



# SHORT SKIP

Volume 65 Issue 10

October 2017

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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.

## FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC President



**Indiana Parks On The Air 2017** - special event call sign N9D - was a load of fun! We had the Club G5RV up 40 feet on 80m and 20m teamed with a Yeasu FT-991 SDR transceiver, Bill N4GIX was using his eloquent Elecraft KX3 and a buddipole on 20meters. The 43 foot telescoping vertical with counterpoise stayed on 40 meters driven by an ICOM IC-7300 SDR transceiver was put up in minutes. Besides the

beautiful day, the comradery, and the fun of being out and off-the-grid, there was no shortage of terrific picnic food and snacks. Many old Ham friends of the Club dropped by to say "hello". My thanks go out to everyone who made this Club event a success. You know who you are!

Donate to Ham Aid. ARRL's Ham Aid program loans Amateur Radio equipment kits to established Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) groups and partner agencies during disaster response, in order to establish Amateur Radio communications support. Ham Aid is supported by donations from individuals and corporations – including many of our ham radio industry partners. ARRL has previously staged Ham Aid equipment in Texas, and in the last few weeks, we have supplied kits in Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Our supply of Ham Aid kits has been rapidly depleted. Your donation to Ham Aid will help us now. Your contributions to Ham Aid are 100% tax deductible. To make a donation online, go to [www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form) and select "Ham Aid" from the ARRL donation form. To donate by mail, print a donation form, and mail it with your check payable to ARRL, noting "Ham Aid" on the memo line of your check; mail to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

**W9LJ's upcoming Club meeting October 13th will be a very important one in the life of our Club. We must draft a slate of Club Officers and Board members for 2018. Please attend with your ideas and direction for the Club in 2018. The Executive Board meets at 6:30pm, the all Member meeting at 7:30.**

Possible directions include; Ham Radio License Class(s), License upgrade classes, VE testing by Club members, aligning with a STEM school program to inspire future electronic experimenters, and a list of Club Members willing to serve as Elmers. Fifty per cent of newly licensed hams never get on the air. We can and should be helping them with an Elmer program.

Fall is antenna check-up time. Time to get in those ground clamp checks, bury those extra radials and ground rods, loose element checks, support rope and guy checks, tighten and re-waterproof coax connectors, get that SWR down, all before winter cold does it's best to stop you.

### ARLS009 FalconSAT-3 Now Open for Amateur Radio Use

The Air Force Academy satellite FalconSAT-3 is now open for Amateur Radio use as a digital store-and-forward system. Built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, FalconSAT-3 was launched in 2007.

The satellite has completed its scientific and training missions, and the Academy now is making it available for Amateur Radio use. The Packet Bulletin Board System operates at 9600 baud with a 145.840 MHz uplink/435.103 MHz downlink. Output power is 1 W, and the downlink is continuously on. Digipeating is enabled for live QSOs, but unattended digipeating operation is not authorized at this time.

Additional information is available on the AMSAT website at,

<https://www.amsat.org/falconsat-3/>.

73, Tim/N9CA

# AND YOU THOUGHT RADIO SHACK WAS DEAD!

From *Twice.com*



RadioShack's second bankruptcy in two years may have brought its company-owned stores to the edge of oblivion, but it has apparently sparked a renaissance among the chain's approximately 425 independent franchisees.

As Wisconsin dealer-owner PJ Kruschel explains, inventory is beginning to flow again, and the departure of the corporate stores has ramped up customer demand and unshackled RadioShack dealers from restrictions on expansion.

Kruschel, who will grand-open the country's first post-bankruptcy RadioShack tomorrow in Baraboo, Wis., shared his observations in an email to TWICE, which we posted below with his permission:

"I've owned a RadioShack dealer store for the past ten years and just opened a new store a couple weeks ago. It's the first new RadioShack since the latest bankruptcy. There is another store opening in Utah and a couple more in Tennessee coming in the near future, but I'm the first.

"Us dealers are now in charge of re-growing the company. Unlike the corporate stores, we have the flexibility to adjust for our markets. For instance, my original store, in the Wisconsin Dells, rents movies, does computer and phone repair, and sells lots of items tourists might need, like specialty chargers for laptops, cameras, etc.

"My second store started as a repair shop, doing computer and phone repair, and selling refurbished phones, laptops and accessories. We added Boost Mobile and now RadioShack.

