

# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

April 2023  
Volume 24  
Issue 4

22  
April

7-10pm local  
time

Saturday  
evening  
only

## 2023 Northeast Indiana VHF/UHF FM Simplex Contest

Join local hams for this annual event. Test your gear, hone your skills, compete for an exclusive certificate, and just have fun for a few hours. Catch you on the airwaves!

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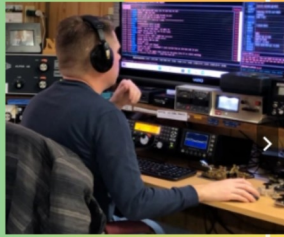
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**And much more!**

## Hamming It Up With the Editor



# APRIL

## ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

HamNews is a monthly, joint publication of the Fort Wayne Radio Club, the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, and the Fort Wayne DX Association.

Articles are written by members and friends of the three clubs. New submissions for HamNews are always welcome. Please send your information to the editor within two days of the end of the month for inclusion in the next edition.

HamNews Editor  
Josh Long, W9HT  
drjoshlong (at) gmail.com

As I write this, a heavy thunderstorm just passed through this part of Allen County. (Things got a little scary when the glass on the sliding door in the living room started to vibrate.) Kudos to all of the net control operators and hams who helped to support this lifesaving effort.

Last month's edition included a very old flyer for the Toledo Hamfest—the editorial staff sincerely apologizes for this oversight. Nonetheless, the photos in this edition indicate that a cadre of local hams made it there and had a great time.

Also, Terry K9FMX's column last month shared his recent experience with passing along the story of ham radio to a young person. His story also proposes the following question—what else can we as hams do to inspire the next generation of operators? I would encourage you to think about this question. There are so many different possibilities. Think about the possibilities! (This summer I am hoping to attend the ARRL's Teacher Institute to learn some ideas that I could use in my practice as an educator.)

Last month I was also able to complete a 20 year quest—I worked Hong Kong (along with Singapore and Brunei) for the first time. Hot dog! I cannot count the number of times that I had been haunted by whispers of VR2XMT and other VR2 calls on the HF bands. Now, I am just waiting for the QSL card. The solar cycle appears to still be on the upswing.

This month's edition of HamNews might hold a record in terms of length. As always, this newsletter is only possible because of the efforts of so many hams who write columns and share information. Thank you for your collaboration in this ongoing project!

I wish each of you a very Happy Easter and look forward to the warmer weather that should be coming soon.

73 and good DX,

*Josh W9HT*



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**WEATHER.GOV®**

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# Skywarn runs successful practice net during statewide tornado drill

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, Allen County Skywarn  
Net Manager

The National Weather Service (NWS) conducted its annual statewide tornado drill Tuesday, March 14. The Allen County Skywarn net used the drill as an opportunity for spotters to practice net operations by transmitting simulated reports following procedures outlined in the net operations manual.

Jim Moehring, KB9WWM placed the net in standby mode at 10 a.m. By 10:12, the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society 146.88 MHz repeater that normally supports the net failed, making even base stations with strong signals impossible to reliably

copy. Per the net operations manual, Jim then moved the net to the Fort Wayne Radio Club 146.94 MHz repeater. Although that repeater has a problem with a low-frequency noise, the net was able to communicate effectively.

When the NWS issued a test tornado warning at 10:15 a.m., Jim implemented directed net mode, during which stations transmit only to make spotter reports that meet NWS reporting criteria.

Twelve stations made simulated reports including three wall clouds, one funnel cloud, two hail reports, five wind damage reports and one measured wind speed report.

In addition to net control station KB9WWM, participating stations (including those that checked in during standby mode) included AC9XS, K9SKS, KB9JR, KB9UTO, KB9YYT, KC9RCX, KC9SJP, KC9UOQ, KD9ISV, KD9NYZ, NT9F, W9GGA, W9KMH, W9LW and W9SAN.

With very few exceptions, stations followed net procedures perfectly, which the net manager sees as a sign that the net is will prepared for any actual severe weather events this year. The manager thanks and congratulates all participating stations.





# LITTLE RED BARN NET

Next Dates would be 4/13/2023, 4/27/2023, 5/11/2023..... at 11:30am on each date.

If you want to be on the LRBN email list, let me know at [gmrepair1@aol.com](mailto:gmrepair1@aol.com), or message me at 260-437-4676 with your email and call sign or name.

Net Control Operators are Monday KU8T Tom, Tuesday K9FW Al one round Net, Wednesday KD9HAV Norm, Thursday W9GT Jack, Friday K9SKS Steve.

We have a Mobile web page at <https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile> works with Mobile and Computers systems. On the mobile page is lunch information/times/dates, pictures of previous lunches and other information.

Also we have at [lrbn@groups.io](http://lrbn@groups.io) | Home , and will need to sign up, this is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help.

Also, Net Controls use Netlogger you may download the program at Download Center ([netlogger.org](http://netlogger.org)). Also, for smart phone's there is Net Scraper, on the android go to Play Store, and on Iphone go to App Store. and download this app.

73,  
*KU8T Tom*

We had another great month in March on the LRBN -" Little Red Barn Net" Monday thru Friday at 9:00am on 3.820 mhz. LSB. We have about 14 to 25 check-ins per day, with self-generated topic's each day by the check-Ins, but Thursday when Jack W9GT picks a topic, and we kind of run with it, a lot of fun.



LRBN lunch at the Hall Tavern, Village of Coventry

Also, we have a lunch every two weeks alternating from North Fort Wayne to South Fort Wayne. We usually have 15 to 25 participants at each lunch.

We had two lunches this month on 3/2/2023 at the Tavern at Village of Coventry with 20 attending and 3/16/2023 at Red Lobster 17 attending. Always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

# THE TOLEDO HAMFEST CAME BACK LAST MONTH!



On March 19, a local group went to the Toledo Hamfest 2023. Some attendees from Fort Wayne included: K9FMX, K9LAN, W9SAN, K9DMA, W9GT, WD8PIC, KD9I.TZ, KB9OS, and KU8T.

