

W9JOZ

Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2018

Next Meeting is

April 19, 2018

DUES ARE PAST DUE FOR 2018

Still \$12.00

Weekly 2 meter Net

Once again we are having the Saturday Night Net at 8:00 pm on the 145.410 repeater. Hope you can check in.

Foxhunt will begin on April 15th at 1:00 pm Knox time at Shady Acres Park south of McDonalds.

**Thanks
John W3ML**



Meetings are at the Henry F. Schricker Library on the third Thursday of each month, with the exception of December.

The library is located on west Culver Road, two blocks west of Highway 35.



Are you on the air?

Richard, K9QA is an official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact him at k9qa@arrl.net to have your cards checked.

DX Century Club

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April Events

Birthdays

5th - N9QYK Paul

7th - WB9CAO Levi

25th - KC9QAK Lenny

Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net will be on each Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Central time.

DAY OF WEEK: Saturday 8:00 p.m. Central time

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

Fox Hunts

The Foxhunt is back. April 15th is the first one.

Foxhunts are the third Sunday of each month.

Miles and a two-hour time limit

Meet at 1:00 CST at the Sandy Acres Park on the south end of Knox.

ARRL: How can we help?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there's only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they've never really taken off. It's an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you're not currently a member, join. You'll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn't really seem to care about this. In the past, I've encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs ([link 1](#), [link 2](#)). I honestly don't think this is asking too much, and I've never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on "Edit your profile," then "Edit email subscriptions."
- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I'd like to see the "loyal opposition" get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It's easier to lose bands if we're not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the "maker" groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I'd love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

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When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](#), teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the *No Nonsense* amateur radio license study guides and *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*.

Heathkit SB-220 2 KW HF Ham Radio Amplifier

The Heathkit SB-220 has two 3-500Z, amplifier.



I never ran it at full output, usually stayed around 1200-1500 watts out.

Asking \$600.00 cash. Pickup only.

Contact John W3ML at <mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com> 574-772-2772

Indiana QSO Party

It is spring, meaning it's time for Indiana radio clubs and individual hams to start planning for the Indiana QSO Party on May 5. Not only is this the annual running of our popular (and fun) INQP, it's also a chance to shake down your mobile or club's field day setup by activating some of the more "rare" Indiana counties. This is a great opportunity to become "the hunted" and experience pileups looking to work YOU!

There's a link to a PowerPoint presentation on the INQP website (www.hdxcc.org/inqp, click on PUBLICITY PACKAGE) that could be used as program material in your club. The website also holds a lot of other info, like rules for INQP, operating tips, and links to special awards, like the Worked All Indiana Counties award.

Perhaps your club can mount a full-blown 12-hour effort to put your county on the air and compete for the TOP CLUB plaque. Your members can participate as individuals, and then combine their scores for a club score. You might also organize a multi-op multi-transmitter effort, and perhaps shake out the club gear prior to Field Day. (Check out the rules and operating categories)

Even if you are not contributing to a club entry, feel free to operate and compete for individual awards, including our attractive plaques and certificates. Besides operating from home, you can go mobile, or set up bigger (and higher) antennas as a rover or portable.

Whatever your operating preference, please get on the air Saturday May 5 to put Indiana (and your county) out there for others to work.

Once you have made a plan, please let the INQP reflector (or K9WX <mailto:timk9wx@gmail.com>) know what counties and call signs you will activate on May 5. We'll put your call on the activity map.

NOTE: If you've operated INQP before, please be aware that we changed our county abbreviations to avoid confusion with other QSO parties taking place the same day

(meaning, there will be LOTS of stations to work!). Check out the website for more info on using these abbreviations with the most common logging programs.

And if you want to operate the other three QSO parties that day, check out N1MM Logger and our website so you can log all the QSOs in one log.

Thanks

Mel KJ9C kj9c@arrl.net

Don't forget to give the Club Credit in your QSO Party log.

Tribute to Bob Barrett

Greetings to the club members, I'd like to send you a little tribute to Bob Barrett.

I started off with a Novice license in 9th grade (1963) and over the next few years got General then Extra Class licenses, as they were called back then. Being a tinkerer and CW fan, I gravitated towards the ARRL traffic nets, and eventually joined CAN, the Central Area Net which handled CW traffic between local area nets in the central US and the other areas, (most of my work was with EAN). It was on CAN that I ran across Bob Barrett. His strong signal always came barreling into south Louisiana, and I could not help but admire his beautiful CW "fist". I think he used an electronic keyer but that was only part of his technique, as he had perfect phrasing between the letters and sentences, so that listening to him was music to my ear. Being only a kid of 16 or 17, I admired him from a distance early on, and it was a great privilege to actually work with him later on, passing along the message traffic, and then after the sessions were over, getting to "shoot the bull" with him. It was the "big guy" and the "little guy", him with his 1 KW amplifier and me with my tiny 100-watt homebrew transmitter. It was a big thrill to get compliments from him on the much-improved signal strength after I spent a week putting up a big rhombic antenna aimed north (I lived in the country and there were lots of trees available).

