
Venture Crew 173 News (1 Sept 2017)

Well, it's finally here. **September 9 will be the first official meeting of Venture Crew 173!**

We have all registered, and most of us have paid our dues, some will need to yet, but for the most part it's all done.

What's on for the first Crew Meeting?

Well, first off, we need to get to know each other, I know a few of you pretty good, but not all of you. So, we'll find out a bit about each other. Since this is a Venture Crew, it will be run primarily by the Crew Youth. The Adults are here to help you as needed and to supervise the Amateur Radio Station. So, if members of the Crew want to try something or participate in some activity, we'll help get it done if possible.

What going on next Saturday? We'll have the opportunity of activating WD9BSA for Indiana State Parks on the Air again activating Ft. Harrison State Park. We are close enough to the park to act as a base station activation. To officially activate the Park, we need 5 entries in the station logs. But how about this, let's have each Crew member make at least 5 contacts for the Park? Simple? Maybe yes, maybe no.....

We are still down by one antenna at the moment, we'll have to wait a bit for the Windom to be rehung, and Randy and the Tree Crew I hope will be there to discuss this activity.

I know that many of our Youth have their licenses, but I would like everyone who has an amateur radio license to bring a copy of it for the WD9BSA/Crew 173 Records.

Is there something special you would like the Crew to do, or is there something special you would like to do as a member of the station? Let us know. Got a project you need to work on? A radio with a problem? Need help with programming your radio? Have a license but no radio and would like to borrow a radio temporarily (we may be able to loan a radio or two soon, it will be discussed).

Want some help learning to operate the radios, that's what we're there for, before long you'll be pulling contacts out of nowhere!

Already have an HT and want to make contact as soon as you are in camp? Simple, tune your radio to 147.420 simplex before leaving home, no repeater, just the single frequency. And when you get close, call the station.

The station will open as usual on Saturday, September 9 at 1pm, but the **Crew 173 Meeting will start at 2pm** and last till 5pm. The station will stay open until 7pm.

One thing you might want to think about. The WD9BSA station is only open one day a month to the public. HOWEVER, the Crew is special and **the station can be open for Crew activities as needed**, but I have to schedule any extra days with the Council and the Camp, so if you would like extra time at the station for the Crew, think about it and let me know, I'll get it scheduled.

We're just beginning, and there is a lot of things that you can do with Amateur Radio!

Just this past week, Hurricane Harvey started hammering Texas and the Gulf Coast, it's causing millions of people to be at risk and to become homeless due to the damage and flooding, and the storm isn't over yet (as of this writing). Our activities officially as amateur radio operators is like Scouts, to be prepared, in this case, we are prepared to help with the communications that are coming in and out of the disaster zone if we can. Sometimes, there isn't much we can do here, and at others all we can do is listen. Then you hear a call that nobody else hears, and you copy it down, get the information and relay it to the place it needs to go. Can't get the relay through, then we use the phone from here. There's always a way to get those messages through!

Then it's back to the contests! The week after our First Crew Meeting is the Indiana Hilltop Contest. It's pretty simple, set up at some high point around central Indiana. Using a field station, set it up, and, during the contest, make as many contacts with the other hilltops as you can during the time the contest is running. It's a lot of fun and a great way of learning field operations. The contest is mostly on 10m, 2m, 6m and a couple of other bands. All voice SSB/FM. Want to give it a go? Have a nice hilltop you'd like to setup at? Let's see what we can do!

For those who are coming to the First Crew Meeting: please RSVP to this email. I'll be trying to make calls to most of our Youth during the next week. So look for that!

Get ready, it's a lot of fun!

73, Tom, N9CXI

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