

W9JOZ

Volume 8, Issue 2

February 2018

Next Meeting is February 15, 2018

DUES ARE 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 and let everyone know what you are up to now that winter is almost here. Or here depending on how you look at it.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Reminder
- 2 Events/Articles

February Events

Birthdays

February 1st - David KC8OBH

February 4th - Bill K9BZM

February 14th - Dan KC9UKX

February 25th - Janet K9HUG

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

[2018 Skywarn Spotter Training - Starke County Indiana](#)

Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM (Central Time) / 7:00 PM (Eastern)
53 East Mound St. Knox IN 46534

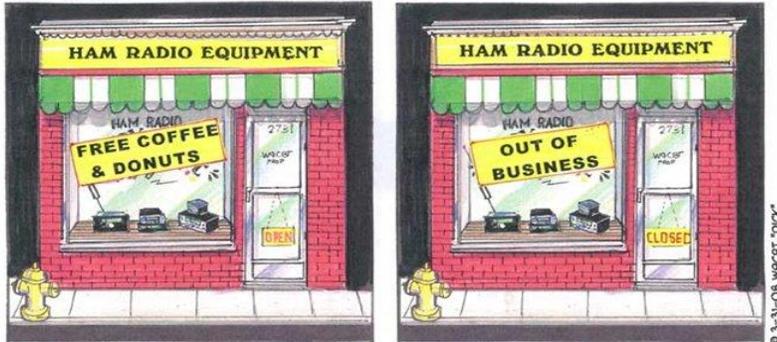
Go to Indiana skywarn training (I used Google) and register.

There is no cost

Just fill in the blanks with the name and callsign;

TNX Dave kc8obh ARES coordinator

HAM QUIPS DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



Handy Hint

Use Standard Phonetics

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Recently I was working in the ham shack and had the rig on and tuned to a DX station in Southeast Asia working a North American pileup on 40 meter SSB. His signals were about an S5 to S7 with some QRN present. Not great conditions but very workable on my dipole.

English was not the DX's native language and it was obvious that his fluency was limited but he was able to keep the pileup moving at a steady pace. Working him were hams from Indiana to the west coast. I heard one of our locals come on and he was answered on the second or third call. But there was trouble in the Far East. Our local was using nonstandard phonetics and the DX was having trouble getting the call correct. After several repeats the DX gave up and went on to another caller. Our local was not in the log and missed an opportunity to snare a new one on 40 meters.

Although English is the closest thing the world has to a universal language, many DX operators have only a limited command of it. Sometimes a DX station's English knowledge may be limited to the phonetic alphabet, numbers and a few phrases. Throw in individual voice characteristics and regional accents such as American South, Brooklynese or even the mid-western twang and the difficulty for a DX station to understand your call letters is compounded.

If you are trying to work a new DX station your highest chance of success on phone is to use standard phonetics. Using non-standard or "custom/cutesy phonetics" is asking for trouble. Of course there are going to be exceptions. On some occasions, for some reason, a combination of my voice, band conditions and signal level makes the "L-Lima" sound to the DX as "I-India". When this happens I will change to London. This usually works as a substitute. Keep the substitute simple. Individual results will vary.

There is also the problem of a few nostalgic buffs that insist on using World War II type phonetics. The world has changed. Newer hams weren't even born then and have never heard the Able-Baker-Charlie style phonetics. They learned the modern phonetics and are most comfortable with them.

Ask just about any Ham who has operated from rare DX or a contester and they will tell you they prefer standard phonetics. Standard phonetics avoid confusion. Make life as easy as you can for the DX.

The International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet

| Letter: | Code Word: | Pronunciation: |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| A | Alfa | Al fah |
| B | Bravo | Brah Voh |
| C | Charlie | Char Lee |
| D | Delta | Dell Tah |
| E | Echo | Eck Oh |
| F | Foxtrot | Foks Trot |
| G | Golf | Golf |
| H | Hotel | Hoh Tell |
| I | India | In Dee Ah |
| J | Juliett | Jew Lee Ett |
| K | Kilo | Key Loh |

| | | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| L | Lima | Lee Mah |
| M | Mike | Mike |
| N | November | No Vem Ber |
| O | Oscar | Oss Car |
| P | Papa | Pah Pah |
| Q | Quebec | Keh Beck |
| R | Romeo | Row Me Oh |
| S | Sierra | See Air Ah (|
| T | Tango | Tang Go |
| U | Uniform | You Nee Form |
| V | Victor | Vik Tah |
| W | Whiskey | Wiss Key |
| X | X Ray | Ecks Ray |
| Y | Yankee | Yang Key |
| Z | Zulu | Zoo Loo |

