



# SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 11

November 2015

## From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

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 Newsletter Editor and  
 Webmaster, John, W9WY

## 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.



The time has change and we are back to Central Standard Time, the temperatures is dropping, the leaves are changing and the days are getting shorter. We are coming to the end of the year. It's time to think about the club elections for officers for 2016. Any one that would like to run please get a hold of me. We are always looking for new officers. Nominations and Election will be heled at the November meeting.

Upcoming programs:

November: robotics Club, Nominations and Elections  
 December Coffee and Cake

Looks like another busy meeting see you there!

From the Oval Office, 73 Marv WV9O

## Ham Op Gets CB Radio Christmas Gift Again

By K5PO, on the scene



WREXHAM, Wales – Wrexham area amateur radio operator Milt Arbunt received a thoughtful, but misguided Christmas gift from his family, creating what seems like a new tradition he wishes he they would stop.

For the fourth year in a row, Arbunt received a CB radio for Christmas from a family member at the annual Christmas gathering. Milt Arbunt, 34, is a “Final Glaz-

ing Supervisor” at the Cadbury plant in Wrexham and has been an active amateur radio operator for the past twelve years. He does not use nor does he have any interest in Citizen’s Band radio.

the selection of the CB radio as a gift this year. “He’s always back there in his office turning knobs and playing with blinky lights. The one I got makes a farty noise! I thought he’d have so most fun playing with that with his CB buddies,” she said with a chuckle.

Arbunt says his aunt actually bought him the same radio three years ago. “Auntie Jean was actually the first one to start this CB buying thing for Christmas and I think she’s also been the one to keep suggesting others in the family do the same,”

said Arbunt.

“Heck, even if I wanted to open up the CB’s transmit capability, I wouldn’t be able to use it on the ham bands as it has far too much spurious emissions... and I don’t mean the built-in fart noises.”

“I even made a wish list and distributed it to my family members this year, hoping I could avoid getting another dang CB. I have a Signalink digi interface on there and a Yaesu MD-200 mic for my FTDX-3000. I figured maybe they’d get the point. I guess not,” he said.

He has been able to return the radios and get his wife a gift with the money. “I’m getting her a clothes iron again this year!” said Arbunt. “I got her one the last two years and she seemed happy enough.”

# Minutes

October 9, 2015

- Meeting called to order at 7:27 PM
- Introductions were made with 10 attending meeting.
- Treasury's report was read by Marv
- Minutes were read and accepted as read.

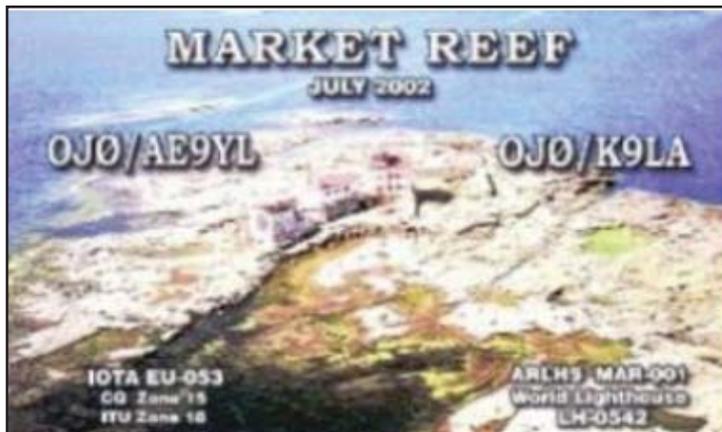
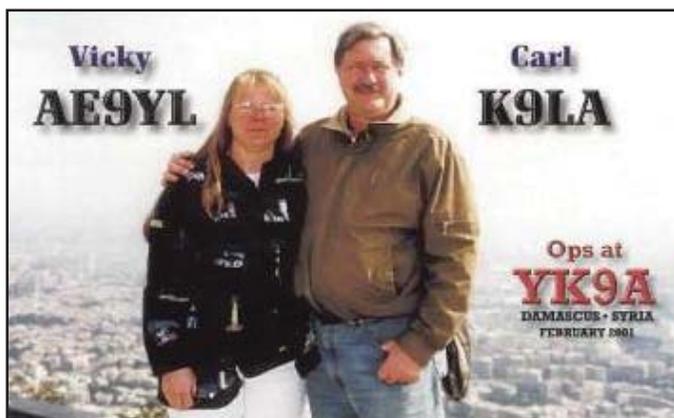
## Old business

- 147.24 repeater move on hold
- No Red Cross report
- Repeaters OK with nothing to report.
- DX report Chesterfield is on the air and Nick said band conditions were bad and hope winter will improve conditions.
- Skywarn meeting tomorrow at Porter EMA 6:30 PM.

