

THE WCARC REPORTER



CATCH OUR SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 185

September 10, 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:

Jeffery VanNess	N9HTX	9-13	Lee Simmonds	KC9CDT	10-7
John Butcher	KC9FBA	10-10	Richard Leo	W9EEE	10-10
Amie Collins	N9OXO	10-23	Amanda Jackson	KC9QGF	10-23

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

August 13, 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. at the Peabody Library. Introductions were made by members present. Twenty members present—see attached sheet. There was one guest—Nancy Bollinger WD9DBM.

Secretary Ewing K9RWO, read the minutes of the previous meeting. There was a call sign correction for Cathy from WB9ORR to WB8ORR in two locations, then an addition where Dan N9WNH, reported the ARES set results to show “within” Indiana “Whitley County placed third”. Also, show a correction from “our club” to “our club and ARES” has had a place at the 4-H Fairgrounds for the past 29 years. Correction to W5YI test time from 9-11:30 a.m. to 9-11:00 a.m. A motion was made by Roger N9QCL, to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Greg KA9DTZ. Motion approved.

Treasurer Richard W9EEE, presented the treasurer’s report. The report was accepted pending audit. Dan N9WNH, asked for a motion to pay Rick Brown \$20.00 for repairing the tower. The motion was made by John KC9FBA, seconded by Betty KC9HYW. The motion was accepted.

Vice-President Melanie W9NNH, displayed a certificate for Silent Key Charles Bollinger WB9DNE, for 40 years of membership with the ARRL. Also, Ed K9EJS’s dad was going back into the hospital; therefore Ed couldn’t be at the meeting to do an ARES program. The ARES presentation was made by Dan N9WNH with the assistance of Dave W9UNL. Dan N9WNH said the automatic payment of the electric bill to the city will start either in September or October at the earliest. Dan N9WNH, said we are asking for donations for snacks. In the past we have done a 50/50 drawing. The question was asked as to whether to start this again? Motion to table the discussion was made by Cathy WB8ORR, and seconded by Greg KA9DTZ. Dan N9WNH, said we need to review the constitution and by-laws at the September meeting and then again in October for the final review.

The 4-H tour-de-loops will be Sunday September 20, 2009. There is a change of the SE loop through Jefferson Township. The check-in will be at Jefferson Township Fire Department building.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John KC9FBA , seconded by Greg KA9DTZ, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ewing K9RWO
Secretary

Whitley County Amateur Radio Club
Board Meeting
August 27, 2009

President Dan N9WNH, called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 Henry Mackey N9HM, Betty Watson KC9HYW, Greg Watson KA9DTZ, and Dave Keiser WB9UNL.

Secretary Ewing K9RWO, read the minutes from the July board meeting. One sentence needs correction as follows: **Next** general meeting—bring up time change for the club's **440** repeater net from **7:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday nights**. The minutes were accepted as corrected with a motion by Melanie W9NNH and seconded by Richard W9EEE. Motion accepted.

Justin KC9DCP, transported the 35 foot repaired tower from Rick Brown's to Roger N9QCL's QTH. Rick Brown was paid \$20.00 for the repairs.

Raytheon items list is to be reviewed by Richard W9EEE, Dan N9WNH, and Greg KA9DTZ, for pricing to sell.

The 4-H tour-de-loops will be Sunday September 20, 2009. Everyone check your calendars to see if you can work.

Dan N9WNH, recommended that each of us should read HR 2160, then send a letter to Mark Souder.

Melanie W9NNH, made a motion to accept today's proposed amendment thru Section II of the constitution. Seconded by Richard W9EEE, motion carried. Review of section III will be accomplished at a special meeting on September 1, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Peabody Library. Melanie W9NNH, made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Lanny K9OOP, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ewing K9RWO
Secretary

ARRL Logbook of the World

By Gary Stebbins, KC9GGV
Email: KC9GGV@arrl.net

In the July issue of the Ham News I mentioned the ARRL Logbook of the World (ARRL LotW) as a means of confirming QSL's electronically. Confirmations thru the ARRL LotW are the only means by which ARRL Awards (ARRL DXCC and ARRL WAS) may be confirmed as an alternative to actual QSL cards. The only requirement for U.S. amateurs to use the ARRL LotW is that you must be a current member of the ARRL if you wish to receive award credit. The Logbook of the World web site is located here. www.arrl.org/lotw

To use the ARRL LotW you will need a personal computer and an internet connection. Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems are supported. The software for your operating system is available on the ARRL LotW web site. <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/download.html>

The ARRL LotW first went live on September 15, 2003. Today there are over 28,000 users on the system with active accounts. Over 232 million QSO records have been uploaded to the LotW and this has resulted in over 22 million QSL confirmations. The number of users with certificates on the ARRL LotW has tripled since I first setup my account in February 2005.

Ok, you ask yourself why would I want to use the ARRL LotW? Well if you have done any direct QSL's with any overseas stations, then you already know that the average cost of exchanging a single QSL card works out to about three dollars or more. That is for just ONE single card! Another problem with direct QSL's is that some of the overseas postal services are not as efficient (or honest) as ours. I have received envelopes from oversea where the corners of the envelope have been cut off where dishonest postal workers are looking for currency in the envelopes.

