SPARK GAP

On the MARC:

Hope everyone is staying warm these days. I would like to thank all those that came out to help the Technician Class License Review on February 13th. We had 10 people signed up for it and seven of them showed up. One had already passed the test at our last meeting but came out to see what the review type training was all about. Out of the other 6, one passed on taking the test and five tested. Four of those passed. Please be listening for the new Techs on the air and congratulate them.

With severe weather season just around the corner, Bob Jones, KC9NJM, will be our speaker for the MARC meeting, February 20th. He will be talking about running a weather net. Talking about severe weather, I have heard that the Storm Spotter Training class will be March 14. I believe it will be from 7 to 9pm, and will be held at the new training center behind the EOC. I'm not sure if you need to reserve a spot. I am hoping Dave Daily, KB9LOT, will have more information for us at the club meeting this Saturday.

As everyone knows, the club officer's had been looking for an Activity Coordinator. We are happy to announce that Ron Schuetz, K9THR and Phil Melick, AR9H accepted the position. If you have any subject that you would like to have a speaker on or maybe even know of a speaker that might be willing to speak to the club, please let them know. We are very excited to have them and we are sure that they will do a great job!

As some of you may or may not know, MARC member Grant Black, K9JGB, was involved in a hit and run accident. I emailed JCSO Sheriff Doug Cox for information. Here is what I was informed:
While travelling on State Road 44 near Milford in Franklin his car was hit from behind. The impact sent him into the opposite lane. This caused him to hit another vehicle head-on. The driver of the other vehicle has been in a coma since the accident. Grant has months of rehabilitation to go through.
Grant is in room 223 at Todd Aikens Rehab Facility inside Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. I visited him this past week. He has 16 broken ribs, a fractured sternum, a fractured hip and a broken left arm and leg. If you saw the television news interview, his spirits are very high.

The Franklin Masonic Lodge is having a breakfast to raise funds for him on Saturday February 20th. It starts at 7:30 am.

 Please keep Grant and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
See you Saturday and the coffee will be on.

Jacki-KI6QOG
President

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ARRL Announces Partnership with RFinder — The Worldwide Repeater Directory

ARRL has established an agreement with RFinder, the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, to be its preferred online resource of repeater frequencies.

RFinder is a steadily growing worldwide repeater directory with over 50,000 repeater listings in over 170 countries. An annual $9.99 subscription to RFinder provides access to repeater data through its collection of apps for Android and Apple devices, and from nearly any web browser. With one subscription, users have access to repeater data worldwide from computing devices on Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, Apple iOS, and popular GPS systems. A growing list of third-party memory programming applications support radio programming. RFinder provides integrated support for EchoLink on Android and iPhone, allowing users a one-click connection to repeaters worldwide from the directory.

"The RFinder team is honored to be ARRL's partner, providing the very latest online repeater information and directory technology for radio amateurs in the United States," said Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder — The Worldwide Repeater Directory. "We look forward to working with ARRL to make RFinder even better for US hams."

ARRL will receive a portion of each annual subscription to RFinder. US radio amateurs who subscribe to RFinder will have online access to its entire worldwide directory while supporting ARRL.

ARRL will discontinue its own products that had supported digital listings of repeater data including the TravelPlus for Repeaters™ software and its own apps. ARRL is working with RFinder on a plan to migrate existing ARRL app users to RFinder, in order to support remaining subscription terms.

"Rest assured that the printed ARRL Repeater Directory, updated and published each year, will continue to be produced," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. Inderbitzen explained that The ARRL Repeater Directory, available in pocket-sized and spiral bound desktop editions, is especially popular with new radio amateurs, mobile and portable operators, and public service volunteers who rely on the printed copies when they are offline and on the go. ARRL's source of repeater data for The ARRL

Repeater Directory is voluntarily contributed information from repeater owners and frequency coordinators in the US and Canada. RFinder, on the other hand, assembles its data from worldwide sources, including repeater owners, national and regional coordinating bodies, and carefully reviewed crowd-sourced contributions. RFinder uses dynamic data, allowing users to access listings that regularly reflect new, updated, revised, and deleted information.

RFinder will have an exhibit at the upcoming Orlando HamCation®, this year's ARRL National Convention, February 12-14, at the Central Florida Fair and Expo Park in Orlando, Florida. "We are excited and proud to announce our partnership during the ARRL National Convention!" Greenberg said.