"Our grand opening is this Saturday [Aug. 26] from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., where we'll be giving away lots of stuff like Green Bay/Minnesota tickets, a 55-inch Toshiba TV, Sennheiser headphones and lots more. Plus we'll be installing free tempered-glass screen protectors on phones.

"In the last couple months RadioShack has been refilling their warehouse and we've been seeing much more traffic from customers driving up to an hour-and-a-half away to get those essential parts and pieces available only in a RadioShack.

"The future for us existing dealers and prospective small business owners looking to open a RadioShack has been impressive. Dealers are evaluating new markets in larger cities that used to be off limits due to RadioShack corporate stores having a presence there. The rule of thumb was any city with a population over 10,000 was off limits for us dealers. Now, cities like Chicago, Nashville, Milwaukee, etc., are not only open, but RadioShack is encouraging us to open in these markets."

- PJ Kruschel, Dells and Baraboo RadioShack

[http://www.twice.com/news/retail/independent-radio-shack-dealers-unleashed-latest-bankruptcy/65906?utm\\_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](http://www.twice.com/news/retail/independent-radio-shack-dealers-unleashed-latest-bankruptcy/65906?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)

## UP CLOSE WITH THE RUSSIAN WOODPECKER

from *News.com*



Click on the link below for an interesting story of the Russian Woodpecker -- ed

A Soviet engineering and scientific feat of its time, the Russian Woodpecker was an over-the-horizon radar system

designed to provide early detection of an intercontinental ballistic missile attack.

[http://www.news.com.au/travel/world-travel/europe/up-close-with-the-russian-woodpecker-the-scary-soviet-anti-ballistic-missile-radar/news-story/08d7863317d16e114cd75e220fb225d1?utm\\_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](http://www.news.com.au/travel/world-travel/europe/up-close-with-the-russian-woodpecker-the-scary-soviet-anti-ballistic-missile-radar/news-story/08d7863317d16e114cd75e220fb225d1?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter)



I have FOR SALE a like-new Yaesu G-1000DXA rotor, control box and some multi-conductor control wire.

I took down the tower and the stuff is just sitting in my garage. The Yaesu rotor is a great unit, look it up on the web. Check it out at <https://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=104&encProdID=60F24E075DF1D12D9CB5AD4A9C0A6855&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0>



Check out the LCARC website at [www.w9lj.org](http://www.w9lj.org) and the Hoosier DMR Best Practices Guide at <http://tinyurl.com/nbvo7xh>

## STEVE VUKUSIC, SK

While Steve passed away in early September I thought I would still post his obituary to chronicl his life for those who did not know him. — ed.



Steve Vukusic, age 78 Crown Point, formerly of Gary, passed away September 5, 2017. He was a 1959 graduate of Lew Wallace High School. Steve was a proud Lt. Colonel

in the U.S. Army special forces and military intelligence. He was a retired engineer at NIPSCO after over 35 years of service. Steve was on the board of the Calumet Astronomical Society and the Ham Radio Club. Steve enjoyed the outdoors and taking walks whenever possible. He had a love of foreign languages and Croatian history. Steve had recently been studying Homeopathy and was currently working towards a degree. He loved his children and grandchildren and will be deeply missed by all that knew and loved him. Steve is survived by his loving daughters- Christine (George) Vasilko, Michelle (James C.) Ketcham; grandchildren- Kayla and Kaitlyn Vasilko, Shandi Ketcham; sister- Luise Trathen; niece- Erin (Will); nephew- Eric (Jennifer); other great-nieces and great-nephews.

## MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2017

INPOTA will be on the air as N9D at the Dunes State park. We will have 3 stations set up at the Tremont Shelter. Will put up antennas around 9:30 with 11:00 AM start up. Will have Icom 7300 and Yaesu 991. Bill will bring out his KX3 and work QRP with his Buddy-pole antenna.

The Club also noted the passing of Steve Vukusic KQ7E. Tim read his obituary and also commented that he had been an officer in the club and an active member in the club.

ARRL has a note about a new digital mode FT8 which is faster 13 to 14 seconds each transmission to speed up QSO in the digital mode for poor signal conditions. FT8 replaces JT65 and will speed up QSO's and has been used on 6 meters with good success. FT8 still has some problems with software issues which will need to be worked out but promises to make for better communications in poor signal conditions.