Then after the hamfest, several hams went to lunch at the Cracker Barrel nearby: W9GT, K9DMA, KD9ITZ, KB9OS, KE8ASK, and W8JER







The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

# AUBURN HAMFEST

*New Date!* **Saturday, July 29, 2023**

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

**1600 S. Wayne St. Auburn, IN 46706**

OPEN 9 AM TO 2 PM • TALK-IN: 147.015 (141.3) 7:00 AM • LOAD-IN: 7 TO 9 AM

**FREE** Admission

6,000 SQ. FT. INDOOR DISPLAY SPACE (Not counting the huge Museum Area!)



**FREE** AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG Museum

View an amazing collection of classic motor vehicles.

**FREE** Parking

Supervised by the DeKalb County ARES Team.

**NEW this year—FOOD VENDOR** on the parking lot.

**NEED MORE INFO?**  
**E-MAIL: W9OU@ARRL.NET**

**Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.**  
**Order online now at [www.w9ou.org](http://www.w9ou.org)**

**Outdoor Sales** - One raffle ticket purchase for each parking space.

**Contact: [W9OU@ARRL.NET](mailto:W9OU@ARRL.NET)**

**Raffle Prizes:**

- 1st-** Xiegu G90 HF Radio with Base
- 2nd-** Yaesu FT-70DR with Mag Mount Ant.
- 3rd-** N3FJP Logging software—Full Reg.
- 4th-** \$50.00 DX Engineering Gift Cert.

***Ticket Prices \$5.00 - Buy 2, get 1 Free!***

Complete and return  
this form to reserve a  
table at the 2023 Au-  
burn Hamfest!



NIARA  
PO Box 145  
Auburn, IN 46706

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur Radio Call Sign (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment, Suite, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tables to reserve (\$10 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need electricity? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes (Additional information we need to know) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

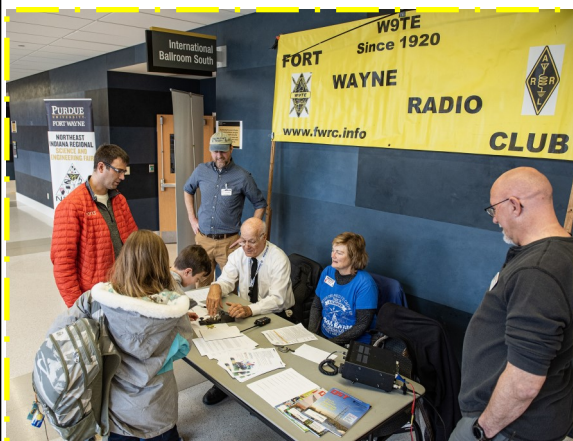
# Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN



On Saturday, March 19th, the Fort Wayne Radio Club had a table at the 35th annual Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair at PFW.



Here is a picture that the Purdue photographer Jim Whitcraft took during the Science Fair. In the back row is Stuart KD9LFW (ACARTS member), myself KB9OS (president of the FWRC), Carla KD9ITZ (on the Board of the FWRC) and Charles KC9MUT (also on the Board of the FWRC). We are watching a family learning Morse Code and checking out a code oscillator.

Also, Stuart KD9LFW and his daughter supplied a working low band radio for demonstration. This was all made possible from the generosity of the ham donations at the Tailgate Hamfest last August.

I hope to see you at our next FWRC meeting!

Respectfully submitted by,

*Larry Temenoff, KB9OS*

**Next FWRC Meeting**

**Friday, April 14th**

**6:30pm**

**Good Shepherd UMC**

## FWRC Officers 2023

### President

Larry Temenoff, KB9OS  
Temenoff(at)pfw.edu

### Vice President

Josh Long, W9HT  
(260) 749-9851  
drjoshlong(at)gmail.com

### Secretary

Al Burke, WB9SSE  
(260) 637-1989  
aburke55(at)comcast.net

### Treasurer

Bob Streeter, W8ST

### Communications Manager

Charles Ward, KC9MUT  
(260) 749-4824  
kc9mut(at)yahoo.com

### Directors

Steve Nardin, W9SAN  
(260) 482-4039  
w9san(at)arrl.net

Carla Barrett, KD9ITZ

Terry Bowman, K9FMX  
(260) 705-7128  
tjbowman(at)frontier.com

Carole Burke, WB9RUS  
(260) 637-1989  
wb9rus(at)comcast.net



# FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

6 March 2023

The March meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 6 March, 2023. The meeting started at 6:30 pm.

President Larry Temenoff, (KB9OS) welcomed all attendees (about 28), lead them in the pledge of allegiance, and had everyone introduce themselves by virtue of their name and callsign.

Bob Streeter, (W8ST) provided the Treasure's report as of 6 March, 2023 indicating the following account balances:

Savings-	\$1,964.91
Checking-	\$7,772.67
Vanguard Money Market-	\$11,583.73
Year-to-Date Income-	\$845.50
Year-to-Date Expenses-	\$1,033.91
Club members count-	132

Larry discussed the upcoming Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair. It will occur on 18 March hosted by Purdue Ft. Wayne in the Walb Student Union and be judged in part by FWRC Board member Carla Barrett (KD9ITZ ) who serves on the Fair's Scientific Review Committee, and by Josh Long (W9HT) FWRC Vice President and a PFW faculty member. The FWRC had made a monetary donation to the Science Fair following its Tailgate Hamfest last August and as a result the

Fair's management made arrangements for a table-booth at the Fair to allow the FWRC to promote Amateur Radio to the many science oriented participants, students, (4th thru 8th grade), parents and teachers who will be attending the event. The booths will be operational between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Larry and Carla plan on manning the booth. Several flyers/handouts touting Ham radio in a STEM environment and information on the FWRC will be made available and we expect to generate some good P.R. for the hobby and club.

