

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

April 2024
Volume 25
Issue 4



Could it really be that time of year again, Penguin?

Have you heard about the Allen County FM Simplex Contest?

Your paragraph text

Yes, my quizzical colleagues. Be sure to tune in on April 20th to join the fun!

APRIL 2024

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Along with local SKCC news, updated radiosport events, local repeater and net information, new items for sale, and much more!



Holy cow, Batman! This might be the longest edition of the Allen County HamNews yet! As you will find this month, there is no shortage of ham radio activities in the local area. In no particular order, some of these activities include...

There is a local hamfest in St. Mary's, OH on Saturday morning, April 6th. On the following day—Sunday, April 7th—is the next foxhunt here in Fort Wayne. Steve, W9SAN includes some new foxhunt additions to this upcoming hunt in the Foxhunt Chronicles.

Then, another big attraction follows the next day, Monday, April 8th: the Eclipse QSO Party on the same day of the total solar eclipse. Lest you detect an oncoming case of déjà vu, Carl, K9LA tells us about the last Eclipse QSO Party from 2017 in this month's column. Additional information for this month's QSO party can be found via the link provided in this edition of HamNews too.

Members of the Gotham Underworld on the cover announce the 2024 Allen County FM Simplex Contest that will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 20th. Complete details are found in this edition.

Tonight Ken, N8KR reminded me about the tornados that we had in the New Haven area about a year ago. Jay, W9LW updates us about another tornado that impacted our area last month in the Skywarn columns. This is a great reminder to keep your 2m radio tuned to the Skywarn net during severe watches and warnings.

Additional features in this edition of HamNews include LRBN updates, spring antenna projects with Jim, AC9EZ, and a few new classified

listings.

Please note that you can still find the FWRC and ACARTS meeting notes in HamNews, but these are included in the second half of the newsletter based on the length of these items.

Now that spring seems to be here, I might work on a few antenna projects. These might include a compact triband yagi for HF (compact enough not to annoy my neighbors, but big enough to move the s-meter over at N8KR's station across the neighborhood) and some sort of VHF/UHF satellite array.

It's about to send this edition off to the printer, so I hope that you have a great month—and that April Fool's Day was benign for you this year.

73,

Josh W9HT/VE9FWA

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.

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drjoshlong (at) gmail.com

SOLAR ECLIPSE

QSO
Party

4/8/24

See <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>
for more information.



We had another great month on the LRBN (Little Red Barn Net), which meets on 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.

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 3/14/2023 at the Rack Red Lobster and 3/28/2023 at Casa on Stellhorn Rd. It is always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

The next dates would be 4/11/2023, 4/25/2023, and 5/9/2023 at 11:30am on each date.

If you want to be on the LRBN email list, let me know at 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, Wednesday KD9HAV Norm, Thursday W9GT Jack, and Friday WB9TYJ Don.

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

Also we have at lrbn@groups.io | Home, but you will need to sign up. This is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help .

Also, our net controls use Netlogger. You may download the program at the Download Center (netlogger.org). Also, for smartphones, 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

D O N ' T B E L E F T I N T H E D A R K
A M A T E U R R A D I O S O C I A L H O U R (S)
S P O N S O R E D B Y R A R A (K 8 Q Y L)
R E S E R V O I R A M A T E U R
R A D I O A S S O C I A T I O N
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BUY, SELL OR TRADE AMATEUR RADIO GEAR
INDOOR TABLES \$10 TRUNK SALES \$10
ENTRANCE FEE - DONATION
Coffee and Donuts Available

SATURDAY, APRIL 6th, 2024 FROM 8:00 am – NOON

NOBLE COMMUNITY CENTER
16493 RIVER RD
St. MARYS, OH 45885

Contact us – rich_spencer@live.com or awvogel@bright.net

Nothing is to be left behind!
COME AND SIT FOR A SPELL AND CATCH UP ON HAM RADIO
BRING A STORY OR TWO



Skywarn net has active March

By Jay Farlow, W9LW

A statewide exercise and two periods of severe weather created activity for the Allen County Skywarn Net in March 2024.

Statewide tornado warning test

As part of Indiana Severe Weather Awareness Week, National Weather Service (NWS) offices transmitted a test tornado warning for the entire state on March 12. The Allen County Skywarn Net practiced net operations on the ACARTS 146.88 MHz Fort Wayne repeater in conjunction with that test.

Steve Clower, AC9XS served as net control station operator, putting the net in “standby mode” at 10 a.m. The net typically uses standby mode during a severe thunderstorm watch or a tornado watch. It makes a liaison station available to relay early storm spotter reports to the NWS but keeps the repeater available for normal conversations while Skywarn activity is low.

At 10:18 a.m., after NWS sent the test tornado warning, Steve put the net in “directed net mode.” The net’s procedures call for this to happen any time NWS issues a tornado warning that includes any part of Allen

County, Indiana. During directed net mode, stations are asked to remain off the net frequency unless they witness a weather phenomenon that meets NWS Skywarn reporting criteria. Net control stations may also implement directed net mode any time the current or expected volume of spotter reports requires dedicating the frequency to reports only.

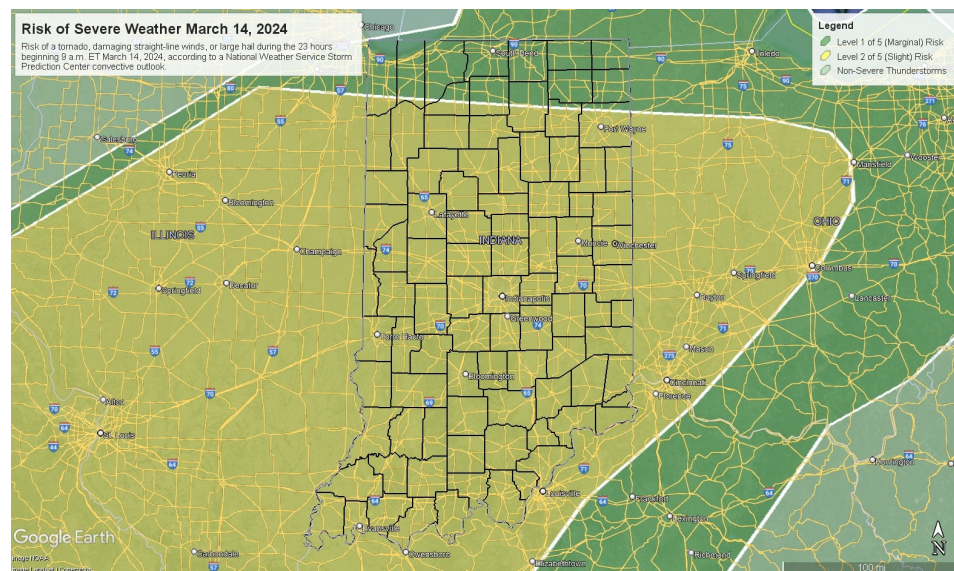
During the directed net, Steve invited stations to practice net operations by transmitting simulated storm spotter reports. The net received such reports, including simulated reports of hail, a wall cloud, funnel clouds, wind damage and a tornado, from 14 stations: KB9OZE, KB9QG, KB9WWM, KB9YTT, KC9SJP, KD9KMK, KD9NYZ, KD9ZFP, KD9ZGB, KE9IWX, W9GGA, W9SA, W9SAN and WB9TYJ. During standby mode, an additional four stations checked in without making simulated re-

ports: K9SKS, KB9DOT, KD9ZDW and N9WNH.