Checking communications during the Eclipse was found that 160 meters increased during the eclipse and the high band communications decreased. After the eclipse the communications returned back to normal.

A solar flare has taken place during the hurricane nets are going dead due to the flare. 14.235 is the hurricane net frequency and will avoid during the INPOTA.

ARES teams are helping with Florida shelters and helping people displaced by the hurricane in Florida.

Brent Walls the Indiana Section Manager is the speaker tonight with a program start at 7:47PM.

Next meeting is on October 13.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:25PM

## WHAT DO YOU WANT IN A DXPEDITION?

By Paul S. Ewing -N6PSE

While I was attending the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. I sat and chatted with many DXers from all over the world. I asked them: What do you want in a Dxpeditio?

By far, most DXers told me that they wanted a team of competent and able operators, who could handle big pileups with skill and finesse. They also want operators and leaders who know and understand propagation and make proper band selections by time of day. They want the Dxpeditio to do everything possible to enable the DXers to work them. They told me that some DXpeditions seem to “go to bed too early” and miss important band openings to certain areas of the globe.

Many DXers told me that they like a log checking feature. Almost everyone said that a daily upload to Clublog was sufficient and they didn't need real time logging.

DXers said that they like to see pictures from the operation and they want to know and understand the challenges at the other end of the pileup.

DXers told me that they are very interested in 160 meters and that proper emphasis should be made to have a good antenna, powerful amp and experienced top band operators.

DXers told me that Social Media was of little importance to them. “Just have a good website” was said to me.” Show me how

propagation will be in my area”. Have an easy method to obtain the QSL card.

DXers told me that they feel that the best DXpeditions use regional Pilot Relay stations. These people are in tune with the Dxpeditio and aware of the propagation and they can best guide the Dxpeditio to meet the demand for contacts.

Several DXers told me that if a Dxpeditio makes bold statements such as they are also going to Kerguelen or activating a second camp on the other side of the Volcano, then they should really keep their promises. DXers tend to make donations based on promises and they feel wronged when they are not achieved.

DXers told me that they really enjoy it when the Dxpeditio Team meets their audience at places such as IDXC and the Dayton Hamvention. They like the rapport that they develop with the teams and their members.

DXers told me that they like the concept of “pure DX”. They don't want to work a remote station being operated from somewhere else. They want to experience the contact purely through radio. What do you think?

Thank you to Paul Ewing-N6PSE for his kind permission to print this item. Paul is a noted DXpeditioner having operated from many rare and semi rare spots, including the South Sandwich Islands, Yemen, Myanmar, Eritrea and the South Georgia Islands.

# FAXPAPERS: A LOST 1930S TECHNOLOGY THAT DELIVERED

Matt Novak 1/29/15 12:15pm Filed to: secret history — <https://gizmodo.com/faxpapers-the-lost-dream-of-delivering>



One of the greatest media experiments of the 1930s and 40s was the faxpaper. Almost entirely forgotten today, it was a technology that could deliver newspapers over the radio waves, then print them instantly right in your home.

When we think about the evolution of mass media, it usually goes something like this: First came newspapers, then radio, then TV, then the web. But that's not how

technology actually progresses. It usually proceeds in fits and starts, with some ideas born far too early — and then adopted decades later as if they were new. Such is the case with faxpapers.

People of the 1930s were starting to think of the newspaper as an old-fashioned news delivery device. Despite the Great Depression, the radio was one of the few new technologies to achieve mainstream success (that and the mechanical refrigerator) at a time when American budgets were stretched thin. So newspapers tried to develop new ways to compete.

Enter the radio faxpaper, a technology that was embraced by at least two dozen newspapers in the United States in the 1930s and 40s. Newspapers often went so far as to buy their own radio stations to make this happen. But this exciting new media experiment couldn't find its footing in a world of rapid technological change.

Kids watch the comics section of a faxpaper being printed on a home receiver (left) a chair-side faxpaper receiver from Alden Products Company is displayed (right)

The vision for the faxpaper was about delivering condensed, image-heavy versions of the news as fast as possible. Sound similar to the mainstream media's immersion into the world of Twitter, Tumblr, and Snapchat? It should.