Larry noted that the Toledo Hamfest will occur on 19 March while the Auburn Hamfest will occur 29 July where-in the FWRC is planning on having two tables.

Larry and Steve Nardin (W9SAN) reported that the FWRC will set up a Special Events Station at the International Harvester Homecoming event to occur on 5-6 August, and another Special Events Station at the Old Fort VW Car Show in Shoaff Park on August 19th. Former or current IH employees, (or any other FWRC members) are encouraged to participate either at the Special Event Sites or from home. Larry and Steve Nardin are working the details of both events and will be creating a "Worked the Event" certificate for those who participate.

Larry commented on the fact that the FWRC had hosted ACARTS equipment at its Robison Park site several years ago and that ACARTS had reimbursed the FWRC yearly for electricity used thru 2019. But the ACARTS equipment was removed from Robison Park sometime after 2019. Nonetheless the FWRC received a payment from ACARTS in the amount

of \$600.00 in 2022 and again in 2023. Since the FWRC provided no service to ACARTS in either year the Board of Directors decided to return the \$600.00 payment from 2022 and the un-cashed check from 2023 to ACARTS.

Larry announced that plans move ahead to acquire a grant from the ARRL to fund a "Go Box" that can be lent out to club members, or used where the need for portable HF and VHF/UHF comms exist. Larry and Steve Nardin will develop the specific details of what the proposed Go Box will contain and Al Burke (WB9SSE) will develop the actual Grant request itself.

Larry said that ACARTS President Chris McCollough (W9TSB) has expressed an interest in developing joint events involving the FWRC and ACARTS, such as Foxhunting, POTA events and so forth. This will be explored. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Following the business meeting Steve Nardin provided a presentation on his stealth vertical antenna that he developed to get around the restrictions imposed by the HOA of his housing development. A very interesting case study of trial and error indeed. His presentation was live-streamed on Facebook.

The meeting concluded about 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Al Burke, WB9SSE*

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club

# State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



Hello everyone!

It's been a while since we've had a face-to-face meeting. But I have figured out a place that can work for everyone, I think...

Our general meeting will be held at the Allen County Public Library Dupont Rd branch. They have the accommodations we need for our meetings. They have the projector screen and internet access to do presentations and the possibly live stream the meetings on YouTube. Our first meeting at the library will be April 18th in meeting room A from 7:30-8:30 pm. The main plan is to knock out the club board elections.

The 2023 FM Simplex Contest will be on April 22nd. We've added a new category for operating, City and County Park Activation. I hope this new category will get more ham's out and about playing radio. All the information for the FM contest will be on the ACARTS website and attached to the newsletter.

If there are any questions, drop me a line.

73,

*Chris McCullough, W9TSB*



## ACARTS Officers 2023

### President

Chris McCullough W9TSB  
260-312-2750  
kd9lrw(at)gmail.com

### Vice President

Jim Boyer KB9IH  
260-489-6700  
kb9ih(at)arrl.net

### Secretary (open)

### Treasurer

Howard Pletcher N9ADS  
260-747-5252  
n9ads(at)arrl.net

### Station Manager

Jim Sampiere KD9NPL  
260-999-8132  
Kd9npl(at)gmail.com

### Fundraising Manager

Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP  
260-704-7801  
kc9ezp(at)gmail.com

### Directors at Large

Bob Erb N9PWM  
260-466-7772  
roberterb(at)hotmail.com

Steve Shannon K9SKS  
260-704-5353  
k9sks(at)aol.com

Dan Dahms N9WNH  
260-503-4163  
n9wnh(at)arrl.net

### W9INX Trustee

Dave Lindquist W9LKH  
260-485-6135  
w9lkh(at)comcast.net

# 2023 Northeast Indiana VHF/UHF FM Simplex Contest

(Sponsored by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society)

## Purpose

- To promote FM Simplex operation.
- To provide a local, fun, fast contest with equipment most hams already own.

## When

- Saturday, April 22th, 2022, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM EDT. The contest is open to all radio amateurs.

This contest is designed for hams to have fun over a short period. You don't need to devote an entire weekend, just an enjoyable Saturday evening. So get a cup of hot chocolate, a comfortable chair, and sit down for a few hours to see who is on the air. There will be some rovers running around during the full contest period to keep activity going the entire time.

## General Rules

- Only mode allowed is FM phone simplex on the 2 meter, 1.25 meter, 70 cm bands.
  - 2 meter Simplex 146.40 – 146.595, 147.405 – 147.585 15kHz spacing
  - 1.25 meter Simplex 223.40 – 223.52 20kHz spacing
  - 70cm Simplex 445.9125 – 446.175 12.5kHz spacing
- No contacts on calling frequencies. (146.52, 223.50, 446.00)
- Teams are permitted, but only one transmitter is allowed to operate at any one time.
- No repeater contacts, satellite, or EME, please stay on FM simplex frequencies. Stations can only be worked once per band. Rovers and portables can be worked again when they have moved to a different township.
- No cross-band, no split frequency contacts.
- Pre-arranging contacts by use of repeaters, telephones, or otherwise is not allowed, nor in the spirit of the contest. Requesting a move to another band during a contact is allowed.

## Rover & Park Activation Special Rules

- Rovers are not allowed to drive and operate simultaneously. A solo rover must be stationary to operate. A rover team may operate while moving if one team member is designated as the driver and the driver does not operate the radio while moving.
- Rovers and portables cannot straddle township lines, only one township may be given during each contact. Rover and portable stations must remain in a township a minimum of 15 minutes.
- For Park Activation, you must operate within the park limits. To consider the park activated, three contacts must be logged to get park activation multiplier.



## **Operating Classes**

- Base
- Rover
- Park Activation

Portable - Limited to 5W, with transceiver mounted antenna

**1<sup>st</sup> Place in each class will receive a certificate and bragging rights**

## **Exchange**

Call sign, your sequential contact number, and township.