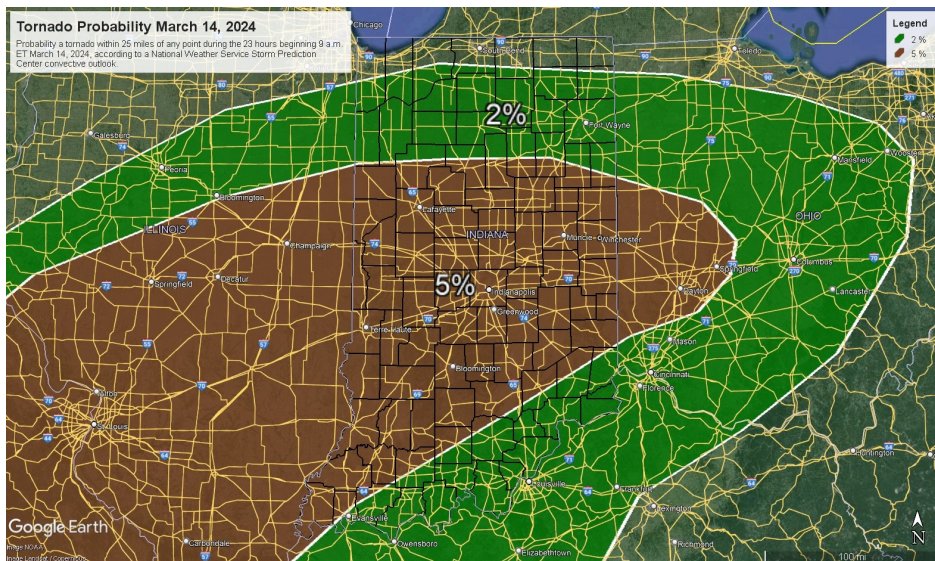
“Nearly everyone followed instructions to the letter (including a couple of very new amateurs),” Steve wrote when submitting a net report to the net manager. He closed the net at 10:35 a.m.

Actual severe weather arrives

While severe weather awareness week was still underway, an actual severe weather event arrived March 14. The day began with the NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) issuing a convective outlook that placed all of Allen County in a level 2 of 5 (“slight”) risk of severe weather. All modes of severe weather were possible, SPC meteorologists wrote, including tornados, damaging straight-line winds and large hail. Allen County had a 2% probability of a tornado within 25 miles of any point. The outlook indicated that the risk was even higher in central Indiana and adjacent Ohio.



Map showing risks of severe weather according to the convective outlook that the Storm Prediction Center issued at 9 a.m. ET March 14, 2024. The area shaded in yellow had a level 2 of 5 (slight) risk of severe weather.



Map showing probabilities of a tornado within 25 miles of any point according to the convective outlook that the Storm Prediction Center issued at 9 a.m. ET March 14, 2024. The area shaded in brown, including Winchester, had the highest probability, 5%.

At 10:57 a.m. SPC issued severe thunderstorm watch number 41. It included Allen County and was to be in effect until 4 p.m. At 11:17 a.m., Chad Beach, W9GGA put the Allen County Skywarn Net in standby mode. The net received two reports during this period: a report of hail from KD9ISV and a report of power out and possible fire due to a lightning strike from KA9IPA. Other stations that checked in included: AC9XS, KB9UTO, KB9WWM, KC9CGG, KD9NYY, KD9NYZ, KD9ZFP, KE9IWX, N9WNH, W9RGM and WB9TYJ.

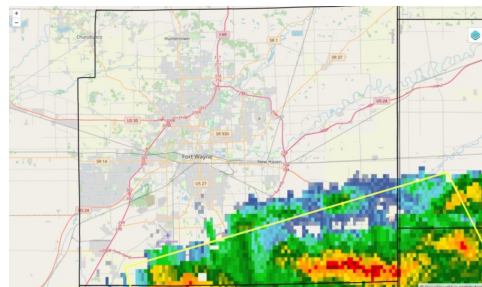
At 1:30 p.m., when storms had left Allen County, Chad discontinued standby mode operations. NWS removed Allen County from the severe thunderstorm watch at 1:47 p.m.

At 5:13 p.m. the same day, SPC issued tornado watch number 44, which also included Allen

County. At 5:40 p.m., the Northern Indiana NWS office issued a severe thunderstorm warning for southeastern Allen County. Jim Stephens, KD9NYZ placed the net in standby mode at 6 p.m. Four minutes later, KE9IWX reported one-inch hail in Adams County. The severe thunderstorm warning expired at 6:15 p.m. By 6:25 p.m., when it was clear that any additional storms from this round of severe weather would remain south of Allen County, Jim ended net operations. NWS removed Allen County from the tornado watch at 7:23 p.m. In addition to KE9IWX, the following stations checked in during this operation: AC9XS, KA9IPA, KD9QHI and KD9ZFP.

Tornados struck, however, to the south of Allen County. One did damage rated EF-0 on the enhanced Fujitsu scale in extreme southeastern Adams County, near the Ohio line, at

about 6:40 p.m. Another tornado touched down at 7:37 p.m. near the eastern Delaware County town of Selma. Later, an additional tornado did EF-3 damage in the city of Winchester in Randolph County before moving into Ohio. That tornado destroyed a Taco Bell restaurant and a church and injured 38 people, according to the Indianapolis NWS office. At about 7:50 p.m., a different tornado did EF-3 damage in Lakeville, Ohio, on the shore of Indian Lake, northwest of Columbus. That storm killed three people.



Map showing the part of Allen County (enclosed within the yellow polygon) that was included in the severe thunderstorm warning that NWS issued at 5:40 p.m. ET March 14, 2024



Remains of Winchester's Taco Bell restaurant after the March 14, 2024 tornado (NWS photo)

Access to DMR weather channel expands

The number of Indiana digital mobile radio (DMR) mode repeaters that support the

Indiana Weather Operations talk group has increased. DMR is a digital voice mode with some similarities to D-STAR and Yaesu Fusion. DMR radios and repeaters use virtual channels known as talk groups. Talk group number 31183 on the Brandmeister DMR network, known as the Indiana Weather Operations talk group, was created to facilitate statewide situational awareness during severe weather events. In March, four Indiana DMR repeaters added support for the Indiana Weather Operations talk group. All the repeaters listed below use color code 1 and have the Indiana Weather Operations talk group set as static on time slot 1:

Location	Call Sign	Frequency
Fort Wayne	K9MMQ	443.100 MHz
LaGrange	NT9M	443.675 MHz
Montpelier	N9CZV	441.475 MHz
Muncie	N9CZV	441.300 MHz

The talk group was already available on every repeater and DMR hotspot that connects directly to Brandmeister servers, including the N9MTF repeaters in Fort Wayne and Columbia City.

Because no National Weather Service offices monitor the Indiana Weather Operations talk group, DMR-equipped storm spotters should first send reports to their NWS offices via normal channels and then transmit them on the Indiana Weather Operations DMR talk group for the information of anyone monitoring. It is unlikely that a net will operate on the talk group, so stations should simply announce their reports in "QST" fashion. Reports from Allen County are valuable because some Ohio stations monitor the talk group.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

5/4/24

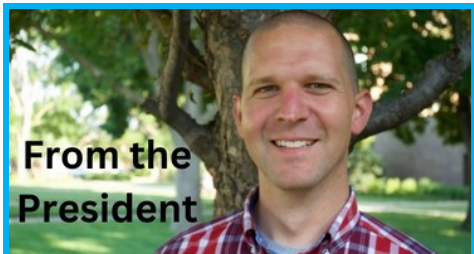
INDIANA
QSO
PARTY

More information will
follow in the next
edition of the
Allen County
HamNews!

Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN



From the President

Welcome to April. We are now into spring, though the weather hasn't received the memo. Once the weather improves, you will see more Parks on the Air activity from the colder regions. It is also an opportunity to test your portable setup prior to Field Day. Jump on the air and work some stations. It will be good practice for the upcoming Indiana QSO Party in May.

Last month, Karl, K9LA, gave a talk over the ARRL structure and the events at the board of directors meeting. As a member, you have a voice in how the ARRL functions. Don't be shy in emailing your director, vice-director, or section manager.

On April 12, Joe Moell, K0OV, will be giving a Zoom presentation on ARDF, a form of on-foot fox hunting. Joe runs the website Homing In (www.homingin.com), which specializes in fox hunting. He has authored

the book "Transmitter Hunting: Radio Direction Finding Simplified." It is a great book that offers a range of knowledge on fox hunting.

This leads into the new fox hunt format. The teams will now work together to find the fox, similar to if the team was working to find an actual rogue transmission. This will open the format up to those new to fox hunting. If you have time, try to participate. It is always a fun time.

Finally, keep the Indiana QSO Party, the Dayton Hamvention, and Field Day on your calendar. These are the major upcoming club events. We will also have the general meeting on April 12.

Let us know what you think. You can email me at [kd9nrt\(at\) gmail.com](mailto:kd9nrt@gmail.com). While I can't answer every email, I do read them all, and your feedback is essential in club operation.

73,

Adam, KD9NRT

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State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



**From the
ACARTS
President**

ACARTS March General Meeting Program

This past month at the ACARTS General Meeting Kevin Hecksher W9KMF and myself covered the inner workings of Ham Club Online that ACARTS and the Whitley County ARC is using respectively as our Club Management System. We also briefly covered the acarts@groups.io email reflector that shares announcements of club events, information, Hamfests and ARRL news etc. All members should login to <https://hamclubonline.com> and check their information, update their skills etc. Members should also join the acarts@groups.io so they converse with other members in an open forum or check for announcements and information.

ACARTS April General Meeting Program

We will be reviewing the work of the 501 (c) (3), By-Laws, Constitution and Policies Committee and will be asking for your input.

ACARTS Facebook Page

We are still planning on rolling out or own Facebook page soon to notify members and other ama-

teurs radio operators of our events etc.

ACARTS Social Hour Before or After the Meeting?

Don't forget the "After the Meeting Meeting" when we are in the mood. So far since we have had more "Before the Meeting Meeting" occurrences then after the meeting. Maybe we ought to consider moving the social/meet and eat event to before the meeting? Let me know your thoughts. We meet at Applebees 4510 N. Clinton St. (In the triangle between Clinton St, Parnell Ave, and Coliseum Blvd) this is just a stone's throw northwest of California Rd (Red Cross) All are welcome to join in. It gives us some additional social time.

Asset Inventory

We are still fine tuning some information in the club assets located on Ham Club Online, but it is most complete list we have seen in a long time. We do have some property stickers to install on a few pieces and a few larger pieces that are at a Board Member's home that we need to look at. All in all minus the receipt of any new equipment and the eventual disbursement of unneeded or no longer wanted equipment. We should be done with the present inventory in April.

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ACARTS – Fort Wayne Hamfest Review/Planning Committee

We had the ACARTS-Fort Wayne Hamfest 2023 Review/2024 Plans Committee on Tuesday March 5 on MS Teams. Emails were sent out to last years Hamfest Division Managers and a HCO Reminder went out to all ACARTS members. It was chaired by our Fundraising/Hamfest Chairman Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP. We wanted to have it sooner after the Hamfest but with the holidays and with the start up of new projects with a new 2024 Board we simply didn't have the time. ACARTS will be purchasing Square Pay Devices (Credit & Debit Cards Swipes) to be utilized at the hamfest.

Hamfest Table Manager Trainee & Hamfest Talk-In Manager Needed!

We are in need of two volunteers to train this year and eventually take over for the Hamfest Table Manager position held for many years by Howard Pletcher N9ADS. And someone to takeover as Hamfest Talk-In Manager. Please contact Fred KC9EZP or myself if you have questions and if you are possibly interested. These positions are extremely important!

ACARTS 501(c) (3) By-Laws, Constitution & Policy Committee

The 501 (c)(3),By-Laws, Constitution and Policy Committee will be meeting on Tuesday April 2nd at 7 PM on MS Teams. The original date was rescheduled. It will take sometime. This is tedious and to some a boring topic, but you have to remember we are a non-profit incorporated entity and this is something that has to be done every so often. We need your input and your quorum attendance at the general meetings in the near future to make any change.

ACARTS 146.880 W9INX Repeater
(Repeating the following topic for continued input and notification)

The 146.88 Repeater is presently carrier squelch (CSQ) on the input and transmitting a 141.3 PL tone on the output. It is our current intent to keep it as a analog only repeater. Any considered future changes are the addition of a selectable on/off PL of 141.3 on the input of 146.280 in case of interference issues with a control operator command. A voice announcement of the PL 141.3 tone will be added full-time whether the repeater is in CSQ or PL mode for a reminder to locals or to announce to new locals or passing through users. There is discussion of adding internet connectability for Echolink for SKYWARN and for other uses. And possibly adding very limited weather radio product notifications for Allen County, IN. for SKYWARN. This is all needs to be discussed yet between our board, membership and Allen County SKYWARN.

Please program all your radios for 141.3 PL tone now for all ACARTS Repeaters for future use!

I would encourage all to add at least the transmit PL of 141.3 on all your radios in case of future need. It hurts nothing to transmit a PL tone since our receiver is operating carrier squelch as of now. The 146.88 is currently and will always transmit a 141.3 PL tone on the output. It is not mandatory for you to enable decode of the 141.3 tone on the output. This is just a user convenience for noise, interference, DX etc. .

The 147.255(+) W9INX Repeater when it's put back into service will also be utilizing 141.3 PL tone on the input and output. The temporary 443.800(+) W9INX Repeater (Temporarily Low Power) is now utilizing FM Analog/Non-Networked Fusion in AMS (Automatic Mode Select) and requires a 141.3 PL tone on the input and is transmitting a 141.3 on the output. You will want to definitely add the 141.3 PL on the output

(443.800) to mute any digital traffic if you are using it in analog FM unless your radio is capable of AMS mode.

New Equipment

We are still in the process of ordering a new Kenwood NXR 1700 VHF Repeater along with a VHF Amplifier as well as a Kenwood NXR 1800 UHF Repeater and UHF Amplifier. Programming templates have been made up. The process includes transferring funds from one account to another to accomplish this.

ACARTS Northeast Indiana VHF/ UHF Simplex Contest April 20, 2024 7 PM-10PM

It has been a fun contest in the past and gives operators an idea of the capabilities of their stations for simplex operation in an emergency situation. Plan to join in for an evening of fun!

The format will be essentially the same as in previous years. Rules, log sheets and maps will be posted on the ACARTS website (<https://www.acarts.com/>) Ham Club Online (Files Section) <https://www.hamclubonline.com/> (ACARTS Members), ACARTS Groups.io acarts@groups.io

(ACARTS Members) as well as the Allen County Ham News April 2024 Edition.

