



Short Skip

Volume 67 Issue 11

November 2018

OFFICERS

Tim N9CA, President
 Bill, N4GIX, V President
 Jim, KE9FX, Treasurer
 Russ, KB9HO, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Young, N9QLS
 John Gianotti, W9WY
 Ken Brown, KE9TC
 Cassandra O'Brien, KD9NER
 Dan Ulloa, KD9ARD
 Steve Vakusic, KQ7E (SK)

OTHERS

Red Cross Liaison
 Bill, N9QLS
 Trustee, Tim, N9CA
 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.

FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC President



Next LCAC meeting; Friday November 9th at 7:30. Program to be announced. Disaster Training Drill; Wednesday November 7th. Amateur Radio Hams have been invited to participate. Details are a bit thin as I write this column.

Plan A) make yourself physically available at a yet to be designated location on Wednesday to operate a portable 2 meter station at a local site such as a hospital or nursing home. Contact me, Tim/ N9CA: tim2020sbcglobal.net 219-769-0673 for more details as they become available.

Plan B) check into our special LCARC emergency net - starting at 10:00 am - on the Club Repeater. W9LJ 147.0000 +600hz PL 131.8 (Merrillville)

Plan C) check into other possible 2 meter local emergency nets on Wednesday:

- W9FXT 147.1950 +600hz PL 131.8 (Hammond)
- W9FXT 145.4500 -600hz PL 131.8 (Crown Point)
- N9IAA 146.6850 -600hz PL 199.5 (Valparaiso)
- K9PC 146.7750 -600hz PL 131.8 (Valparaiso)

ARRL Central Division Convention and Ham Fest: November 17th Saturday and November 18th Sunday. For details visit: www.fortwaynehamfest.com

ARRL RTTY Roundup: The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that participants in the 2019 Roundup will be permitted to use the new FT8 protocol, which is part of the WSJT-X software suite. The RTTY Roundup takes place January 5 - 6, 2019. Visit ARRL.org for details and rules.

FT8 OLD JOKE WARNING; "Two lost tourists in downtown New York City were trying to find the famous Carnegie Hall asking passersby "how do you get there?" They were told "practice". FT8 requires practice.

73 and - see you at the November meeting - Tim/N9CA

TRUMP PROMISES GREATEST PROPAGATION EVER!

By K5PO, on the scene

On Monday, President Trump was the keynote speaker at a banquet co-sponsored by radio equipment manufacturer Peanut Whistle Transmitters Inc. and the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL). Trump was a surprise late addition to the speaker lineup for the annual two-day "Radio in America" gathering at the NRRL's headquarters.

"We invited him as a courtesy, but honestly didn't expect he'd show up. I assume he's a very busy man," said NRRL president Bob Gilligan. "But then I received a call yesterday from the Trump administration who informed us that the President would most certainly meet with such great communicators. We were shocked! To fit in the President we had to cancel Wiley Roger's planned panel discussion on his hypoth-

esis that blue-colored wire has increased his DX performance."

President Trump's speech to the 27 attendees lasted a little over three hours and ranged in topics from installing antennas atop Trump Tower to the low sunspot cycle. When Peanut Whistle Transmitter Company's Chief Counsel asked Trump if he had any plans to improve propagation as we approach a new low in the sunspot cycle,

continued on page4

MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2018 — Russ, KB9HO

- Meeting called to order at 7:34PM
- Introductions were made with 15 people attending.
- John said he had cables to give away and to sell a dual band HT.
- New Business
- Nick had a DX report
- DX club meeting is on Saturday at the Round the Clock Restaurant in Chesterton.
- The Program started at 7:52PM and ended at 9:00PM
- November 9 is next meeting and the club election will be the subject.
- Motion to adjourn and accepted at 9:03PM

NEED HELP?

Call on these Elmers

- Tim N9CA
- Bill N4GIX
- Bill Young N9QLS
- Russ KB9HO
- Andy W9FXT.
- Also it was mentioned Mark K9MQ is an ARRL Tech Specialist and can be called on.