**Note:** You should not use a separate set of sequential numbers for each band. Start at the beginning of the contest and keep going in order even if you change bands.

## **Sample Contact Exchanges**

KB9JDL this is K9FFF - Please copy Number 3, Jefferson Township

K9FFF this is KB9JDL Rover - Please copy Number 13, Milan Township

## **Scoring**

1 point per contact

Multiplier is the number of unique townships contacted.

For Rovers/Portables and Park Activations , multiplier is the number of unique townships/parks activated contacted plus the number of townships/ parks activated. Final score = multiplier X contact points.

## **Log Format**

Heading: Your name, call sign, & contest class.

Listing of contacts to include;

Your contact number, contact time (local 24:00), their call sign, band, and township

**NOTE: For rovers and portables, include your township at time of contact.**

Logs may be submitted in any text format that you choose. Spreadsheets are nice, hand written legible lists are just as acceptable.

## **Entry Deadline**

All logs, either paper or electronic should be received by **May 31, 2023.**

Logs may be handed to Chris McCullough, W9TSB, at club meetings

**OR**

Send to;

Chris McCullough

1338 W. Wallen Rd.

Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**OR**

email to:

w9tsb@outlook.com



<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Park #</b>
City Park	Bloomington Park E & W	FW-01
City Park	Bob Arnold Northside Park	FW-02
City Park	Brewer Park	FW-03
City Park	Buckner Farm Park	FW-04
City Park	Camp Allen Park	FW-05
City Park	Daryl B. Cobin Memorial Park	FW-06
City Park	Casselwood Park	FW-07
City Park	East Central Park	FW-08
City Park	East Swinney Park	FW-09
City Park	Foster Park	FW-10
City Park	Franke Park	FW-11
City Park	Gren Park	FW-12
City Park	Guildin Park	FW-13
City Park	Hamilton Park	FW-14
City Park	Hanna Homestead Park	FW-15
City Park	Harrison Square - Meyers Park	FW-16
City Park	Headwaters Park	FW-17
City Park	Historic Old Fort	FW-18
City Park	Homestead Road Park	FW-19
City Park	Hursttown Reservoir	FW-20
City Park	Indian Village (Sears) Park	FW-21
City Park	Jehl Park	FW-22
City Park	Johnny Appleseed Park	FW-23
City Park	John Street Park	FW-24
City Park	Kettler Park	FW-25
City Park	Klug Park	FW-26
City Park	Kreager Park	FW-27
City Park	Lafayette Park	FW-28
City Park	Lakeside Park	FW-29
City Park	Lawton Park	FW-30
City Park	Lindenwood Nature Preserve	FW-31
City Park	Lions Park	FW-32
City Park	McCormick Park	FW-33
City Park	McCulloch Park	FW-34
City Park	McMillen Park	FW-35
City Park	Memorial Park	FW-36
City Park	Moody Park	FW-37
City Park	Noll Park	FW-38
City Park	Nuckol's Memorial Park	FW-39
City Park	Old Fort Park	FW-40



City Park	Orff Park	FW-41
City Park	Packard Park	FW-42
City Park	Psi Ote Park	FW-43
City Park	Rea Park	FW-44
City Park	Reservoir Park	FW-45
City Park	Rockhill Park	FW-46
City Park	Roosevelt Park	FW-47
City Park	Rudisill/Fairfield Park	FW-48
City Park	Salomon Homestead Park	FW-49
City Park	Shoaff Park	FW-50
City Park	Study Park	FW-51
City Park	Tillman Park	FW-52
City Park	Vesey Park	FW-53
City Park	Waynedale Park	FW-54
City Park	Weisser Park	FW-55
City Park	Wells Street Park	FW-56
City Park	West Swinney Park	FW-57
City Park	Zeis Park	FW-58
City Park	Rivergeenway	FW-59
County Park/Nature Preserve	Fox Island	AC-01
County Park/Nature Preserve	Metea Park	AC-02
County Park/Nature Preserve	Payton Park	AC-03
County Park/Nature Preserve	Cook's Landing	AC-04
County Park/Nature Preserve	Allen County Hanauer Reserve	AC-05
County Park/Nature Preserve	Deer Run Wilderness Area	AC-06
County Park/Nature Preserve	Bicentennial Woods	AC-07
County Park/Nature Preserve	Blue Cast Springs	AC-08
County Park/Nature Preserve	Fogwell Forest	AC-09
County Park/Nature Preserve	Fox Fire Woods	AC-10
County Park/Nature Preserve	Maumee River Overlook	AC-11





## NASA's Four 'Great Observatories'

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

This month's column strays away from Amateur Radio topics, but there is still a tie to our hobby. It's through electromagnetic radiation.

To learn more about our universe, NASA launched four space telescopes from 1990 through 2003. They were called the Great Observatories: the Hubble Space Telescope, the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Spitzer Space Telescope. They looked at the universe at different wavelengths – from gamma rays through infrared. Figure 1 shows the wavelengths for which each telescope was designed. Also see Table I for the

launch dates of these four telescopes (see the next page).

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) covers visible light wavelengths (roughly 400-700 nm), along with near-ultraviolet (sunburn wavelengths) wavelengths and near-infrared wavelengths (780-1400 nm). Some of Hubble's greatest discoveries include pinning down the age of the universe (13.8

verse is expanding (dark energy).

