

THE WCARC REPORTER



CATCH OUR SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 184

August 13, 2009

***WHITLEY COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC
P. O. BOX 652
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725***

PRESIDENT	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
VICE PRESIDENT	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
TREASURER	Richard Leo	W9EEE
SECRETARY	Ewing Potts	K9RWO
TRUSTEE	Herman Smith	WB9SPY
TRUSTEE	Lanny Kelly	K9OOP
TRUSTEE	Ed Scott	K9EJS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL

WEB SITE www.wcarc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Tamara Pence AA9IH 8-17 Thomas Buchan N9AL 8-20
Jeffery VanNess N9HTX 9-13

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL!!

INFORMATION PAGE

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club Inc. 2009 Board of Directors

President	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
Vice President	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
Secretary	Ewing Potts	K9RWO
Treasurer	Richard Leo	W9EEE
1-Year Trustee	Herman Smith	WB9SPY
2-Year Trustee	Lanny Kelly	K9OOP
3-Year Trustee	Ed Scott	K9EJS

2009 Appointed Positions:

Newsletter Editor	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Web page Coordinator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
WC9AR Station & Repeater Trustee	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
Station Control Operator	Henry Mackey	N9HM
Station Control Operator	David Keiser	WB9UNL
Station Control Operator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Station Control Operator	Dan Dahms	N9WNH
WCARC Club Net Control Manager	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Melanie Dahms	W9NNH
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Cathy Evilsizor	WB8ORR
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Henry Mackey	N9HM
WCARC Club Net Control Operator	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL

2009 ARRL Special Service Club Appointments:

Public Information Officer (PIO)	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Official Emergency Station (OES)	WCARC	WC9AR
Local Government Liaison (LGL)	Henry Mackey	N9HM
Technical Specialist (TS)	Roger McEntarfer	N9QCL
Official Relay Station (ORS)	Don Evilsizor	KA9QWC
Official Observer (OO)	Greg Watson	KA9DTZ

Indiana Section ARRL Appointments:

Whitley County ARES Emergency Coordinator Ed Scott K9EJS

2009 Standing Committee Appointments

Activities Committee:

Melanie Dahms W9NNH Chairperson
Ed Scott K9EJS Member
Richard Leo W9EEE Member

Audit Committee:

Lee Simmonds KC9CDT Chairperson
Richard Leo W9EEE Member
Ed Scott K9EJS Member

Communications Committee:

Roger McEntarfer N9QCL Chairperson
Dan Dahms N9WNH Member
Ewing Potts K9RWO Member

Education & Training Committee:

John Butcher KC9FBA Chairperson

Finance & Fundraising Committee:

Ewing Potts K9RWO Chairperson
John Butcher KC9FBA Member
Dan Dahms N9WNH Member

Health & Welfare Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson

Historical Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson

Membership Committee:

Melanie Dahms W9NNH Chairperson

Station & Repeater Committee:

Dan Dahms N9WNH Chairperson
Don Evilsizor KA9QWC Member
David Keiser WB9UNL Member
Roger McEntarfer N9QCL Member

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Peabody Library. Introductions were made by members present. Nineteen members present—see attached sheet. There were two guests-- Justin Whaley KC9DCP, and Rick Miller AB9OK.

Secretary Ewing K9RWO, read the minutes of the previous meeting. There was one correction of a call sign for Cathy from WB9OOR, corrected to WB9ORR. A motion was made by Dan N9WNH, to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Betty KC9HYW.
The minutes were accepted as corrected.

No treasurer's report.

President Dan N9WNH, said there is a change in our monthly programs as follows:

August—Greg KA9DTZ, will talk on GEO CASHING

September—Ed K9EJS, will talk on ARES activity.

October—Greg KA9DTZ, will talk on building a portable generator using a 12 Volt alternator.

Vice-President Melanie W9NNH, stated that Ripley County Amateur Radio Club is planning a tailgate flea market on Saturday, August 22, 2009. Also, we are still taking ideas for the December program.

Health and Welfare—Melanie W9NNH, said the newspaper listed an obituary for Charles Bollinger WB9DNE, of South Whitley who died June 24, 2009 at the age of 80.