The club has been informed that Bowman Electronics in Valparaiso will do tower climbing and antenna repair. Give them a call at: (219) 462-7933 or stop and see them at: 504 Marquette St, Valparaiso, IN 46383

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Election of Officers. If you are not there you may be nominated so if you don't want to be an officer, come to the meeting!



Scan this code to go directly to our web page
w9lj.org

RADIO THEORY CAUSES COMOTION

By WBORUR, on the scene



GOLDEN SPIKE, MONTANA – Buttery biscuits were thrown and voices were raised in anger at last month's meeting of the Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club. According to witnesses, the proceedings turned tense after the Treasurer's report as Club president Lou Rodden's brother-in-law presented the monthly program.

Visiting from Square Butte Township, Nebraska, Mike Yuness told the group he has developed a technique which will "revolutionize radio broadcasting."

The amateur geologist and ham radio operator says he's come up with a way to ionize the Earth's molten core of magma and use it to send radio signals to the far corners of the globe.

As members lunched on braised beef tips and unlimited onion rings, Yuness raised the question: "Why go around the earth... when you can go through it?"

He describes his technique as a "cross between spark gap and digital," but declined to elaborate due to what he described as "very costly and ongoing patent infringement issues which must be resolved at great expense."

Yuness stated emphatically that ham operators thousands of miles away will be able to communicate "...using nothing more than common grounding rods."

As the hams looked on, club member Junior Brown bolted from his chair yelling, "You're a liar!" and shaking a fist while throwing a basket of cloverleaf rolls at the presenter with the other hand.

Brown – who makes a comfortable living selling HF antennas made from recycled lawn chairs – says Yuness is only trying to collect money for his GoFundMe account and has no credible facts to back up his ionized magma core theory.

Dodging the rolls, Yuness yelled, "I've had a number of heated exchanges about this topic in online forums, BUT I KNOW I'M CORRECT!"

Brown claims Yuness and Rodden want the GoFundMe money to pay for their next trip to the Dayton Hamvention in the spring.

The Golden Spike Amateur Radio Club meetings on the third Thursday of the month in the private dining area of the Golden Corral on East Winchester Street. The public is invited to attend.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love
and got married.

The ceremony wasn't much, but the
reception was excellent.

ARRL PRESIDENT SUGGESTS THAT WE "RE-BRAND" AMATEUR RADIO

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson's Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

"Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let's see: We're world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

"We've got to accept change and we've got to adapt if we're going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That's a pretty profound statement."

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

"Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That's what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you're not a member of the American Radio Relay League,

you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we're all you've got; ain't nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don't you think it's time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we'll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let's work together and get it done. Thank you very much."

I'd like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That's not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It's really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, "Whether you like us or not, we're all you've got; ain't nobody else in Washington DC helping us" doesn't really cut it. You have to show people that you're really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

**THE NEW KENWOOD TS99900
CONTESTING TRANSCEIVER**



The image shows a Kenwood TS99900 radio transceiver. The top section is a microwave oven with a digital display showing '1200'. To the right of the microwave is a refrigerator with its door open, revealing various items like a banana, a water bottle, and a can. Below the microwave and refrigerator is the radio transceiver itself, featuring a large LCD screen displaying '7.100.000' and '14.200.000', and a control panel with numerous buttons and knobs.

**1500 WATTS (MICROWAVE)
2.3 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
10 CUP COFFEE POT
200 WATT PEP SSB***

*ACTUAL OUTPUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF APPLIANCES CONCURRENTLY RUNNING

THE FUTURE OF QSL CARDS AND QSLING

HOW DO YOU CONFIRM CONTRACTS FOR DXCC CREDIT

By Jim Junkert-KØJUH

QSLs, LOTW or Both?

By Jim Junkert-KØJUH

For years, the only way to receive credit towards a DXCC Award was by exchanging QSLs with the DX stations you worked, and then sending the cards to the DXCC desk at the ARRL. Depending on how active and serious you were about chasing awards, you could spend a lot of time taking care of the paperwork and mailing QSLs. If you had a pile of QSLs to send out after a busy weekend of operating, the dreaded job of filling out the cards manually always awaited you.