The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (CGRO) covered gamma ray wavelengths (less than 0.1 nm) and hard X-ray wavelengths (0.1-1 nm). Some of Compton's greatest accomplishments include the discovery of a new class of galaxies powered by supermassive black holes and the most per-

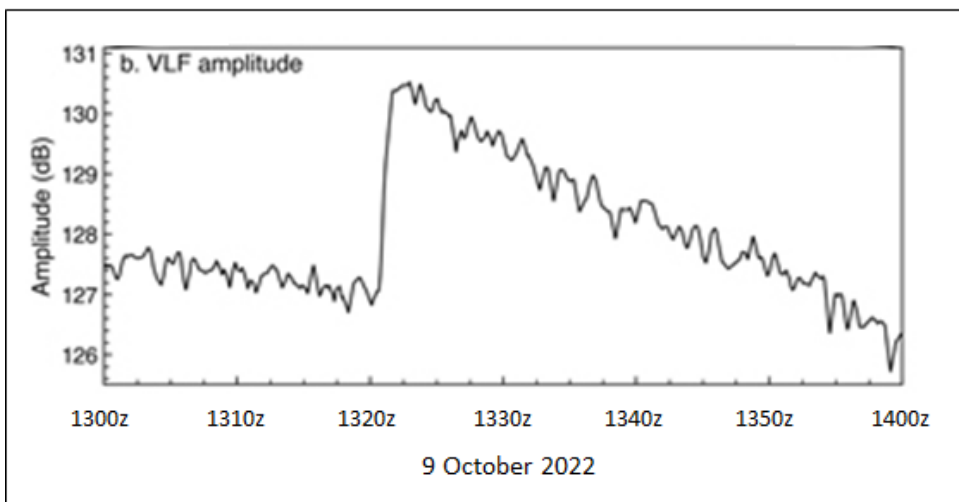


Figure 2

billion years), discovering two moons of Pluto (Nix and Hydra), detecting dark matter by taking a picture of light bent by the gravitational lens of nearby dark matter and helping determine the rate at which the uni-

suasive evidence to date that gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are the most distant and powerful explosions in the universe. An example of the latter is the GRB that occurred at 1320 UTC on October 9, 2022. It originated in the Sagitta constellation (2.4 billion light-years from Earth) and it was so powerful that it produced a signature in the D region of our ionosphere on a VLF radio transmission at 23.4 KHz. See Figure 2 for this data. For the record, Compton has been replaced with the Swift Gamma Ray Burst Explorer telescope.

The Chandra X-ray Observatory (CXO) covers soft X-ray wavelengths (1-10 nm). Some

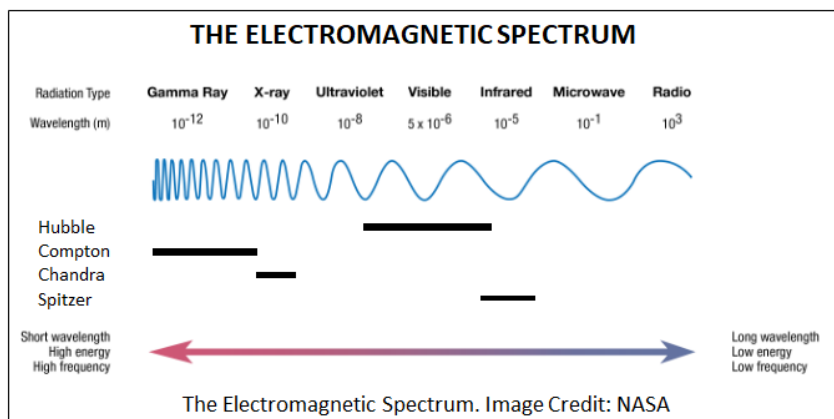


Figure 1



Table I

	primary wavelengths	launched	still in service?	replacement
Hubble	visible light	1990	yes	-----
Compton	gamma rays	1991	no - 2000	Swift
Chandra	X-rays	1999	yes	-----
Spitzer	infrared	2003	no - 2020	JWST

of Chandra's greatest accomplishments include watching galaxies collide and glimpsing a supernova turning itself inside out after an explosion.

The Spitzer Space Telescope (SST) covered infrared wavelengths (780 nm – 1 mm). Some of Spitzer's greatest accomplishments include discovering a giant ring of Saturn, revealing a system of seven Earth-size

planets around a star 40 light-years away and studying the most distant known galaxies. For the record, Spitzer has been replaced with the James Webb Space Telescope.

We've learned much about the universe from these four telescopes, but there's still a lot more to learn. With Hubble (visible light) and Chandra (X-rays) getting old, we'll eventually need

replacements for them. The Astro 2020 astronomy and astrophysics survey put forth a strategy for a new generation of Great Observatories. First in the list is an IR/Optical/UV mission to replace Hubble. Second is an X-ray mission to replace Chandra and third is a far-infrared mission. Hopefully these will come to fruition to continue our research into our universe.





## March 2023

It was another unusually warm winter day on the 5th of March for the running of the FWRC's second Fox Hunt of the 2023 season. Three teams gathered at the start location near the center of Allen County, Indiana and were ready to start the hunt. The teams consisted of the Burke/Pliett team of K9OMA, KA9YYI, WB9RUS, and WB9SSE. A second team was the duo of Chris, W9TSB, and Jim, KD9DPA. Rounding out the teams were Alex, his girl friend Haley, Linda, W9LAN, and Steve, W9SAN.

Somewhere in Allen County was the Fox team of Charles, KC9MUT, and his friend, Angie. At 1:30pm sharp, the hunt began!

The high power Fox signal was good and strong. Chris had trouble hearing it, but the Nardin team pointed them in the right direction, which in this case was toward downtown Fort Wayne. The Nardin team headed west on Washington Blvd while the Burke/Pliett team went up to Lake Ave to turn west.

They headed toward Lakeside Park. The Pliett/Burke team suffered a delay in their hunting when Al managed to drive Jim's van beneath a tree while they were puttering around in Lakeside Park thus entangling their roof mounted Cubical Quad foxhunting antenna in the tree's branches and tearing it up.

Jim was able to perform a field re-

pair of the Quad with the liberal application of electrical tape to the array elements. Despite this hiccup Jim and Annie allowed Al to continue piloting the van after the repair was completed. (The antenna gave up the ghost just as the Pliett/Burke team localized the fox

hide location). Someone claims they heard Jim mutter "It's like Roseanne Roseannadanna used to say....It's always something". Meanwhile on Washington Blvd, the Nardin team was hearing someone honking their horn at them.

