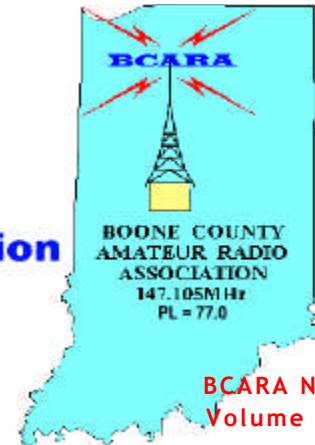


BCARA

Boone County Amateur Radio Association



December, 2003

BCARA Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 7

BCARA News

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The rough draft of the club's by-laws were passed around by Wilson "N9YI" back in October. This gave us a chance to go over them at a later date and make any changes to them we needed. Together with a strong membership we can make a difference in the community while enhancing and promoting amateur radio.

It is with great enthusiasm that we attended the first official BCARA, Inc. advisory committee meeting. On Tuesday December 2nd, 2003 the advisory committee met and several changes were

discussed that needed attention to the by-laws. Again we are hoping to generate curiosity and interest in everyone about Amateur Radio in Boone County. We are announcing the **BCARA's first meeting** to be held on **January 6th, 2004 at 7:00m**, the location is the conference room in the Boone REMC building. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this important meeting, you will see what the BCARA is all about. The meeting is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio in Boone County.

Announcements

Birthdays:

WW9M STEVE 12/02/48
KB9OGJ CHAD 12/14/70
N9YQM PAM 12/18/56

New HAMS:

KC9FBD Jon - Tech

Upgrades:

KC9BZN Brian - Extra

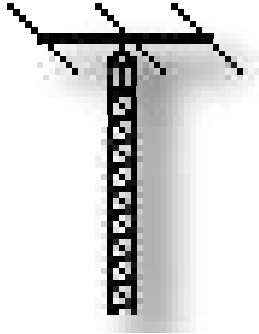
Changes:

K9YI Alan - ex KB9WQU

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 01/06/2004
BCARA Meeting
@ Boone REMC

Operating the HF Bands From the KC9BZN Shack



Have you ever heard a short-wave radio where the broadcast station was thousands of miles away? What about hearing an AM Radio station from just a thousand miles away? HF radio is the same way, as a matter of fact, short-wave broadcasters share the same frequencies hams use on the HF bands. This month's article will be geared to the ham that may not have been exposed to HF frequencies or is intimidated or scared to key that microphone. What a perfect time to write this since the snow is starting to fall outside and contest season is in full swing.

The HF frequencies are separated into bands and further subdivided into sections for license class and modes such as; voice communications, digital, and CW. To better understand this, study the ARRL US Amateur Band Chart located on the ARRL website. To know which bands you may be successful on, this chart may be a good starting point:

10 - 17 Meters - Daytime only, fall, winter, and spring. Easiest DX here. 10 meters is awesome when it's open.

20 Meters - Usually always active. Stateside during the day (some DX), and some DX at night.

40 Meters - Usually always active. 100 - 500+ miles easy during the day. DX at night but overloaded with short-wave broadcasts. Split operation needed for most DX on voice.

80 Meters - Very limited activity during the day, easy 100-500 miles away at night. DX not so good. This is a good rag-chewing band at night.

160 Meters - I have no experience with but I'm assuming it is very similar to 80 meters.

If you have never seen a HF radio in operation, you need to do so. There are several members of the BCARA that will open up their shack for you to observe and even use their equipment. Before I became a General License I witnessed HF operation from N9YI's shack just once and I was hooked enough to upgrade licenses and put together my own shack. Another place to go is field day where the BCARA sets up emergency communications with several HF Radios in operation. But it's a long way to June, 2004.

The best time to get a taste of HF radio in operation is during a big DX or domestic contest. Usually during a DX contest you will here hundreds of stations from all over the world trying to make as many contacts as possible. A typical contest exchange is extremely simple and is the easiest way to get over microphone shyness. The phonetic alphabet is used a lot on HF for clarity. N may sound like M so November is sent instead of just N. A typical contest exchange goes something like this:

Calling Station: *"cq contest cq contest, this is Foxtrot 5 Kilo Quebec November, QRZed"*
(QRZ is basically saying the station is now waiting for a call)

Me *"Kilo Charlie 9 Bravo Zulu November"*

Calling Station *"Kilo Charlie 9 Bravo Zulu November you are 59 number 068 QSL?"*

QSL is short for did you copy?

Me *"QSL Foxtrot 5 Kilo Quebec November, you are 59 number 001, 73's from Kilo Charlie 9 Bravo Zulu November"*

*"Cq Contest,
Cq Contest,
Cq Contest,
This is...."*

Common Contest Exchanges for Boone Co:

State = IN
County = Boone
CQ Zone = 4
ITU Zone = 8
Grid Square's
(depending on your QTH in the county) = EN60 or EM69

Cont.

