

WD9BSA

Venture Crew 173 Newsletter Issue Number ONE!

Bert Johnson Memorial Scout Amateur Radio Station Camp Belzer

Well, it's July, and most of the events are all over. I finished a huge Scouting event last week and I'm looking at working on the WD9BSA Fall season.

We have two more youth added to our Crew from last week, Joel and Orion have joined use and I have their registration forms ready for adult signatures. Both are youth and Orion is very familiar with amateur radio since he is the Grandson of one of our major donators (K9OOA-sk).

This summer while we are on hiatus from Camp Belzer I am wondering if the Crew would like to do anything just related to the Crew. If you would like to get together for any group activities during the off months let me know.

Also, since we are able to do more than just the Open Operations Day once a month, are any of the Crew members interested in meetings at other times, during the week or adding another Saturday to the meeting schedule. These would be for Crew 173 only and not open to the public (they are welcome naturally anyway, but we won't advertise these

meetings). These meetings could be for study for amateur radio licenses, radio merit badge, taking training during A.R.E.S. meetings at their site. If you have any suggestions, please let me know and we'll try and arrange for them to happen. Want to learn how to build antennas? Good idea, what kind would you like to make? Small, medium or large? How about a 160meter log periodic array? (I know, I'm sick)

Station improvements: We still need to finish the Antenna Project and will need help with that. Randy and Jason are in charge of this project as they have the tree expert contact, but we also need a good ground crew to help out. The 160meter Windom is the antenna needing to go back up and if it's anything like the fan dipole, we'll finally be able to make some really good contacts.

We need to do some work on the station, mostly so that the Crew members can learn how things are put together and how to get the station up and running when we meet. We also need to get a good inventory of the equipment that we have. Those in the Crew with licenses are allowed to borrow some of the equipment from time to time if you wish. But you need to check with the WD9BSA group first and we will be working on a sign-out/loan procedure first before we start doing such things. That's for the future.

Places to be on the air! Do you have a radio or a scanner? What do you want to listen to, just to listen or do you want to get on their air. Well if you have a license, Techs have lots of local networks to check into depending on the radios they have. The easiest ones are local FM nets, Wednesday nights Central Indiana ARES Net is on the 176.700 repeater (-.600

offset and no tone), this is the main local net and all hams in Central Indiana should check into this net if they can or at least listen if they can't check in. It's there's something going on locally, this is where you'll hear about it. Tuesday there is a DMR digital net on Indy Local usually. Thursday is the 6 meter experimental net and roundtable, it's fun and informative, but you need 6 meter equipment. It's on the 52.700 repeater using standard 6 meter offsets and no tone either. There are 220 mhz nets, 440mhz nets and county nets from all over the state. Want to find them too? Check out this website <http://indyhams.org> Mike Palmer runs the site and it has the current schedule and information for all the events and nets for our area, keep an eye on this site and you'll be up to date!

Last week was the 100th Anniversary of the Crossroads of America Scout Band, they started in 1917 at Camp Belzer and were created by Chief F.O.Belzer himself. They have been cleaning out their Band Hut near the entrance of the camp and are donating a lot of their old camping equipment to anyone who wants it. The band no longer camps during their tours anymore because it just takes them too much time for the work involved. As such, they are donating two of their Patrol Box sets to the WD9BSA for our use during field exercises at camps. One box will stay as an office/kitchen and the other will be converted to an amateur radio field station just for the WD9BSA/Crew 173 and naturally, the crew are going to be doing a lot of the work on these boxes. It's a great way to learn how to eventually build your own and learn how amateur radio stations work. Plus, when it's done, we'll of course have to haul it out whenever the crew wants to put it on the air now won't

we?! So if you have an idea for the Crew 173 Boxes, let's have it!

Who's in the mailing lists? Lot's of people, it's open to anybody who has shown an interest in the Venture Crew, not everyone is a member of the Crew though, some are parents, some of Council officials, or District information people who can use the newsletter information to spread the news to their District, specially our own Northeast District. I don't know if your email program will show the same information as mine, but I show the callsigns of those I know and some haven't got that information to me yet, or aren't licensed yet. Others will show a small (s), these are scouts on the list. Old farts like me, just get a listing. Because some families use a single email, they may receive two copies of the newsletters, sorry, but that's just easier for me to keep track of. Two very important people from the Council are Laura Clay for Northeast District and of course our wonderful Camp Belzer Ranger Kevin Hobbs, who keeps the Camp Together for us to use and enjoy, so if you see or hear from them, be sure to thank them for the work they have done to help this Venture Crew come together.

Other Important Folks to remember:

WD9BSA Station License Trustee; David Johnson,
N9EZW. David is in charge of our license with the FCC, his name is on the form and he is in charge of the club callsign (that's how the FCC has us listed)

Crew 173 Committee Chairperson; Randy Biggs,
KA7BSA. He is in charge of the crew

Our Advisors:

Crew 173 Advisor; Tom O’Nan, N9CXI. Has the keys
(wake him up, has lots of stories)

Crew 173 Advisor; Nathan Brindle, KC9YTJ. Another of
our advisors, (does digital and not with his toes)

Crew 173 Advisor; Jason Lopez, KD9DWV. He’s with the
council too

Crew 173 Advisor; Alan McDaniel, KD6ARM. He’ll
always be behind the console.....

That’s all for now, there will be more and more and I hope all of
the Crew 173 members enjoy amateur radio as much as the rest
of us do now and in the future! I’ll have a information packet
with a crew roster coming out just for the Crew 173 youth and
adult staff in the next few days. This information should be
confidential and only for those registered with the Crew 173.

Got a question? Ask it, use the above list, ask everyone, feel
free to use our Facebook page for your questions, if you aren’t
on Facebook, it’s easy to join and free, and there is a lot of good
information about amateur radio on there. It’s worth it. Find us
by getting on Facebook and searching for WD9BSA, easy!

See you all soon, or at the least, talk to you on the air.

I can be found on the 147.120+ repeater or the 443.000+ (100)
repeater most of the time if I’m on the air. On simplex, I can be
found on 147.420 simplex or 446.000 simplex, I sometimes use
DCS on those frequencies to keep the noise down, DCS is
digital code squelch and I use code 465. Setting this is just like
setting your PL tone, just check with your radio’s instructions
and give it a try. This is mostly for those close to my location
though.

73, Tom, N9CXI

Dr. Thomas O’Nan
CAC BSA Venture Crew 173 Advisor
WD9BSA

eMail: privacydoc@att.net
Mobile: **317-255-6004**
Address: 4127 Vera Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46220 USA

You are on the WD9BSA Venture Crew 173 email list. Thank you for taking the time to read our updates. We do maintain your privacy and do not distribute any information to other parties for any reason. If you decide that you no longer wish to receive updates from us, please let us know by replying to this e-mail and asking us to remove you from our listing.