



The HAM'ER



January-March 2018

Inside This Issue

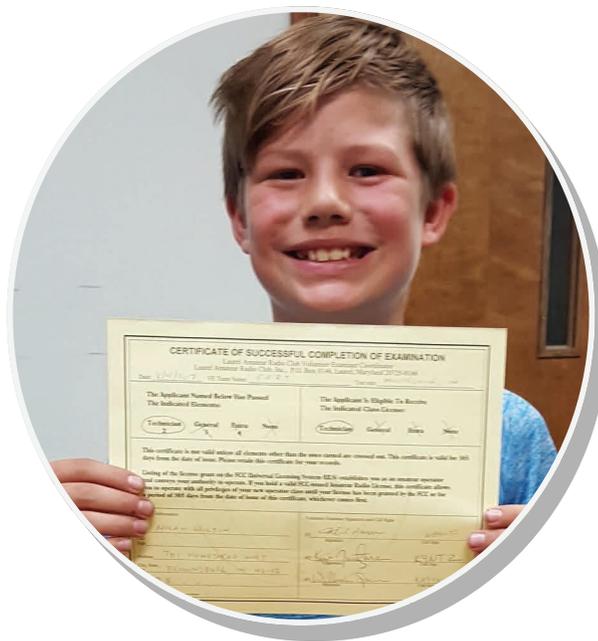
- 1 MESSAGE FROM THE E.C.
- 2 REFLECTIONS OF 2017
- 3 A HAM'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
- 4 P.O.D EXERCISE 2017
- 5 NOLAN WILSON
- 6 KIDS FAIR 2017
- 7 A HAM'S STORY TO TELL
- 9 CONTACT US
- 10 UPCOMING EVENTS / TRAINING UPDATES



Chief editor/publisher of The HAM'ER: Ron Burke

Front Page News :

MEET NOLAN WILSON K9NMW
READ ABOUT HIM AND HIS FAMILY ON PAGE 5.



Message from the Emergency Coordinator

> To our HCARES members, **thank you** for your help during the past drills and exercises.

>A lot of new articles to read in this issue of The HAM'ER.

From our home to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

73

Ron Burke KB9DJA

Reflections of 2017



A Ham's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,
 And all through two-meters, Not a signal was keying up Any repeaters.
 The antennas reached up From the tower, quite high, To catch the weak signals That bounced from the sky.
 The children, Tech-Pluses, Took their HT's to bed, And dreamed of the day They'd be Extras, instead.
 Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, And we tuned 40 meters For that rare ZK3.
 When the meter was pegged by a signal with power. It smoked a small diode, and, I swear, shook the tower.
 *Mom yanked off her phones and with all she could muster, Logged a spot of the signal, And the DX Packet
 Cluster,
 While I ran to the window And peered up at the sky, To see what could generate RF that high.
 It was way in the distance, But the moon made it gleam - A flying sleigh, with an Eight element beam,
 A little old driver with antennas to work the Ham Bands, I thought for a moment, That he must be a Ham.
 It was Santa, The Santa of Hams. On a mission, this Christmas, To clean up the bands.
 He circled the tower, Then stopped in his track, And he slid down the coax Right into the shack.
 While Mom and I hid Behind stacks of CQ, This Santa of hamming Knew just what to do.
 He cleared off the shack desk Of paper and parts, And filled out all my late QSLs For a start.
 He ran copper braid, Took a steel rod and pounded It into the earth, till The station was grounded.
 *He tightened loose fittings, Resoldered connections, Cranked down modulation, Installed lightning protec-
 tion.*
 He neutralized tubes In my linear amp... (Never worked right before- Now it works like a champ).
 A new, low-pass filter Cleaned up the TV. He corrected the settings In my TNC.
 He repaired the computer That would not compute, And he backed up the hard drive And got it to boot.
 *Then, he reached really deep In the bag that he brought, And he pulled out a big box. A new rig? I thought! *
 A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?! (If he thought I'd been bad It might be QRP!)
 *Yes! The Ultimate Station! How could I deserve this? Could it be all those hours That I worked Public Ser-
 vice? *
 He hooked it all up And in record time, quickly Worked 100 countries, I thought man this is fine
 *All down on 160. I should have been happy, It was my call he sent. But the cards and the postage Will cost
 two month's rent! *
 *He made final adjustments, And left a card by the key: "To Gary, from Santa Claus. Seventy-Three." *
 *Then he grabbed his HT, Looked me straight in the eye, Punched a code on the pad, And was gone - no
 good-bye.*
 I ran back to the station, And the pile-up was big, But a card from St. Nick Would be worth my new rig.
 Oh, too late, for his final Came over the air. It was copied all over. It was heard everywhere.
 *The Ham's Santa exclaimed What a ham might expect, "Merry Christmas to all, And to all, good DX." * *

(c)1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ Permission granted for any print or electronic reproduction.*

(Editing by Ron Burke KB9DJA.)

