

W9JOZ

Volume 10, Issue 5

May 2020

Next Meeting is on the Air

Greeting fellow amateurs,

Thanks to all who attended the virtual club meeting in April conducted on the repeater. I hope more will check in for future events. Just a reminder the Indiana QSO party is Saturday May 2 from 10AM to 10PM CDT

Dave
Kc8obh

Treasurer's Note:

There are still some members that have not paid their dues for 2020. We would love to still have you in the Club. Payment can be mailed to W3ML 204 S. Main St. Knox, IN 46534

73 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?

Library Door locks at 7:00 p.m. so if you are late, knock loud.

Don't forget Dues are due for 2020.

Still \$12.00

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Reminder
- 2 Events/Articles

Events

Fox Hunts are the 2nd Sunday. See webpage for details

Birthdays

6th - Linda KC8PKY

24th - Bart KC9FQA

If your birthday has not been listed, it is because I do not have the date for it. If you would like it to be included in a newsletter, please email me the date. Thanks w3ml@w3ml.com

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

New Items Listed

See all the For Sale Items at

www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm

There are a lot of them there. Updated regularly.



See the For Sale Page on the Club website. If you have items to sell email me a list with prices and contact information.

LINKS

Tom, W9QN sent this in:

AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see:

<http://www.amsat.org/mailman/listinfo/ans>

This was sent to me by Rom, W8FIB Repeaters in Indiana

Click on column headers to sort

You clicked on county to find all the repeaters surrounding you.

https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/Display_SS.php?state_id=18&band=14&loc=%25&call=%25&use=%25

STAY HOME --- STAY SAFE

The State of Indiana just released new guidelines for outside activities. However, the governor has stated that older citizens should remain at home unless you really have to go out. The below listed website has the 5 Stages of Returning to Normal for Indiana. They are PDF documents.

backontrack.in.gov

A modest proposal (for the next Extra Class question pool)

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

At our last club meeting, I was discussing the changes to the Extra Class question pool with someone, and the topic of memorizing the answers popped up. As I always do, I mentioned that many of the questions you can only get right by memorizing the answer.

At that point, someone down the way piped up. "Not me," he said, "I studied the material so that I didn't have to memorize the answers."

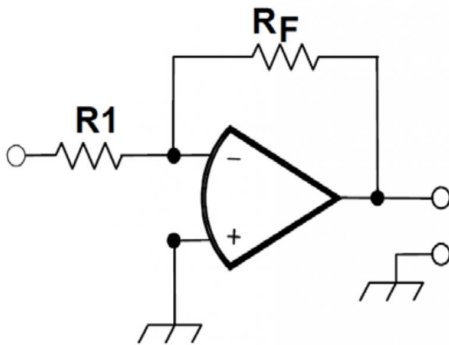
At that point, the president called the meeting to order, so I didn't get to challenge him on that point, but that statement is just plain wrong. First of all, it's true that some questions you can only get right by memorizing the answer. Almost all of the rules questions are that way, for example.

Secondly, there is no way to study the rest of the material in any depth and still have time to actually be an amateur radio operator. The amount of material that the Extra Class question pool covers takes an electrical engineering student four years or more to study thoroughly. And even then, some topics are bound to get short shrift.

So, we're back to memorizing. I would say that even an "engaged" person will memorize about half the answers. I'd go even further and say that those that "study" the technical topics, don't study it as thoroughly as a college student would.

For example, there are a dozen questions in Section E7G - Active filters and op-amp circuits: active audio filters; characteristics; basic circuit design; operational amplifiers. Despite the name, you don't need to know how to design or build an op-amp filter. All you really need to know is that op-amps are high gain devices and if you have a circuit like the one shown below, $V_{out}/V_{in} = R_F/R_1$.

Figure E7-3



These concepts are relatively easy to learn. but there are also two questions on filter "ringing." Honestly, you're better off just memorizing the answers to those questions unless you have a real interest in active filters that use op amps. Wading into the mathematics isn't all that hard, but when you consider this is only one of dozens of topics, you can see where doing any kind of in-depth study is going to take you months, if not years, to accomplish.

A modest proposal

The end result of this approach to testing is that we have many Extra Class licensees who know about a lot of things, but not in very much depth. Perhaps that's OK. Perhaps that's just what the question pool committee of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) was shooting for. If, however, we want an Extra Class license to denote that the licensee has some real technical expertise, I have a modest proposal.

Basically, my idea is that instead of testing on an incredibly wide range of topics, we test applicants on a set of basics, plus one or two particular topics. These would be

topics that the person has expertise in already or enough of an interest in to study the topic in some depth.

Below are the topics that I would consider to be basic and some that I consider to be more specialized. This is, of course, not an extensive list.

- Basic questions (20 questions, everyone takes this part of the exam)
 - Safety
 - Rules and regulations
 - Electrical principles/basic circuits
- Technical Interests (Choose two, 20 questions each)
 - Antennas and transmission lines
 - Radio wave propagation
 - EMI/RFI
 - Analog and digital design
 - Digital communications and networking
 - Software/software-defined radio
 - Operating: contests, DXing, direction finding, etc.
 - VHF/UHF

The questions in each of the technical interest question pools would be designed to really test the knowledge of the person taking the test. We'd have to figure out a way to make them difficult enough so that one couldn't just simply memorize the answer. Questions could appear in one or more technical interest test. For example, a question on VHF/UHF propagation could appear in both the Radio Wave Propagation and VHF/UHF question pools.

