



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 6

June 2015

From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

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REPEATERS

Freq	Location
147.000	Merrillville
147.240	St. John
442.075	Merrillville

All Lake County ARC Repeaters are open to all amateurs. All repeaters must have a PL of 131.8 set in order to access.



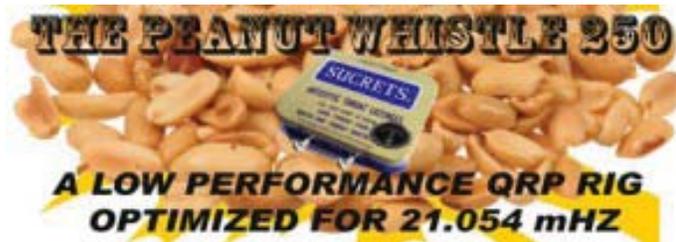
It's been a busy month with the Indiana QSO Party, and Dayton Hamvention. The club had a good turnout for the Indiana QSO Party we made a lot of contacts. The station had antenna problems but they were corrected and we were able to work all the bands. Once we corrected the antenna problem the antenna and rig worked great and the bands were busy.

The club is planning to work a mini field day, just working field day for one day. There will be no pressure so come out and get your feet wet and learn how to work a contest! This will be a fun day and a good learn experience. I will have a sign-up sheet at the club meeting.

I made it to Dayton and there was a lot of interesting items to see. The hot topics were the new flex radio and its new remote display (Maestro). The Elecraft has a new software defined radio K3S and the old K3 are now out of production. The other big items were there were a lot DMR radios that change hands. Connect Systems were selling their new CS-750 DMR radio. The Hoosier DMR group had their DMR (The Hoosier Road Show Repeater) at the Hamvention and it had excellent coverage for the event. They had the internet connected to the repeater so all the talk groups were active and we were able to talk back to Northwest Indian on Midwest Talk Group.

Breaking News from Dayton!

by Bob, WB0RUR, on the scene from <http://hamhijinks.com/>



In a move which catches accountants, lawyers and bill collectors by surprise, the defunct Wet Noodle Antenna Company has re-opened and is doing business as Peanut Whistle Transmitters. peanut_small

Earlier this year, Wet Noodle shuttered operations after 56 years of operation amid the sunspot doldrums of current Cycle 24. But Macy Blixton, son

of founder John Blixton, says the doors are open again with a new product line.

"We're building cheap, poorly spec'd, almost non-functioning QRP transmitters," says Blixton.

"We were cleaning out the warehouse and discovered a huge cache of empty Sucrets tins. We don't know where they came from, but we are going to use them to house the devices."

Three shifts of employees are working 6 days a week to con-

struct the initial product offering, the "Peanut Whistle 250," a quarter watt CW transmitter that is crystal controlled and optimized for 21.054 MHz.

Famous for poor antenna products, Wet Noodle antennas were designed to perform only under the best propagation and operating conditions. The "Peanut Whistle" transmitter, built inside the Sucrets tin, will carry on that tradition," says Blixton, proudly.

"When we hit the next sunspot cycle peak in April of 2023, you might be able to make a contact with the device. We'll be stocked up and ready to sell these things like hot cakes

Minutes

May 8, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Marv.

Introductions were made 17 members attended the meeting

Minutes from April meeting read motion made to accept the minutes as read, motion carried.

Treasury's report was read and we now have 47 paid members, motion made to accept the treasury's report, motion carried.

PO box fee was paid by Jim and Proof of insurance on tower was sent to the Red Cross.

Repeater report, The Reboot has helped the repeater, new lightening arrestors to be ordered and install. Will also check the VHF repeater for power and other problems.

No DX report

No Skywarn report, Leon triathlon to be June 7 with check in at 5:00AM

RACES report: the Trailer for the Indiana QSO party found both batteries bad on trailer and will need to be replaced before Field day. EMA is planning to move in the future and club will be allowed to go to new meeting place. A discussion about the County's new 700 MHz trunking system

No Red Cross report

Club Net report Net is doing OK and will re-link repeaters for next net.

Indiana QSO party Report TS2000 and computer by Mark brought out with 6 hours operation with

- 183 contacts
- 83 multiplier
- 15189 points

Found that extra length of coax allowed tuner in radio to tune all bands

New Business

Field day to operate for 1 day only with operation 1PM to dark. Will make this a training and a club fun event. Club member questioned about making it a 24hour event and decided will only operate for 1 day for fun and not contest event.

Discussion about a mobile installation where power connection needs to be made as new car current sensors require power connection after the sensor. Antennas need to have a good ground plane and get a good antenna. No antenna switches should be used.