POINT OF DISPENSING 2017 EXERCISES

Hendricks County ARES teamed up with the Hendricks County Health Department plus Hendricks Regional Health and I.U. West Health hospitals during this exercise entitled, "P.O.D." (Point Of Dispensing)

Should the county experience an emergency/disaster, the Danville High School would be set up by the county health as a shelter and information center.

Hendricks County ARES had a radio station at all three above mentioned locations and passed Emergency Medical traffic from the FAC (Family Assistance Center) to both hospitals.

Many thanks to those members who helped us make this happen !

Hendricks County EMA, Health, and both hospital administrations express their thanks as well.



(continued from page 1.)

Actually, Nolan kind of followed in the footsteps of his dad in how he got into ham radio. Back in 1989, I went down to St. Croix, USVI, to help out with Hurricane Hugo Relief. I took my Kenwood TS-440 with me, but just before I left to go there, I set up a receiver at my house so that our son Matt and my wife Linda could hear me. I told them when I got a break, I'd be on that frequency working other hams, and they could hear me to see that I was ok, and I would talk about what the conditions were like on the island. There were times that the 20 meter path was open, and they did hear me. A few months after I got back, I was reading the Martinsville newspaper (we were living near Eminence at the time) and I mentioned to my wife Linda KB9EUI, within ear shot of Matt, that there was a ham radio class starting in a couple of weeks in Martinsville. She said, "I think I'll go", and Matt piped up and said, "I want to go too." A couple of weeks later, we all packed into the car and went to Martinsville for the class. I tagged along, as Matt was 6 years old, and I figured, when he got bored with the class, I'd take him out, so Linda could pay attention in class. I never once had to take Matt out in that class or any of the classes that followed. He was attentive, asked a lot of questions, and got most of the questions asked of him right. When I told him at home it was time to study the code or the book, he never balked, and was rewarded with his Novice license at the age of 6 years and 10 months. He is now a Tech Plus, and his call is now K9MRW (originally KB9FLW). Unfortunately, he no longer gets on the air, but hopefully he will with Nolan now having his license.

Fast forward 27 years....In February, 2017, Matt and his wife Ashley left on a week's vacation to the Dominican Republic, and they asked Linda and I to come up to their house and take care of Nolan, his brother Hayden, and his sister Elise for the week. One morning, Nolan and Elise were with me in my car, sitting in the car line waiting for school to open, when Nolan pointed to my radio, and asked, "Papaw, can I talk on that?" I said, "Sure", and in a couple of minutes, he was chatting with "Gary". That lit the fire, and every day for the rest of the week, he wanted to talk to Gary or someone else. Gary was the one who mentioned the ham class in Danville. I asked Nolan if he wanted to go, and he told me "Yes". Matt and Ashley agreed to let him attend, and as you know, he was very attentive, asked a lot of questions, did what you guys and I asked him to do, and now he has his own license. Hopefully, he will remain active, and as I said, get his dad back into it.

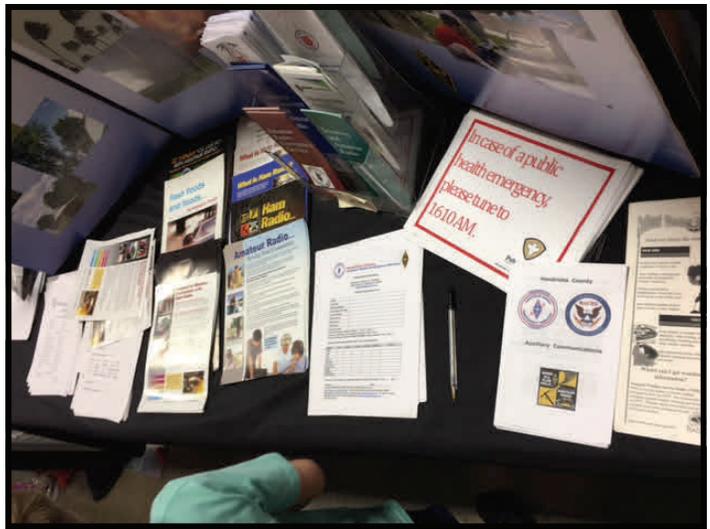
(Text is from Nolan's Grandpa: Ken Wilson K9HL...)



Grandpa showing grandson on how to operate an HF radio during Field Day 2017.

KIDS FAIR

2017



This year HCARES had the opportunity to put up our public display at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds.

During this one day event, a lot of families had stopped by our booth and asked us about the hobby of amateur radio and how it can be used during an disaster.