73,

Dan N9WNH



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 20th, 2024, 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

1st 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, handwritten legible lists are just as acceptable.

Entry Deadline

All logs, either paper or electronic should be received by May 31, 2024.

Logs may be handed to Chris W9TSB, at club the May club meetings, OR

Send to: ACARTS FM Simplex Contest, PO Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851 OR email to: w9tsb(at)outlook.com



Park Type	Park Name	Park #
City Park	Bloomingtondale 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	Hurshtown 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

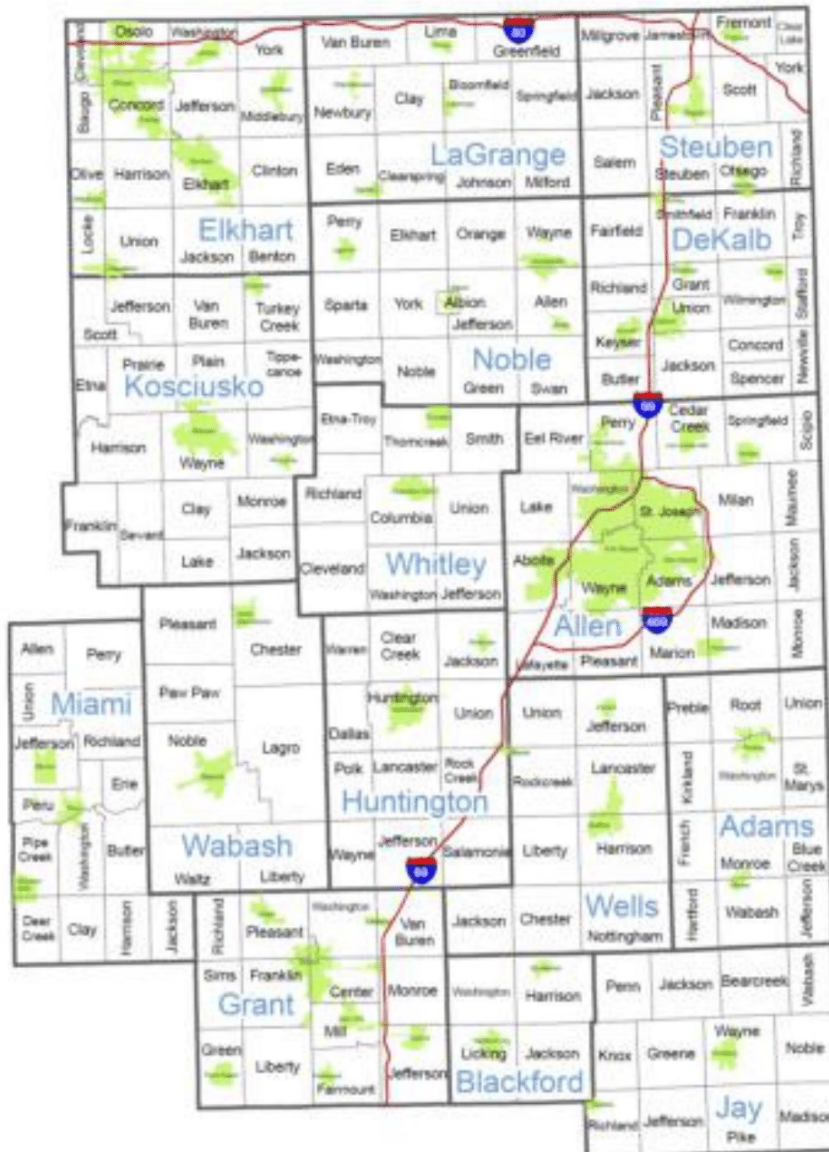


City Park	Orff Park	FW-41
City Park	Packard Park	FW-42
City Park	Psi Ote Park	FW-43
City Park	Rea Park	FW-44
City Park	Reservoir Park	FW-45
City Park	Rockhill Park	FW-46
City Park	Roosevelt Park	FW-47
City Park	Rudisill/Fairfield Park	FW-48
City Park	Salomon Homestead Park	FW-49
City Park	Shoaff Park	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



County Park/Nature Pre-serve	McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve	AC-12
County Park/Nature Pre-serve	Mengerson Nature Preserve	AC-13
County Park/Nature Pre-serve	Spring Lake Woods and Bog	AC-14
County Park/Nature Pre-serve	Dustin/Johnson/Whitehurst Nature Preserves	AC-15
County Park/Nature Pre-serve	Vandolah Nature Preserve	AC-16

Northeast Indiana Townships By County





*New
Date!*

The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

AUBURN HAMFEST

Saturday, July 20, 2024

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.

FOOD VENDOR
on the parking lot.

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

FREE Parking

Supervised by the DeKalb County ARES Team.



Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.

Order online now at www.w9ou.org

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

Contact: W9OU@ARRL.NET

Raffle Prizes:

1st- Yeasu FTM 500

2nd- Zumspot with MD UV380 DMR

3rd- N3FJP Software (Full Access)

4th- \$50 Gift Certificate, DX Engineering

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



Fun with the Sun

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

When you're reading this, the solar eclipse on Monday April 8 will be upon us. What are your plans for this event? Simply watch it (with protective eye-wear)? If you plan to watch it, let's hope we have clear skies.

Or perhaps you've signed up for the HamSCI SEQP (Solar Eclipse QSO Party) to take data. For those interested in the rules, visit <https://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>. Many stations will participate in this fun event.

If you want to take some measurements but don't want to make a major effort, there's something else you can do. We know that the D region of the ionosphere is the source of ionospheric absorption. We also know that ionospheric absorption is inversely proportional to the square of the frequency – which means the lower frequencies will be significantly affected by the eclipse with stations on the totality line or very near the totality line.

During the August 21, 2017 solar eclipse, Mike WB9NOO and I set up a receiving station in the parking lot at Most Precious Blood elementary school. This is where my wife Vicky AE9YL worked at the time as a

resource teacher. We took temperature data and signal strength data on AM broadcast stations in Chicago and on WWV at 5 MHz, 10 MHz and 15 MHz. See the FWDXA column in the September 2017 Allen County HamNews for more details on our 2017 efforts.

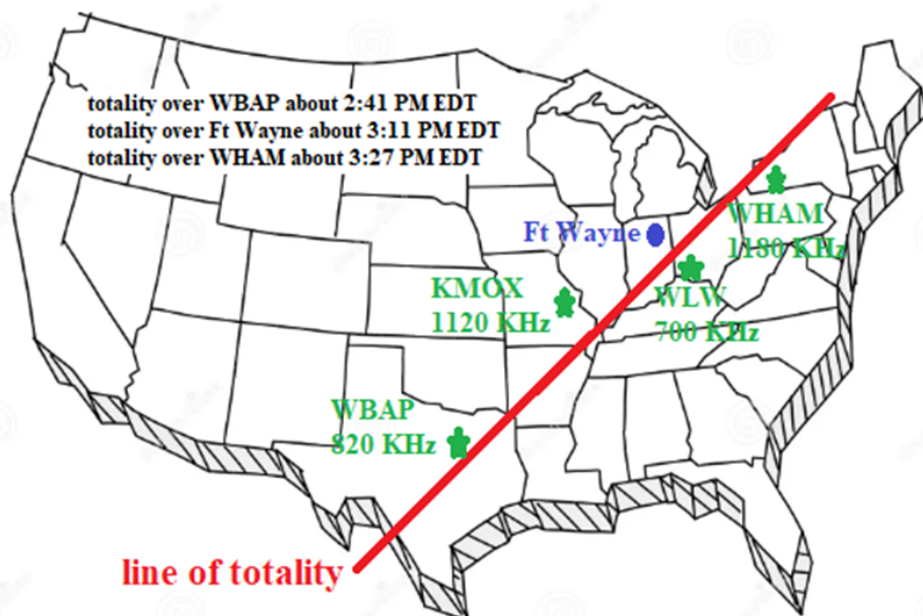
The accompanying image shows the track of totality (the thick red line) for the April 8, 2024 eclipse, along with some AM broadcast stations that are near the totality line. This image is derived from data from the article "Observe April's Eclipse with Your AM Radio" that appeared in the April 2024 issue of Sky & Telescope. The AM broadcast stations on this image are WBAP in Texas, KMOX in Missouri, WHAM in New York and WLW in Ohio. These stations run 50 kW during the day. A good question to ask is "how do I know if I'm listening to one of these stations instead of one of the other stations on the same frequency?"

