History of the Terre Haute North Vigo High School Radio Club -- K9THN

The Terre Haute North Vigo High School (THNVHS) Radio Club, was formed at the beginning of the 2014 school year with the assistance of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA). Mr. Jeff Hammers, the school electronics teacher, began instructing his students in amateur radio theory and practice as part of the electronics curriculum. The first student testing session was held near the end of the 2014 school year. Nine students and Mr. Hammers obtained Technician licenses, and two students earned the General class license.





Mr. Hammers

Application was made for a club station license when school resumed in the fall of 2014, and the call sign KD9CBQ was assigned by the FCC. Student officers were elected, and Mr. Hammers became the club trustee. A functioning amateur radio station was set up in November 2014 by members of the WVARA in a spare room adjacent to the electronics laboratory using donated equipment. HF and VHF Antennas were installed on a 40 ft. tower located immediately outside the building.

By January 2015, the radio room was repainted and the vanity call sign K9THN was obtained. The students designed a distinctive club logo and painted it on the station wall behind the operating position.



For their first organized operating activity, the students participated in the ARRL School Club Roundup in early February 2015 and placed fifth out of sixteen entries in their category.

Another testing session was conducted in February 2015 and two more students obtained Technician licenses. A student who earned a Technician license in May 2014 upgraded to General Class.





K9THN club trustee Dan Hunter, NW9N, working with students during the October 2015 School Club Roundup.

In March of 2015, the THNVHS radio club station was dedicated during a bean dinner held at the school. Many WVARA members and friends were in attendance. The WVARA club received recognition from the Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC) for their effort in helping start a radio club at the school.

Dan Hunter (NW9N) became club trustee during this month, and a teacher at a middle school that sends students to North Vigo High School expressed interest in starting a club for his students.



During April and May of 2015, twenty-eight students in Mr. Hammer's electronics class worked on eight Amateur radio projects which included efforts to set up an amateur satellite tracking station, digital HF communications, and design of an emergency power system. Work on these projects will continue during the 2015 – 2016 school year.

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Students loading software into a K9THN laptop computer to work RTTY and PSK digital modes.







Students working with amateur radio satellite tracking software under the watchful eye of club trustee NW9N.



Students preparing a base to support satellite tracking antennas and rotators