Now lets break this contact down. His call sign is F5KQN, which is from France, my call sign is KC9BZN. The 59 is the signal strength evaluated for Readability and Strength (RS). This is basically as good a signal report you can send to the other station. 1-5 is readability and 1-9 is strength. It is not uncommon to get or send a report as low as 44, I've gotten several and sent several but in contests, the general rule is everyone is 59. It's not right but it's the way it goes and makes logs easier to reconcile. The number 68 is a serial number making me his 68th contact, the 001 means he was my first contact for this contest. There usually isn't any rag chewing during a contest contact since you want to make a contact and go onto the next one as quickly as you can. Contests are a lot of fun even if you're just after a few QSO's to put in the log. Contest contacts are so quick with just a short exchange, perfect for a beginner. This is where I began and it worked for me. During a contest you can easily contact 50 different countries making it even more fun and

enjoyable.

HF is usually split with half the contacts quick with a simple exchange of the signal (most DX), name, and location. Others my start that way and end up rag chewing. It depends on the mood your in and the other station. Some of my favorite rag chews are usually with hams in places that interest me like Hawaii, Alaska, and the Caribbean. Many DX contacts are hard to strike up a conversation with because they are limited on their English or are there for just a quick contact. You never know who might be on the other end of that microphone, someone from Russia or a movie star from California.

One more word of advice, always log your contacts. Keep a record of the call sign, date and Zulu time of the contact. The FCC doesn't require you to keep a log anymore but it helps you look back at the contacts you have made, how many countries you have worked and to verify that QSL card that comes in the mail. Most of all have fun and good DX! Until next month, 73's from KC9BZN.



WebPages worth a Click

<http://www.arrl.org/>

<http://www.eham.net/>

<http://www.qrz.com/>

<http://www.contesting.com/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/md/k3ky>

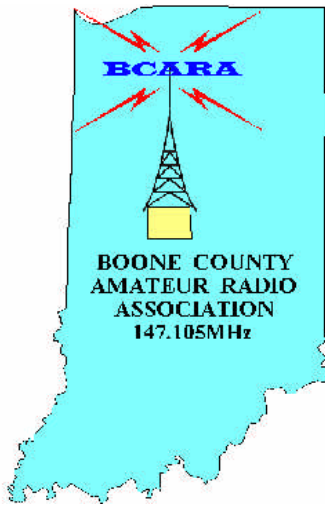
Area Hamfest Calendar

12/14/03 Hancock ARC &
Greenfield Central Tech Club @
Greenfield, IN

12/13/03 R&L Electronics
Customer Appreciation Day 10AM-
4PM @ Hamilton, OH

**The BCARA
Wishes
Everyone
A Safe and
Happy
Holiday
Season!**





BCARA

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We're on the Web!
www.n9vxq.org/bcara/

Local Test Sessions (*Test Sessions are \$12.00*)

06-Dec-2003

Sponsor: RED CROSS DISASTER RADIO GRP
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
441 E 10TH ST
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202

13-Dec-2003

Sponsor: PURDUE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION
SR 26 & GRANT ST.
RM370-2NDFLR ENTRANCE W TOWER
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906

14-Dec-2003

Sponsor: HANCOCK COUNTY ARC
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: GREENFIELD CENTRAL HIGH
SCHOOL
810 N BOADWAY
TECHNOLOGY ED ROOM 316
GREENFIELD, IN 46140

20-Dec-2003

Sponsor: MID STATE ARC
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: JOHNSON CTY EMER MGT OFFICE
1100 HOSPITAL ROAD
BASEMENT
FRANKLIN, IN 46131

28-Dec-2003

Sponsor: KOKOMO ARC
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BLDG
120 E MULBERRY ST
KOKOMO, IN 46901

December Contest Calendar From WA7BNM

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z - 1200Z, Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 - 1600Z, Dec 7
PSK31 Death Match	0000Z, Dec 6 - 2400Z, Dec 7
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 6
TOPS Activity 80m Contest	1800Z, Dec 6 - 1800Z, Dec 7
QRP ARCI Hol. Spirits Sprint	2000Z - 2400Z, Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 - 2400Z, Dec 14
Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	0200Z - 0400Z, Dec 14
AGB Party Contest	2100Z - 2400Z, Dec 19
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z - 2300Z, Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 20
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 - 1400Z, Dec 21
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 20 - 1600Z, Dec 21
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z - 1059Z, Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 - 1500Z, Dec 28
Original QRP Contest, CW	1500Z, Dec 27 - 1500Z, Dec 28

Frequencies and Weekly Net Information

The BCARA operates on the following repeater system/simplex frequencies, open to all licensed amateurs:

147.105+ PL=77.0 N9HLL Repeater, wide area coverage for Boone County, and central Indiana. The BCARA Social net meets every Thursday at 7:00pm. Skywarn frequency for Boone County.

146.500 simplex back up frequency in the event the repeater is down. Also used for rag chewing, instead of tying up the repeater.

**73's Until Next Month
and Don't forget the
Net on Thursday Nights
@ 7PM.**