## New business

- Elections
- Marv will not run for president due to health concerns. Jim Harney has been nominated for treasury and Russell McComb has been nominated for Secretary.
- Next months the program will be the Crown Point Robotics team.
- Program at 7:48 PM by Nick on DX and QSL bureau.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

## Special DX Presentation at NWI DX Club Meeting



On December 5, 2015, at the NW Indiana DX Club's quarterly luncheon, Vicky Lutzclschwab, AE9YL will be making a presentation on her experiences as a YL operating DX from Syria as YK9A. She is also expected to talk about her operations from Market Reef (OJO) and Cayman Islands (ZF). Traveling from her home in Ft. Wayne, she will be accompanied by her husband Carl -- K9LA. Carl is the well-known writer of propagation articles for CQ Magazine, QST and other publications.

Given the political situation in Syria today it is very timely that we have Vicky to bring her experiences to us.

The presentation is expected to include many slides showing the operating conditions and how life is lived in Syria.

All amateur radio fans are invited. The program at the NWIDX Club meetings is very informal with a "Dutch Treat" lunch (you order what you want and pay for what you order).

This is a great opportunity for all hams to learn and be entertained by someone who has been on the other side of our hobby. Hear and see a side in which few hams have participated.

If you are planning to attend, please e-mail John at w3ml.com so we can get a count of individuals. The NWI DX Club meets at the Viking Chili Bown on Rt 30 in Valparaiso, IN. You do NOT have to be a club member to attend.

## Program Schedule - Nov

November: Robotics Presentation

December: Christmas Gathering - Cake!!

A question that I get asked a lot is: “There is DSTAR, System Fusion, and DMR, how do you know which one will be the one that wins?” There are advantages and disadvantages associated with each of these modes, and I don’t think we will ever see one mode that “wins” in amateur radio.

Possibly down the road, we may see some multiprotocol transceivers, allowing a person to use one radio to get on all of these digital voice modes. Flexradio Systems has worked with Northwest Digital Radio to implement an AMBE Vocoder chip, thru their usb dongle into the Flexradio SmartSDR series radios. Currently, Flexradio SmartSDR radios support DSTAR if you purchase the Northwest Digital Radio usb dongle that plugs into the usb port on the back of the radio. Flexradio has stated that it should be possible in the future to support other modes such as System Fusion, DMR, and P25, thru software updates. While this is a work in progress, I am hoping that they

do succeed with implementing the other digital voice standards. I think this will be encouraging to other developers and show that it’s possible to do.

DMR/Mototrbo is here to stay. It is currently the only digital voice mode, were hams have a choice of more than one manufacturer. Surplus commercial equipment has always made it on the amateur frequencies as long as it was legal to use. DMR is relatively new in the commercial world and the specifications from the protocol, didn’t even get published until 2005, and it took a few years after that for DMR radios to hit the market. This means that most of the DMR equipment, that is out in the commercial environment is fairly new. As this equipment is replaced and retired, their will be a better selection of used commercial DMR gear, which should also help lower the purchase price. There are also many models of Chinese DMR radios with sub-\$200 prices. With that being said, hams

that are in the two-way radio business have easy access to DMR equipment and it’s very easy and within their resources to put DMR repeaters on the air for very little money.

You need to also look at which digital voice mode is prevalent in your area. Your DMR radio will not get much use if there is only a System Fusion repeater in the area. Depending on what area of the country you are in DSTAR maybe the mode of choice. In other areas, they have taken DSTAR repeaters off the air and converted them over to DMR. In Northwest Indiana, we have access to multiple DMR repeaters, two System Fusion repeaters in Laporte County, a P25 mixed mode system in Lake County, and a DSTAR repeater in Chicago (partially functional).

None of these digital voice modes are going to be of any use to you unless you have someone to talk to. So do your homework, investigate local activity, and then choose wisely!

