



Home-Brew & Kit Building Challenge, Best Ham Shack Award, Expanding the Foxhunt Page 2



A Presentation on Amateur Antennas and the Spring Banquet Is Not Far Away Page 4



Changes Over the Years to the ARRL International DX Contest Page 6

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

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Issue 3

91 ATTEND FORT WAYNE SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, IMO SKYWARN quadrant director

For the first time in a couple years, meteorologists from the northern Indiana office of the National Weather Service (NWS) personally conducted training of SKYWARN storm spotters in Fort Wayne Feb. 17. Warning coordination meteorologist Michael Lewis, KG4KJQ and meteorologist Michael "Skip" Skipper presented the training to an official total of 91 attendees. Approximately half of audience members raised their hands when Lewis asked hams to identify themselves.

The session included the usual information on the role of the spotter, storm development, local severe weather climatology, recognition of various weather phenomena, spotter safety and reporting procedures. A detailed description of the training is beyond the scope of this article, which will instead touch on a few of the highlights, especially those portions that were new this year. If you missed the training, NWS plans two sessions near Fort Wayne this month:

- March 16, 6 p.m. ET, Paulding, Ohio
- March 19, 6 p.m. ET, Bluffton, Ind.

Detailed information about both sessions can be found at tinyurl.com/b75y-



Figure 1: Ninety-one people attended NWS SKYWARN training in Fort Wayne Feb. 17 (Photo by Whitley County emergency manager Charlie Heflin).

bg8.

One new feature of the training this year was audience participation via electronic polling. The presenters evaluated audience knowledge before and after the training by asking them to respond

to questions via text message, Twitter or Web page form. Responses appeared on the projection screen in real time.

Continued on Page 5

Also this month

Foxhunt Planning Meeting3	Classified Ads 10
The Foxhunt Chronicles7	Contest Calendar 10
Local Hamfests9	Local Nets / Repeaters 11
Ham Radio Classes 10	Activities Calendar 12

Internet Home Pages

Fort Wayne Radio Club:	http://www.FWRC.info/
	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWRC/
ACARTS:	http://www.acarts.com
Fort Wayne DX Association:	http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/
ARES:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Allen_Co_IN_ARES/
IN_PACKET Yahoo Group:	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IN_PACKET/

Allen County HamNews is a monthly joint publication of the Fort Wayne Radio Club (P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN 46885), the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851), and the Fort Wayne DX Association.

Please send any articles, classified ads, or other information to the editor, Ken Helms, AB9ZD, at ab9zd at arrl.net. Please put "For Newsletter" in the subject line. Most text and graphics formats are acceptable. Microsoft Word and JPEG are preferred if separate files are used. For those without computer access, please mail your submission to either of the clubs post office boxes.

The deadline for the each issue is the last day of the preceding month.

Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Like most of you, I am getting pretty tired of the constant cycle of Cold - Snow - Warming and repeat. It is a good thing that Spring is right around the corner, and we know that because it is Hamfest season again! With Marshall (March 14th) and Toledo (March 15th), we can get out of the house, out on the road, and with the goodies we buy at the 'fests, get our stations back on the air! Being unable to work outside due to the bitter cold has me anxious to do antenna projects and to clean up and improve my shack!

This brings me to the point of our March club meeting: We are planning a six month long adventure: a Home-Brew & Kit Building challenge. We want to see what our club members can turn out if they turn into "Makers". But that is not all; we also want to see what all of you are calling your most prized real estate: your Ham Shacks! Running in parallel, we will have a "Best Shack" contest. Over the course of the months from April to October, get to work on spiffing up your radio room, and take your best picture. Send this in me, W9SAN, at my e-mail address,



and I will compile a presentation of member's shacks. The Board Of Directors will judge the results in September, and at the October meeting, we will award prizes for best overall, most radios, best layout, and possibly a booby prize for the shack that could be the worst in the club!

Remember that the March meeting will not be on the third Friday of the month, as once again we have a conflict with the church that night. Please join us on March 27th for the March meeting and find out about the Home Brew contest, the Shack contest, and get details on the changes made to the FWRC Fox Hunting program. Please read the main details elsewhere in this issue. With different classes for your level of experience, training Hunts, and more consistent timing, we hope a lot more will give this fun activity a try!

