

# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

April 2020

Volume 21

Issue 4



## Allen County ARES

The Allen County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Team in Allen County provides the opportunity for Hams to provide support in the event of disasters in our community. In addition we support our community by providing communication support to events like charity walks, runs and bicycle events, 2020 looks to be a very busy year for the team.

The team in Allen County consists of over 60 volunteers. These members volunteer their time to support these community events and to prepare for emergency activation. In addition, ARES Team members also provide SKYWARN spotters whom are activated in the event of severe weather to provide ground truth to the National Weather Service.

The COVID19 pandemic has cancelled most face to face activities including the Public Service Events to which we normally provide support, including The Glacial Esker 40 trail run, the RMHC Bike Ride and the March of

Dimes, March of Dimes. Several Hamfests have also been cancelled in the area.

With many of us isolating at home, it's a good time for us to verify that our radio equipment is in good working order. Also, a good time to get on the air and meet others in the hobby.

A reminder that the ARES Training net occurs every Tuesday evening at 9:00 pm on the 146.94 repeater. Everyone is welcome to check-in.

Thanks,

Jim Moehring, KB9WWM

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### From the Editor

I hope that everyone is staying safe during the stay-at-home period in this early part of April. While at home, there are still plenty of opportunities to stay on the air—see page 4 for the FWRC Centennial event, page 6 for the FM Simplex VHF/UHF contest, and page 8 for the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon!

The formatting and content for HamNews continue to evolve. I hope that the changes add to your reading enjoyment. If you would like to include any information for the May edition, please send it to me by April 30th.

Stay safe and hope to hear you on the airwaves!

73,

Josh, W9HT

Drjoshlong(at)gmail.com

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## Pandemic Cancels Severe Weather Seminar

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, SKYWARN Net Manager



Allen County ARES decided on March 13 to cancel the Severe Weather Seminar it planned for March 28. ARES leaders made the decision after a noon news conference during which Allen County Health Commissioner Deborah McMahan, MD explained the importance of staggering transmission of the novel coronavirus. Later that day, the Allen County Public Library also announced the closure of its facilities. ARES had planned to conduct the seminar at the main branch of the library.

# SKYWARN

ARES leaders do not know whether they will be able to re-schedule the seminar. It depends on when the pandemic ends and on the availability at that time of scheduled speakers and the venue.

### March Severe Weather Threat

A threat of severe weather March 28 led SKYWARN net control station (NCS) operators take shifts, to assure readiness should weather require net activation. In its daily outlook, the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center indicated a 5 percent probability of a tornado in Allen County. While 5 percent seems like a small number, it was 25 times the normal probability for that time of year. Various NCS operators, including Richard Andrew, N9HRA; Chad Beech, W9GGA; Brian Jenks, W9BGJ; Jim Moehring, KB9WWM; and Jay Farlow W9LW maintained watch on the 146.88 MHz repeater from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fortunately, severe weather never developed.



### Prepare for Future Activations

Some hams might find themselves with a little extra time on their hands during COVID-19-related closures. The atmosphere doesn't care about the pandemic, so this is a good time to review storm spotter knowledge and net operating procedures. An excellent way to review what the National Weather Service needs to know from spotters is to complete or re-take [the COMET MetEd online course](#). Operators can review how the Allen County SKYWARN net operates by reviewing the [Net Operations Manual](#), which is available on the Fort Wayne Radio Club website.

# Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN



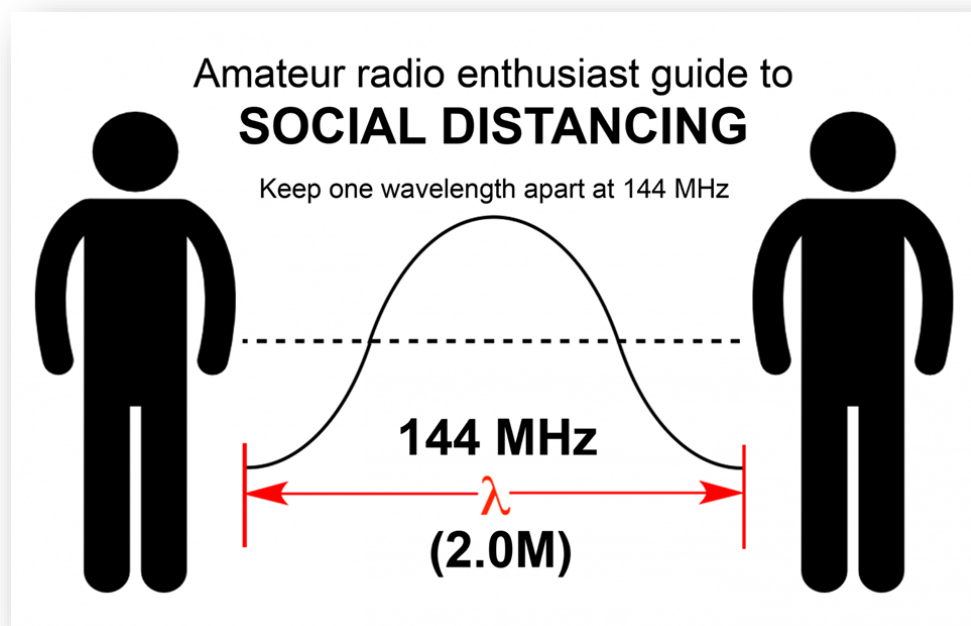
## Carole's Corner

Happy April everyone! I wish the current situation was just an April fool's joke, but unfortunately it isn't. Here's hoping everyone is safe and sound in their homes and staying healthy.

Unfortunately, all April FWRC activities are cancelled. No Fox Hunt on Sunday, no Board of Directors meeting, unless we can hold one online, and no Spring Banquet. Hopefully, by May we can get back to normal and see each other in person and not just on the air. In the meantime, stay indoors, stay healthy and stay sane. And most importantly DO NOT KILL YOUR MATE!!!

73,

Carole, WB9RUS



## FWRC Officers

### President

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# Fort Wayne Radio Club W9TE

## Celebrating 100 years with 100 Contacts

The Fort Wayne Radio Club in the year 2020 is celebrating its Centennial Birthday as it was organized 100 years ago. The Club has planned at this time no less than 4 Special Event W9TE operating activities throughout the year.

There is also a centennial event contacting FWRC members during the year of 2020. This event is not a contest but it is an event to celebrate the spirit of Amateur Radio and our Centennial. The event name is **Celebrating 100 Years with 100 Contacts**.

Event open all year, Ends January 1, 2021 05:00 UTC. Anyone can make 100 contacts with any FWRC member using any band, any mode, any amateur equipment. May contact same member multiple times per day only if different band, mode, or combination of both. Must make contact with minimum of 25 different FWRC members. Exchange info: Call, Name, City and, State or Providence or Country; Signal report, Rig and Antenna. Rag chew is encouraged.

Logs may be saved using a logging program. A file, containing only the Fort Wayne Radio Club members contacted, with contact information, date, time, mode and band, to be emailed to [kg9fm@arrl.net](mailto:kg9fm@arrl.net). Paper logs as done 100 years ago absolutely accepted. There are special certificates and QSL cards for all of the events. Certificates will be emailed.



# State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



## ACARTS President's Message

I am sure that it came as no surprise to you that the ACARTS March general meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. We will have Tom, KU8T, do his presentation on "Parks on the Air" when things get back to normal.

The Salvation Army and the Red Cross have closed their facilities to outside groups, making it unknown as to when we will again have access to their buildings to hold meetings. Therefore, the April board meeting, scheduled for the 14th, is cancelled. The ACARTS board voted to cancel the Spring Banquet, scheduled for the 21st. Things may or may not be getting back to normal by then, but it is easier to cancel it now, rather than going through the motions of taking reservations and the having to cancel at the last minute because of extended or new restrictions. I am sure that many of you would feel that the 21st is too soon to be involved in a group atmosphere and would not plan to attend the banquet anyway.

The board will assess the situation as to hold May and even June meetings as the time gets closer. A lot will depend on when we will have a place open to us to hold meetings as things start returning to normal.

One activity that won't be cancelled is the FM VHF/UHF Contest to be held on Saturday evening, April 4th, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will not be competing activities this year, not even sporting events on television. Get on the air and see how many simplex contacts you can make, or even make a few contacts just to try out your equipment. Complete contest rules, logs, and a township map are available on the ACARTS website, [www.acarts.com](http://www.acarts.com).