That all changed with time and technology. By the early 60s, computers, printers and logging software came on the scene, and dramatically reduced the workload involved with logging, record keeping and filling out QSL cards. Computer logging software replaced paper logs, and made tracking DXCC awards much easier. That same software would print labels for each log entry, showing the details of the contact, and replacing the once tedious job of doing it by hand.

The only thing technology hadn't simplified was the procedure for receiving DXCC Award credits. QSL cards still had to be collected and mailed with an application to the DXCC desk. Eventually, the ARRL eliminated the need to mail in QSL cards by creating field checking. Field checkers are a group of volunteer DXers who checked the cards in the field, replacing the need to send them to the DXCC desk.

In 2003, LOTW was introduced, and offered a system that would confirm QSOs electronically online. The program checked QSO records from uploaded log files, and issued a credit when a match was found between two stations. It was no longer necessary to provide a QSL card as proof of a QSO with a DX station.

Since 2003, LOTW has generated some impressive numbers! 6,595,169 user files, 961,533,999 QSO records and 177,957,092 QSL

results (DXCC credits). Impressive as they are, these numbers don't represent logs from all the DX stations in the world. Many DXers don't support LOTW, and require that you go direct, via a manager or the bureau to obtain their QSL. If you're serious about your award chasing, plan on maintaining a supply of QSL cards you'll need them.

Being an OT, I've been chasing QSLs since the mid-60s. Over the years I've accumulated thousands of cards. It always bothered me that the QSLs were filed away and never again saw the light of day. Digital photography in the 80s changed the world of QSL design from plain two color text cards to beautiful photo QSLs printed on glossy stock. Many were a work of art, and deserved to be on display!

After years of procrastinating, I finally got around to it. I started by going through all of the cards, and selecting the best of the best for each entity on the DXCC list. (DXCC #1 Honor Roll = 340). They were then placed in prefix order in four pocket plastic protectors (four QSLs per side) and mounted in a 3-ring leather binder. 95% of this collection is a glossy photo QSL. I'm always watching for a "better" QSL that will replace the one I have in the book. This activity adds another dimension to DXing that I enjoy very much.

When non-ham visitors ask about my hobby, I always haul out the QSL collection and tell them this is what DXing is all about. The "book" usually generates a Q & A session, as they find the contents interesting, and have questions about the QSLs. It's unlikely that showing them a LOTW printout will generate the same response. (The devil made me say that -sorry!)

I take my hat off to the DXers who spend the time and money to design some of today's "collectable" QSL cards. Thank you!

73, Jim, KØJUH

(From the "Gray Line Report of the Twin Cities DX Association)

Website of Interest

click on the links to go to the website

Early Television Foundation and Museum. Submitted by Tom, W8FIB <http://www.earlytelevision.org/>

Everything You Wanted to Know about Ham Radio, Submitted by Tom, W8FIB http://www.hamsphere.com/5_52264_read.html?ref=hamradio

Propagation from page 1

President Trump had no reservations in stating, "My administration will bring amazing propagation to all of you. To all American hams. It'll be the best. The best propagation. So big. They'll be so much DX, we'll be exporting it to other counties. You've never seen propagation like the propagation we'll have."

Trump closed the banquet with the announcement that he'll immediately sign an executive order to increase sunspot counts to 1000 within the next 100 days. Ham Hijinks inquired with NOAA Space Weather Scientist Ramish Pentel about how the administration would go about this executive order. He quickly replied, "It literally makes zero sense. I have no idea whatsoever."

By K5PO, on the scene

FOR SALE: Got some radio gear for sale? Looking for some radio gear to purchase? Check out the new FOR SALE page on the club's website — <https://lcarc.weebly.com/for-sale>. Scroll down to see the most current items or click on the ARCHIVE section to see items for sale in previous months. If you have something that has been sold, be sure to contact John, [W9WY for information](#) to have your listing removed. There is no charge for club members to list their items. This is a service for members.