Numbers

| Number: | Code Word: | Pronunciation: |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| 0 | Zero | Zee Row |
| 1 | One | Wun |
| 2 | Two | Too |
| 3 | Three | Tree |
| 4 | Four | Fow Er |
| 5 | Five | Fife |
| 6 | Six | Six |
| 7 | Seven | Sev En |
| 8 | Eight | Ait |
| 9 | Niner | Nine Er |

A final note. Take a good look at the recommended pronunciation of the numbers three and nine. They are “Tree” and “Nine Er”. That is the pronunciation used in the military and aviation worlds. If you hear it on the ham bands it is a possible sign the user has a background in those fields or maybe just a ham using good operating practices.

β 73's and good DX β

A (very) Short History of the Phonetic Alphabet

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

The **International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet**, which is commonly known as the **ICAO phonetic alphabet**, **ITU phonetic alphabet** and sometimes the **NATO phonetic alphabet**, is the world’s most widely used radiotelephone spelling alphabet.

The purpose of the phonetic alphabet is to ensure that critical combinations of letters and numbers like your call letters, are pronounced and understood during the exchange of voice messages by radio or telephone, regardless of language differences or the quality of the communication channel. A spelling alphabet is used to spell parts of a message containing letters and numbers

to avoid confusion, because many letters sound similar and the potential for confusion increases if static or other interference is present.

Prior to World War I and the development and widespread adoption of voice two-way radio, the original spelling alphabets were developed to improve communication on low-quality and long-distance telephone circuits. During World War II, many nations used their own versions of a spelling alphabet. The U.S. adopted the "Joint Army/Navy radiotelephony alphabet" in 1941 to standardize systems among all branches of its armed forces. The U.S. alphabet became known as *Able Baker* after the words for A and B. The Royal Air Force adopted one similar to the Americans.

In 1948-1949, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) researched and developed a new spelling alphabet. The ICAO's criteria was that to be considered, a word must:

1. Be a live word in each of the three working languages.(English, French, and Spanish)
2. Be easily pronounced and recognized by airman of all languages.
3. Have good radio transmission and readability characteristics.
4. Have a similar spelling in at least English, French, and Spanish, and the initial letter must be the same letter the word identifies.
5. Be free from any association with objectionable meanings

Several using organizations including NATO and the US Air Force added input and the final version was adopted in 1956. It remains in use today.

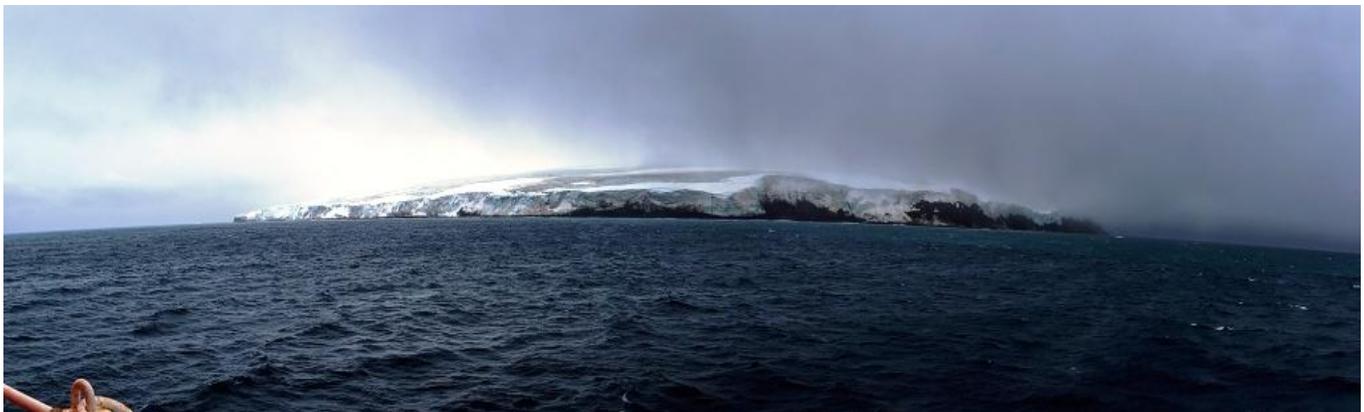
It has been adopted by many other international and national organizations, including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

It is interesting to note the changes that have occurred over the years. An example is the letter "A". In 1920 the accepted phonetic was the word "Argentine". Over the years this progressed through Amsterdam-Able-Adam-Ana-Alpha-Alfa. Alfa is what is used today though most English speakers spell it Alpha. The other 25 letters had similar evolutions.