Best regards, Steve Nardin, W9SAN

Local Ham License Exam Sessions

04/25/2015 * 07/25/2015

9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact Roger L. Mc Entarfer (260) 503-9008 or n9qcl (at) arrl.net

Peabody Library
(lower level, community rooms A & B)
1160 E State Road 205
Columbia City, IN 46725-2312

Whitley County ARC, Inc.

March 27: Find out about the Home Brew contest, the Shack contest, and get details on the changes made to the FWRC Foxhunting program.

Have you paid your 2015 dues yet? March 1, we will only send e-mail bulletins to paid 2015 and beyond paid members. Please fill out the membership application in the back of the Allen County Ham News, or the application on our website and send to the Fort Wayne Radio Club PO Box, 15127, Fort Wayne, 46885-5127.



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Unless otherwise scheduled, all meetings are held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 4700 Vance Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN.

FWRC NOTES FROM 20 FEBRUARY 2015 FOXHUNT PLANNING MEETING

A Foxhunt planning meeting consisting of the majority of currently active foxhunters was held in lieu of a normal FWRC meeting on 20 February, 2015 at Salem United Methodist Church.

Attendees consisted of:

Steve & Linda Nardin, WB9's SAN & LAN
Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI
Carole & Al Burke, WB9's RUS & SSE
Kim & Jim Machamer, KB9's DOS & DOT
Jeff Brady, N9JTB
Charles Ward, KC9MUT
Robert Dean, KC9UHU

The purpose of the meeting was to decide upon a number of proposals that would change various aspects of how we conduct foxhunts. One principal goal was to develop ideas on how we might increase participation amongst local hams in the fox-hunting art.

The first item on the agenda was to decide if last year's practice of starting hunts from different locations should be continued. That practice had been started to average out the travel distance for foxhunters from different parts of town. It was pointed out that the US 930 and Coliseum Blvd cloverleaf was about the center point of Allen County, so a starting point in that area would make (equal travel) sense. It was decided that from now on the foxhunt starting point would be the River Greenway Trailhead (Cobin Memorial Park) near the Lakeside Golf Course.

Foxhunt signal frequency and intercom frequency were discussed, and it was decided that the current practice of varying the fox frequency would be continued. It was also decided that the foxhunt frequencies for each month's hunt would be determined at the beginning of the foxhunting season and published as a part of the foxhunt calendar. For 2015 the frequencies for the remaining hunts are:

March	146.430 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
April	146.160 MHz, intercom 146.910 MHz
May	146.340 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
June	146.855 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
July	146.580 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
August	146.430 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
September	146.160 MHz, intercom 146.910 MHz
October	146.340 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
November	146.855 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz

In addition to the fox frequency decision, it was decided that the foxhunt season would continue to start with a February hunt and conclude with the hunt in November. It was also decided that a foxhunt in any particular month could only be rescheduled once within that month (due to weather, civil riots, Godzilla attacks or other unforeseen events). If the rescheduled hunt subsequently could not be executed for whatever reason, then there would be no hunt that month.

Everyone thought it a good idea to develop a "This is a fox-hunt" handout that could be given to curious bystanders that

invariably collect when we are on foot, and ask all kinds of questions, such as "Are you NARCS?"; "Are you looking for a bomb?"; or "What the hell are you doing?" Identification of who would develop the exact prose of such a handout was not discussed.

Everyone agreed that more participation in foxhunts is a desirable goal. But how to stimulate more involvement from the area ham population? It was proposed that three levels of fox-hunt participation be offered, Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

Beginner's hunts would be used to introduce newbies to the basics and would be typically conducted within the bounds of a public park with the fox being a person utilizing an HT, i.e., the hunt would start from the park, thus the fox would already be localized so the newbie would not need to have a vehicle with a roof mounted yagi to gain some practical experience. The hunt duration would be limited to sixty minutes. These hunts would be conducted every other month on the Saturday following a club meeting and would start at 09:00.

Intermediate hunts would be conducted within the bounds of the city and would utilize a high power fox at the fox locale plus a cross-band HT typically hidden in the bushes as the actual fox. The hunt duration would be limited to ninety minutes. The schedule for these hunts was not addressed.