Hendricks County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

***** HCARES member Ken Wilson K9HL tells us a story about his life in amateur radio.**

Ken shares his radio experience with his wife Linda, KB9EUI, his son Matt, K9MRW, and now his grandson Nolan, K9NMW. Truly a family that is radio active.



Concerning my early experience in amateur radio....

I was a young ham myself--..or at least young for the time. In 1964, I was 15, and we were living in St. Louis, Missouri. My main interest was meteorology...complete with all kinds of weather instruments on the roof and in the back yard. One day, I forget how, I found out that the St. Louis Lambert Airport had a long-wave continuous broadcast of St. Louis and surrounding airports' weather observations. I wanted to hear that data, but couldn't find a cheap radio that picked up long-wave. After further research, I found a Knight-Kit Star Roamer receiver kit in their catalog, and I talked my dad into buying it for me. It was my first experience in building anything electronic or even holding a soldering iron, but it worked! One night having nothing else to do, I started tuning around on the other frequencies. When I got to 20-meter phone, I was fascinated by listening to these guys talk all around the world...and for the most part after that, when I wasn't listening to the weather broadcasts, I was listening to 20 meters. I was hooked, and I started trying to find out how I could contact a local ham to find out more. One evening, I was on a date, and I told the girl I was with about this hobby I wanted to get into but didn't know how. She told me she knew a ham, and would introduce me. A few days later, she introduced me to an old gentleman, by the name of Ray Keller, W0DU (SK). Ray showed me around his shack, and then said, "Now, let's talk to someone." After doing a little tuning, he called a ham who came back to him. Moments later, I was also talking to him, and having a ball. Ray asked me to ask him where he was. The gentleman's reply was "East Germany". Not only was I now REALLY hooked on amateur radio, but I was also hooked on DX, which is still my favorite. And it totally astounded me as to how you could literally talk around the world from a radio in your own home! Ray gave me the address of the ARRL, and soon I had the Radio Amateur's Handbook and other related material to help me get a license, and I talked my dad into buying me a used Hammarlund HQ-110 receiver. Ray continued to help me too, but unfortunately, I was having trouble with the Morse code, and didn't get my Novice license until we moved later that year to Dalton, Georgia. I have never agreed with hams having a call that does not reflect the location where they live, as it is very confusing on the air. As I said, though, Ray has been a silent key for many years now, and his call is currently assigned to a DX club. But if it ever becomes available in my lifetime, I will grab at the chance to make W0DU mine in his honor and memory.

In Dalton, I had amateur radio decals on my high school notebook, and one day a guy one year older stopped me in the hallway between classes, and asked if I was a ham. I told him "No", but I was looking for one to help me get my license. His response was, "Well, you've found him". The student's name was Ray Buck. At that time, his call was WA4IVN. (Today, I don't see him on the ULS.) Ray and I chummed around together, and after a few months, I passed my Novice test and became WN4AHI on June 3, 1965, at the ripe old age of 16. While I still had my HQ-110, I needed a transmitter, so I talked my dad into buying me a Heathkit DX-60 transmitter kit, and again it worked! Ray was into antenna design. My most memorable thing about Ray is that we went to Sears and bought a half-mile of electric fence wire. His dad was a welder, and he made us a couple of metal supports for a couple of cubical quad antenna. Then we went to a cane field outside of town, and cut some cane poles, and started building cubical quad antennas. Within minutes of getting my first one up, my first DX contact happened with a ham at a British Royal Air Force Base in Cyprus. I actually didn't believe it until I received his QSL card, as Ray had previously "helped" me work some "DX" with him transmitting into a light bulb (continued on next page...)

(continued from page 7)

at his house a couple of blocks away. He also was fascinated with earth-moon-earth (EME), so he bought a UHF radio and amplifier, and built a beam antenna we could point at the moon. Next thing we knew, we were talking to people in Texas. In March 1966, my dad took me to Atlanta to the FCC office, and I sit for and passed my General Class test. Literally, on the day my Novice license expired, I received my General license in the mail, and I became WB4AHI.

When I went to college in the summer of 1966, my parents moved back to Indiana. As a result, I became WA9TEV in Bloomington, Indiana. When I got home from college, I bought a used Heathkit HW-32, put up a 50ft tower complete with a Hy-gain TH-6DX beam, and built a Heathkit phone patch. With that, I worked the world, and ran phone patches for ships at sea and personnel at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, and handled health and welfare traffic coming out of hurricane and earthquake zones. From 1967 to 1968 I made monthly weekend trips to see a girl back in Dalton. These trips were driven during the night when it was just me and the truckers, so I would put the HW-32 temporarily in the car and a Hustler antenna on the back bumper of my 1967 Camaro...and worked the world to stay awake.