ARRL is the most recent national Amateur Radio society to establish a partnership with RFinder. RFinder is the official repeater directory of Radio Amateurs of/du Canada, the Radio Society of Great Britain, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (Germany), and others.

Subscribe to RFinder by visiting http://subscribe.rfinder.net from your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or from your Android smartphone or tablet. Those without an Apple or Android device can subscribe using the link at the bottom of http://subscribe.rfinder.net/.

…….. ARRL News February 2016

HELP NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ham Radio Volunteers are needed in all the public served events that we support. These are:

May 7 - 500 Festival Mini Marathon

May 28 - 500 Festival Parade

Jun 4 - American Diabetes Tour-de-Cure Bike Ride

Aug 1 - Indy Air Race

Sep 10 - Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

Oct 1 - Indianapolis Marathon in Lawrence

Nov 7 - Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

Contact is Mike Palmer, N9FEB ---- N9FEB@comcast.net

Michael R. Palmer, N9FEB
Marion County IN Events Coordinator for Ham Radio
7461 Hague Rd., Indpls, IN 46256
(317) 849-3602 home
(317) 753-8691 cell
www.IndyHams.org

Model Emergency Communication Plan for a Retirement Community

Royal Harbor is a gated retirement community of 750 homes located in the town of Tavares, Florida in Lake County, 40 miles north of Orlando. This area features 2000 lakes of which 1400 have names. It's also Florida's hill country, with gently rolling hills, uncharacteristic of the flat land areas of most of Florida. Hurricanes and tornados are not unusual to Lake County. In 2007 a tornado killed several people and caused much damage. In 2004 the county was visited by four hurricanes.

Five years ago the Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club adopted an emergency ham radio program called Neighborhood Ham Watch. The idea behind the program was to provide emergency communications to the outside world through Amateur Radio operators who lived in Royal Harbor. The operators decided to prepare an emergency disaster communications plan for the retirement community.

The first Royal Harbor Communications Disaster Plan was presented to the Royal Harbor Home Owners Association board of directors in October 2012. After board approval, it became part of Royal Harbor's overall disaster plan. The plan was recently updated.

The plan makes clear from the very beginning that the members are to first ensure that their own families are safe and secure, before the rest of the plan is executed. In the event of a hurricane, tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings, members will already be on the area ARES frequency 147.255 MHz as part of a SKYWARN net, with the operation being easily converted to the activation of the disaster plan. An equipped operator will be dispatched to HOA office to provide a link to the net and/or the Lake County Emergency Operating Center (EOC) in Tavares, Florida.

Under a plan A, an operator will be assigned as the net control station from his/her home, and will maintain contact with the EOC on 147.255 MHz. The operator may be using generator or battery backup power. The NCS operator will conduct the net of other Royal Harbor amateurs using the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz or other simplex frequency designated.

The operator at the Royal Harbor office will remain in contact with the net via the simplex link. One operator will be on a D-STAR link, while another is on HF, lending mode and frequency range diversity.

All Royal Harbor emergency operators will have VHF/UHF (V/U) capabilities in their personal vehicles if needed for mobile assignments. When it is safe to do so, the net control station may be moved to the lighthouse for better height above average terrain (HAAT). The repeater located in the lighthouse can be powered by a club generator.

Staffing critical locations will be conducted on a rotating basis; recruitment of additional operators from outside Royal Harbor may be necessary if the incident continues for more than 72 hours. There is an agreement for mutual aid with the Lake County Amateur Radio Association.

A plan B calls for NCS to be located in the Royal Harbor HOA office, among other changes. Operators should be available for deployment within Royal Harbor with mobile or portable radios for damage assessments. A plan C allows for more modifications to the plan/operation as conditions dictate. ARES will also maintain the ability to contact contiguous county EOCs under other plans.

These plans work well for this Florida retirement community and may be used as a model for other communities, expanded or contracted based on size and the ARES population of operators. Develop your own communications plan before it's too late. -- Ted Luebbers, K1AYZ, Lake County (Florida) ARES® Public Information Officer
……. ARRL News Febuary 2016

New ARRL/Red Cross MoU Signed

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The document, signed in January, succeeds one agreed to in 2010; it will remain in place for the next 5 years. The MoU spells out how League Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers will interface with the Red Cross in the event that ARES teams are asked by the Red Cross to assist in a disaster or emergency response.