Dan N9WNH, reported damage to the 35' tower from field day with the base taken to Rick Brown for repair again. The 50' tower cross-rod has been repaired. Roger N9QCL, has the Kenwood 850 that needs repaired. He will look at it to evaluate what is wrong.

Dan N9WNH, said the results for the June 2009 Field Day were the best year so far for the club with a total points of 1,912 including 850 bonus points. A discussion on improvements for next year included changing from duplicate sheets to the use of laptop computers with existing software the club has used in previous years. Also, laptop computers would be good items for donation to our club. Joseph Lawrence K9RFZ, said the Fort Wayne Radio Club uses the topic of field day on the radio net two months ahead for promotion, to involve more members, and plan equipment needed. Dan also reported the ARES set results showed Indiana placed third. Within Indiana, Wayne County and Union County had 324 points each with Whitley County coming in at 234 points. Dan said the three member committee reviewed the WCARC Constitution and By-Laws which resulted in changes. The changes will be typed and copies printed. This will be followed by a two month club review.

New Business—The 4-H Fair board now requires a \$175.00 for a non-profit organization to have a place on the fair grounds. Note, our club has had a place at the 4-H Fairgrounds for the past 29 years at no charge, but not anymore. Dave WB9UNL, is open for ideas to get a working amateur radio station before the public. More discussion is needed at a future meeting.

Cathy WB8ORR, said the state wide RACES check-in on the local 2 meter net is set for Saturday July 18, 2009.

Roger N9QCL, said the W5YI test session will be conducted at the Peabody Library from 9-11:00 a.m. on Saturday July 25, 2009.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Betty KC9HYW, seconded by Cathy WB9ORR, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ewing K9RWO
Secretary

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club

Board Meeting

July 23, 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Board members present were Dan Dahms N9WNH, Melanie Dahms W9NNH, Ewing Potts K9RWO, Junior Smith WB9SPY, Lanny Kelly K9OOP, and Richard Leo W9EEE.

Club members present were Dave Keiser WB9UNL.

No board meeting in June.

Secretary Ewing K9RWO, read the minutes from the May board meeting. Melanie W9NNH, made the motion to accept the minutes, Junior WB9SPY, seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted as read.

Vice-President Melanie W9NNH, went over the programs for the rest of the year:

August—Greg KA9DTZ, will give a program on GEO CASHING.

Sept.—Ed K9EJS, will talk on ARES activity.

October—Greg KA9DTZ, will talk on building a portable generator using a 12 Volt alternator.

November—Elections

December—open for the Christmas program

Treasurer's report by Richard W9EEE, for June and July were accepted pending audit.

Discussion was held on paying the electric bill through automatic payments.

The motion was made by Melanie W9NNH, and seconded by Lanny K9OOP, to set up for auto-pay monthly for the city electric bill. Motion approved.

Dan N9WNH, reported that the tower base is still with Rick Brown with no hurry for repair-- nothing heard yet.

Discussion on field day with plans for improvement next year.

Discussion on disposition of Raytheon items that were donated to WCARC.

Fort Wayne Hamfest is Nov 14-15th. We need to reserve a club table.

By-Laws and Constitution to be reviewed at August board meeting with suspension of the business meeting.

General meeting—bring up time change for club 2 meter repeater net from 7:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Lanny K9OOP, and seconded by Jr. WB9SPY, at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ewing K9RWO
Secretary

WHITLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) – KA9QWC

I am submitting this article as a refresher for those who may be unfamiliar with some of the key past history about our county EOC ham radio equipment usage. The term best describing this subject radio equipment is simply to “USE IT”.

I do not believe it requires a mental giant to understand the term “use it” but can certainly understand some of the modern equipment can be a mental challenge to figure out all the functions – at least it is for me. That my fellow amateurs is the primary point for me to submit this article for our newsletter.

Training has essentially been presented in the past for members who operate in the EOC. Those who are new or missed such training can also request help from someone. In order to clarify this further for example if you desire help on the Kenwood TS-480SAT HF station radio my suggestion would be to consult Roger/N9QCL. Additionally Cathy/WB8ORR or myself can run through some of the operations for this station.

