinees in January, resulting in 4 new Generals and 1 new Extra.

73,
Stan



Club Monthly Events & Officers

<p style="text-align: center;">VE TEST SESSIONS</p> <p>Test sessions are normally scheduled for the 2nd 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 w4sv@arrl.net with test or licensing questions</p> <p>QRZ.com offers Online Ham Radio Practice Sessions http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl 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;">CLUB MEETINGS</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;">PCARC OFFICERS</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;">CLUB WEB SITE http://www.pcarc.net CLUB ADDRESS 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 kc9ktv@pcarc.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BOARD MEMBERS James Beckner KC9KTV Gene Kemp WE9C John Schick W8OCG</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BREAKFAST</p> <p>Every Saturday, 8:00 A.M. at the Viking Chili Bowl-- Highway 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REPEATER DIRECTORY</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>