That is a great question. Due to the power these four sta-

tions are running and the fact that the other 50 kW stations on these frequencies are much farther away, the four listed stations should be the only ones you hear (or may hear). If you'd like to see details of these stations and other stations, visit <http://mesamike.org/radio/amdb/amdb.mvc>.

One comment about WLW – this station is close enough to Ft Wayne such that the dominant mode is groundwave. If you monitor WLW, you may see a slight increase in signal strength when totality is between Ft Wayne and WLW, which would tell us that the skywave signal strength exceeds the groundwave signal strength. This may happen – or it may not.

If you do take measurements, please pass your data along to me. This may be a future column. And don't forget temperature data. Lastly, if you'd like to take data and watch the eclipse, the easiest thing to do may be to set up your receiver outside.





March 2024

On March 3rd, the Fort Wayne Radio Club Fox Hunters gathered for the first hunt of 2024. Two main teams arrived at the start point:

The foursome team of WB9SSE, K9OMA, WB9RUS, and KA9YYI in their minivan with homebrew quad antenna on the roof was there.

The other team was W9LAN and hubby W9SAN, in their minivan but joined for the first time by daughter Courtney Smith, and grandson Wyatt (3) skipping his nap for one of the first times. Courtney put the hunt on the web by live streaming it from start to finish. We had about 200 views of the hunt from locals, around the country, and some overseas!

New hunters KD9NYZ, Jim, and his grandson, Conner, 11 years old, showed up to follow along and see how and what is done. Also, Randy, N9REA, showed up to see the start and to donate a really nice HT to the club.

The club has been promoting a different mindset for Fox Hunting, since the 3 'main' teams have gotten so good at the game, few wanted to try and challenge them. So our goal this year is to make the hunts more of a fun, social, and learning event. Because of this, the start was delayed by 10 minutes to 1:40 pm, as we showed the newbies what our equipment was and how we used it. The Nardin team discovered that their hunting antenna and rig did not work, but this was traced to a forgotten coax connection. Problem quickly solved!

At 1:40, fox Charles, KC9MUT, started

transmitting from his fox's liar at the Paul Harding Junior High School. His signals were so strong that we thought he was very close as we headed south from the start point at Bargain Lane (old K-Mart store) on Coliseum Blvd, and immediately listened for the micro fox as well. With Jim in his car right behind, we made several intermediate stops to get bearings. The fox was so strong at this point, I had almost 80 db of attenuation and was worried I wouldn't have enough to get a good bearing, but we kept following the antenna.

When we got to the Paul Harding vicinity, we suddenly got a bearing sharply to the south west. This was a puzzle, but we went across the street to Southwick Elementary School. Then the bearing reversed itself and we were pointed back to Paul Harding. We realized that we hadn't checked behind the building, and sure enough, Charles was there next to a baseball field.

We could now hear the micro fox clearly. Linda used the beam in the car to point to the micro fox, and this helped triangulate the signal. The hunters, Steve and Jim, used an offset attenuator and an Aussie 'sniffer' to find the general location. Linda, without a radio in her hand, noticed the tiny transmitter, and yelled "I found it!". Just as this happened, we noticed the other team cruising the parking lot of the facility to the north of us, but they started to leave and we knew this meant they had not seen the fox! The other team gave us the following detail on how their hunt was going:

The Pliett/Burke team heard the strong high power fox signal on its first transmission and observed an initial beam heading to the south from the 24/30 Surplus parking lot. So we preceded south on Coliseum to New Haven Ave. and thence to Meyer Rd. and eventually wound up on Paulding Road, following the cues from successive DF beam headings. Up to that point the equipment worked very well.

We drove into the Paul Harding Junior High School/Prince Chapman Academy complex and got some confused readings which caused us to turn around and head back towards Paulding Rd. But fortunately, we received a tip from Steve Nardin and drove back into the complex and around the main buildings to the baseball diamond and the high power fox at approximately Lat. 41.0295451, Long. -85.0733278.

Never heard the micro fox fundamental until we just about got right on top of it, and it was even worse with the third harmonic.

After all had found the fox and micro fox, most of the hunters went to the Hall's Restaurant in New Haven, a short distance down the road.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This Fox Hunt was the first to feature our new emphasis on having fun and learning versus competition, and I believe that it was a success! Also, our live stream generated a lot of new interest in the sport. For April, W9LAN will be the fox, so why not come out and join the group as we hunt down the hidden transmitter and micro fox! The hunt takes place on April 7th, the day before the big Eclipse!!

There is one experiment that we have been wanting to try, however, and it relates directly to how we hams use direction finding (DF) skills: How can all of us work together to find hidden transmissions quickly and efficiently? We are currently planning this for the May Fox Hunt on the 5th of the month. Watch for more details as the time gets closer. We will need both mobile and fixed stations for the hunt, and we need someone to serve as a central coordinator.





Here is the idea: instead of the hunters gathering at a fixed start point, why not have hunters start from wherever is convenient for them (either mobile or at a home station), then once they have a bearing established, the information is sent to a central control station who plots the bearings on a map or computer, and then directs the mobile hunters to places to fine tune the hunt. In this manner, everyone is on the same 'team' and the goal is for everyone to help narrow the search.



There is no competition, we all work together for a common purpose!

73,

Steve, W9SAN

**APRIL
7
2024**

**NEXT
FOXHUNT**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Junk Box Antenna – Recycling a Classic?

Hello my fellow radio bugs! April is here, and you know what that means – another edition of the Allen County HamNews! The past several weeks have not seen much radio activity at the AC9EZ station, however, that is about to change come May (when PFW’s spring semester is completed). In this month’s column, I thought I would delve into an upcoming project that I will be pursuing this coming summer. Hopefully, this month’s column will help spark some ideas you all might have in building a “junk box” antenna this summer. Who knows? With field day right around the corner, a “recycled” antenna could be just the ticket for a weekend of radio fun!

But First, Some Context:

The upcoming project is fairly simple – to ransack my garage, purloin any unsuspecting antenna components, and compile a design that utilizes what I have on hand. The challenge for me will be to design and build the antenna without needing any runs to the hardware store or the internet shopping mall. Simple, right?