This was not unusual, as we frequently had people shout at us "How's your TV reception?" when they see the yagi on the roof. But this time we realized that it was former Fox Hunters Kim and Jim, KB9DOS & KB9DOT heading to a birthday party. As we drove further west in the city we realized that we had overshot the Fox. So we drove up to Fourth Ave near Science Central and got another bearing.

This time we realized again that we had gone too far north! But the Fox was so strong that our attenuator was out of juice; we just couldn't get a bearing, so we used our tape measure yagi with offset attenuator to point out the way. It seemed to be on the south side of nearby Headwaters Park. Driving south on Clinton Street the first thing we noticed was all the construction at Superior Street and the area around the Gas House and Club Soda! Holy moly! After finding the way into Barr Street north, we saw the Chris and Jim team in Hall's parking lot. They had localized the fox before us, but didn't see Charles' truck. We yelled at them and pointed out the fox's liar.

Once the high power fox was found, the next task was to find the microfox, which had an unusually weak signal. We carefully triangulated the signal down to about 3 feet of metal fencing that defined the southern edge of the Headwaters Park Pavilion. Linda looked at the fence and said "is that a hollow baron the lower edge of the fence??". Alex immediately stuck his hand up into the underside of the fence and found the microfox. So the Alex-Haley-Linda-Steve team were first to find and will be the foxes in April. Chris and Jim were next.

About this time, we noticed a black sedan with a young women sitting in it next to where the fox was hidden. She asked if she needed to move her car and we said no. She didn't seem happy. Then a car driven by a young man showed up next to her. She got a bag out of her trunk and gave it to the man and they both left looking very somber. Alex knew right away that this was a break-up done in a public space! Springtime might be the season for love, but sometimes it goes the other way!

Very shortly afterward, the Burke-Pliett team showed up with a 5 element quad on their roof that looked like a Chinese balloon that the USAF had taken out! It took them several minutes but they too found the microfox.

73,

*Steve, W9SAN*





**HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
THE MARCH 2023  
FOXHUNT**

FOXHUNTER	MARCH 2023 SCORE	YEAR-TO-DATE SCORE
WB9SSE	1	4
WB9RUS	1	4
K9OMA	1	1
KA9YYI	1	1
KC9MUT	1	6
ANGIE	1	5
W9SAN	3	4
W9LAN	3	4
ALEX	4	5
HALEY	3	3
W9TSB	2	4
KD9NPL	2	4
KC9GAS	0	1
KD9DPA	0	1



**Foxhunt Dates  
for 2023**

4/2
5/7
6/4
7/9
8/6
9/17
10/8
11/5
Join in on the fun!





## Clublog Most Wanted and Highly Wanted DXCC's

April is here, and with April comes a new edition of the HamNews and another Tuning Up column! Unfortunately, last month there was no Tuning Up due to your author having a second experience with Covid. Fortunately, that is now all (for the most part) past, and the AC9EZ ham station is back in action! This month, with the ongoing CY0S dxpedition to Sable Island, I thought it would be fun to look at the Clublog DXCC most wanted list for the month of March 2023, and see how Sable Island stacks up against all 340 current DXCC entities.

### Clublog's "Most Wanted" DXCC List

It should be noted that the website "Clublog" offers an online logging feature, where stations can upload their logs electronically. Using the Clublog website's logging features, amateurs can view all of their contacts and the details of those contacts. One unique feature of Clublog is the analysis tools they provide, which allow radio amateurs to keep close tabs on their dxcc contacts (such as how many dxcc's they have worked, what modes/bands were those dxcc's worked, etc.)

With literally thousands of logs uploaded to Clublog, the Clublog website is able to use the information contained within these electronic logs to track how many contacts are being made with every one of the 340 dxcc entities. Not only that, Clublog has been able to create and maintain a database, whereby each dxcc is ranked based on the number of con-

tacts Clublog users have made with a particular entity. As an example, if 100% of Clublog users have recorded in their logs working the United States, then Clublog's database ranks the United States as a very common dxcc entity. However, if only 1% of Clublog users have recorded working the United States, then the Clublog database would list the United States as a very rare dxcc entity, with many radio amateurs (at least radio amateurs who use Clublog) as needing to work the United States for dxcc credit.

All 340 dxcc entities are listed on Clublog, and are ranked from 1-340, with #1 being the "most rare" or "most wanted" and #340 being the "least rare" or "least wanted." Clublog mentions on their website that they update this DXCC list every month, so the status of a particular DXCC entity in terms of the "Most Wanted" list can and does change, as contacts from Clublog users are uploaded to the Clublog database.

### How does Sable Island stack up?

Sable Island is actually fairly rare, at least according to the March edition of the "Most Wanted" list, sitting in #49th place out of 340 entities. This places Sable Island within sight of several other highly wanted and rare entities, including Yemen (46th place), the South Orkney Islands (47th place), and Navassa Island (42nd place.) In fact, countries such as Somalia (58th place) and Burundi (64th place) are less "rare" than Sable Island? Why is this the case?

Probably the biggest reason that Sable Island is so highly wanted stems from both its remote status (approximately 180 miles southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia), and from its status as a Canadian National Park Reserve. The fact that this island is so remote means that transportation is going to be irregular to the island, and as such, probably expensive.

However, the biggest obstacle (in your author's opinion) for amateur radio activators is that this island is a National Park Reserve. This means that conservation and/or preservation policies are going to be in place on Sable Island to protect the wildlife and ecology of its habitats. Government officials who oversee and enforce these policies are, naturally, going to be very cautious when it comes to giving permission for teams of amateurs to enter the reserve and set up stations which can cover fairly large areas in terms of square footage. In fact, according to the Canadian government's "parks" webpage, no one may even visit Sable Island unless they have received permission from "Parks Canada," and even then visitors can only visit Sable Island during the months of January, February, and June through October. This means that visitors (and amateur activators) only have roughly a 7-month window, or just over half a year to visit the island, provided they are granted permission and can afford the means of transportation to visit the island.

