

# W9JOZ

Volume 7, Issue 6

June 2017

## Next Meeting is June 15, 2017

Field Day is June 24-25.

We will be doing it on Saturday after breakfast on the 24th at Fingerhut in N. Judson.

Location is North Judson Park shelter #1.

Don't forget that Rich K9CIV is an ARRL Card Checker and can check your QSL cards for submission to the DXCC/WAS program.



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.



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Are you on the air?

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# June Events

## Birthdays

June 4 - Tom W9QN

June 9 - Roy KC9HUB

June 19 - Marilyn Craft (no call)

## County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net

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

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

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## Handy Hint

### Use a Digital Multimeter to Find a Break in Coax

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

Today, even cheap digital multimeters may include a capacitance checking feature. They are often available on eBay for less than \$8.00. You can use that feature to locate the approximate location of a break in a piece of coax cable.



An \$8.00 eBay® Capacitance Reading Digital Multimeter

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**First, check the capacitance specifications for the type of cable you are checking. If the manufacturer is known, get this from the product specification sheet. If you don't know the manufacturer, you can use a generic value. Regardless of the manufacturer, as most cable of a particular type (RG8/U, RG213, RG8X etc) all have similar characteristics.**

**A listing of specs for most common generic coax can be found at:**

<http://www.rfcafe.com/references/electrical/coax-chart.htm>

**After you determine the capacitance per foot value of your cable, connect the multimeter to the coax. Read the capacitance value. Calculate the distance to the fault by using the capacitance value per foot from the specification sheet.**

**For example:**

Belden 8267 Coax  
**Specified Capacitance Per Foot = 30.8 pF**  
**Measured Capacitance = 955 pF**  
**Approximate Location of Break = 31 Feet**  
**(955÷30.8 = 31)**

**We tried this with an old piece of coax and the result was within 2 inches of the calculation. This hint is also useful to find the approximate length of a coiled piece of coax. No need to unwind and measure.**

*β 73's and Good DX β*

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Well, Field Day is looking more unpredictable all the time, at least when it comes to band conditions.

From NOAA, the latest U.S. Air Force 45-day solar forecast calls for the following:

June 24:

Solar Flux ? 72

A-index ? 5

And from the ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin:

F.K. Janda, OK1HH, predicts that the geomagnetic field will be ...

Active to disturbed on June 24

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## **IMPORTANT** **Windows XP and Ransomware**

Many of our members use older computers running Windows XP as a backup or interfaced with their ham rigs. Some of the functions used may include logging, rig control, monitoring DX spots and contests. Security wise, it has been somewhat risky to use Microsoft Windows XP since support for these patches ended on April 8, 2014.

The impact of last month's ransomware virus has compelled Microsoft to release a security patch for the obsolete operating system. Because of all the damage caused by the WannaCry ransomware, including many out-of-service Windows XP systems that many of us may still use, Microsoft has issued Security Patch KB4012598.

You can go to the Microsoft web site (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us>) and enter "KB4012598" in the Search box at the top to find it, or you can use [this direct link](#) to the software catalog page. The patch is a simple program (.exe file) that you download, run once, and then reboot. To verify installation after reboot: Start, Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs. Check the \*Show updates\* box at the top, wait a bit, then scroll down to \*Windows XP - Software Updates\* at the bottom. You should see Security Update for Windows XP (KB4012598) at the bottom of the list.

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

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: 2 Motorola Mobile Radios - one is set up to work cross-band 2-6.  
2 spools of RG 6 cable. Email John at [w3ml@w3ml.com](mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com). Will not ship.

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