Part of the inspiration of this antenna is to see if I can resurrect some portions of an old antenna I bought and happily used years ago, the MFJ-2286 “Big Stick” antenna. This particular model of antenna (still sold by MFJ today) consisted of a 17’ collapsible/extendable aluminum element, a decently-sized air-wound coil (wound on a plastic form), a small 3/8 x 24 threaded mount, and four copper radials. The design was simple. The user would adjust the length of the vertical element of the antenna to the desired frequency of operation, based upon the chart provided in the instructions. Want to operate on a lower frequency? Simply extend the height of the antenna towards its full height? Want to operate on a higher frequency? Easily done by shortening the vertical element.

The height of the main radiator was not the only user-adjustable piece on this antenna. The coil itself, consisting of thick wire wound about a plastic form included a small “shorting” lead, tipped with an alligator clip. The alligator clip would be connected to different portions of the coil, depending on how much loading coil wire was required to bring the antenna into resonance on the desired operating frequency.

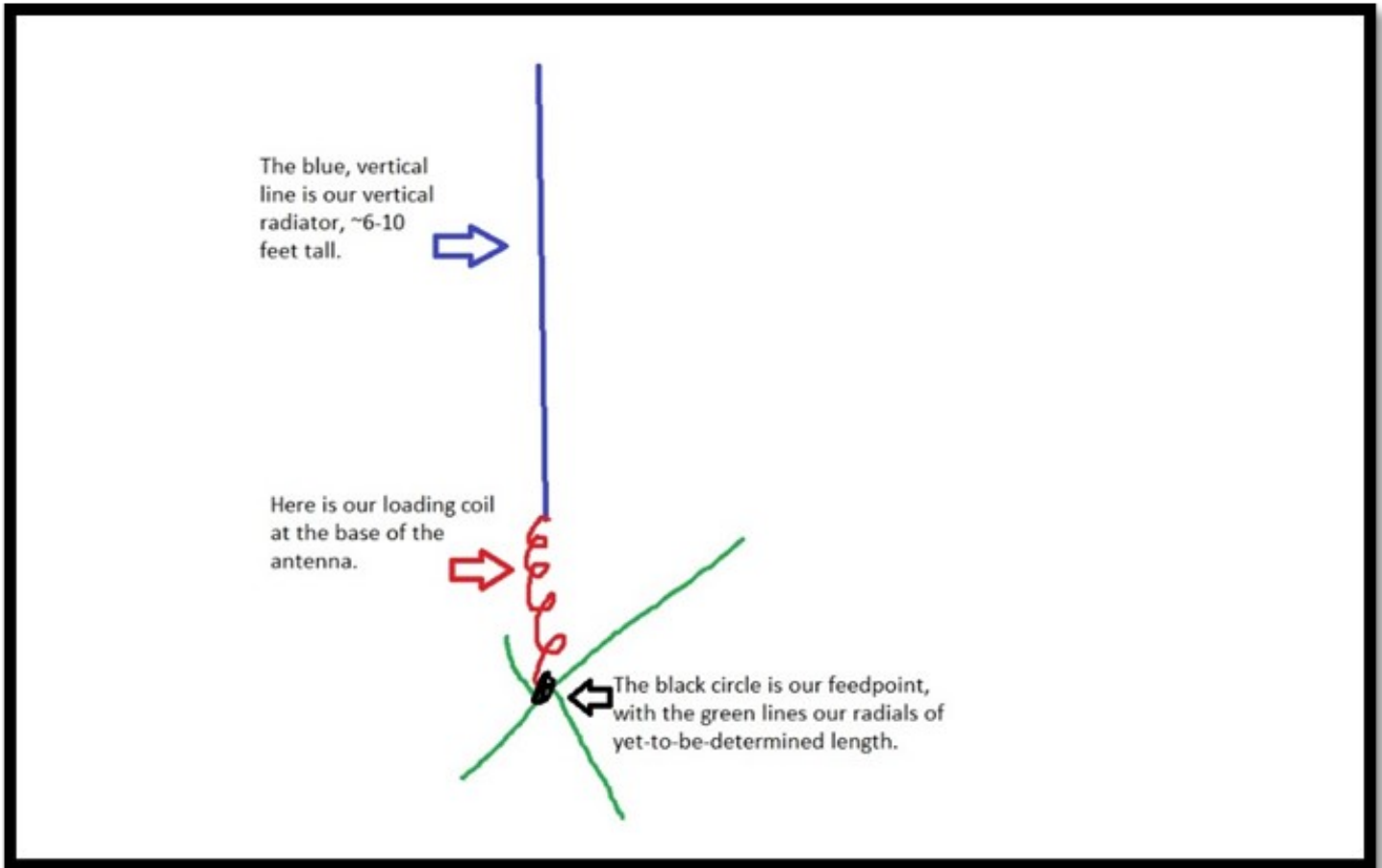
At that point in my ham career, resonance was not a main goal for my personal user-experience. Instead, I simply looked for a good swr match, adjusting the radiator length and tap-position of the coil/alligator

clip until I saw as close to a 1:1 match as possible. Even so, I had a lot of fun with that antenna, using it with my MFJ 9340w cw transceiver and later, my Yaesu FT-450d. From Indiana to North Dakota, my Big Stick antenna formed part of the backbone of my “antenna arsenal.” Contacts on that antenna were memorable, like most early contacts in a ham’s career, reaching as far as Australia.

Sadly, the “Big Stick” is no longer installed, and the parts sit in my garage, gathering dust and taking up space. The copper radials quickly rusted and the aluminum radiator unfortunately began losing its ability to stay extended (e.g., the sections would slide into each other). However, I have held on to the parts, thinking that someday, I might re-use parts for that antenna for a future project.

That project is about to come to fruition this coming summer. My plan is to reuse the loading coil, the antenna mount, and possibly portions of the extendable aluminum pole to create a portable, multiband vertical antenna. Figure 1 details a rough sketch of what I am envisioning at this time (see the next page).





The main inspiration of this antenna is to follow the classic formula used by such antennas as the Wolf River Coil antennas – a large coil used in a base-loaded, vertical antenna configuration, with a few radials added for electrical functionality. Admittedly, base-loaded antennas are not the most efficient choice of vertical antenna design, nor does the use of only a few, short radials promote pile-up breaking signals. However, small, base-loaded verticals serve a useful purpose – getting a ham on the air with a limited amount of space and set-up time.

This antenna will be paired with my Yaesu FT-818nd qrp transceiver, thus my choice of only the higher-bands for an operational goal. Assuming the antenna works, this antenna could serve as my backup antenna for my portable operations.

Is this antenna designed for communication

greatness or the recycling center? Stay tuned for a future edition of *Tuning Up!*

73 de Jim AC9EZ



Local

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

News

March 2024

Operating activities during the month follow.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) on March 9-10, the following local operators participated. The QSO count is shown.

- AC9XS 83
- WA9BBN 83
- KC9UR 71
- W9SA 57
- W9GOO 40
- KA9ERV 35
- W9HT 21
- WB9TYJ 13
- N9DGL 12

For the Two Hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) on Tuesday evening, March 26, 7-9 PM local, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

- K9FW 32
- WA9BBN 30
- W9GOO 20

OPERATING EVENTS

6-7 LOUISIANA QSO PARTY

8 SOLAR ECLIPSE QSO PARTY

13 SKCC WEEKEND SPRINTATHON

20-21 CQMM DX CONTEST

24 SKCC SPRINT

This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at contestcalendar.com and is gratefully acknowledged. It is deemed accurate as of the time of publication.

AC9XS 13
Catch you next month!

