

# The Feedline



Winter, 2007

The Feedline

## Special points of interest:

- Repeater upgrades improve signal strength, access
- Severe weather and years of exposure to the elements prompted repairs
- Signal reports are solicited
- Updated website offers new look, features

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## Work sessions lead to repeater improvements

Dedicated members of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club have spent several Saturdays making much needed repairs to the main 147.180 MHz repeater and it's remote base. Repairs included installing a new feedline and raising the antenna on the tower at the remote location at Cass Co. EMA, and relocating repeater equipment inside the building.

The main water tower location now sports a new dual band antenna secured with a new mount. The antenna is used to receive the link signal and for the repeater transmit and receive functions.

Early reports from members have given a thumbs up to the improvements with signal strength and easier

access while noise is decreased.

Recent severe weather along with long exposure to the elements had taken its toll on the installations.



**Tom, KB9WSL checks the readings on the new feedline while Dave, K9DVL looks on.**

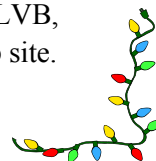
## Web site updated, features and links added

The Cass County Amateur Radio Club's web site received a face lift.

In addition to having a new look on the opening page, members may check the current weather with a radar image link that updates once pre minute, or check the latest ham radio news or club information.

There is also an archive section with pictures from club activities. Even past issues of *The Feedline* can be viewed. The web site URL is the same: [www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc](http://www.culcom.net/~ccarcinc)

New member, Brandon, KC9LVB, volunteered to handle the web site.



## Analog cell phones won't work after February

The FCC has announced that as of midnight on February 18, 2008, cellular telephone companies will not be required to provide analog service. While most wireless telephone users will not be affected by this transition, some users may be affected. The transition could also affect some alarm systems and some users of OnStar in-vehicle communications service.

Cell phone service might cease for customers using very old analog equipment. All subscribers with newer phones won't notice any difference.

Vehicles older than the 2003 model year with OnStar will find their units won't work after December, and upgrades are not possible.



Service providers will be notifying their customers several months ahead of the change. For more information, go to [www.fcc.gov/cgb](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb).

**“W5LUA achieved his WAS all on 1296 MHz, the first ham to do so.”**

## Texas ham achieves first-of-a-kind WAS

Hams often are able to “work all states” using various modes on HF, but Al Ward, W5LUA, has done it the hard way.

ARRL officials have confirmed that Ward accomplished this feat on 1296 MHz, and is the first ham to do so giving him “WAS #1” entirely on 1296.

Ward began his quest in 1977 and finished with the last three states needed

this year. Contacts were made utilizing EME (earth-moon-earth) communications. Ward noted that having the 50 state contacts verified brought back a lot of memories. “A lot of those contacts are silent keys now,” he observed.

Ward delivered the QSLs personally to ARRL president, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in Little Rock, AR, to have them certified.

## Hoosier broadcast radio legend, ham op, silent key

Broadcasting legend and amateur radio operator Bob Sievers became a Silent Key on Monday, September 3rd, 2007. Sievers was known throughout much of the United States as “Mr.WOWO.” He was the morning man for Ft. Wayne’s WOWO 1190 AM for much of his more than 50 year



broadcasting career. Sievers was also an Advanced class ham radio operator, W9FJT.

Sievers co-hosted the “Little Red Barn” morning show on the 50 KW WOWO along with Farm Director Jay Gould and weatherman Earl Finkle.





## Weather radios recalled

Oregon Scientific has voluntarily recalled 66,000 of its weather radios because the radios may not respond to the National Weather Service's alert signal sent during emergencies.

The radios, made between 2005 and 2007, sold at various retail outlets for up to \$150.00. The recall involved the following radios and weather stations.

