

W9JOZ

Volume 7, Issue 9

September 2017

Next Meeting is September 21, 2017

Fox Hunts

September 24th will be the next one.

This is a change to the schedule.

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.

September meeting is the Annual Auction.

If you are planning on selling an expensive item such as a radio, etc. please email me with the description and price you want, so we can give a heads up on the item and people can bring the money you are asking.

Club receives 10 percent of the sale price.

No items may be left behind.

AUCTION TIME!



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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September Events

Birthdays

September 8 - Dwight KC9DHD

September 20 - Steve KB9GPW

September 26 - Mike KB9L

Starke County Amateur Radio Club Weekly 2 Meter Net Suspended until Fall

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

HOST: KN9OX Repeater

FREQUENCY: 145.410 - 600

PL TONE: 131.8

ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

“The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.”

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

“Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to

achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham’s interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer’s desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

“From the committee’s vantage point, **the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership** *[emphasis is mine...Dan]*. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL’s relevancy will not move forward.”

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I’ve written about these in the past. I’ve challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I’ve also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, “From the committee’s vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership.” That approach is doomed to failure. Any “visioning” or strategic planning that doesn’t get the membership involved right from the start just isn’t going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn’t have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership “is no longer adequate.” That’s how we got here in the first place.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Saturday morning breakfast group was honored by having the Manager Vickie sit with the group.



How Lithium Batteries Become a Workplace Hazard

<https://www.lion.com/lion-news/july-2015/how-lithium-batteries-become-a-workplace-hazard>

I received this email from Dwight KC9DHD

Hello John , As for how I'm feeling , Well , not too bad , they tell me , I will be home bound from now on.

Looks like I've been to my last Field Days .

Trying to sell my new truck and my guns and radios.

Jolene is doing fine, she's taking care of me and working around the house.

Tell everyone that I said Hi

Dwight KC9DHD

VK9CZ Cocos Keeling Islands

GM3WOJ and GM4YXI will be active from Cocos Keeling Islands, IOTA OC - 003, 23 October - 7 November 2017 as VK9CZ.

They will operate on HF Bands including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest 28 - 29 October 2017. QSL via N3SL.

Address for direct QSL:

STEVEN A LARSON, 22 N HIDDEN ACRES DR, SIOUX CITY, IA 51108-8641, USA.

Sent in by Rich, K9QA

K1HTV FT8 prop report

By K1HTV, Rich Zwirko

Starting on July 10th, and for almost a month, I've been chasing DX using the new WSJT-X "FT8" digital mode. In the past week, even with the solar flux numbers in the low 70's DX conditions have been very good. After 3 weeks of operating using FT8 I had already worked 89 countries. In the past week as the result of a number of days with low K Indexes, 13 new DXCC FT8 entities were added to the logbook. That brought the K1HTV FT8 total to 102 DXCC countries worked in less than a month.

For the past week, the north polar route to Asia has been relatively undisturbed. On 20 Meters I was able to work stations in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong and South Korea. The path from my VA QTH to Asia has opened as early as 09Z. But more substantial Asian signals usually can be copied from around 11Z and depending on the day, until as late as 13Z.

Almost every morning on 40 Meters I've contacted stations in the Pacific, 30 QSOs being in Australia. Good Trans-Atlantic conditions start around my local sunset and continue until after their sunrise times. This has resulted in many hundreds of 40M QSOs being made with countries across the pond in Europe and the Middle East.

European stations have dominated on 20M from around my local sunrise until after sunset. Signals from UA9 & UA0 stations in Asiatic Russia have been quite good between 02 and 03Z on the band.

The amazing thing is that the over 1000 DX stations that I have contacted so far using FT8 have been worked using a tribander and wire antennas while only running around 50 Watts. With so many stations now using the new FT8 mode, it is very interesting to see that there are propagation paths open to distant lands at times which one would not normally expect. Two website where FT8 activity can be tracked are PSKReporter and HamSpots:

<https://pskreporter.info>
<http://hamspots.net>

If you haven't yet tried the new FT8 mode, you can find it in the free WSJT-X software package, which can be downloaded at:

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

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 2-6 others are in the 2 meter or 440 meter band. Will not ship.

2 spools of RG 6 cable (approx: 1900 feet). Email John at <mailto:w3ml@w3ml.com>. Will not ship. \$20.00 for both

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