9 WAYS MOTOROLA'S CHANGED IN 90 YEARS

(MENAFN Editorial) Dubai, UAE, 25 September, 2018



In sweet home Chicago on September 25, 1928 brothers Paul and Joseph Galvin incorporated Motorola's founding company, Galvin Manufacturing Corporation, with only one product and five employees. Flash forward through #90yearsmotorola and there's no doubt we have transformed the tech industry. Join us as we travel back through 90 years of innovation and technological breakthroughs to see how we have changed from then to now.

- 1. We said 'goodbye' to Galvin and 'hello' to Motorola**
Galvin Manufacturing introduced the Motorola car radio in 1930. The Motorola brand name became so popular that in 1947 Galvin Manufacturing Corporation changed its name to Motorola Incorporated. A short eight years later in 1955 the iconic Motorola batwing was born.
- 2. Our 1st product fixed 1920s battery life problems, our latest solves today's need for speed.**
Our first-ever product was designed in 1928 to address a problem that continues to exist today: battery life. The Galvin Manufacturing battery eliminator allowed battery powered radios to run on household electricity. True to our DNA, we've never stopped delivering what matters most to you. One of our most recent products, the 5G moto mod™, will bring you speeds 10x faster than today's wireless technology and the increased connectivity you're looking for. Did you know that on a 5G network, you can download the latest season of your favorite show in HD in the time it takes to board a plane?
- 3. From radio to millimeter, we've definitely made some waves**
Galvin Manufacturing produced the world's first FM portable two-way radio in 1943. Since then we've brought the world's first commercial high-power transistor, commercial hand-held cellular phone and two-way pager to name just a few. Most recently, we released the world's first 5G upgradeable cell phone: the moto z3 and an accompanying 5G moto mod™ so you can connect to Verizon's 5G network when it launches. Did you know at 2 lbs. and 10 in. long the world's first commercial hand-held cellular phone, the Motorola DynaTAC 8000x, was the size of a brick and weighed as much as a pineapple?

- 4. We went from pocket-size pagers to RAZR thin flip phones**
In 1982 the Motorola Sensar pager had a unique pen-sized design that looked radically different from any other pager on the market. It was only 2 ounces and conveniently fit into a pocket. In 2004, the innovative Motorola RAZR V3 changed the cell phone design game. With the thinnest profile on a clamshell cell phone of that time and an aluminum body, the RAZR was the first cell phone that doubled as a fashion accessory. The RAZR's V3 model sold more than 130 million units and was the best-selling clamshell phone in the world.
- 5. We've transformed from modest mods to modern mods**
Why carry a cell phone and a pager? In 1995, the Motorola RSVP numeric pager fit on the back of any MicroTAC to create a pager, cell phone combo! Today, we continue to push mobile phone limits with moto z and moto mods™. Debuting in 2016, the moto z is more than just a smartphone snap on a moto mod™ and transform it into a projector, photo printer, speaker and more.
- 6. From Mount Everest to the moon, we've been everywhere**
Over the past 90 years, we've been all over the globe and beyond! In 1969, a Motorola radio transponder aboard the Apollo 11 lunar module relayed the first words from the moon to Earth. In 2007, 30 years later, mountaineer Rod Bader climbed the highest peak of Mount Everest and used a Motorola MOTORIZR Z8 to make the highest-ever land-based portable phone call and text message.
- 7. From the 1900s to the 2000s, we've never stopped creating bestsellers.**
In 1986, we introduced the world's best selling pager, the Bravo. The numeric pager could store five 24-character messages that was a lot back then! In the new millennium, the Motorola V60 became available in all three cellular technologies — GSM, TDMA and CDMA — and quickly became a worldwide best seller with internet access, text messaging and voice-activated dialing.
- 8. Getting our start in Chicago's windy city, a global presence was only a few years away.**
While Motorola has always called Chicago home it didn't take long for us to build a global presence. In 1952 Motorola's first international subsidiary opened in Toronto, Canada, producing radios and televisions. Since then, Motorola has continued growing, with a strong presence in various countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific and China. Did you know the first recorded sale of a Motorola-branded product outside the United States took place in June of 1930 with the sale of two Motorola car radios to W. Oldenburger in Mexico City?
- 9. The best is yet to come**
MOTOROLA, Stylized M Logo, MOTO and the MOTO family of marks are trademarks of Motorola Trademark Holdings, LLC.