I spoke with Noah Arceneaux over the phone about the forgotten history of the faxpaper. He's an associate professor of media studies at San Diego State University and author of the definitive paper on the subject. Arceneaux sees plenty of parallels to the challenges facing the newspaper industry in the 21st century.

"It's very similar rhetoric we have about printed newspapers today. People realize that there's just this slow distribution process," Arceneaux tells me. "You can't get information immediately about a fire or say a coming storm or anything that's immediate."

Faxpapers were supposed to change all that. They would be both a supplement to the daily newspaper and a complement to the increasingly popular radio broadcasts if they played their cards right.

"The radio facsimile newspaper wouldn't be truly immediate, but faster than waiting for the next morning to get a printed newspaper," Arceneaux said. "So I think that was the impetus, that we can deliver news to people very, very quickly and we can provide supplemental information that we can't do purely through oral radio."

Front cover of the April 1934 issue of Radio-Craft magazine

The trials of newspaper radio fax would start in earnest during

the early 1930s. Companies like RCA and inventors like William Finch dove in, experimenting with different ways to transit newspaper pages over the air so that they could be printed in the home.

But the tinkerers and inventors were always beholden to the whims of the Federal Communications Commission. And often for good reason. The broadcasts for faxpaper delivery were so shrill and noisy that the FCC almost immediately banished them to the late night hours, so as to disturb as few people as possible who might accidentally tune in to the experimental stations on their regular sets.

The newspapers who had taken up the experiment spanned the entire country, from the Dallas Morning News in Texas, to the Cincinnati Times-Star in Ohio, to the Radio Bee in Fresno, California. All of the publishers of these faxpapers already owned newspapers or radio stations. But as the tech behind faxpapers looked more and more promising, other companies wanted in on the action as well.

As Arceneaux points out in his paper, there was one company in Jackson, Michigan that was more or less starting from scratch, without the infrastructure of content-producers like a radio station or newspaper. The Sparks-Withington Company opened their station in 1938 and had big ideas about selling faxpaper receivers to Americans. But their enthusiasm would eventually wane. Like other receiver manufacturers, by the end of the 1940s they would focus on television as the more promising technology of the era.

At the end of the 1930s, as World War II was becoming an urgent concern in the U.S. even for isolationists, there were 18 stations that had approval from the FCC to deliver faxpapers over the radio. Both Finch and RCA would have radio faxpaper machines on display at the 1939 New York World's Fair, and people were relatively certain that with some improvements faxpapers could be a real contender. But as we might expect with the benefit of hindsight, their experiments would draw fewer oohs and ahhs than that other futuristic technology on display: Television.

The Miami Herald's faxpaper department circa 1948

With successful trials of faxpaper delivery humming along, newspapers of the early 1940s had to seriously consider whether this might be the future of their industry. Newspapers like the Miami Herald took it so seriously that they even had an entire team devoted to just the faxpaper, complete with a Facsimile Editor, Timothy J. Sullivan.

The Miami Herald even released a textbook on the subject in 1949 simply titled Facsimile. And not so coincidentally, the University of Miami also started teaching a course in "facsimile journalism."

The editors of the Herald bragged that even though the students in the faxpaper class had some training in journalism, none had any idea about radio. After just nine months, all of the students "including three girls, were competent to operate the equipment and apply their journalism training to facsimile's special requirements."

But much like the anxiety over teaching technologies today, there was reasonable concern that their training would fast become obsolete. That was simply the price you paid for being on the cutting edge of new media.

A woman demonstrates a faxpaper receiver made by the Stewart-

# ERED NEWSPAPERS VIA RADIO

[-newspapers-thro-1682383694](#)

Warner Corporation

One potential use for a faxpaper delivery system would be to illustrate certain aspects of a news story that were difficult to describe. Faxpaper grew up in the middle of fighting in Europe and the arrival of World War II, so war news was a natural touchstone to describe how faxpaper might be properly exploited to keep people better informed.

"While a commenter in London is giving a play-by-play account of a crisis involving the countries of central Europe, the facsimile station can send maps and photographs to illustrate the areas and personalities involved," the 1949 book by the editors of the Miami Herald explained.

The ways in which the radio experiment could be enriched and complemented seemed never-ending. Say you had a cooking show on the radio and wanted to give people a recipe. The most common way that this is done in the 21st century seems to be driving people to a website. But back in the 20th century, people were often encouraged to grab a pencil and paper. With faxpaper tech, the recipe could be sent directly into the home while you're enjoying the cooking show.