For all of the above reasons, it becomes a little more understandable why Sable Island is so rare and desired on the Clublog's "Most Wanted" list. However, if one is expecting Sable Island to remain at 49th place, think again! The CY0S dxpedition has been knocking out contacts at a tremendous rate, with DX-World.net reporting that the team had made over 80 thousand contacts as of March 30th, 2023..

Were you able to catch CY0S on the air last month?

*73 de Jim AC9EZ*

## DX Commander Vertical for DX – Gary, NJ9M

After my dad, Howard, K1SCM (1918-2013) became a SK at the end of March 2013 and Mom (1920-2013) passed away 90 days later I didn't have a lot of time for amateur radio. I was busy cleaning out their house in North Haven, CT for the next 18+ months. I donated my dad's radio gear to the W1AW museum in Newington, CT. I also put a brick on the Diamond Terrace honoring my dad. I then had the exterior of our house here in Fort Wayne remodeled and took down the two dipoles I had used to make several thousand phone, RTTY and PSK31 contacts from 2005-2014. I was too busy with other projects. I did manage to join Carl, K9LA and others for a couple of contests at his QTH. Then came 2022 and my youngest son, Erik and his wife Tracy started on a building project in Southwest Allen County. The house is still under construction and has had several delays due to the economy and other issues. The four acres of former farmland got me to thinking about amateur radio again. I live on the North side of Fort Wayne in the Hearthstone Addition. I have no trees in my small backyard. When I had my two dipoles up, they were hung from under the eaves on the back of the house. Even with

such a compromised antenna system I was able to make the contacts needed to earn a WAS on 20 and 40 meters. I also earned an ARRL DXCC - Mixed with that antenna system. In addition, I earned the 500-contact endorsement on the 3905 Century Club on 20 meters SSB and 100 contact certificate on 75 meters.

With the delays on the kid's construction project, I was still anxious to get back on the air. I started watching various videos on amateur radio and antennas on YouTube. I renewed my license in 2014 and kept my ARRL subscription current, renewing it every three years. I had a digital subscription to QST but rarely took the time to read it. In September, I pulled out my Kenwood TS-480SAT that my parents had bought me in 2007 when I earned my Extra class ticket. Sure enough, it was still fully functional. I started to look at possible antenna systems. I toyed around with the possibility of getting a Cirro-Mazzoni Baby Loop (DX Engineering \$2,099.99) for the backyard. The two RF engineers that have been my Elmer's for many years (Carl K9LA and Jim KR9U) persuaded me to try something different. Jim, KR9U suggested I look at the SteppIR Big IR vertical. I started to think about vertical antennas as a possibility. I knew that a vertical has a low takeoff angle for long distance DX based on how the radio waves hit the F2 layer. I re-

searched CushCraft, Butternut, Hy Gain, Zero Five and DX Engineering verticals. Made several Excel spreadsheets listing what I wanted for components. I estimated to do what I really wanted was going cost about \$1,000 to \$1,200. I would also want to cement a sturdy piece of pipe in the ground to support the vertical.

One afternoon last October I was watching a YouTube video and happened across a ham from the UK (Mike, M0MSN) and he mentioned the DX Commander antenna. That led me to another UK amateur radio operator. That ham was "Lord" Callum McCormick, M0MCX from the Midlands in Honiley, Kenilworth CV8 1NP England. At first, I thought who is this character with the Mohawk haircut. This guy is an amateur radio operator. In the back of his studio was a drum set and guitars hanging on the walls. Looks like some middle-aged British Rocker that stumbled into the hobby much like Joe Walsh, WB6ACU in his teens. Don't let the Mohawk fool you. Callum or as friends call him Cal or Lord Callum knows the physics and design of antennas. He uses MMANA-GAL.pro for antenna modeling. MMANA-GAL was written by Makoto Mori, JE3HHT, Alexandr Schewelew, DL1PBD and Igor Gontcharenko, DL2KQ. Makoto Mori, JE3HHT is the author of the MMTTY RTTY software.

I then found other videos of other hams here in the USA that had been using the DX Commander antennas. The DX Commander is a vertical that uses wire elements attached to a circular plate at the base of the antenna for various frequencies. A second plate is used to hold an SO-239 and attach radials. There are no traps or baluns used with this antenna. The mast is a collapsible fiberglass multi-section pole. The DX Commander is available in a variety of lengths and number of elements. When built correctly it does not need a tuner. The Rapide is a 7 meter pole and covers 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. It is 199 BPD (\$239 USD plus shipping). The antenna I chose is the DX Commander Classic plus 80 meters. The Classic is 9 meters tall (approximately 30 feet). It covers 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. Currently that antenna is 269 BPD (\$322 USD plus shipping). The tallest model DX Commander is the Nebula which consists of an 18-meter pole (yes that is 59 FEET tall). This kit is for the more experienced user when it comes to erecting this antenna. You need to consider the amount of space you need. To look at all of the antennas and materials Callum has go to: <https://dxcommander.com>

As I said I decided to purchase the DX Commander Classic plus 80 meters. I bought extra wire and with shipping I spent about

\$400.

Putting the antennas together does take some time to do it right and you will need the following items if you want everything to work as designed.

- Steel tape measure (25 feet long or longer)
- 100 watt soldering iron
- Solder
- Wire Cutter / Stripper
- 3M Temflex or 88 vinyl Electrician's Tape
- Zip ties (11 inch works fine)
- Three long tent stakes (Amazon – MightyPhine Screw in Ground Anchors – 12 inches long)
- Antenna Analyzer (I used a Rig Expert 55 Zoom (USB))
- Heat gun (optional) or hair dryer
- Plastic Number Beads (optional) (Etsy – square 5mm number beads)

The latest iteration of the build instructions on the DX Commander website was released February 2023. The instructions cover all DX Commander antenna models. I will not attempt to explain building the antenna since Callum's latest 34-page document on the DX Commander website goes into full construction details with pictures and detailed explanations. Take your time and pay careful attention to measuring the elements. When I constructed my Commander I used electricians tape

so I could make adjustments until I had the best SWR, then I used the glue lined heat shrink tubing.

