

W9JOZ

Volume 8, Issue 10

October 2018

Next Meeting is October 18, 2018

Weekly 2 meter Net

We are having the Saturday Night Net
at 8:00 pm on the 145.410 repeater.

Hope you can check in and join us for
some good conversation.

Foxhunt is October 21st this month.

Radioville Special Event is October 6th
after breakfast at Fingerhut.

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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October Events

Birthdays

4th - WA9ZTP, JACK

5th - K9QA, RICHARD

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

Next Fox Hunt is scheduled for October 21st.

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.

News Items Listed

See all the For Sale Items at

www.w9joz.org/forsale.htm

There are a lot of them there.

A surprise 80th birthday celebration was held for Steve Scamerhorn WB9GPW at the Saturday breakfast. Steve's wife arranged for each ham and farmer that has breakfast there early in the morning to receive a special John Deere decorated donut. (Which, by the way, were very good)

Turned out it was also NEOMIAH, KD9HNE 13th birthday that day.



You can see the mastermind peeking over Steve's shoulder. To the right is one of his daughters who helped getting mom there.

How to Fix Corroded Battery Terminals

“Many a time I’ve managed to get my hands on some electronic gizmo only to find that the battery compartment totally corroded. It’s usually one of the main reasons I think that people throw toys and whatever else takes batteries away.”

Visit this link to see the whole article: <https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Fix-Corroded-Battery-Terminals/>

Voltage Drop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkRm1Frt-Ns&feature=youtu.be>

Suggestion: Do not crimp on connectors to the end of the wires and then connect to a power supply.

As this video shows, the power supply voltage is stable, but the IC-7300 voltage display clearly shows that the voltage drops with 15 amp DC is drawn.

Just strip off about 1" of wire on the DC power cable, solder (tin) the wires, wrap them around the posts, and the voltage drop should go away.

The Future of QSL Cards & QSLing

How Do You Confirm Contacts for DXCC Credit

- QSLs, LOTW or Both?

By Jim Junkert-KØJUH

For years, the only way to receive credit towards a DXCC Award was by exchanging QSLs with the DX stations you worked, and then sending the cards to the DXCC desk at the ARRL. Depending on how active and serious you were about chasing awards, you could spend a lot of time taking care of the paperwork and mailing QSLs. If you had a pile of QSLs to send out after a busy weekend of operating, the dreaded job of filling out the cards manually always awaited you.

That all changed with time and technology. By the early 60s, computers, printers and logging software came on the scene, and dramatically reduced the workload involved with logging, record keeping and filling out QSL cards. Computer logging software replaced paper logs, and made tracking DXCC awards much easier. That same software would print labels for each log entry, showing the details of the contact, and replacing the once tedious job of doing it by hand.

The only thing technology hadn’t simplified was the procedure for receiving DXCC Award credits. QSL cards still had to be collected and mailed with an application to the DXCC desk. Eventually, the ARRL eliminated the need to mail in QSL cards by creating field checking. Field checkers are a group of volunteer DXers who checked the cards in the field, replacing the need to send them to the DXCC desk.

In 2003, LOTW was introduced, and offered a system that would confirm QSOs electronically online. The program checked QSO records from uploaded log files, and issued a credit when a match was found between two stations. It was no longer necessary to provide a QSL card as proof of a QSO with a DX station.

Since 2003, LOTW has generated some impressive numbers! 6,595,169 user files, 961,533,999 QSO records and 177,957,092 QSL results (DXCC credits). Impressive as they are, these numbers don’t represent logs from all the DX stations in the world. Many DXers don’t support LOTW, and require that you go direct, via a manager or the bureau to obtain their QSL. If you’re serious about your award chasing, plan on maintaining a supply of QSL cards you’ll need them.

Being an OT, I've been chasing QSLs since the mid-60s. Over the years I've accumulated thousands of cards. It always bothered me that the QSLs were filed away and never again saw the light of day. Digital photography in the 80s changed the world of QSL design from plain two color text cards to beautiful photo QSLs printed on glossy stock. Many were a work of art, and deserved to be on display!

After years of procrastinating, I finally got around to it. I started by going through all of the cards, and selecting the best of the best for each entity on the DXCC list. (DXCC #1 Honor Roll = 340). They were then placed in prefix order in four pocket plastic protectors (four QSLs per side) and mounted in a 3-ring leather binder. 95% of this collection is a glossy photo QSL. I'm always watching for a "better" QSL that will replace the one I have in the book. This activity adds another dimension to DXing that I enjoy very much.



When non-ham visitors ask about my hobby, I always haul out the QSL collection and tell them this is what DXing is all about. The "book" usually generates a Q & A session, as they find the contents interesting, and have questions about the QSLs. It's unlikely that showing them a LOTW printout will generate the same response. (The devil made me say that -sorry!) I take my hat off to the DXers who spend the time and money to design some of today's "collectable" QSL cards. Thank you!

73, Jim, KØJUH

(From the "Gray Line Report of the Twin Cities DX Association")

ARRL president suggests that we "re-brand" amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson's Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

"Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let's see: We're world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.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