Arceneaux explains to me that you could even send people a pattern for a dress, "and then they could sort of follow along with someone on the radio" as they were making it.

The book also described a day when the President might be delivering a speech and the full text of the speech would be printed off for future reference. When newspapers of the time were asked by advertisers why they should advertise with deadtree media rather than radio the first answer was generally about the ephemeral nature of the radio. If a listener was only half paying attention or missed something an announcer said, there was no way to rewind the broadcast. Faxpaper tech was supposed to fix all that.

Paper, be it the president's speech or an ad for cornflakes, was tangible. People could hold it in their hands and properly study the message that the advertiser was trying to deliver. Or at least that's what the newspaper publisher wanted advertisers to envision.

Cartoon poking fun at the idea that you don't have to pay for faxpapers (left) Top of the line General Electric faxpaper receiver with plexiglass-covered display column (right)

The faxpaper receivers were pretty expensive. You could pick one up at Macy's in the late 1930s for \$100 — about \$1,600 adjusted for inflation. But the nicer RCA receivers could cost over \$220, or about \$3,600 adjusted for inflation.

However, once you bought one, there was no way for the newspapers to regulate who could or couldn't get their faxpaper transmissions — just like the radio. So just like commercial radio in the U.S., they would have to depend on ads. The big problem at first was that the FCC had to grant permission for that to happen.

Public faxpaper kiosk designed by Stewart-Warner Corporation (left) Sample Facsimile Edition of the Miami Herald (right)

The FCC began allowing radio faxpapers to officially carry advertising in 1948. With that, even commercials could be delivered as printed ads for a double punch of sponsorship.

There were also entire sponsored editions of faxpapers imagined. Think of it as the sponsored blog posts of the 1940s. The book ex-

plained that it would be perfectly natural to have a travel edition of the faxpaper sponsored by airlines, railroads, travel agencies or even oil companies. Such editions would naturally be very image-heavy, with maps, schedules, and plenty of pictures showing enticing destinations or accommodations.

But all these dreams of faxpaper advertising were dead on arrival. By the time that the FCC allowed faxpapers to advertise, the technology was already on its way out. There were just a handful of stations in the country still dabbling with the tech by the end of the 1940s.

Even if it had survived into an era of faxpaper advertising, the technology still had significant hurdles to make it viable for mainstream consumer use. One struggle? It could be incredibly messy. Arceneaux shared a story with me about his time at the National Archives, digging into this story for his 2011 paper in the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media.

"When I was looking at one of these faxpapers — it was a long thin ribbon — and the back of it was completely black, like carbon paper black," he said. "And as I was looking at it [...] after like 10 or 15 minutes my fingers were so black that I had to go to the bathroom and wash them. And I did that a couple of times that afternoon."

"If this is doing this to me in 2010, how bad was it in 1940? I'm guessing these printers may have been pretty messy — spilling ink and spitting out ink, so I'm guessing people didn't want these in their living room."

So what else led to the downfall of this once-promising technology, aside from everyone's hands being awash in ink? Price was certainly one major issue, with receivers and paper for them costing so much. The delivery speed was another. What had been envisioned as a way to deliver news incredibly rapidly was far from instant.

"There were some papers that were transmitted overnight and it'd take three or four hours to get a couple of pages. It was just really slow," Arceneaux tells me. "And they never brought the technology to the commercial mainstream, which maybe could've solved the cost problems or streamline the operation."

At three to four hours for printing, you may as well go down to the corner store and pick up a newspaper that had been printed four hours ago. The promise of television, still relatively primitive in the late 1940s, was just too enticing for early adopters.

"While that was going on in the late 1940s people could buy a television. And if you went to a department store and you saw the two products side by side, it's clear. Why would I buy a facsimile receiver when a television gives me live, moving images?"

Why indeed. And Americans did just that. In 1949, just 2 percent of Americans owned a TV set. By 1955 over 60 percent of American households had a TV.

It's fun to think of what the second half of the 20th century might have looked like had faxpapers overcome the technical and regulatory hurdles that kept it down. Radio faxpapers are the futuristic tech that nearly changed the world. But history has relegated it to the forgotten crack in between humanity's jump from radio to TV. *Thank to Marty, WJ9Q for sending me the link for this article. — ed.*