Advanced hunts would be conducted within the bounds of Allen County and would be limited to duration of two and one half hours, in essence like the hunts we presently conduct.

In order to get more folks involved in foxhunting without necessarily participating in physical hunts with the foxhunter groups, it was proposed that we encourage interested hams to take DF readings of the fox from their QTH or current location, and report them to the hunters on the intercom frequency during a hunt. Either bearings or just general direction of the signal reports would be beneficial to the hunters, but more significantly, it could train up a corps of local hams who could be useful providing this type of information in a real-life lost, stolen, etc. situation.

The group decided that the proposals described above should be rolled out to club membership and the Ham community in general to see if there is any interest. This would be accomplished by writing an article expanding upon the descriptions of the Beginner's, Intermediate and Advanced hunt proposal, and the QTH based hams proposal above, and posting it in the Ham News, as a feature article on the club's web page, and as an announcement at at least one upcoming club meeting. Who is to compose the article was not identified.

Overhaul of the foxhunt scoring system was discussed at length with the following scoring plan proposed to be implemented retroactively for the February hunt, and for the rest of the year. (It is assumed that this plan applies to the Advanced category of hunts only. There was no discussion of scoring plans for the Beginner or Intermediate categories.)

Continued on page 9

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The weather in February certainly was not prone to antenna work. March looks like it should be a little warmer. With that in mind, the March program will be a presentation by Jim, KB9IH, on basic amateur radio antennas. The highlights and limitations of the various types will be discussed, so come to the meeting with any questions that you may have regarding your unique situation.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 21st, for the ACARTS Spring Banquet at Hall's Guesthouse. In order to allow their kitchen to operate more efficiently, the Guesthouse will not allow a group that size to just order from the menu



any more. Instead, we have to select four entrees from their menu, and they will print a special menu for us. We will discuss the menu choices at the March board and general meetings. If you have been to one of our dinners at the Guesthouse, let me know what you and your guest

would like to see on our menu, so that the majority of our members and guests can be accommodated with our four choices. The Guesthouse dinner menu is available at www.donhalls.com/pdf/the grill_dinner.pdf.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

ACARTS FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH.

Dave announced that the February meeting would be replaced by the SKY-WARN training at the Public Safety Academy. He added that the March meeting would be a program on basic amateur radio antennas presented by Jim, KB9IH.

Dave asked the board if they had any thoughts as to where to hold the Spring Banquet in April. It was decided that it

would again be held at Hall's Guesthouse. Dave stated that he would make reservations.

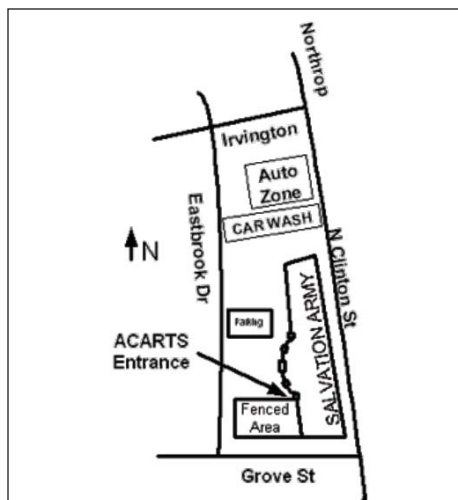
No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

March 17: The March program will be a presentation by Jim, KB9IH, on basic amateur radio antennas. The highlights and limitations of the various types will be discussed.

Unless otherwise scheduled, all meetings are held at 7:00 PM at the Salvation Army Center, 2901 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN.