EARLY DX

By Dave Bunte – K9FN — NWI DX Club Newsletter

Anyone who knows me realizes that I love to tell stories about some of my earlier days chasing DX. I often share the excitement of working BS7H on 30 meters, in broad daylight, while running 50 watts from my mobile as I headed back to my office following a Doctor's appointment.

However, some of the most exciting moments ever were in the first few months as a Novice (KN9LIH), when I ran a DX-40 & S-85 with just a single crystal that allowed me to get on 15 meters. It was 1957 and the band was alive for many hours every day. I still remember the first CQ I called (at about 7 WPM. I called for about 2 minutes and then began to slowly tune for an answer. I heard my call, followed by "... de KN6MHO". I was so excited I jumped out of my chair, but my foot was tangled in a cord under the desk and I jerked the AC cord feeding my receiver. I dove under the table, found the cord and plugged it in again. As my receiver came back to life, drifting as it always did, I heard the guy finish calling me. I went back to him and we completed my first DX QSO... When you live in Illinois, and California is your first QSO, it sure is DX... country #1. Although at that time I had not learned what DX was or meant.

As time moved forward I proceeded to work anyone who would answer my CQ, or who could find me as I answered theirs. My

antenna was a single loop, the driven element of a Quad, and it performed quite well. When the person at the carpet store, where you could buy long bamboo poles for \$.50 each, heard why I wanted four of them he helped me pick out good straight ones that appeared to be quite strong, and then just gave them to me.

One evening at about 11:30 I called CQ and up the band I heard OK3KGI calling me. We completed our QSO and I ran into the other room to tell my father that I had just worked another country. He asked which one. I told him I was not sure, but the prefix was "OK", and I knew that Peru was "OA" so I figured that I must have just worked something in South America. I went back to the shack and looked up OK and was then REALLY stoked, since that was way over there in Europe.

By the time I upgraded to General I had put 34 different countries into my log, and I had also learned that there was an award called DXCC, which I could earn by confirming 100 countries. I hoped that some day I could achieve that goal.

Now, with 363 confirmed, plus an Honor Roll #1 plaque, I still love the thrill of DX, but few QSOs can match the excitement of those earliest ones.



Hallicrafters S-85 Receiver



Heathkit DX-40 Transmitter

NEW MODE HELPS HAMS LOOK FOR LOVERS

By WB0RUR, on the scene - HamHyjinks.com

HORSESHOE LAKE, WISCONSIN — Local ham radio operator and self-avowed bachelor Giani Balboa says his latest creation will revolutionize the lonely hearts of the hobby.

The prize winning tailor (his garment making took 1st place at the 2004 Cumberland County Fair) has developed a new digital software format designed for the amorous ham.

"I call it FT-88s," says Balboa. "It will whisper your call sign to hams of the opposite gender and you'll be making contacts in no time!"

Designed to run on a home computer, the software comes in both "male" and "female" versions.

Transmitting on a 15 second cycle, the male FT-88s client includes several preset messages including:

- HOW YOU DOIN'?
- DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
- DO I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?

- WHAT'S YOUR (CALL)SIGN?
Female version, pre formatted messages include:
- NO COPY; I HAVE OTHER PLANS
- SORRY, I HAVE TO WORK DX LATE
- I'VE SEEN BIGGER SIGNALS

Balboa says the software will exchange the "kissing emoji" with the correct keystrokes.

He adds that third-party software will allow you to swipe left for logging to HRD log and swipe right for logging to AC Log.

Talking to reporters while exercising at his home gym/hamshack, he says QSOs will be digitally signed automatically and transferred to both NRRL's Logbook of the Globe and www.hothamradiooperators.com.

By WB0RUR, on the scene