Another excellent feature of the ARRL LotW is that if you already have a DXCC account you will be able to view all of your QSL's on the system. If you received your DXCC prior to setting up your LotW account it is simply a matter of requesting that your LotW account be linked with your existing DXCC account(s). You will also want to request that your ARRL Worked All States (WAS) records be linked to your ARRL LotW account. All ARRL DXCC awards and contacts have been maintained by computer at the ARRL since the mid-1990's.

One other great thing about working another station that is using the ARRL LotW is you have the opportunity to have a confirmation in matter of minutes or hours. Recently I had a PSK31 contact with a station in Japan. During our QSO we discovered we were both LotW users. Within two hours I had a confirmation of our QSO (QSL) on the LotW system.

Today nearly all of the logging programs provide a method for uploading your QSO data to the ARRL LotW. My logging software (DXKeeper) lets me upload QSO data whenever I wish. DXKeeper also maintains a record of the QSL confirmations and tracks awards and countries (entities) that have been worked. It does this by synchronizing with the QSL confirmations on the ARRL LotW via the internet. Logging software will be discussed in a future Ham News article.

Applying for awards with the LotW is a very simple operation and is fully explained in the LotW documentation on the web site. Therefore I won't go into detail here. But, you do have to purchase credits for each QSL you wish to confirm for an award submission. Depending on how many credits you purchase the price varies from fifteen to twenty-five cents per credit. This is in addition to the award fee.

When you are applying for an award (i.e. DXCC or WAS) it is not necessary that all of the QSL's be on the LotW. You can have a combination of QSL cards and LotW confirmations. In fact my first DXCC award in 2006 was 48 LotW confirmations and 52 QSL cards. I worked with Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA as our local ARRL DXCC card checker to complete the submission for the award.

73 and Good DX.

WORKED CHINA

MFSK-16 ON 20 WATTS SIGNAL

By Donald Evilsizor-KA9QWC

Gosh what a catch on 3583 USB and only using 20 watts input on the digital mode known as MFSK-16 at approximately 2335 hours local time on August 8, 2009! That contact was not only on low power but also just using an 80 meter dipole up about 20 foot. This article may not be very exciting to hams that use only voice type communications. So if voice, telephone or the internet are your only desired choices in life for ham radio operations – maybe this is not for you.

I must admit for myself of only dabbling lightly into the modern digital modes in recent times but keep experimenting and trying out various signal schemes and software. Wow – I wonder if hams are supposed or expected to do all this research doing technical study. It would be so much easier to just sit back in the recliner and pick up the microphone once a week.

I will have to confess that WB8ORR actually made a contact some time ago on MFSK-16. So I will have to work a bit more to catch up.

Naturally one of the first questions that some hams may ask well exactly what is MFSK16. In short it translates to Multi-Frequency Shift Keying. Some of us are familiar with teletype signals or more specifically what us hams call RTTY using a 2 tone/frequency, as you will be shifting between a mark or space frequency. MFSK-16 then extends to 16 tones/carriers available to be transmitted and when listening to the signal it almost has a musical sound on the receiver with the various notes. Typical ham radio RTTY uses a 170 hz shift while MFSK-16 is approximately 316 hz shift. Yes the MFSK signal is wider than RTTY but there are some advantages.

MFSK has performance advantages of higher rejection of pulse and broadband noise along with other technical aspects of which we will not dwell on in this short article. There are some disadvantages primarily concerning the accuracy of your tuning and receiver stability. I believe most modern ham gear has sufficient stability.

What is strange to me in this modern digital world on ham radio signals is the take-off or modification of old signals used many years ago. For example did you ever hear of Piccolo and Coquelet? We used to call the Coquelet signals “THE FRENCH MUSIC BOX” and of course if you listen to the sounds on the air it is self-explanatory.

Oh and before I forget about one of the initial points of this article the China I worked is not a total hoax but it just so happens to be in China, Maine with the call of WA1M – sorry but I had to get your attention first! But with that being stated I might add that KA9QWC did make a contact to 9A4RC on another digital mode using PSK-31. Yes, I got the hard copy QSL for confirmation. Oh and where is 9A4RC – I will leave that up to you for looking up.

And this leads up to my final point since we have numerous newly licensed hams who may not be experienced with the HF radio world yet – there is fun and excitement out there. And getting QSL confirmations one way or another can be fun. Again I will leave you with this note – Our Ninth District QSL bureau is the Northern Illinois DX Association and if really interested to learn more about this bureau just look on the internet at <http://qsl.nidxa.org/> since explaining the details would be a bit long for this newsletter article. 73 de ka9qwc don.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Hoosier Lake RC Mtg. 7:30 PM	2	3 HCARC ARES Net 8 PM - 146.685 ea Sat night
4 WCARC Sunday nite net - 7:45 PM 444.550 ea Sunday night	5 Siren test 12 PM 21 ARC Mtg. 7 PM	6	7 WC ARES NET 8:00 PM 145.270 ea Wed night	8 WCARC General Mtg. 7:00 PM Wells Co ARC Mtg. 7 PM	9	10
11 6:00 PM Races Net 3.920 kHz	12 7:00 Races	13	14 Warsaw Emergency Service net 7:00 PM ea Wed Night	15	16	17 9 AM RACES NET
18 Packet Net ea Sunday nite @ 9:00 PM on 145.530	19 Siren test 12 PM	20	21 WC ARES Simplex NET following regular net on 146.55 MHz Every 3 rd Wed night	22 WCARC Board Mtg. 7:00 PM	23	24
25	26 HCARC Mtg. 7 PM	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween W5YI Test Session 9:00 AM

2009