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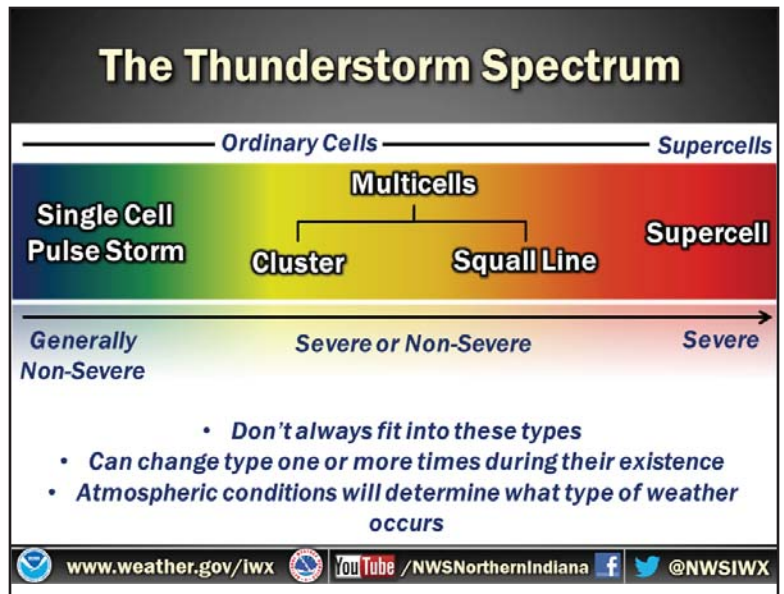
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Thunderstorm Spectrum Discussed

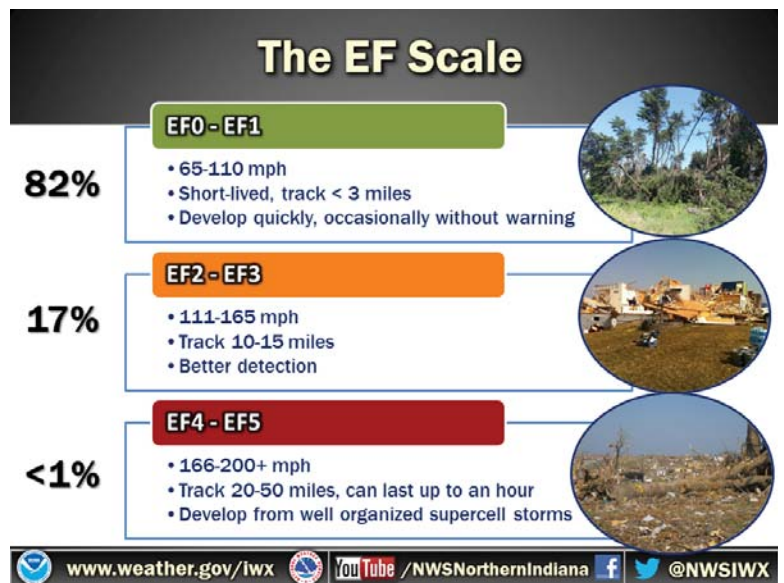
One highlight of this year’s presentation was a discussion of the thunderstorm spectrum (see figure 2). It ranges from single-cell “pulse” storms, to two forms of multi-cell storms, to the classic supercell thunderstorm. Large, strong tornadoes originate from supercell storms, but such storms are rare in the 37-county warning area (CWA) of the northern Indiana NWS office. Multi-cell storms, especially “derecho”-type squall lines can produce winds as strong as weak tornadoes, which is why spotters and the general public should not ignore severe thunderstorm warnings. It’s important for spotters to understand that, especially in the northern Indiana CWA, storms can change type one or more times during their existence.

Figure 2: Slide from NWS spotter training presentation, used with permission.



When it comes to tornadoes, 82 percent of twisters in the northern Indiana CWA create damage at the EF0 or EF1 levels of the enhanced Fujita scale (see figure 3). Note that EF0 tornadoes can have winds as weak as 65 mph. Severe thunderstorms can and often do produce much stronger winds. Also note that EF0 and EF1 tornadoes are very difficult for NWS Doppler radar to detect, sometimes developing and dissipating between radar scans. Less than one percent of storms in the northern Indiana office’s CWA reach the EF4 damage level, with wind speeds of 166 mph or greater.