I spent the better part of a week measuring each antenna wire element and used the number beads for each band on the wires. For seven attachment points on the radial plate I used four 10 foot lengths of wire attached to the provided fork connectors, soldered and heat shrink tubing to keep out moisture. This gave me 28 radials under the antenna.

I erected the antenna on November 21, 2022. This was easy and can be done by one person. The antenna with all of the elements installed weighs less than five pounds. I have three ropes that are attached to the anchors 4 feet from the antenna base 120 degrees apart. I have not had to take antenna down for any of the violent wind storms we have had. The cross section of the mast is so small it handles high winds no problem.

How well does the antenna perform? As Cycle 25 is slowly rising I have been able to make some great DX contacts on the high bands I never had with my previous antennas. I have access to 75/80 with SWR less than 4:1 from 3.5 to 3.8 MHz. I can force the tuner in my IC-7300 to take it all the way to 4.0 MHz.



During the ARRL International DX Phone Contest I worked JT1CO (Mongolia) on 15 meters, JH1KRC (Japan) on 15 meters and ZM4T (New Zealand) on 10 meters (confirmed on LoTW). On FT8 on 11 March I QSO'ed with the C5C DXpedition (The Gambia) on 30 meters. Last month I confirmed D2UY (Angola (Africa)) on 12 meters FT8 and 7Q7EMH (Malawi) on 30 meters FT8 on LOTW.

**Gary Stebbins, NJ9M**

(Previous Call – KC9GGV) My full bio is on QRZ. I obtained my no-code Technician license in June 2004. Completed element 1 (Morse Code) in January 2005 and upgraded from General to Amateur Extra later that year. I am a Volunteer Examiner with the W5YI Team from Columbia City, IN. I have been a member of the FWRC since 2005 and have been a member of the Fort Wayne DX Association since October 2006. I was granted the Vanity call NJ9M on February 18, 2023. I currently have 146 entities confirmed on LOTW. In the past I completed Worked All States (WAS) on two bands (20 & 40). I have worked 29 out of 40 zones for the ARRL Worked All Zones (WAZ). My current transceiver is an Icom IC-7300 with a TS-480SAT as a backup. My contesting software is N1MM Logger Plus and I also run Dave Bernstein's (AA6YQ) DX Lab Suite. I am a Life Member of the ARRL. My wife Maria and I

have lived in Fort Wayne since 1997. I am a retired U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel. I retired from Raytheon in 2013. My wife and I have four children, 12 grandchildren and two great grandsons. In February we celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary.





Below are the tuning plots of my completed antenna on November 28, 2022. My antenna analyzer is a RigExpert AA-55 Zoom (USB) with the RigExpert AntScope2 v.1.2.5 software.



Some time this spring I will re-tune the 75/80 meter element to cover the entire band better. For now it works great in the CW and FT8 portions of the band.

**Local**

**SK CC**  
Straight Key Century Club

**News**

**March 2023**

Operating Activities during the month include the following.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) March. 11 & 12. The following operators participated. QSO count is shown.

March's theme for the WES was "Bugs and Cooties" where members got 5 bonus points for contacting stations that were using a bug or side swiper.

AC9XS: 170

WA9BBN: 147

N9SE: 70

KA9GKE: 68

W9LW: 33

W9HT: 30

W9GOO: 28

W9SA: 27

K9FMX: 26

W9WN: 20

For the Two Hour Straight Key Spernt (SKS) on Tuesday evening, March. 21, 8-10 PM local. The following operators participated. QSO count is shown.

NJ0U: 42

WA9BBN: 26

AC9XS: 24

W9HT: 21

K9FMX: 12

W9GOO: 11

KA9GKE: 9

73,

*Ed, WA9BBN*

**RADIO  
SPORT  
for April**

2023

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**1-2  
APRIL**

**LA/MS/MO  
QSO Parties**

**8-9  
APRIL**

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**15-16  
APRIL**

**Michigan  
QSO Party**

**23  
APRIL**

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**North American SSB  
Sprint Contest**

**23  
APRIL**

This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [contestcalendar.com](http://contestcalendar.com) and is gratefully acknowledged. It is deemed accurate as of the time of publication.

Check back next month for May's classified listings! Contact the editor to include your items.

Area Nets (updated as of 4/1/23)					
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	3.912	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net
6:00 PM	3.910	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	--	--	--
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
9:00 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	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)

1. All times local time. **Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.**
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 & 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.
3. Reflector REF024B.
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.
5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

Area Repeaters (updated as of 4/1/23)							
Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign
				442.6375	+5 MHz	MDR CC1	N9MTF
145.330	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9FEZ	442.99375	+5 MHz	D-Star W9TE-B	W9TE
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.100	+5 MHz	DMR CC1	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	P25 NAC # 293	K9MMQ
146.760	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.250	+5 MHz	141.3	W9AVW
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
		FM / C4FM					
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ				

**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 & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

**Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:**

Regular membership	\$25.00 / year
Family membership <sup>1</sup>	\$35.00 / year
Student membership <sup>2</sup>	\$5.00 / year
Associate 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

- 1: Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.
- 2: K-12 or full time student.
- 3: 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 & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

**ACARTS dues:**

Regular membership	\$12.00 / year
Additional family members <sup>1</sup>	\$6.00 / year
Student membership <sup>2</sup>	\$6.00 / year
Associate 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

- 1: Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.
- 2: K-12 or full time student.
- 3: Unlicensed member.



# DAYTON 2023 OR BUST!