**All Hazards Portable Weather Alert Radio, WR103NX ,  
Portable Public Alert Radio, WR108  
Public Alert Weather Station, WRB308  
John Deere Public Alert Weather Station, WRB308J.**

The recall announcement came from the Consumer Products Safety Commission in late summer. Consumers wanting



more information can contact the company at [www2.oregonscientific.com](http://www2.oregonscientific.com)

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## Ham finds unique way to promote ham radio

Cliff Segar, KD4GT and his wife Patti wanted a new home. They found just what they were looking for in rural Tennessee. Their "dream house" happened to be on I-40 and had two large billboards on the property.

One of the billboards didn't get much use, which gave Segar an idea for the lease agreement: when the billboard is not sold, the lessee will put up a vinyl

face promoting Amateur Radio. The ad company agreed, but only if the Segars paid for the vinyl sign. Segar sent a request to the ARRL and their graphics department came up with a design that included two area repeater frequencies.

"With all the pressure from commercial interests for spectrum, we need to all promote the public benefit of Ham Radio," Segar says. "We are a service."

(Info from ARRL)

**"We all need to find a way to promote the public benefit of ham radio"**

## Broadcast legend SK (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Sievers first began working at WOWO while a high school freshman in 1932. He was officially hired by Westinghouse broadcasting to work at the station in 1936 for \$5.00 a week.

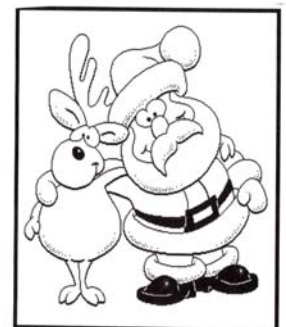
Sievers was a co-founder of the famous WOWO Penny Pitch annual fund raiser to assist those in need at Christmas.

Sievers was inducted into the Indiana

Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1981 and officially retired from the station in 1987 after a 51 year career. Earlier this year, Sievers was nominated for the National Radio Hall of Fame.

Although retired, his voice is still heard occasionally on the air, and sometimes provides the ID for the KA9OHV, 145.130, repeater in Warsaw. Sievers was 90 years old.

Tom Murray, KB9WSL





**Newsletter of the Cass County Amateur Radio Club**

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**Cass County Amateur Radio Club Officers**

- President:** Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW
- Vice President:** Todd Ervin, N9PVQ
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- Emergency Coordinator:** Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW
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- Trustee of Repeaters:** Phil Snider, W9LVY
- Education & History:** Anna Hendrickson, KC9IDO
- Fold 'em, Lick 'em, "Stick 'em Specialist:** Dave Wandrei, N9WCQ
- Color Copier Poobah:** Chuck Hendrickson, N9PMW
- Web Site Guy:** Brandon DeLorenzo, KC9LVB
- CCARC Travel Consultant:** Des T. Nation
- Political Consultant:** Phil A. Buster



## Dots and Dashes

### Repeaters

The primary repeater operates on 147.180 MHz and is located at the Chase Park water tower with an open receiver. An additional receive site is located at the Cass County EMA building. These are accessed with a 77 HZ sub-audible tone. The VHF transmitter also transmits a 77 Hz tone. Setting your receiver to *decode* will reduce unwanted signals. A second VHF repeater also is located at the Emergency Management building and operates

on 145.230 MHz. A UHF repeater transmits on 443.650 MHz from the EMA building. All transmit offsets are standard.

Repeaters may be out of service from time to time for repairs or upgrades. The club station is W9VMW.

### CCARC Meetings

Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Cass County Emergency Management Agency building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR 17. Dues are \$15.00 per

year. Immediate family members may join for an additional \$5.00.

### Amateur License Tests

Test sessions for all classes of amateur radio licenses are offered the third Saturday of each month at approximately 10:00 AM, immediately following the club meeting. Testing is held at the Cass County EMA building, 2 miles North of Logansport on SR17. Pre-registration is not necessary. The CCARC is affiliated with The W5YI Group.



**The Cass County Amateur Radio Club is an Indiana Not For Profit Corporation in continuous existence since 1953.**