"Whenever there is a disaster requiring the use of Amateur Radio communications resources and/or facilities, the local Red Cross region or chapter may request the assistance of the local ARES organization responsible for the jurisdiction of the scene of the disaster," the MoU provides. Such assistance would include mobilization of ARES personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan, and the establishment of communication as necessary during a disaster or emergency. "Both ARRL volunteers and American Red Cross workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties" within the scope of the MoU, the agreement says.

Generally, the MoU sets the parameters of the partnership between the ARRL and the Red Cross to provide assistance to communities affected by disasters. It calls upon both organizations to encourage and maintain open lines of communication at the state and local levels, sharing current data regarding disasters, situational and operational reports, changes in policy or personnel, and any information pertaining to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
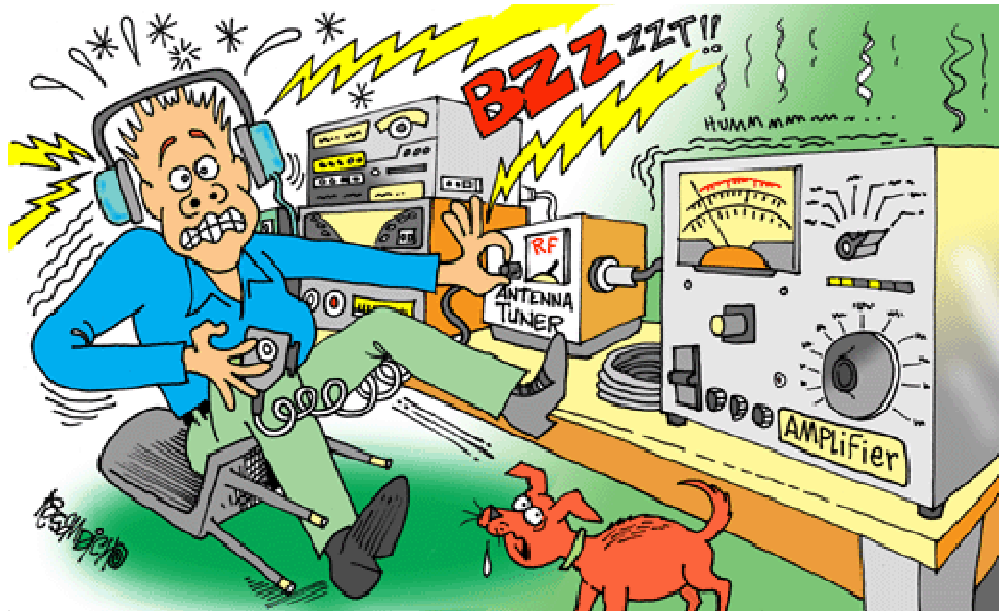
For its part, the League will encourage ARES units to engage in discussions with local Red Cross entities to develop plans for local response or disaster relief operations. The Red Cross will encourage its field units to engage in discussions with the ARRL Field Organization to develop plans for local response or disaster relief.

Facilitating this is a Statement of Cooperation to provide methods of cooperation between the two organizations on the local level in providing services to communities during or after a disaster event, "as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial." The ARRL signatory is either the appropriate ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator.

The new MoU also clarifies that ARES volunteers assisting the Red Cross but not registered as Red Cross volunteers do not have to undergo a prior background check. Radio amateurs who register as Red Cross volunteers, though, must abide by the Red Cross's background check requirement.

Then-ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the MoU on behalf of the League on January 7, while ARC Senior Vice President-Disaster Cycle Services Richard Reed, signed for the American Red Cross on January 22. -- ARRL

…….. ARRL News February 2016

Why Modern Makers Are Bringing Back Ham Radio?

An article on Yahoo Tech by Wayne Rash N4HCR says the rise of the modern maker movement has coincided with an increase in the number of radio amateurs

Wayne N4HCR writes:

... coincident with the rise of the modern maker movement, that decline [in amateur radio] has reversed. New ham licenses are on the increase, with 35,000 new ones issued just last year. According to FCC records, there are now roughly 800,000 ham radio operators in the United States — more than ever before. And this latest generation of enthusiasts is doing things with ham radio that their forebears could never have imagined.