It was a great sadness when the manager of CAN (I can't remember his name or call sign) announced to us that Bob had passed away suddenly, of a heart attack I recall. It left a big empty place in all of us operators who knew of him.

As for myself, I had to put amateur radio on hold after going to college in 1967, and never got back to it, though I remember those years fondly. It's nice to be able to finally write a little tribute to Bob, and I'm glad you folks have honored him with the club.

Best regards,

Ray Lefebvre

Formerly of Baton Rouge, LA now living in France

We have several **new** pieces of equipment for sale on our For Sale Page
<http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm>

Please check it out.

There has been a lot of talk at the breakfasts about baluns.
Here is a link to a video on baluns.

<http://qrznow.com/all-about-baluns-ask-dave-ke0og-73/>

Handy Hint

RFI from the Ethernet

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

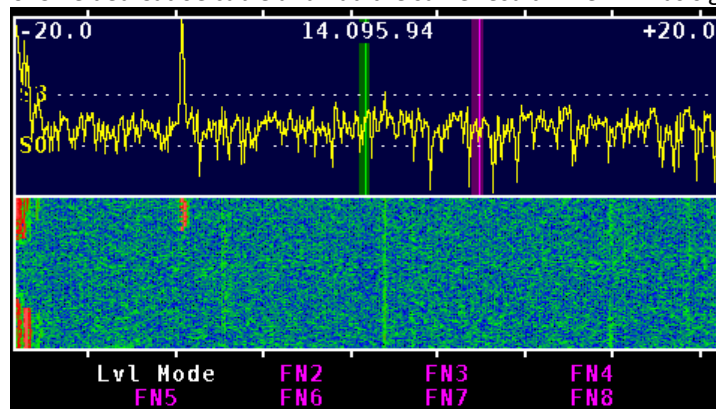
For years I have had a low grade interference problem in the form of white noise and some spurs. It seemed to be computer related but the various campaigns to eliminate it had all failed. I recently stumbled on an excellent easy to read series of write ups on RFI by NK7Z. <https://www.nk7z.net/category/info/rfi-mitigation/i-have-rfi-series/> NK7Z allows others to comment and add to his information. One of the commentators added this:

“Even if you’re otherwise all Wi-Fi, don’t forget about the cable between your router/WAP and cable/DSL modem. A STP cable there would be a Real Good Thing. (STP= Shielded Twisted Pair. UTP=Unshielded Twisted Pair)

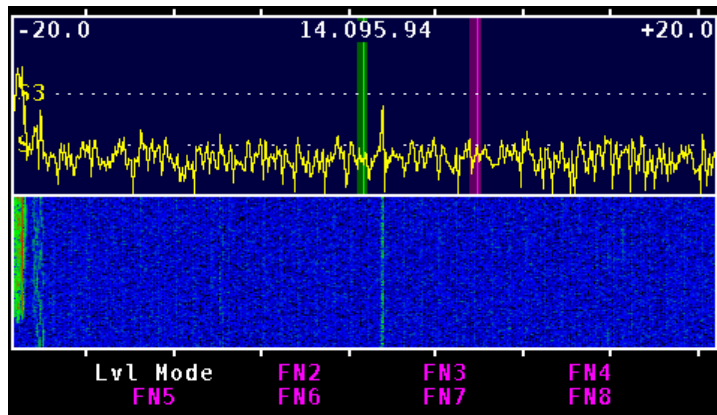
Sure enough a look at cables installed by my internet provider, Frontier Communications, showed they were labeled “UTP Cat 5”; the unshielded type! Up to this time I was unaware there existed a shielded type.

Not having any shielded Cat 5 or Cat 6e cable handy (both work-Cat 6e is of a higher standard), I instead put a type 31 clamp-on ferrite on the existing cable. Bingo!

I later installed a proper length of Shielded Cat 6e cable and had the same result. The RFI was significantly reduced.



Unshielded Cat 5 Cable



Shielded Cat 6e Cable

How do you tell the difference between the two types? The first thing to look at is the stencil/label on the cable. It is usually marked with the type. The second thing to look at are the plugs. STP plugs are shielded while UTP plugs are usually a plain clear plastic.



Shielded

Unshielded

RFI generated by many legacy 100 Mbps Ethernet devices often can be eliminated by replacing their cables with shielded Ethernet cable (STP instead of regular UTP). It seems that gigabit Ethernet doesn't generate as much RFI, or at least it's more spread out and shows as a bit of white noise without the spurs. Shielded cable (STP) is usually used to protect the Ethernet from RFI, in this case it's protecting everything else from the Ethernet RFI!

As always when dealing with RFI, individual results may vary.

β 73's and good DX β

Free: 3 Motorola-type Mobile Radios - one is set up to work cross-band 2-440, others are in the 2 meter or 440 meter band. Will not ship.
 email John at <mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>.

If you have something for the newsletter, please send it to me before the 20th of the month.

See you at a meeting.

73

John, W3ML

