
WD9BSA - Scout Venturing Crew 173 Newsletter

It's time to get ready for OCTOBER folks!

So, we had our first official Crew 173 meeting last month. Only two members attended, but that's OK, all this takes time. Hope more of our new Crew Members will be at the October meeting on Saturday October 14 starting at 2pm at the usual Camp Belzer Learning Center Basement WD9BSA Station. Entrance is through the North West corner of the basement. Look for the sign on the door. Parents are welcome to attend the meetings too as they always have questions too! So remember October 14 and mark your calendars. Let's get together and get on the air!

October events need help, and lots of it! It's JOTA TIME!

October 7 starting at 7am and running to 12:30pm or so, is the annual Americans with Diabetes Association Tour-de-Cure bike-a-thon. The even needs amateur radio operators to help with communications for the entire rout. I believe all of the assignments have been made. But this is also a great event for Scouts to learn how hams deal with emergency preparedness. Much of what we do for these types of evens requires us to learn skills that are also used during disasters. But without the disaster! And they are usually fun to do. I will be stationed at one of the water and aid stations and there is plenty of room there for others who want to help with my station to help and learn about the methods we use and how our Event Net works. You don't need to be licensed and you don't need a radio. I have that all set up. You can help with the set up and tear down, takes just a few minutes and then you can learn what we do. It's not difficult, and it's good practice for us all. Do you keep a record of your public service activities (hours and such), this event is usually good for about 6 hours. If you are interested in helping out at my location, please let me know, I'll put you on my list and let you know where to go. Call me at 317-255-6004, it's my mobile and I'm available from 1pm till 10pm usually, otherwise, please leave a message!

October 14, 1pm-7pm Open Operations Day for October. The WD9BSA station is open to all scouts and the public.

October 14, 2pm-5pm BSA Venture Crew 173 Meeting and on the air activities. Come, see the station, find out about amateur radio, learn, get on the air, have fun with the radio. This month is also planning for a World Scouting Organization event the next week. The Annual Jamboree on the Air and we'll need everybody to help with it!

October 20, 5pm till October 22, 4pm. Annual Jamboree on the Air! (JOTA) For many of you all, this is a new thing. But it's really one of our greatest Scout Events that we have. It's really simple. Scouts from all over the world get on the amateur radio Scout Frequencies and make contact with Scouts from all over the world and talk to each other. It's not a contest, you don't need to do very much, and occasionally you'll talk to some Scouts in some interesting places who are different than the Scouts you are used to talking to. I would like all members of the Crew to come and get on the air for some of this great event. Now, it's a very long event, and we won't plan on being open all three days. Propagation around here dies down about 10-11pm and I don't plan on staying the night every night (unless you guys want to, it's been don't and there are places that remain active during the night hours, so you never know what you might find on the air. If you want to stay the night, we'll try and make arrangements to staff the station then, hard to say, but no harm in asking) Primary day will be Saturday from 10am to 10pm, and that's when we really need Crew Members to help and get on the air. There may be scouts coming to visit from the local district and from places in the council. Information has been sent out for Saturday, but we never know what to expect. At the very least, I would like to see Crew 173 making contacts around the world! The event again runs through the night on till Sunday after noon about 2pm, if you want to and we have the staffing to do it, we can still keep the station active. This will all be discussed at the October Crew Meeting. Again, parents can come, and if you have questions, contact Tom O'Nan. Crew! Spread the word, bring a friend, bring your troop! All Scouts are welcome, Boys, Girls, Cubs, and ALL!

November 4 at 7am-noon usually is the Annual Monumental Marathon, another fun event, but all inside Indianapolis. Set up in weird weather, freezing, sometimes, or baking heat, sometimes. Always an interesting event. If you want to help out and get better acquainted with our public service activities and networks, let Tom O'Nan know and we'll get you setup to help out.

November 11, 1pm-7pm Open Operations Day, 2pm-5pm Scout Venture Crew 173 meeting! Please come!

December 9, 1pm-7pm Open Operations Day, 2pm-5pm Scout Venture Crew 173 meeting! Please come!

More to come.

Skywarn Severe Weather Spotting for Amateur Radio Operators will be announced soon.

Scouts! Each meeting can have whatever activity you want, Crew Activities are up to you. I'm working on collecting information and materials for learning what you need to study for your Technician FCC license. That's in the works.

I have been asked about borrowing radios, and that is in the works, but will take some time due to limited equipment available at the moment. But if there is something you want to work on, feel free to ask about it.

I have just been given a working portable scanner that will be programmed with the local frequencies and loaned to one of our scouts who has never listened to amateur radio before. I have one more scanner available for the same type of listening. The other scanner has 40 channels and is a base unit. So if you haven't listened to amateur radio before and want to hear what you're getting yourself into (HI-HI), let me know if you would like to borrow one of these scanners. Please note: These radios are loaned out and you'll have to sign for them. The loan will include a manual for the Scanner, the Scanner and a power supply. You supply the batteries if needed. Contact Tom O'Nan if interested.

So that's it for the news. Remember November 14 and Please be there for the Crew Meeting! Bring a Friend!

73, Tom, N9CXI

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