Ben brought the most unusual connector for power that was a cigarette lighter plug.

Next month show tell will bring a electronic related kit to show, and next months discussion will be the Dayton Hamfest and new radios seen at the hamfest.

Section manager will be next months program.

Program on DMR started at 8:34PM by Mark.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48PM by Marv

Program Schedule - June

- Show & Tell: Bring in a project or kit that you have built
- Discussion: Hamvention 2015 and new equipment announcements
- Speaker: Joseph, K9RFZ ARRL Indiana Section Manager

Skywarn and Marathons

By Carter Garcia, KC9YGU



Hi everyone! Say hello to the busy time of the year- at least for storm spotters and ARES operators! Our main concern right now is Leon's Triathlon on June 7. **HAM Radio Operators are desperately needed to volunteer at this event to provide Emergency Communications.** Operators will be handling medical, logistics, and other types of information for the event.

This is the championship triathlon for the U.S. and Canadian military teams, so it is very important we show our support.

Because of the magnitude of this event and road closures, volunteers are asked to be on site by 5AM at The Pavilion of Wolf Lake in Hammond. There will be a meeting for all HAM radio volunteers on May 30 at 6:30PM at The Greg Phillips Emergency Services Center on Rt2 in Valpo.

To sign up, email me at carter.nwiskywarn@gmail.com

Also, don't forget to check-in to our weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm on the N9IAA repeater (146.685, pl131.8).

Information:

NET Controllers Needed NWI Skywarn is in need of HAM Radio Operators to sign up for a NET Control position. NET controllers must have storm spotter training. Contact Carter, KC9YGU for more information.

Letterman Issued Embarrassing Ham Callsign

By Bob WB0RUR, on the scene - from <http://hamhijinks.com/>



NEW YORK, NY – After months of studying, practice exams, and thumbing through the latest Ham Radio Outlet catalog, Late Night talk show host and comedian David Letterman has been issued a FCC amateur radio service callsign.

Letterman passed the amateur radio "General Class" exam last Sunday at the Empire State hamfest.

After successfully convincing his wife that he needed a new hobby to occupy his time during his upcoming retirement, Letterman passed the exam with an 86% score.

The Late Night host says despite his accomplishment, he's disappointed in his callsign.

"I was hoping for something funnier," says Letterman.

Letterman will join the amateur ranks with the call sign: KLIENO

FCC spokesman Robert Thorndyke declined comment, except to say, "Wait until you see what we have planned for Conan O'Brien."

Confused Protestors Picket Dayton Hamfest

By Bob WB0RUR, on the scene - from <http://hamhijinks.com/>

DAYTON, Ohio – In what's being called confusing and totally unexpected, about a dozen protestors showed up this morning at the 2013 Dayton Hamfest.

People Advancing The Humane Treatment of Animals (PATHTA) protested in front of Dayton's Hara Arena, advocating against alleged unsafe hog farming, growing and butchering practices.

"We will make these mad men stop!" exclaimed group leader Paula Smith-Taylor of Westchester, Vermont. "The unstoppable slaughter of hogs for food and profit must end!"

A group of ham radio operators headed to the "<http://hamhijinks.com/breaking-news-wet-noodle-antenna-company-re-opens-as-peanut-whistle-transmitters/> Peanut Whistle Transmitters" exhibit took a moment to visit with Smith-Taylor.

"She seemed genuinely surprised at what 'ham radio' actually meant," says octogenarian Vince Bascoe of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"After I explained it to her, she told the group to get back into her VW microbus for their next assignment."

"We're headed to Arkansas!" Smith-Taylor exclaimed as the van left the hamfest parking lot.

"We hear there's fighting hogs there! We must stop the insanity!"

WB0RUR Note: The Ohio Pork Producers are offering a fantastic bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich for \$7.99 with drink. They are located at Pavilion 1B at Hara Arena. The funds raised go to assist with the FCC's "one kilohertz at a time" project.

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ

It's been another busy month and DMR activity thru out the state continues to explode. Since my last column, they have announced new DMR repeater sites in Upland, Plymouth, West Lafayette (sponsored by Purdue University ARC), Covington, Tipton, and Floyds Knobs. Since that time, Plymouth has come online at a height of 300'.

Hoosier DMR brought the mobile roadshow out to Hamvention, and had the demo repeater on the air. I was able to talk to W9WY back home from the ballroom arena along with keeping tabs on KE9TC and WV9O. DMR-MARC also had a repeater online inside the building for all to use. At Hamvention, they also had one of the new Motorola SLR-5700 Mototrbo repeaters on display. This new rack mounted repeater features a form factor of 1 U high. Connect Systems was featuring the CS750 handheld at their booth. Also on display, was the new CS-800 mobile,

which is still in the development stage. I felt the quality of the case on the CS-800 was not up to par. It had a very shiny non-textured black finish and it looked like it might not be very durable. They did not know at this time, if you'll be getting a mounting bracket or not.