73,

Ed, WA9BBN

Editor's Note. Please check the calendar above to the dates for the SKCC Week-

end Sprintathon and SKCC 2 Hour Sprint for the month of April. Both of these events include many operators who use slow CW. Try to hop on the air. Don't worry if your CW isn't perfect. Just have fun!

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

8 March 2024

The February meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held on March 8th, 2024. It occurred at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church starting at 6:39 pm. It was hosted by club President Adam Warrix, KD9NRT and there were 34 attendees.

Adam led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited all present to introduce themselves with their name and call-sign.

This month's meeting featured a presentation by Carl Lutzelschwab, K9LA, ARRL Central Division Director (Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin) who provided enlightening information related to the organizational and management structure of the ARRL. Included in Carl's presentation were facts on the focus and subject of various ARRL committees and sub-committees (who chairs them and what they do) plus information, from the ARRL's point of view, on the "ethics" issue currently the subject of much discussion by ARRL members who seem to be unhappy with the ARRL management structure in general. There were a number of questions for Carl from the floor.

Following Carl's presentation Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided his report on the FWRC's current financial status as of 8 March, 2024 as follows:

Checking	\$1,988.19
Savings	\$502.50
Vanguard	\$27,450.40

Year-To-Date Income \$635.00

Year-To-Date Expenses \$576.85

Year-To-Date Membership 124

Bob commented that there may be an IRS limit on how much income the club can realize that is non-dues related such as we have seen lately with the sale of estate items donated to the club, and the return from the Vanguard fund. It may be necessary to move funds out of the Vanguard account into our Savings account as the interest realized on that account is minimal. Bob plans to explore this question with ARRL Legal.

Al Burke, WB9SSE reported that he recently submitted a repeater status report to the Indiana Repeater Council in order to maintain the coordinated status of our five repeaters. This has to be accomplished on a periodic basis. He also noted that he updated the clubs record with the ARRL in order to maintain our ARRL Affiliated Club status.

Adam gave a short report regarding the March Foxhunt. Charles Ward, KC9MUT served as the fox. Steve & Linda Nardin, (W9's SAN & LAN) localized the high power fox first near the backstop of the Prince Chapman Academy baseball diamond. (Linda was the first to locate the micro-fox).

Al Burke, noted that we plan to run an experiment during the April foxhunt where-in we will locate foxhunt team starting points at locations generally surrounding the city, say at three or four points (perhaps north, east, south and west) rather than the usual common starting point near Lakeside Golf Course. Each team will report their geographic location and the bearing

to the fox so that a more optimal geometric solution to the fox location can be plotted on a map of Allen County. In theory the location where each team's bearing vector cross one another should immediately localize the fox and allow each team to converge on that location in principle minimizing the time to find the fox in the process. Details of how to manage this process need to be developed.

Adam noted that the Indiana QSO Party will occur Saturday May 4th from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm EDT. (See a copy of the rules at:

<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

Adam also noted that the club will participate in Field Day (22-23 June) at the Old Fort in downtown Fort Wayne. All club members are encouraged to attend, even if they don't plan to operate. Saturday evening the club will host a carry-in dinner with hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the club and other assorted goodies provided by the attendees.

Terry Bowman, K9FMX brought some ham radio equipment from an SK estate for attendees to look over and possibly purchase. It created a lot of interest. We are going to attempt to repeat this practice at every meeting from this point forward.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC

ACARTS General Meeting
American Red Cross building
1212 E. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
7:06pm – 9:11pm
Meeting also streamed online via MS Teams

Attendance:

President: Dan Dahms (N9WNH)
Online: Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)
Secretary: Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)
Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)
Online: Station Manager: James (Jim) Sampiere (KD9NPL)
Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP)
Board Member: Howard Pletcher (N9ADS)
Board Member: Steve Shannon (K9SKS)
Board Member: James (Jim) Bassett (W9YME)
Members: 13 (10 in person, 3 online via MS Teams)

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) opened the meeting, having everyone introduce themselves.

Secretary Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)

Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reviewed the minutes from February General Meeting.

Motion: To accept minutes as read. Made by Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP), seconded by Christine Settecase (KA9LLI). Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted that the Audit letter has been written, finalizing the 2023 Audit. The letter has been posted on Ham Club Online for member review.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) provided a report on current activity and balances for the club's financial accounts. (Exact numbers are available to members upon request to the Treasurer and on Ham Club Online.)

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) and Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that they have been having ongoing difficulty with poor customer service from UBS. He also noted that UBS has the club invested in overseas accounts which may cause conflicts with the club's tax-exempt status. The fees also seem to be higher than might be obtained from another institution. Still at this time, despite completing access transfer paperwork, the officers are not able to transfer money from the UBS account to the PNC account. The club has been forced to put a temporary hold on purchases of new equipment until the funds can be released from the UBS account. Currently the club was looking into purchasing two new repeaters and two accompanying amplifiers along with a new controller.

Due to these issues, Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) is planning to close the UBS account, with the balance being placed into the PNC account in preparation to invest with another institution.

Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee

Secretary Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reviewed the status of the revision, noting that he has written a rough draft to be reviewed at the committee meeting next Tuesday. It is expected that the first draft of the new constitution and by-laws will be presented to the club at a General Meeting with review and discussion of the draft at the following General Meeting and review of final draft with approval at the General Meeting following that one. The soonest the revised constitution and by-laws can be approved is at the June 2024 General Meeting.

Asset Inventory, Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL)

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) concurred that buying new equipment is on hold. Currently he is wanting to install the Kendecom repeater for testing on the 146.880MHz repeater

The equipment currently being considered are a Kenwood 1700 (VHF) repeater, a Kenwood 1800 (UHF) repeaters, Henry PA (one VHF, one UHF), Arcom controller to control both repeaters on site, giving more flexibility on messages and expanding options. The Kenwood 1700 repeater would be placed in service on the 146.880. The Motorola MTR 3000 would be moved to the 147.255, and the Kenwood 1800 would be placed in service on 443.800. The Kendecom would be the backup for the 146.880.

A Yaesu DR-2X dualband dual TX/RX repeater was also investigated, but does not allow the integration of MMDVM for adding digital options to the repeaters in the future. The ease of maintenance, particularly in emergencies, was noted as important to the decision for going with the Kenwood repeaters.

The Kenwood repeaters are around \$2000 each, programmed and aligned. The Henry amplifiers are around \$1000 each depending on the model selected.

A used six-can duplexer was bought from the First Due Communications that was owned and recently taken out of service by Aboite Fire & EMS for \$1600 for use with the 146.880MHz repeater. This duplexer was maintained by ERS. Currently the club has three VHF duplexers, one for parts only, and the other two are working but over 40 years old. Current thinking is that the new duplexer will be tuned and used for the .88 repeater with one of the old duplexers being tuned for use on the 147.255MHz repeater. The remaining working duplexer tuned for .88 will be kept as a backup for .88.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted that WANE does not have internet at the location of the 880 repeater. Using a hot spot would likely cost around \$60 per month and would be allowed by WANE. Internet access would provide more control over the repeaters remotely.

Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)

Chris McCullough (W9TSB) is requesting content, such as recordings of the club's meetings to post on the club's YouTube channel. Chris notes that getting the club's Facebook page up will take a couple of weeks, noting it will be a close copy of the YouTube channel with content posted on YouTube being propagated to the Facebook page. Chris also noted the ACARTS VHF/UHF FM Simplex contest is set for April 20th, 7pm-10pm. An article is ready for inclusion in the April newsletter. The contest will run similar to last year with the awarding of points for activating different local parks.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH):

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that any club purchases including anything to do with club apparel is also put on hold until the finances from UBS are freed and until the club logo is settled.