Another date to mark on your calendar is Saturday, August 8th. ACARTS will again hold the ACARTS Picnic at Jefferson Township Park. This may even be the next ACARTS activity, so plan on an afternoon of fun and food with your friends. The picnic is open to members and their families of ACARTS, the Fort Wayne Radio Club, and the Fort Wayne DX Association. Let me know if you have any suggestions for changes to the picnic, or any ideas for activities that you would like to be held.

73,  
Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

## From the ACARTS Secretary

There is not much to report for the newsletter besides all club meeting and social gathering has been canceled for March and April. The UHF/VHF contest on April 4th 7pm to 10pm is still on. So I encourage all Fort Wayne hams to get on the air. To all, stay safe, healthy, and get on the air! Chris, W9TSB

## ACARTS Officers

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# **Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society**

**2020 Northeast Indiana VHF/UHF  
FM Simplex Contest**

**Saturday April 4, 2020**

**7 –10 PM EDT**

**Operate 2m, 1.25m, and 70cm**

**FM Simplex Frequencies ONLY**

**Base – Portable – Rover Categories**

**Score Bonus Multipliers for**

**Each Unique Township Contacted**

**Complete Rules, Log Sheet, and Helpful**

**Map Download at:**

**ACARTS.COM**

## Getting Ready for the 6-Meter Sporadic E Season

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA



I'm writing this in the middle of March, and you'll be reading this in early April. Historical sporadic E data indicates we'll start seeing sporadic E QSOs on 6-Meters in the middle of April, with increasing probabilities of openings as we progress into the summer months.

So am I ready for the 2020 sporadic E season? I'm kind of ready. I still have my Tennadyne T6 log periodic dipole array (LPDA) that has worked in the past for 6-Meter QSOs. In the August 2017 FWDXA column, I showed the azimuth pattern of the T6 on 6-Meters. The pattern indicated that the T6 should be rotated. In the August 2017 column I also mentioned that the 80-Meter inverted-vee made some QSOs on 6-Meters, but most of the time the T6 was best. I'll attribute that to the fact that I didn't rotate the T6 – I know better now!

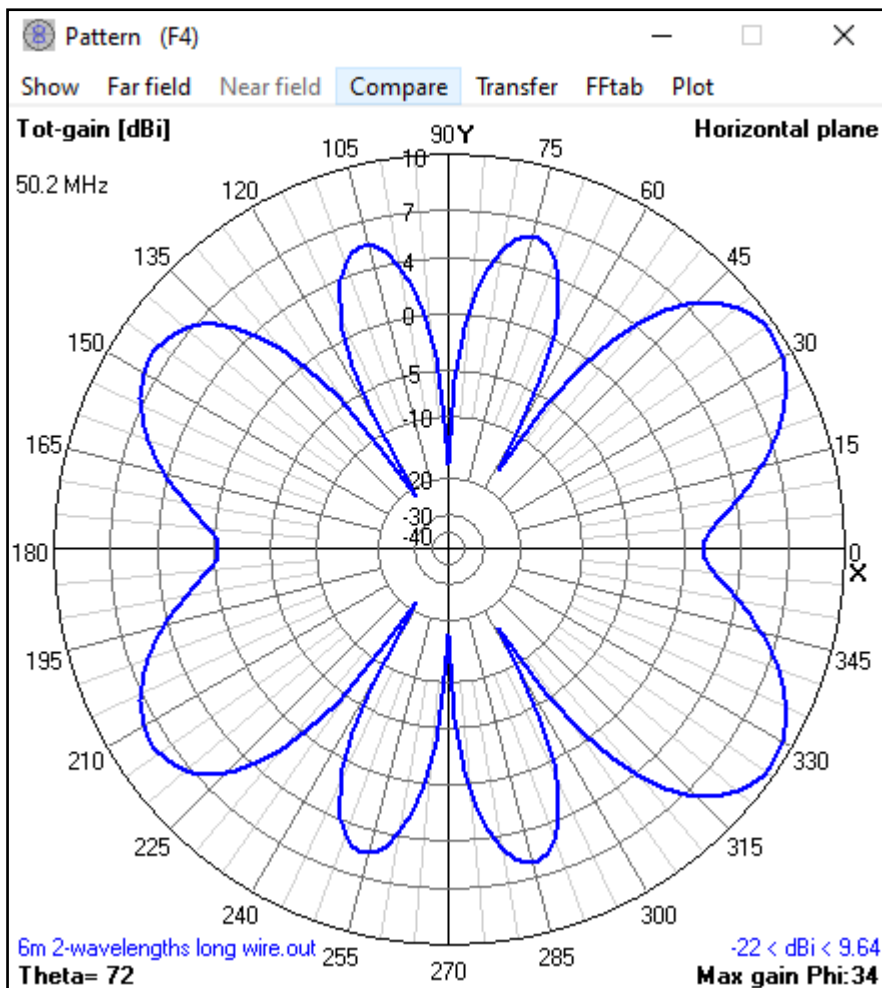
In the October 2017 FWDXA column, I dreamed about using four MFJ 3-element 6-Meter Yagis around the compass (NE, SE, SW and NW) to allow instantaneous switching via a remote antenna switch (no rotator). Needless to say, I have not yet implemented this array since I only have one of the four Yagis! I guess I could mount my only MFJ Yagi on the little Rohn 25 tower fixed towards the SE, and then I wouldn't have to rotate the T6 thru the full 360 degrees.