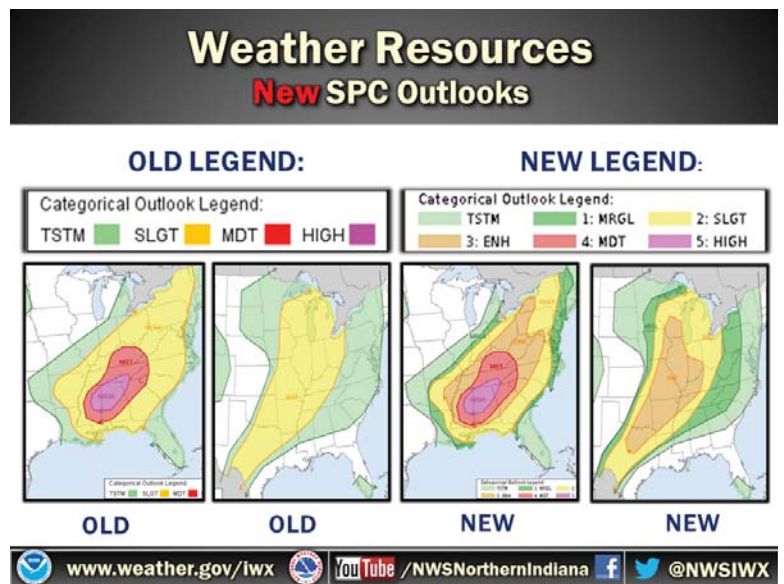
Figure 3: Slide from NWS spotter training presentation, used with permission.



Convective Outlooks Change

Situational awareness is an important part of spotter preparation and safety. The NWS Storm Prediction Center’s (SPC) convective outlooks are important situational awareness resources. Those outlooks look different now (see Figure 4). The new day one through day three convective outlooks have three risk categories between “general (non-severe) thunderstorms” and “moderate risk,” instead of the former single “slight risk” category. A “marginal risk” category now falls between “general thunderstorms” and “slight risk” and new “enhanced risk” category falls between “slight risk” and “moderate risk.” An SPC video briefing that fully explains the change in convective outlooks is available at tinyurl.com/qyfuqnt.

Figure 4: Slide from NWS spotter training presentation, used with permission.



Continued on page 8

FWDXA

Fort Wayne DX Association

CHANGES OVER THE YEARS TO THE ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

One of the best ways to add to your DXCC totals is to participate in a DX contest. The contest that I usually participated in way back when was the ARRL International DX Contest. This was how I worked many of the countries for my 5BDXCC (Five Band DXCC). Over the years the rules for this contest have changed. The following highlights the major changes.

My first recollection of participating in the ARRL International DX Contest was in 1963 when I was still a newly minted General. I had an EICO 720 transmitter, a Knight V44 VFO, a Drake 2B receiver and a 40-Meter dipole at 20 feet running between the house and garage. I don't recall working much DX with that station, but operator ability (or lack thereof) probably played the biggest role.

In the 1963 contest (from QST January 1963), there were only Single-Op and Multi-Op categories – no Multi-Single or Multi-Two yet. There were also QSO quotas on CW – you could only work six stations in a given country on a given band (heck, I was thrilled to hear one station in a DX country!). The contest was two 48-hour periods on each mode (in other words, two weekends on CW and two weekends on PH). And KH6 and KL7 were considered US, and they had to work DX stations just like us W/VE stations.

After graduating from Purdue and serving on active duty in the US Army for two years, I ended up with the Land Mobile Division of Motorola in Schaumburg, IL in 1974. I lived in an apartment, so I didn't have a station. But Motorola, being a ham haven, gave me plenty of opportunities to operate from the station of other Motorolans. One such station was that of



John Smith K9KA (then WA9IVL). He lived in Glen Ellyn, and had a 70-foot tower with a tri-bander and wires for the low bands.

In the 1977 contest (from QST December 1976), the QSO quotas were gone – you could work as many stations as possible in a given country and on a given band. Single-Ops could enter as All-Band, Low-Band (160m, 80m, 40m) or High-Band (20m, 15m, 10m), while Multi-Ops had to go All-Band. Multi-Op split into Multi-Single and Multi-Multi. The contest period was still two weekends per mode. KH6 and KL7 were now considered DX.

In April 1979 I transferred to Fort Worth, TX with Motorola. This move enabled me to buy my first house, and put up a tower. My first ARRL DX Contests as K9LA/5 were in February (CW) and March (PH) of 1980. The 1980 contest (from QST December 1979), allowed DX to work DX (like the CQ World Wide DX contest format), but this experiment only lasted one year. Single-Band categories were created in the 1980 events. A Single-Op QRP category (10 Watts input power or less) was also available. And the contest was now only one weekend per mode.