Since the VHF/UHF radio equipment has been mostly programmed via software; it basically is setup with the designated alpha-numeric channel identifications for recognition. Therefore one just needs to power on and observe the channels. Those who have operated in the past are fairly well clued in on the how to part far as the radio goes. Again if help is needed on how to operate the radio please advise.

Now the PACKET radio operation is fairly standard far as the TNC commands are concerned. What may be different for those who have operated packet in the past will probably be the software named “WINPACK”. This program functions through the Windows operating system. The packet operator can type up text or messages in standard text or notepad formatting plus draft ARRL formatted messages to send. I can offer assistance both in the EOC or at our QTH for packet.

I will reflect back to one key point again concerning EOC equipment that was made earlier “USE IT”! And when stating use it there are numerous opportunities available to test yourself and build up confidence via many radio nets that exist on both HF & VHF/UHF. There is radio activity essentially 24/7 so one can probably find free time to match yours.

Please if you do use the HF position fill out the logbook to help all of us understand on how the antennas perform day or night on various frequencies.

I want to emphasize the point that during an emergency is not exactly the best time to learn the basics or have someone stop teach a class on how to draft a message or use equipment.

My old often used idiom is “You can lead a horse to water, but cannot make it drink.

Indiana R.A.C.E.S. Semi-Annual Test – KA9QWC

I decided to follow up on this recent exercise which in my opinion was a success as opposed to someone who may have indicated otherwise with negative comments to others who were not present in our EOC for this event.

Reflecting back to the subject event the Summer State Wide R.A.C.E.S. Test was conducted on Saturday July 18, 2009 at 1300 UTC. Basically the test procedures will enable EMA Directors and their R.A.C.E.S. Amateur Radio Operators to use whatever means they have at their discretion to communicate with the State EOC. That was the task in a nutshell.

I want to emphasis the key point “whatever” underlined in the above paragraph. This point may of confused someone in regards to our communications ability going to the Indiana State EOC. I am stating we satisfied both communicating & reporting to the state EOC during this exercise and our net report addressed to W9SEM. This was accomplished in both voice & digital modes. That spells success in my book.

Now with all the above being stated please understand I did not indicate there was not any room for improvement. A majority of the needed improvement in my opinion pertains to one primary factor. That is for eligible operators to become active in the EOC and use the available equipment at our disposal.

And finally I want to thank those who were involved to make this exercise a success.

ARRL QSL Services - Gary Stebbins, KC9GGV

ARRL QSL Services
Gary Stebbins, KC9GGV
Email: kc9ggv@arrl.net

The final courtesy of any QSO is the exchanging of QSL cards. Exchanging a QSL card within the United States is generally easy because you can simply send your QSL card along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (or SASE) and you can usually expect a card in return. Your cost to complete the QSL is about 88 cents in postage.

As propagation improves as Cycle 24 ascends, you can expect to start hearing more and more DX stations on the airwaves. If your goal is to attain the DXCC Award from the ARRL you will have to work a minimum of 100 countries more accurately termed entities. There are currently 338 entities on the DXCC list. To be a member of the highly coveted DX Honor Roll you must have 329 confirmed.

Ok, so you have worked several DX stations, but, to prove you have worked them you will need the QSLs in order to apply for your first DXCC award. Well if you QSL directly with all of the stations overseas that you worked, it can become a very costly proposition. For each overseas contact you will need TWO airmail envelopes (one with your return address), your completed QSL card, \$2 USD (we call them green stamps), foreign first class air mail postage or an International Response Coupon (or IRC) and a USPS airmail postage stamp (98 cents). This means a single QSL confirmation will cost a minimum of \$3 in postage. Which means a DXCC award could actually cost \$300 (or more) to complete if you sent all of the cards direct to each overseas country you worked.

In some cases you will have to QSL directly with an overseas station because that station is not a member of his/her country's QSL bureau or that entity does NOT have a bureau. In that case you may want to use foreign air mail postage. Bill Plum DX (email: plumdx@msn.com) in Flemington, NJ is a source for nested airmail envelopes, foreign airmail postage and other DX supplies. If you email him, he will send you back his latest price list. When sending QSLs to some entities foreign postage may be a better choice. Some overseas postal systems have high levels of lost mail and pilferage. When sending a card direct via airmail NEVER put call signs on the envelope. That is red flag for postal thieves.