Some of today's hams are in it for the original reason: to talk to people around the world via shortwave radio. But many get involved so they can incorporate wireless capabilities into their projects.

One reason is that an FCC license allows you to build and legally operate your own high-powered wireless equipment. Ham radio operators are allowed to design, build, test, and operate wireless projects across a vast range of frequencies. They are able to, among other things, hack together Wi-Fi routers that can operate over longer distances and use more power than standard, commercial Wi-Fi.

Adding amateur radio technology to their projects opens up whole new vistas for today's DIYers. "It blows me away what can be done, and for cheap," says maker-blogger Rich Holoch KY6R, who experiments with microcontrollers and projects based on Arduino and Raspberry Pi devices. "It opens up the whole matrix of what you can do."

"It's amazing all the things that are out there that you can do with ham radio," concurs Christine Axsmith KC3CIF, president of HacDC Radio Club, part of HacDC, a Washington, D.C.-area maker group. "But with Raspberry Pi, it just blew the lid off." HacDCers are working on projects that include microwave networking and remotely controlled 3D printing — all using wireless radio technology.

Read the full story at
https://www.yahoo.com/tech/why-modern-makers-are-bringing-1363811879927862.html

……. Southgate News February 2016

Baofeng UV-5R / 82 series

On the Fly Keyboard Programming

John Leahy KK4ITX

Several times I've been given the local repeater's information and perhaps I'm going to be in the area for a only few hours or maybe I'm not sure if I can hit it and want a quick way to try. Here is an easy to remember solution.

We will assume that you are familiar with the Keys and Functions.

Enter VFO mode

Select A or B to program in

Select the correct BAND

Enter the frequency you want to try

<Menu> <13> <Menu>   (enter tone, if req'd)   <Menu>

<Menu> <26> <Menu> (check/change offset) <Menu>

<Menu> <25> <Menu> (check/change offset) <Menu>

You are done.

You can "store" one frequency in each A and B and the UV-5R will retain these until the information is overwritten.

If you are entering a Simplex frequency, you need to reset the options of Menus 13 & 25 to OFF.

I remember the MENU #'s this way...   13, 26, 25
Unlucky Number = 13
Double Unlucky = 26
Back Off   (-1)   = 25

Cut the 7 steps out and put in your wallet for later use.
This would also be a quick way to confirm that your radio is working.

……. Miklor , good source of information for many different types of radios.

www.miklor.com

2016 List of Hamfests in Indiana / Convention

02/27/2016 Cabin Fever HamFest
Location: La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte, IN
Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.lpcarc.org/

02/27/2016 Dugger Hamfest 2016
Location: Dugger Community Bldg, IN St Rd 54 and Hickam Street, Dugger, IN
Sponsor: Dugger Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.facebook.com/groups/550912628262491/

03/12/2016 Terre Haute Hamfest
Location: Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds 6650 N State Road 59 Brazil, IN
Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
Website: http://www.w9uuu.org

04/09/2016 Columbus Hamfest
Location: Bartholomew County Fairgrounds Community Building Columbus, IN 47201
Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.carcnet.net

04/16/2016 North Central Indiana Hamfest
Location: Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1029 W 200 N, Peru, IN
Sponsor: Cass Co. ARC, Miami Co. ARC, Grant Co. ARC, & Kokomo ARC
Website: http://nci-hamfest.net

05/20-21-22/2016 Dayton Hamvention
Location: HARA Arena, Dayton, OH
Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association
Website: http://hamvention.org

09/17/2016 Bloomington ARC Hamfest
Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 West Airport Road, Bloomington, IN 47401
Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.bloomingtonradio.org

11/12/2016 Indiana State Convention
(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)
Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801
Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society
Website: http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month
in the basement of the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, Conference Room
1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.**

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeaters: **Club Officers:**

                                                                 President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
146.835/   **Vice President: Bruce Tisdale -- K9ICP**
146.235 MHz   **Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H**
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)   **Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY**
                                                                 Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF   Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM   ARES/RACES members and <u>ALL RADIO AMATEURS</u>
                    146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)**

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

**P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131**

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Remember Club Dues for 2016 are due; please see Cy Young N9CHY at the meeting Saturday.