The 1981 contest (from QST December 1980) reverted back to W/VE works the world and all others work W/VE. As a side note, I began sponsoring the 15-Meter CW W/VE plaque with the 1981 contest, and

continue to this day.

Subsequent to 1981, a Multi-Two category has been added. Power levels have been delineated between QRP (5 Watts or less output), Low (150 Watts or less output) and High (maximum 1500 Watts output or license limit, whichever is less). Assisted and Un-Assisted have been created. And band change limits have been added for Multi-Single and Multi-Two entries.

Finally, while reviewing old QST articles about the ARRL International DX Contests I discovered why each QSO is worth three points. I had always wondered about this, and it comes from earning one point upon receiving acknowledgement of a contest exchange sent, and two points upon acknowledging an exchange received. That's what the written rules said in the early days.

In summary, the ARRL International DX Contest has undergone many changes throughout the years. I'm sure more changes will be forthcoming as we tackle new issues such as remote stations, digital modes, etc.



THE FOXHUNT CHRONICLES

December came and went.... cold, snow, and no foxhunt. Then came January...cold, lotsa snow, but still no foxhunt. And finally February arrived.... still more cold and snow, but.... our intrepid foxhunters eventually came out of their caves and didn't see the shadows of their yagis. So that meant that a foxhunt was on!!!

Thus for the February event, which occurred on Sunday, 8 February, (one week late because of, guess what, lotsa snow on the originally planned 1 February foxhunt date), three foxhunter teams gathered at the Off-Track Betting Parlor parking lot near Lima and Washington Center roads. They consisted of the team of Charles Ward, KC9MUT, Fred Gengnagle, KC9EZF, and Robert Dean, KC9UHU, the team of Kim & Jim Machamer, KB9's DOS & DOT, and the team of Linda & Steve Nardin, W9's LAN & SAN. In total seven rabid hunters.

Their quarry, the fox, was provided by Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI plus Carole & Al Burke, WB9's RUS & SSE. They travelled down to Klotz Park, near Southwick Village in south-east Ft. Wayne. From there they emitted the high-power fox signal on 146.430 MHz from a roof mounted quad with about 40 watts into the feedline. The low-power signal was loosed from a camouflaged micro-fox transmitter hung from a tree branch about 10 feet high in a copse of trees bordering a creek, and out in the middle of a show field, around 1000 feet from the Klotz Park ball diamond. (Let me tell you, tromping around in a snow field without snow shoes is hard work).

The fox began transmitting promptly at 13:30 local, and evidently was heard by all foxhunting teams right off the bat. About forty three minutes later, Charles and Fred and Bob showed up, drove into the baseball diamond portion of the snow field at Klotz Park, dismounted, and started hunting on foot having driven 10.8 miles from the starting point. About one minute later Kim & Jim showed up having travelled 13.0 miles followed twelve minutes later by Linda & Steve who had travelled 13.1 miles.

Now as I mentioned previously, stomp-



ing around in the amount of snow that had fallen in and around Ft. Wayne without snow shoes is not easy. And I had made a point of leaving multiple tracks in the virgin snow field in directions that led away from where we had hidden the fox. I even inscribed large signs in the snow that said "This way to the Fox, W9TE" with a big arrow. (And no, I didn't make the signs the way you're thinking I did,...I used a stick).

Despite all of this effort, my frigid penmanship evidently went unnoticed by the hunters. They trusted to physics and their equipment and eventually discovered the micro-fox hiding in the tree branch. Charles and team were the first to find the micro-fox sixty five minutes into the hunt. They were followed by Kim & Jim and by Linda & Steve who each located the micro-fox at seventy four minutes into the hunt.

So the Charles, Fred, Robert team won the hunt based upon time-to-find and mileage and thus will be the fox for the March hunt.

