

# W9JOZ

Volume 8, Issue 6

June 2018

## Next Meeting is

**June 21, 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.**

**We have been only having about 5 or 6 checking in to the net.**

**Hope you can check in.**

**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](mailto:k9qa@arrl.net) to have your cards checked.**

**DX Century Club**

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## May Events

### Birthdays

4th - W9QN Tom

19th - KD9IHY Bob

## 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

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## Fox Hunts

Next Fox Hunt is scheduled for June 17th

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.

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### Top tips for poison ivy

By [Alex Reshanov](#) in Earth | Human World | May 22, 2018

[http://earthsky.org/earth/lifeform-of-the-week-poison-ivy-poison-oak-poison-sumac?utm\\_source=EarthSky+News&utm\\_campaign=becef032e4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_02\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c643945d79-becef032e4-395181469](http://earthsky.org/earth/lifeform-of-the-week-poison-ivy-poison-oak-poison-sumac?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=becef032e4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-becef032e4-395181469)

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## 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 1000 watts out.

Asking \$500.00 cash. Pickup only.

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

Yaesu FT 9000 for sale by Rich K9QA [k9qa@arri.net](mailto:k9qa@arri.net)

**See all the For Sale Items at**

**[www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm](http://www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm)**

**There are a lot of them there.**

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### May Club Meeting

The meeting started officially 7:03 p.m. Had a big turnout. Jack Brink and Paul Lisowski were there, then two new Hams came in, and later, Rick Grant came late. A whole six attendees. No raffle. After the pledge, we sat around chatting, getting to know the two new Hams. They both paid dues to become members. The 'program' for the evening was discussing dipole antennas - G5RV, off Center Fed Dipoles, and Doublets. Both new guys admitted they had no practical experience and were looking for help to understand the Ham Radio World and how radio works. We closed the meeting about 8:20 .

**Levi WB9CAO**

## Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- N0SSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders... anyone with an interest in **solving a problem with technology.**"

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested

in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

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When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

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## Two New Members

**Scott W. Pugh W9SWP General Class from Hamlet, IN**

**Bob Johnson KD9IHY General Class from Plymouth, IN**

## Welcome to the Club!

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Nice video on Baluns.

**All About Baluns (Ask Dave – KE0OG #73)**

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

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Fellow Indiana Hams,

The Indiana Section Manager election ballots have been counted and verified by ARRL Headquarters. The vote was close with only 13 votes separating the two candidates.

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Here are the results:

Brian G. Jenks, W9BGJ, of Fort Wayne, received 438 votes.

James Merry, Jr. (Jimmy), KC9RPX, of Ellettsville, received 451 votes.

Jimmy Merry, KC9RPX, has been declared elected. Jimmy will begin his two-year term of office on July 1, 2018.

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## Handy Hint

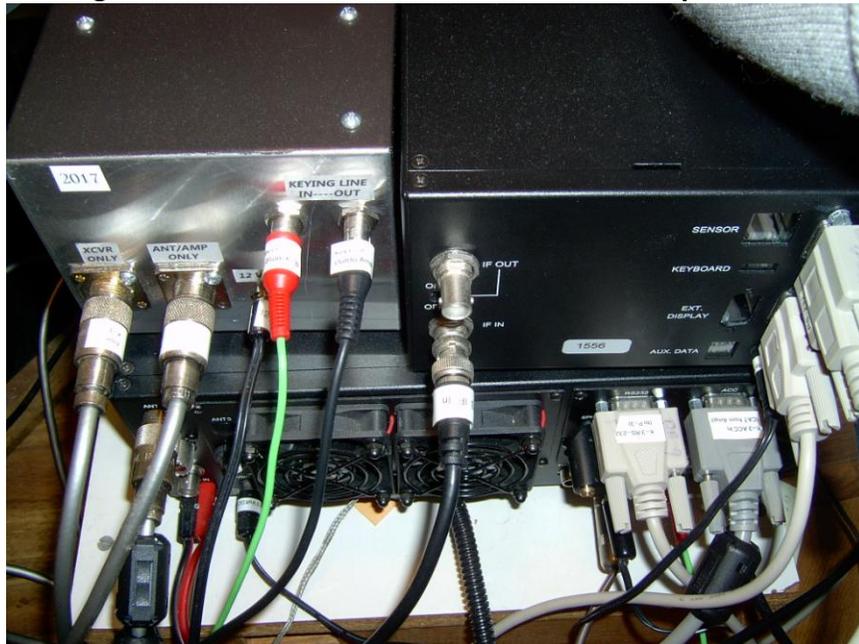
### Labels for Wires and Cables

By Steve Mollman-KD9HL

This is a subject we have written about before. Most modern ham setups have a multiplicity of wires and cables making interconnections between rigs, computers, power supplies, antennas, etc.

For example, my HF station consists of a variety of equipment ranging from “wall wart” power plugs to amplifiers and a computer. All have wires and cables coming and going. I suspect this is very typical of most ham stations, some with more equipment and some with less. All of this has created what some would call a “rat’s nest” of wires and cables. Examples are my transceiver and the computer. At last count, the main transceiver had twelve cables (with more applications available) plugged into it and the computer had sixteen!

**Oh, what a tangled web we weave when we connect a computer to a transceiver!**



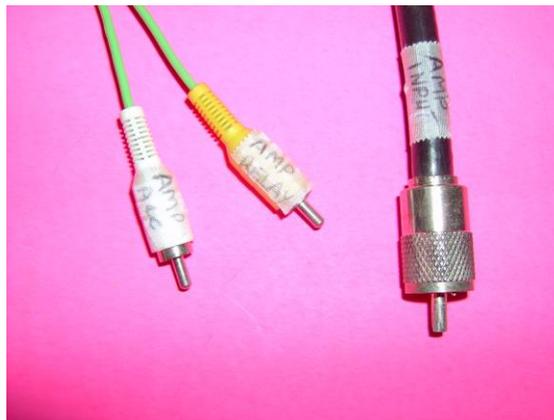
## A glimpse of some of the cable at my QTH (most is not shown)

In a previous Handy Hint column (October 2015 issue of the NW Indiana DX Club Newsletter) we suggested using a Brother Labeling machine with a special tape made for adhering to co-axial cable, etc. This has worked well with some labels in service over six years. This is an alternate method.

We are all familiar with the black colored Scotch brand vinyl electrical tape. It is ubiquitous in uses around the ham shack, our home, shop and often at work. Did you know that Scotch makes the stuff in different colors? Red, white, blue and yellow are available and at a reasonable cost-under \$4.00 a roll at the big box stores such as Home Depot and Lowes.



Using the white tape and a Sharpie extra fine or fine point pen, it is easy to mark your cables as to what they are and where they go. If you want to get fancy, use some of the other colors to identify what piece of equipment a particular end goes to. For example: Use blue for the ends that go into a computer. Red for the ends that go into an amplifier, etc. The possibilities are up to your imagination.



A caveat. My experience with vinyl electrical tape and Sharpie markers outdoors is one of limited success. After a period of time the tape adhesive will breakdown and the lettering from the Sharpie will fade. They do seem to hold up well indoors.

◀73's and good DX ▶

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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