Thankfully, many DX operations have QSL Managers located here in the United States. In those situations you can send your card to the QSL manager with an SASE and you will generally receive a card in return. Your total cost would be 88 cents postage. In some instances they may request you donate a few dollars to support the DX operation as a contribution.

Now if you are an ARRL member you have one of the best benefits available for working DX. That is the Incoming and Outgoing QSL bureaus.

To send your cards overseas (to countries that have QSL bureaus) you can mail them in bulk to the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Detailed information is available on the ARRL web site. Search for "Outgoing QSL bureau". I usually wait until I have about 75 cards before I send them to the ARRL. Seventy-five cards is equivalent to about one-half pound. The Outgoing QSL bureau charges \$5 for 75 cards (or one-half pound of cards). That works out to about 7 cents per card. You will need to sort your cards by entity or QSL manager per the instructions for the outgoing bureau. They will separate the cards by country and/or QSL bureau and mail them overseas. QSLing by bureau is generally slow. It may take from six months to two years before you receive a return QSL card.

But, to receive your cards, you will have to have pre-paid envelopes on file with your Incoming QSL Bureau. The incoming bureau you should use depends on your call area assignment. There is detailed information on the ARRL web site. Search for "Incoming QSL bureaus". If you are assigned a "9" call then you will want to use the NIDXA bureau <http://qsl.nidxa.org/>. Each bureau has information on setting up your account to receive QSL cards. The cost for 12 envelopes with postage is currently \$9.24 with NIDXA. Each call suffix is assigned at least one card handler. Your card handler will wait until he has one ounce of cards in the envelope before he sends them to you. One ounce will be 7 to 10 cards.

So you have the worked your first 100 countries and you have the QSLs to prove it. So now what do you do next?

Carefully read the instructions for preparing your DXCC award application on the ARRL web site. When you have your cards all ready for the first 100 countries contact Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA (k9la@verizon.net) and he will gladly check your application for your first DXCC award.

With the activation of the ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW) in 2003 you may be able to confirm some of your DX contacts solely via that method or a combination of cards and LoTW confirmations. More and more DX stations are participating in the LoTW every month. More on the Logbook of the World (LoTW) in my next article. 73 and Good DX!

WHAT DOES HZ1AB MEAN TO YOU - KA9QWC July 9, 2009

WHAT DOES HZ1AB MEAN TO YOU - KA9QWC

Essentially it may not mean anything to the average ham operator in this day and age but it certainly brings back some old memories for me dating back to 1960. Yes some readers may think HZ1AB is gibberish but let me reveal that it was really a ham call sign heard out of Saudi Arabia.

Which may further lead to the question of where is your certificate of live ham license going back to 1960? Well let me explain old Donald here never got his ham ticket until December 16, 1983. Then the next obvious question may be how did I know about this station.

Let me back up some more to explain I learned the morse code in late 1959 to early 1960 being required to copy 22 WPM for the United States Army Security Agency. February of 1960 found me near Kassel, Germany a city in the north at 20 years of age copying CW 6 days a week in my army employment. We copied morse code on 3 distinct rotating shifts nearly like factory workers. Generally 3rd shift was not quite as busy so we had some free time on our 2 military R-390 receivers.

Several of our fellow workers were ham radio operators. One in particular who is still a friend today introduced me to the ham radio bands and modes. That introduction served as a spark to light up my interest to eventually earn my ham ticket in later years.

But let us get back to the story on HZ1AB. My fellow worker had me listen to the Saudi Arabia station in action and what a rush it was hearing stations all over world day after day making contacts. There were so many USA stations trying for the contact that they would divide up the call areas. For example if that station would ask for ham-calls in the 2 area only we could just hear the real RF rush of noise on the band as they tuned up. Now that was quite a thrill for me to witness such a concentration of RF and calls being made to HZ1AB.

Alas, HZ1AB is no more operated by the same team due to government changes since about 2004. More of the story can be read at <http://www.qsl.net/hz1ab/> that gives some history. One only has to type HZ1AB on your search engine and many web pages of history will appear. A brief narrative follows below.