Interestingly enough, what with everyone tromping around in the snow, rooting through the nooks and crannies of the ball diamond, and later the trees along the creek where the micro-fox was actually hidden, interest, curiosity and suspicion were evidently aroused in some of the local neighbors because one, then two, and then three (and maybe more)

police cars arrived on the scene shortly after the hunt had concluded. They quizzed Charles and crew, and later Linda & Steve at length as to the goings-on. Turns out they were interested in foxhunting and talked to Linda & Steve for quite a while. Everyone else besides Linda & Steve had departed the area and went over to Penguin Point (yes, they still exist) for the traditional after-hunt repast. We started to get concerned about why the police had detained Linda & Steve so long, and had started drawing straws for who had to go bail them out when they finally showed up at the restaurant and regaled us as to the cop's questions. Linda & Steve told the cops they were welcome to join in on future foxhunts, but that they had to use radio gear, not shotguns.

All in all a good foxhunt, and of course a good meal at Penguin Point.

The March hunt is scheduled for Sunday, 1 March. Why don't you join us?

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Be sure to check the meeting minutes of the proposed Foxhunt rule changes back on page 3.

2015 Foxhunt Schedule

The following is the planned Foxhunt schedule for 2015. All foxhunts start at 1:30 PM on Sunday. The starting location will be the River Greenway Trailhead (Cobin Memorial Park) near the Lakeside Golf Course:

March 1
April 12
May 3
June 7
July 12
August 2
September 13
October 4
November 1

Also related to situational awareness is the announcement that the NWS office's home page layout – and possibly navigation and URLs – will soon change. If you have bookmarked, for example, the severe weather briefing page on the northern Indiana office's website, you might need to update your bookmarks after the change.

New spotter mnemonic: T.E.L.

This year's training presentation uses a new mnemonic acronym to help spotters remember what the NWS needs to know (see Figure 5): "T.E.L. us."

The "T" stands for "time." Spotter reports should contain the clock time at which the spotter observed the event, even if it's happening while the spotter sends the report. For example, rather than saying "now," or "two minutes ago," spotters should say "4:38 p.m." or "1638 Eastern time."

The "E" stands for "event." This is the part of the report that contains detailed information about what the spotter saw, for example, hail (by size), a wall cloud, funnel cloud, tornado, wind or lightning damage (described), flooding, etc.

The "L" stands for "location." This part of the report should contain a specific location, for example, "Allen County, Indiana, two miles northwest of Grabil," or "In Fort Wayne, near the intersection of Coliseum Boulevard and Vance Avenue."

Note that the *reporting criteria* are different than NWS *warning criteria*. For example, the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm warning for any storm that it expects to produce either winds of 58 mph or greater or hail of one inch or more in diameter. But the spotter reporting criteria are winds of 50 mph and hail of any size.

Finally, the NWS included in this year's presentation a new reporting method matrix (see Figure 6). As in previous years, the meteorologists strongly recommended the use of the Twitter social media channel, while taking care to avoid discounting the importance of ham radio.

A primary advantage of reporting via ham radio is that others listening to the same frequency will simultaneously hear the report, aiding in the situational awareness of those who are monitoring. Another advantage is the resiliency of ham radio and the fact that it continues to work during Internet and cellular telephone failures. Disadvantages of reporting via ham radio include:

- Inadequate volunteer staffing of the ham station at the NWS office often means that net control stations must re-file the reports by other means (e.g. telephone or an internal NWS Internet chat system).
- When the ham station at the NWS office is staffed, the operator there must write down each report and then hand it off to a meteorologist, creating a certain amount of delay.
- Until and unless the NWS issues a "local storm report"

Figure 5: Slide from NWS spotter training presentation, used with permission.

Spotter Guide to Preferred Reporting Methods							
Reporting Method	Type of Event						
	Hail		Wind (mph)		Tornado	Funnel	Flood/Flash Flood
	≤ 3/4"	> 3/4" or Increasing Size	>40 ≤ 50	>50 or Significant damage	Damage Observed	No Damage Observed	Flash Flood Areas Flooded
Twitter (@NWSIWX)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
Facebook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
Amateur Radio	✓	✓		✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
Online Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
SpotterNetwork.org		✓		✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
mPing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
Telephone NWS		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Call 911/Dispatch				✓	✓	✓	✓
e-mail	The NWS prefers that spotters use the above methods for reporting real-time events. Using e-mail can result in significant delays.						
✓* Note: If reports are provided via this method, spotters SHOULD call the NWS and 911. These events may lead to significant loss of life. Phone conversations are critical to helping us understand what you observe and the intensity of the event.							