Over the past month, Connect Systems has stopped selling the CS-700/701. It has been replaced with the CS-750/751, which is exactly the same as the CS-700 with the exception of newer firmware and a different memory chip to hold more contacts and channels. Previously, we were lead to believe that the CS700 could be upgraded at home with the newest firmware. However, Connect Systems has decided against it now due to the risks of "bricking" your radio and intellectual property reasons. For those of you who want the new firmware, you can request a RMA #, and they will upgrade it for you for \$20 which also includes the

return shipping to you.

Tytera/Tyt has released the MD-380 DMR HT for under \$200 and there has been a lot of excitement around it. It has a nice case and colored LCD display on it and supports FPP. The one downside is the firmware and CPS was written by the same company that wrote the old firmware and CPS for the CS-700. The CPS looks exactly the same as the CS-700 and you will also have some of the same issues that the old CS700 firmware has such as no ability to adjust the microphone gain. These radios are currently being imported from China, we will be hearing quite a few of them on the air.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to last month's LCARC meeting and saw my presentation and demonstration on DMR. It was great to be able to talk about the mode!



The logo for HoosierDMR.net is displayed on a dark blue background with a white border. The text 'HoosierDMR.net' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. A white silhouette of a radio tower with a lightning bolt is positioned between the 'i' and 'e' of 'Hoosier'. In the bottom right corner, there is a smaller logo for 'DMR-MARC' with the text 'Powered By' above it and 'Motorola Amateur Radio Club Worldwide Network' below it.

Indiana QSO Party - May 2

We had a great time today participating in the Indiana QSO Party. The weather could not of been any nicer! It was great that some of you were able to get your feet wet on HF.

In our six hours of casually operating:

- 183 Contacts
- 83 multipliers
- Total Score: 15,189

I have already submitted the log. -- 73 Mark, K9MQ

Web Page Update

Check out the recent updates to our club web page www.w9lj.org:

- A DMR page with DMR information and a video
- Button on the home page to link directly to the DMR page.
- Added meeting time to home page.
- Added a RESOURCES page (under more) that will contain info of interest. First post is the article from QST on wiring mobile radios in modern vehicles.

If you have any articles or information you feel would be helpful to our members please advise. Thanks.

Membership forms can be downloaded from our web site at www.w9lj.org. If you download the file from the web you can use your computer to fill in the blanks (makes our secretary happy) and then print the form with your information filled in.

FOR SALE!



For Sale: Heathkit DX-60A Transmitter. 10-80M (excluding WARC). Includes assembly manual. There are some signs of wear, but overall the transmitter is in good shape. The transmitter worked when I first acquired it. I'm unable to fully test it at this time, but the tubes lit up. \$60, Sold As-Is. mark@k9mq.com

FOR SALE: YAESU FT-920

Comes with:

- Hand Microphone
- FM Unit
- 500Hz CW Filter
- Manual
- Power Cord

Asking \$700.00

Contact: Kerry, KB9ORH
kerry0464@comcast.net

Victim of House Fire Identified as wife of Ham

Medaryville, Ind



Not long ago a Ham many of us knew well, Jerry KE9I, who had the 145.45 CP Rptr For Yrs become a silent key; his Dad Leo N9QX was also a Ham. Don, KA9QJG informed me about the awful accident below about Jerry's wife also a Ham KB9NSC. Prayers and thoughts go out to all herfamily and friends.

Medaryville, Ind. The victim of a house explosion in Pulaski County has been identified.

Authorities say Nancy Jendraszkiewicz, 53, died from smoke inhalation.

Police and fire crews continue to investigate after a Saturday morning house explosion in Medaryville, which is in Pulaski County.

The explosion happened in the 2500 block of N. 1600 West at 7:14 a.m.

The house was engulfed in flames when emergency crews arrived, and neighbors reported that there was a person inside.

The Medaryville and San Pierre Fire Departments battled the blaze for several hours.

A search of the residence was conducted using a cadaver dog, and the body of a female was discovered. Her identity is not being released until an autopsy can be performed by the Pulaski

County Coroner's Office.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the explosion, but a propane leak is suspected.

A family cat was located alive at the scene by Asst. Chief Gaillard and turned over to Pulaski County Animal Control.

The house was completely destroyed, but no damage to neighboring structures was reported. More at:

<http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/Authorities-investigating-after-early-morning-house-explosion-303998331.html>