Membership forms can be downloaded from our web site at [www.w9lj.org](http://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.



## DMR Subscriber ID



<b>Name:</b>	Doe, John
<b>ID #:</b>	3023023
<b>Callsign:</b>	VA3XPR
<b>QTH:</b>	Toronto, ON

With many new hams coming onto DMR every day, it is important that they obtain a DMR ID for their radio before they go on the air. Many may not know this, so please share this post to help get the word out.

Looking to get started with DMR? First, you’ll need a Subscriber ID for your radio. To get your *free* Subscriber ID, complete the requested information at the link below and within 72 hours, we’ll get back to you with one.

<http://www.dmr-marc.net/cgi-bin/trbo-database/register.cgi>



# Heathkit Returns!

Heathkit Insiders email list

Dear Heathkit Insider,

“What I really hope Heathkit will produce,” a Silicon Valley colleague recently told me, “is a new radio kit with a beautiful finish, maybe in rosewood.” Something great to enjoy building and learn from, and also visually stunning, so he could put it in his living room and keep it forever.

Today, my friend gets his wish.

Exciting news. More on that in a moment.

It's been a while since we wrote to our Heath Insiders. We promised not to clutter your email inbox until we had something to say. Here's a quick summary of what we've quietly been doing at Heathkit during the past year: We assembled a terrific team of very talented, hard-working, inventive people. We acquired another company and merged its management, products, assets, and operations gracefully into Heath Company. We ensured we own every last bit of Heathkit intellectual property, to bring you all the manuals, books, vintage designs, and classic logos you love, unencumbered and in perpetuity. We built a company division and acquired a line of vintage add-on designs to sustain the vintage products so important to many Insiders. We developed and integrated our eBay site, so you can buy or bid on auctioned items. We authored and published a helpful Android software app on Heathkit's GooglePlay site, with more apps to come.

That's a lot, but there's more. We've designed and developed a wide range of entirely new kit products. We authored the manuals for these kits, complete with the beautiful line art you rely on, preserving and respecting our iconic historic Heathkit style. We developed many new inventions and filed patents on them. We relocated Heathkit, and set up a factory, and a warehouse, and offices, in Santa Cruz, California, near Silicon Valley. We built the back office infrastructure, vendor and supply chain relationships, systems, procedures, operations methods, and well-thought-out corporate structure that a manufacturing company needs to support its customers, to allow us to scale instantly the day we resume major kit sales. All this effort enables us to introduce a fleet of new kits and helps ensure Heathkit can grow, prosper, and continue to bring you great new products for a very long time.

As you can see, we've been busy. It takes a lot to bring Heathkit back into the kit business. And we've done it.

We'll have many product announcements coming, but today I want to tell you about our flagship kit.

It's a simple kit—by intent. We feel an enormous responsibility to respect and maintain the incredible legacy of Heathkit. To us this means, bringing you kits you can build yourself, using our historic renowned Heathkit you-can-do-it “We won't let you fail”™ approach, yielding working useful appliances so beautiful you'll be proud to display and use them daily. It also means creating an educational experience that teaches you how they work, and how you can modify or repair what you own.

Further, we feel a very strong commitment to making this experience available to everyone, from 8 to 88 years old. That's an especially high hurdle. And we've done it. The result is the Explorer Jr.™ It's a simple, beautiful professional-looking little radio. It's a historic design, made new. It comes in several different colors. You build it yourself. Take it anywhere. When you build it and as use it, you'll learn to fall in love with radio, for the first time—or all over again. And it's just the first in a series.

As a Heath Insider, you are special to us. In a few days, we'll connect [www.heathkit.com](http://www.heathkit.com) to our new website where our new products are listed. But you stayed with us through this process. And we want to thank you. So we are giving you, as an Insider, personal advance notice of the new products and new website through this email, before we tell the general public. We want you to know we appreciate your enthusiasm and respect for the Heathkit name and history.

We know that as an Insider, you want to own the first major kit we've issued in decades. But please also think about this:

Maybe you have a child, or a granddaughter or grandson, who is ready to start their lifelong love for technology, or who will benefit from the enormous self-esteem that comes from accomplishment. They deserve an Explorer Jr too. (Remember to choose the style they'll want most—we have six colors). And then, please think about gently helping them build it. You might remember the parent-and-child graphics on the front of so many Heathkit manuals: We can't count the number of Insiders who fondly remember an adult helping them build their first Heathkit when they were young. What a great way to spend time with someone you care about.