A final bit of trivia on the phonetic alphabet, In order to avoid confusion because "Delta" is also Delta Air Line's callsign, "Delta" is replaced by "Data", "Dixie" or "David" at airports that have a large number of Delta Air Lines flights, such as Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport..



Bouvet Island



If you need 3Y0Z, perhaps you've been following the team at www.bouvetdx.org.

They are now anchored about 1 mile off the east coast of Bouvet Island. They are waiting for an improvement in the weather to get the first strike team on the island to select and secure a site.

This image is from their web site.



The approached from the west, went along the southern side of the island, and anchored where the blue triangle is.

Carl K9LA

February 1, 2018, 1300 UTC: Our ship is still at anchor off the east side of Bouvet. Winds are 35 to 40 knots, and the ship is pitching and rolling up to 30 degrees. This makes flying and a landing attempt impossible today. The temperature is hovering at around 0 degrees C. Visibility has improved.

We are poised and ready when a weather window opens. We had our maritime mobile station up for a few hours, but had to take it down again to avoid damage caused by the extreme motion of the ship.

1445 UTC: Winds have increased to 45 knots. Unsecured items are again sliding across floors and tables. Some team members are again feeling seasick.

The barometer has risen, slightly. We are anxiously awaiting calmer conditions.

Hang in there with us!

Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase!

11/09/2017

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [Registration](#) is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, as well as on VHF and UHF, also use them as a scoring factor.

John Morris, G4ANB, came up with the locator system, which the VHF Working Group adopted in 1980 at a meeting in Maidenhead, England — thus the term “Maidenhead grid square.” The system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude by 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water, are in areas that are uninhabited, or are difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code or a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter “W1AW” and the site will return “FN31pr.” For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple: Turn on the radio and call CQ or “CQ Grid Chase,” or listen for others doing the same. Make the contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase Leader Board will reset to zero, although the system retains all monthly data to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count for your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts will also count, as will contacts with special event stations, or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares will undoubtedly evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or hand-held GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as *Ham Square* for iOS devices or *HamGPS* for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to *all* radio amateurs.

Awards

As all contacts are uploaded to LoTW, participants may use their contacts toward other [ARRL awards](#), in addition to the overall monthly and annual Grid Chase recognitions. These other ARRL awards include the grid-based VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as Worked All States (WAS), WAS Triple Play, DX Century Club (DXCC), and Worked All Continents (WAC).

Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10.

WORDS FROM OUR YOUTH - (OLD~~ FUN STUFF)

Heavens to Murgatroyd! Do you remember that word?

Would you believe the email spell checker did not recognize the word Murgatroyd?

Heavens to Mergatroyd!

Lost Words from our childhood:

Words gone as fast as the buggy whip!

Sad really!

The other day a not so elderly (65) (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy?"

OMG (new phrase)!

He never heard of the word jalopy!!

She knew she was old.... but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included

"Don't touch that dial,"

"Carbon copy,"

"You sound like a broken record" and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the olden days we had a lot of 'moxie.'

We'd put on our best 'bib and tucker' to 'straighten up and fly right'.

Heavens to Betsy!

Gee whillikers!

Jumping Jehoshaphat!

Holy moley!

We were 'in like Flynn' and 'living the life of Riley'', and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill.

Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell,

but when's the last time anything was swell?

Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers...AND DON'T FORGET... Saddle Stitched Pants

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, well I'll be 'a monkey's uncle!' Or, This is a 'fine kettle of fish'!

We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind

We blink, and they're gone.

Where have all those great phrases gone? (My Favorite)" Let's all go to the beach Saturday"...

Long gone:

Pshaw,

The milkman did it.

Hey! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain.

Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks!

Going like sixty.

I'll see you in the funny papers.

Don't take any wooden nickels.

Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! ("Carter's Little Liver Pills" are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory.

It's one of the greatest advantages of aging.

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator!

Okidoki

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 50'S..

***NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY
AGAIN...***

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

Please check it out.

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