HZ1AB is one of the most famous DX calls heard in ham radio. The station was usually responsible for the first worked and confirmed Saudi Arabian contact for the DX enthusiast. In contests, HZ1AB provided country and/or zone multiplier on all bands and modes. HZ1AB provided the first HZ OSCAR satellite Q's for hundreds of OSCAR users. The station went on the air in early 1947; the license a gift from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since then, hundreds of thousands of contacts were logged by over 160 different operators.

WCARC W5YI TEST RESULTS

The Whitley County Amateur Radio Club W5YI Team held their quarterly test session on Saturday, July 25, 2009.

The W5YI Team members present were Cathy Evilsizor / WB8ORR Don Evilsizor / KA9QWC, Dave Keiser / WB9UNL, Betty Hopson / KC9HYW, Gary Stebbins / KC9GGV, Greg Watson / KA9DTZ, James Smith / N9FGN and Roger McEntarfer / N9QCL.

Seven people showed up for the July test session and all but one left smiling with a new license or an upgrade to an existing license.

Only those signing the waiver allowing us to print their results will be listed.

New hams are as follows:

Amanda F. Jackson – Technician Class – Columbia City, IN

David M.. Jackson – Technician Class – Columbia City, IN

Zephyr Z. Jaquish – Technician Class – Fort Wayne, IN

Daniel L. Zimmerman – Technician Class – Huntington, IN

Upgrading hams are as follows:

Benjamin D. Laskowski / KB9WWL - Extra Class – Fort Wayne, IN

Debra K. Smith / N9NNU - General Class – Huntington, IN

The next W5YI Test session will be held on Saturday October 31, 2009 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM,

In Community Room A of the Peabody Library located at 1160 East State Road 205 - Columbia City, Indiana.

For further information on upcoming test sessions or other Whitley County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. activities check out our web site at www.wcarc.org

Or contact Roger McEntarfer / N9QCL via email at n9qcl@arrl.net

Roger McEntarfer / N9QCL

Whitley County W5YI CVE

August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 HCARC ARES Net 8 PM - 146.685 ea Sat night
2 WCARC Sunday nite net - 7:45 PM 444.550 ea Sunday night	3 Siren test 12 PM 21 ARC Mtg. 7 PM	4	5 WC ARES NET 8:00 PM 145.270 ea Wed night	6 Hoosier Lake RC Mtg. 7:30 PM	7	8
9 6:00 PM Races Net 3.920 kHz	10 7:00 Races	11	12 Warsaw Emergency Service net 7:00 PM ea Wed Night	13 WCARC General Mtg. 7:00 PM Wells Co ARC Mtg. 7 PM	14	15 9 AM RACES NET
16 Packet Net ea Sunday nite @ 9:00 PM on 145.530	17 Siren test 12 PM	18	19 WC ARES Simplex NET following regular net on 146.55 MHz Every 3 rd Wed night	20	21	22
23	24 HCARC Mtg. 7 PM	25	26	27 WCARC Board Mtg. 7:00 PM	28	29
30	31					

2009

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 WC ARES NET 8:00 PM 145.270 ea Wed night	3 Whitley County ARES Quarterly Meeting 7 PM Hoosier Lake RC Mtg. 7:30 PM	4	5 HCARC ARES Net 8 PM - 146.685 ea Sat night
6 WCARC Sunday nite net - 7:45 PM 444.550 ea Sunday night	7 Labor Day Siren test 12 PM 21 ARC Mtg. 7 PM	8	9 Warsaw Emergency Service net 7:00 PM ea Wed Night	10 WCARC General Mtg. 7:00 PM Wells Co ARC Mtg. 7 PM	11	12
13 6:00 PM Races Net 3.920 kHz	14 7:00 Races	15	16 WC ARES Simplex NET following regular net on 146.55 MHz Every 3 rd Wed night	17	18	19 9 AM RACES NET
20 Packet Net ea Sunday nite @ 9:00 PM on 145.530	21 Siren test 12 PM	22	23	24 WCARC Board Mtg. 7:00 PM	25	26
27	28 HCARC Mtg. 7 PM	29	30			

2009