Or I could mount the MFJ 3-element Yagi above the T6. But since the T6 kind of works on 6-Meters, this suggests that there would be coupling between the MFJ Yagi and the T6. In fact, KR9U mounted his 5-element 6-Meter Yagi above his Tennadyne T8 LPDA (8 elements on an 18-foot boom), and had interaction problems. To eliminate the interaction, he oriented the boom of the Yagi so that it was 90 degrees with respect to the boom of the T8.

Another idea would be to install a simple long wire for 6-Meters. For example, this is what N3JO shows in his book "Magic Band Antennas for Ham Radio" (ARRL, 2018). He put up a long wire that was 3-wavelengths long (58.45 feet) and fed at a quarter-wave point (4.86 feet from either end). The impedance would require a 4:1 transformer at the feed point.

At my location, a long wire of 2-wavelengths (39 feet) would fit nicely between the Rohn 25 tower and the security light pole directly south of the tower. The accompanying azimuth plot of this long wire shows that it might adequately cover all around the compass with around 9.0 dBi gain when mounted at 15 feet over average ground.

The long wire seems to be the easiest approach to do right now (as long as the weather cooperates!) to get ready for the 2020 sporadic E season. And I could easily do a preliminary check out of it on the Ft Wayne 6-Meter net on 50.58 MHz on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 8:00 PM local.



Azimuth pattern for the 6m long wire

**SKCC Weekend Event****Saturday April 11 and Easter Sunday April 12**

Ken Rogner, N8KR



With home isolation due to our current health status, the SKCC weekend “sprintathon” may just be the perfect activity to kill some time and dust off those cw skills. Yes, I know it’s Easter weekend and I’m guessing churches will still be closed. But there is plenty of time and opportunity to worship online and spend time on the air. With over 30 SKCC members in FWRC, we should make our presence known! The event starts at 8am Saturday and runs through 8pm Sunday. Tuning in, you will hear many stations call-

ing, “CQ WES” on 20, 40, and 80 meters. (Maybe even 10, 15, and 160!) Here are suggested frequencies: 14.050-14.065, 7.050-7.065, 3.550-3.565

You will need to send an RST report, your state (IN), name, and SKCC number (or “none” if you don’t have one) Here’s what you may hear:

(The Calling Station) CQ CQ WES DE W9HT

(You) N8KR N8KR

(The Calling Station) N8KR 599 IN JOSH 7474S BK

(You) BK TU JOSH 579 IN KEN 7559S BK

(The Calling Station) BK TU KEN 73 (dit dit)

(You) 73 (dit dit)

The above is an abbreviated exchange which most SKCCers use. Substitute your call and info for what I sent to Josh and you’re good to go. If you haven’t tried out the FREE SKCC logging program, go to [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com) and explore the left column for “Files and Downloads.” Select that and the first thing to pop up is AC2C’s logger. That’s what you want. It’s free, safe for your computer, and there are no strings attached to use it – no spam – no ads! The nice thing about using it is that it will populate info (Name, State, SKCC number) once you type in a members call and hit the tab button.