When I joined the Indiana State Police in September 1969, I moved into an apartment, and like so many, I started a hiatus from amateur radio. In 1975, my wife Linda and I moved into our first house near Eminence, Indiana, and I joked about starting an antenna farm to fill our 4 acres with antennas. That sparked the interest again, and I dug out my Heathkit HW-32, put up dipoles, and upgraded to an Advanced Class license under the call sign of KC9AD. I did put up a tower again, but the TH-6DX was long sold, and I never put up another beam. Really didn't need to as I logged 117 countries with those dipoles.

Today, we live in an HOA on Indianapolis south side. And although our CC&Rs do not mention towers and antennas, I know from years of experience of previously being on the HOA board that the neighbors don't even like outside TV antennas, so our dipole is in the attic for HF, and our VHF/UHF antenna is a mag mount on a file cabinet in the den, plus we have a Yaesu FT-7900R in the car. Also, while we've been here, we upgraded to Amateur Extra, and now have the call sign of K9HL.

Whether it was with the state police, SKYWARN, Morgan County RACES, or the trip to St. Croix after Hurricane Hugo, I have always had a passion for emergency communications. From 1975 to 1998, we lived near Eminence, Indiana, and triggered numerous thunderstorm and tornado warnings with our reporting. When the tornados came through Morgan, Johnson, Marion Counties and beyond in October in the early 2000's, we spent 2 days in Martinsville assisting emergency services, emergency management, and the National Guard with their communications.

In conclusion, another word about young hams...I love helping them. Being an Elmer is one of the greatest things you can do. Unfortunately, I think when the public thinks about amateur radio, they picture a bunch of old, overweight geezers sitting in a chair with a microphone in their hand, and I think that's a big turn-off for our younger prospects. We need the young folks, and we need them in those pictures! And we need to encourage them, and help them in any way we can. Once they get their licenses, we need to continue the elmering, and when we hear them calling on the radio, we need to answer them, and make them feel welcome and important. I think that was one of the problems my son had, and what turned him off after he got his license, as very few would talk to him on the repeater. As for our house, I'm continuing to work on Nolan's older brother, Hayden, who once expressed an interest, but lost it. Hopefully, he will find the interest again, along with his dad...and maybe his sister, Elise, who is now 7.



Hendricks County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service



West Hospital

Every **THIRD** Saturday of each month, we have a monthly radio test of the Amateur Radio Stations located at each hospital.

These test are at **10:30 am**. The purposes for these tests are to check the radio's output and audio signal from the radio at each hospital and get a signal check from anyone located outside of the hospital.

The radio operators from the hospitals change monthly and are practicing their skills on how to handle net protocols and message handling. **Operating frequency is 147.570**. Please show your support by checking in and give them a signal check.

LIKE US ON : Facebook
Hendricks County ARES



FOLLOW US : Twitter
Hendrickscoares



Hendricks County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

** FOR A COPY OF OUR E-PLAN AND OTHER INFORMATION **

VISIT US ON : www.hendricksares.org

Hendricks County ARES Personnel :

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR : Ron Burke KB9DJA... kb9dja@gmail.com

OPERATIONS : Gordon Cotton KD0EWM... goblue1941@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION : Ken Kayler KC9SQD... kakayler64@hotmail.com

LIAISON : Jay Wright KK9L... kk9ljay@comcast.net

LOGISTICS: Jake Stellmack KI6PKV...jakestell@aol.com

TRAINING: Verne Madden KD9HEV... vamadden@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Barry Palencer KC9WMS... bpalencer@gmail.com

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Wayne Michael AC9HP... wrmichael@hotmail.com

SAFETY OFFICER: John Terrell N9JWT... john.terrell@aes.com

PUBLIC POLICY ADVISOR: Tom Hansen WA9YI...wa9yi@arrl.net



HENDRICKS COUNTY ARES WEEKLY **NET**

*** EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT ***
7:30pm on 147.015 MHz REPEATER

Upcoming Events: Year 2018

HENDRICKS COUNTY (BROWNSBURG) HAMFEST :

FEBRUARY 24th.

American Legion Post #331, 636 E. Main St. Brownsburg, IN.

*Hours : 9am til 2 pm. *

\$5 admission.

147.015 talk-in.

Questions / table reservations: hcars46122@gmail.com

Check on the website: www.hcars.org

for more on the event and the latest information



2018 HAM TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

(The classes are sponsored by the HCARS club and will be held at the Hendricks Co. Senior Center) 1201 Sycamore Lane in Danville.

Time and dates are : Every Wednesday evening: January 31–March 21, (8 weeks) time will be from 7pm till 9pm..

These classes will be for those who wish to obtain an amateur radio license or to upgrade from their existing license.



Hendricks County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

First quarterly membership meeting is January 24th.

Time will be 7pm.

These meetings will be at the Senior Services Center, 1201 Sycamore Ln, Danville IN.