We do not expect initial stock to last long, so please don't wait to visit our site. Also, please be patient while our new major kit, and new website, go from zero to sixty in two seconds. We might have a few bumps in the road as we scale up, and we appreciate in advance your patience. We'll work with you to get everything we can right.

We anticipate 30-day shipping time for this week's orders, and we'll continue to do everything we can to get all kits ordered this Fall to you in time for the holidays. You can see and order the Explorer Jr. at <https://shop.heathkit.com/> now. Please don't wait to be last: We don't want to disappoint anyone, but most of all, we don't want to disappoint our Insiders. Think about whether there's anyone who would love one of these kits as a holiday present. And thanks for your loyalty and patience as we brought back to you Heathkit's incredible legacy of the world's best kits again.

Sincerely, Andy (President) and the team at Heathkit



## The first radio message transmitted to an IPD police car



December 24, 1929: The first radio message transmitted to an IPD police car

On December 24, 1929, the Indianapolis Police Department became the second law enforcement agency in the United States to install a one-way radio in their police cars. This project came about due to the vision and work of Robert L. Batts, born 1907 in Anderson, Indiana. At 21, as a Purdue University engineering student, Batts' passion for radio and mechanics helped him win the \$100 prize in a Chamber of Commerce contest by detecting the source of interference during nightly radio shows. That attracted the attention of Detroit police officer Kenneth Cox who enticed Batts to become a patrolman and help develop a police car radio.

In 1928 he left Purdue to design and install the world's first police radio system for the Detroit Police Department. He designed the "Batts" one-way receiver and along with Patrolman Cox, they created a communications system that was operational in April 1929.

Patrolman Robert L. Batts was granted a 6-month leave of absence from the Detroit P.D. in order to install a similar system for the Indianapolis Police Department. He estimated it would

take eight weeks to get ten receiving sets in full operation. Batts was in charge of the entire project, which was fairly enormous. He had six workmen making the radio sets. They weighed about 12 pounds and were made entirely of aluminum. The set was then fitted into a black enameled steel case which was attached

in the rear compartment just behind the front seat. The batteries were underneath the rear seat. A loud speaker was fitted into the space directly above the windshield of the vehicle.

The radio was one-way, receive only. They only had two controls, a cut-off switch and a volume control.

As soon as a call was relayed by the IPD telephone operators at headquarters for help to the radio transmitting operator, a broadcast would go out, heard by every squad car in Indianapolis. The major drawback was that the police car which took the run had no way of responding. They did have Gamewell brand call boxes designed for police use at numerous locations throughout the city.

A radio station had to be built, which was located on the 11th floor of the Knights of Pythias Building at Ohio and Pennsylvania Streets. The radio transmission tower for the station, which was had the call letters of WMDZ was completed November 1929. On December 24, 1929, the first message went to Chief of Detectives Jerry Kinney, while riding in a Stutz Bearcat touring car. Upon receiving this message he said, "The damn thing does work!"

The first IPD squad car to have a radio was car number

48. On Christmas Day 1929 the system was fully operational, 16 hours a day, from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. During the month of January 1930, a total of 750 messages resulting in 100 radio runs to patrol cars were recorded. There was a dramatic, instantaneous impact on crime fighting ability for IPD officers. Numerous cases of emergency runs resulting in lives being saved or criminals being captured were documented. The Indianapolis Board of Safety had the good sense to appoint Robert L. Batts as supervisor of their communication system in October 1929. His innovations didn't end there:

- 1931: Installed the first police motorcycle radio.
- 1931: A radio tower and communications center dedicated for IPD and MCSD was built at 47 S.

State Av.

- 1934: Built the first two-way police car radio.
- February 20, 1939: Installed two-way radios in 33 of IPD's 56 cars, the most in the United States so equipped.

Batts held the rank of Captain or Inspector of Radio until he retired from IPD in January 1951. He moved to Wheaton, Illinois and was director of product services for Motorola. In 1974 he moved to Tavares, Florida where he passed away June 14, 1986. He is known as the "father of police radio."