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) brought up whether the finances of the club should be revealed to the public via published in the minutes to be posted online.

Motion: "The exact numbers of the Treasurer's report will not be included in the club's minutes though a note will be added that the numbers are available to all members upon request to the Treasurer. The Treasurer's report will be made at the beginning of the meetings before recording of the meeting begins."

Motion made by Stuart Hall (KD9LFW). Seconded by Christine Settecase (KA9LLI). Passed by a voice vote.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) notes that club liability insurance quotes continue to be gathered. It appears that the coverage provided by ARRL for \$2 million aggregate is the best option for \$200 annually.

Motion: "The club will switch liability insurance to Risk Strategies through ARRL."

Motion made by Steve Shannon (K9SKS). Seconded by Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP). Passed by a voice vote.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) displayed some local amateur radio club apparel to demonstrate ideas for ACARTS' apparel.

Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH):

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) gave a presentation on access and use of the Ham Club Online website. It was noted that Whitley County Amateur Radio Club is also using this website for their group.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH):

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) gave a presentation on the clubs groups.io account that allows communication between members.

Motion to adjourn at 9:11pm made by Stuart Hall (KD9LFW), seconded by Steve Shannon (K9SKS). Passed by a voice vote.

Next meeting(s):

Constitution & By-Laws Revision Committee meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 7pm, online via Microsoft Teams

Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 7pm, online via Microsoft Teams

General Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 7pm, American Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. Also online via Microsoft Teams. Recordings of meeting video will be posted on Ham Club Online, ACARTS YouTube channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.



This section of the Allen County HamNews is available for local hams to list any ham radio related gear for sale or to place any ham radio related want ads.

Listings are posted for one month, but can be renewed upon request of the editor.

Please see page two for contact information.

For sale. Cushcraft D3 10/15/20 rotatable dipole antenna \$250.00 in good condition (lists for \$440.00 new)

Icom SP-41 external speaker. \$250 has audio enhanced speaker update from DX Engineering!

Contact Ken
WD9HIY via email
at
Ksbuinowski(at)
juno.com or call
260-710-0617



For sale: Men's large FWRC jacket. Large. \$5. Contact K9FW for more information.

For sale 1 gallon of AMSOIL transformer oil. For oil filled dummy loads. \$30.
"Works lots better than any other fluid."
Contact K9FW through his qrz.com email address for more information.

ACARTS Board Meeting (online via Microsoft Teams)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
7:03pm – 9:09pm

Attendance (9):

President: Dan Dahms (N9WNH)
Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)
Secretary: Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)
Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)
Station Manager: James (Jim) Sampiere (KD9NPL)
Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP)
Board Member: Howard Pletcher (N9ADS)
Board Member: Steve Shannon (K9SKS)
Board Member: James (Jim) Bassett (W9YME)

Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reviewed minutes Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted corrections as below
Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) is part of 501c(3) committee.
ARRL does NOT offer liability coverage for Board, will add correction to Board minutes

March 26 is the first By-laws Committee meeting. Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) plans to compose a first draft to be presented and discussed with the Committee by March 26 with an expected presentation to the club membership for the April General Meeting and possible vote at the May General Meeting.

Treasurer

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted that it would cost \$120 a year to use WordPress with our current website host of Ionis. The club is going to keep with Ionis as website host as it is the lowest cost option considering costs of hosting and e-mail services. Once the club gets its 501c(3) designation, the club will be able to get Microsoft Office and e-mail for free. At that point the club may re-examine DNS hosting and registrar.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted he has had no problem accessing club's UBS account.
Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) provided a report on current activity and balances for the club's financial accounts. (Exact numbers are available to members upon request to the Treasurer and on Ham Club Online.)

Club membership to be pro-rated on a monthly basis.
Kevin asked Board members to review membership application form he has developed.

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) suggested motion of providing free memberships to program presenters at General Meetings through the end of the year and this was greeted by the Board Members approvingly.

Motion: "The club will provide free membership through the end of the year to all presenters at the General Meeting who are not already club members."

Motion made by Chris McCullough (W9TSB), seconded by Jim Bassett (W9YME). Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Vice President Chris McCullough (W9TSB) brought up the idea of providing money to help a school start an amateur radio club. Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) brought up the idea of having a club member as a sort of sponsor/contact to a school radio club. The importance of providing an Elmer to young, newly licensed hams was discussed.

Station Manager Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted that many public gatherings will start up with summer coming up. Setting up a radio station may be a good way to introduce people to radio. This was greeted with approval.

Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted that he has found one wireless Square reader for \$59 that he thinks will work well. Fundraising/Hamfest Manager Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) notes that having the wireless reader will be helpful. He sees that having just one reader will be required for now. Kevin noted that older cards with only a magnetic strip will require use of an older \$10 reader that plugs directly into the tablet.

Motion: "To purchase two Square terminal readers for a total of about \$69."

Motion made by Chris McCullough (W9TSB), seconded by Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP). Passed by unanimous voice vote.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted the Kendecom repeater machine has been repaired and he would like to install it at the repeater site for a trial. Dan is interested in getting a new duplexer for the 880 machine, keeping one of the existing duplexers as a backup for 880 and re-tuning the second duplexer for the other VHF repeater.

Station Manager Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted WANE does not have internet access at the shack. Having an internet connection will allow digital connection such as Networked DMR, D-Star, Fusion etc. and will also allow more control over the repeater.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) discussion about repeater options.

Vice President Chris McCullough (W9TSB) noted his concern that the 880 repeater remains FM analog only and this received broad agreement.

Station Manger Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted his preference for buying new repeaters rather than used machines to minimize maintenance and obtain warranties.

Director Jim Bassett (W9YME) is narrowing down shops for club T-shirts and other clothing paraphernalia. Currently the club is keeping the current logo but there is exploration of creating a new logo.

Vice President Chris McCullough (W9TSB) noted he has updated the VHF contest letter for inclusion in the April newsletter and would like it uploaded to the club's website. Chris notes that the contest has been getting good participation, but few logs are submitted, typically just the same three people.

Fundraising/Hamfest Manager Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) noted a good meeting last week in reviewing the 2023 Hamfest.

Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted the existing investments in the UBS account are charging high fees and he wants to bring up at the General Meeting moving the investments into something more appropriate for our club.

Kevin is still looking at liability insurance for the Board.

Current thinking is going with the ARRL for the \$2M general liability policy as well as insuring the new equipment the club is expecting to buy. The club needs to determine the value of the equipment to be insured.

Action Items

Board members to review membership application form.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) will purchase two Square terminal readers.

Upcoming Meetings:

ACARTS General Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, 7pm, Red Cross Building

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Area Nets (updated as of 4/1/24)					
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 146.940)	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	--	--	--
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 4/1/24)							
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.net domain is unreliable. Please use an alternate email address if you have one).
 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? Yes or No

Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:

Regular membership	\$25.00 / year
Family membership ¹	\$35.00 / year
Student membership ²	\$5.00 / year
Associate membership ³	\$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? Yes or No

ACARTS dues:

Regular membership	\$12.00 / year
Additional family members ¹	\$6.00 / year
Student membership ²	\$6.00 / year
Associate membership ³	\$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.

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MAY 17-19, 2024

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