Having said all this, I realize that this would not be easy to implement. You'd have to first decide on the topics and then enlist experts for each of the topics and get them to come up with a list of 80 - 100 questions each.

I realize that this has very little chance of being adopted, but it's interesting to think about, no? And, we have four years to do this, so it could be possible.

=====

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up ways to make the lives of the NCVEC question pool committee more difficult, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

Indiana QSO Party

Mel kj9C

The INQP is coming up quickly--next week end, May 2-3. With a healthy respect for the seriousness and timing of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 INQP rules were revised on April 18 to essentially remove rover, mobile and portable classifications and to add two new entry classifications, Distributed Multi-Single and Distributed Multi-Multi. The two new classifications permit multi-operator stations while respecting established principles for slowing the spread of COVID-19. The changes necessarily involve some

compromise. This is not a perfect solution and not everyone will be pleased with the changes. However, the changes were made after extensive deliberation and consideration with the intent of protecting lives and health of amateur radio operators, their families and communities. See the revised rules at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html> .

One objective of the QSO party has been to provide for activity out of all 92 counties every year. With no rovers, mobile or portable ops for 2020, operators and clubs in the rare counties (see your county's QSO count at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/records.php>) are encouraged to set up at home. Be certain to post your intent to operate on the Activity Map (<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/activity.php>). Any county all-time QSO counts under 1,250 would be considered "rare." Please try to post planned activity to the Activity Map as soon as possible. Even indication of a general intent to operate in a county will be helpful. Thanks.

And everyone--be certain to submit your log after the party. People entering in Distributed Multi-Single or Distributed Multi-Multi classifications most likely will have to manually enter their classification in their Cabrillo log before submitting it.

Club competition is expected to be big this year. Club members can operate from home using their own callsigns but be sure to include consistent, exact spelling of the club name in their individual logs so that club scores can be calculated by party organizers.

And don't forget the [Worked All Indiana Counties](#) award which the HDXCC sponsors. INQP logs are accepted to confirm contacts--no QSL cards required for those QSOs.

A lot of activity is expected this year due to "cabin fever effect" during the lock down and also the NA QSO Party Challenge. Should be fun.

Hope to see you in the party next week end

ARRL Announces New Benefits for Members
04/16/2020

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their latest issues. Joining QST and On the Air magazines on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of QEX — The Forum for Communications Experimenters and NCJ — National Contest Journal. QEX includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. NCJ, published since 1973, targets radio amateurs active in radiosport. NCJ includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for beginners and seasoned radiosport enthusiasts alike.

“Feedback from ARRL members and our readership surveys has shown that our magazines are one of the most valued member benefits,” said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY. “Our investment in digital access provides another channel through which we can deliver content to our members across the expanse of interests and activities in amateur radio. All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership.”

ARRL’s digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing

users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues onto your mobile device or tablet for offline reading.

Members who have elected to receive a printed QST or On the Air as part of their membership benefits will continue to have this service. Members may not substitute a print subscription of QEX or NCJ as their delivered magazine member benefit. Print subscriptions of QEX and NCJ will continue to be available at additional cost for those who want to receive them.

All four magazines are easily accessed through any web browser from members-only links. The free ARRL Magazines app is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play. If you're already an ARRL member and previously created an arrl.org website account, your username and password will provide you access to the digital editions, whether online or in the app. Members who have not previously registered will need to create a new account. If you've forgotten your password, visit www.arrl.org/forgot-password, or email circulation@arrl.org for assistance.

Previous and prospective members can join ARRL and take advantage of this and other membership benefits.

Contest University 2020 will be held online free via Zoom

Thursday, May 14th 8:45 am EDT/12:45 UTC

CTU 2020 Outline is available on the [Course Outline Page](#)

Long-Lost U.S. Military Satellite Found By Amateur Radio Operator

Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, has made the news once again for tracking down yet another "zombie" satellite. Scott was the subject of a report broadcast on National Public Radio on Friday, April 24.

This time, he managed to identify signals from LES-5, an experimental military UHF communications satellite built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory and launched in 1967. Even though the satellite was supposed to shut down in 1972, it's still going. As long as the solar panels are in the sun, the satellite's radio continues to operate.

In 2018, Tilley found a signal from a NASA probe called IMAGE that the space agency had lost track of in 2005. With Tilley's help, NASA was able to reestablish contact. He has rediscovered several other long-forgotten birds, including Transit 5B-5, a nuclear-powered U.S. Navy navigation satellite launched in 1965.

Scott announced his findings on LES-5 through his Twitter account, @coastal8049, on March 24. The full NPR story may be found at: <https://n.pr/2x64aAZ>.

[ANS thanks NPR.org for the above information]

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

See you at a meeting.

Sometime in the Future

73

John, W3ML