The April WES also has bonus stations to look for. The complete list is online at the SKCC website. I will be operating the club call, KS9KCC, (Straight Key Indiana Club) as one of the bonus stations. You may also find KS8KCC out of Michigan as another bonus station. Keep in mind that we are NOT a high speed cw contest. And if you find someone going faster than you can copy, send QRS (please send slower) and I guarantee you they WILL slow down for you! If you have any questions, please contact me at [n8kr\(at\)arrl.net](mailto:n8kr(at)arrl.net). Hope to see MANY FWRC member calls in my log!



*Straight Key Century Club*



| Area Nets  |                  |   |           |                 |   |
|--|------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Daily  |                  |   | Tuesday   |                 |   |
| 8:00 AM  | 3.535            | Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net                | 7:30 PM   | 147.150+        | 21 Repeater Group Net (97.4 PL)                                 |
| 8:30 AM  | 3.940            | Daily Indiana Traffic Net                         | 8:00 PM   | 50.580 USB      | FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net  |
| 6:00 PM  | 3.940            | Daily Indiana Traffic Net                         | 9:00 PM   | 146.940-        | Allen Co. ARES Training Net (141.3 PL)                          |
| 6:30 PM  | 146.880-         | IMO (alternate is 146.760)                        | Wednesday |                 |   |
| 7:00 PM  | 147.015+         | Tri State Two Meter Net                           | 7:00 PM   | 146.760-        | FWRC YL Net   |
| 8:00 PM  | 3.535            | Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net                | 8:00 PM   | 145.270-        | Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL)                                     |
| Week-days  |                  |   | 8:00 PM   | 50.580 FM       | FWRC 6-Meter FM Net   |
| 8:30 AM  | 3.820            | Little Red Barn Net                               | 9:00 PM   | 146.940-        | Help and Swap Net (141.3 PL)                                    |
| Sunday   |                  |   | Thursday  |                 |   |
| 8:00 PM  | 444.550+         | Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL)       | 8:00 PM   | D-STAR          | Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)                                     |
| 8:30 PM  | 1.965 & 146.910- | "No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521 | 8:00 PM   | 50.580          | AM 6-Meter AM Net   |
| 9:00 PM  | 145.53 simplex   | Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2)   | 8:30 PM   | 145.510 simplex | Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4) |
| Monday   |                  |   | Saturday  |                 |   |
| 8:00 PM  | 224.780-         | Fort Wayne 224 Net                                | 8:00 PM   | 146.685-        | Huntington ARES(141.3 PL)                                       |
| <p>1. All times local time. Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at <a href="mailto:drjoshlong@gmail.com">drjoshlong@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>2. NEIPN is direct accessible via any BPQ Chat Node (or through Node hopping etc.) via other packet frequencies in this area and other areas through other nodes (it is locally direct accessible on 145.53 in NC &amp; NE Indiana/NW Ohio and SE Michigan using KA9LCF-11, KC9VYU-11, N9LCF-11, N9PXO-11, K9BIF-11) Most BPQ Nodes use an SSID of -11.</p> <p>3. Reflector REF024B.</p> <p>4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred.</p> <p>5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <a href="http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts">http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts</a></p> |                  |   |           |                 |   |



**FWRC Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call &amp; email address in our membership roster &amp; on our club web site?

**Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:**

Regular membership \$20.00 / year

Family membership<sup>1</sup> \$30.00 / yearStudent membership<sup>2</sup> \$5.00 / yearAssociate membership<sup>3</sup> \$20.00 / year

(Memberships for July-December are ½ the stated amounts)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club (check number \_\_\_\_\_) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.

**ACARTS Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call &amp; email address in our membership roster &amp; on our club web site?

**ACARTS dues:**

Regular membership \$12.00 / year

Additional family members<sup>1</sup> \$6.00 / yearStudent membership<sup>2</sup> \$6.00 / yearAssociate membership<sup>3</sup> \$6.00 / year

(New regular memberships are \$1.00/month)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (check number \_\_\_\_\_) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

A.C.A.R.T.S.

P.O. Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.