Figure 6: Slide from NWS spotter training presentation, used with permission.

based on the spotter's report, the information in the report is available only to those who are monitoring the frequency, which often includes few of the many spotters who are not hams and have no equipment with which to monitor.

- Ham radio systems currently in use for SKYWARN provide no means of including photographic data with spotter reports.
- Advantages of the Twitter social media channel include:
- The channel does not rely on the limited availability of volunteer operators at the NWS.
 - Reports show up immediately on a computer in the NWS office, without relay or transcription.
 - Reports are visible immediately to anyone who has access to the Internet, including other spotters, emergency managers, members

of the news media and the general public. As Lewis put it at one training session this year, "Call me and you and I know. Tweet me and the whole world knows."

- Reports can include photographs or video of events being reported, aiding in the NWS' ability to validate the reports
- The capacity of Internet channels is virtually unlimited, enabling the NWS to encourage sub-criteria reports.

Note that on the reporting methods matrix, the NWS encourages spotters to report winds of less than the normal reporting criteria of 50 mph (the approximate speed at which structural damage begins to occur) *when using social media or the "mPing" app* (more on that below). But for ham radio and telephone reports, the minimum wind is 50 mph. This is a sign that NWS really wants much more information from the field than it has received in the past but understands the limited capacities of channels such as ham radio and telephone.


For spotters who choose to use their Internet-connected mobile devices to file reports, a relatively new option is the Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground (mPing) app from the National Severe Storms Laboratory. The app is available for both the Android and iOS platforms and originally only accepted precipitation reports. The current version also allows users to send hail, wind damage, tornado, flood and other reports. Reports sent via mPing show up directly on Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) terminals in NWS offices. A disadvantage of mPing is that all reports are anonymous and as such, users cannot identify reports as coming from trained spotters. More information about mPing is available here: ti.nyurl.com/od8h3ps.

In conclusion, I encourage all hams who are spotters to become familiar with Twitter, especially those who have Internet-connected mobile devices (e.g. smart phones). At the same time, I also encourage all hams *to continue to make reports via ham radio, even if they're also reporting via Twitter*. This will assist in the situational awareness of spotters who are on the ham frequency as well as those who are only able to monitor Twitter.


I have become active on Twitter (@RadioW9LW, if you'd like to "follow" me) and will be happy to provide any assistance I can to any spotters who want to know more about Twitter. You can reach me via email at w9lw@arrl.net.

55th Annual
Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Wings Stadium Annex
3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo Township, MI 49001
Sponsored by the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Vendor set-up: Friday, March 13th, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Saturday, March 14th, 6:00 AM - 8:00 AM



General Admission: Saturday, March 14th, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
\$5.00 admission fee at the door
Vendor table or 8' space rental \$10.00
2000 Free PAVED parking spaces
Door prizes
Amateur Radio Examinations (10:00 AM)



Talk-in: 147.000 MHz (-600 kHz offset) KARC Repeater PL 94.8
(PLEASE NOTE, This is different from previous years)

Foxhunt Meeting Minutes - continued from Page 3

In the new and improved plan mileage will no longer be a component in the scoring formula; just time-to-find will be the criteria. When a foxhunter finds the actual fox, i.e., the microfox or cross-band HT, he/she will notify the fox who will note the time.

If there are N foxhunter teams, each member of the team that is the first to find the fox receives N points, and the first person in that team that found the fox receives N+1 points. All members of the second team to find the fox receive N-1 points. All members of the third team to find the fox receive N-2 points, and so forth.

The person or team that function as the fox each receive a score equal to the sum of the number of points earned by each of the hunters divided by the number of foxhunter teams. In other words their score = (Σ (points earned by each hunter)) / (number of hunter teams).

For example, based upon the results of the February foxhunt this scoring plan would result in the following numbers:


CALL	TEAM #	TEAM ORDER OF FINDING FOX	FIRST TO FIND FOX	FOXHUNT SCORE
KC9MUT	1	1st	X	4
KC9EZP	1	1st		3
KC9UHU	1	1st		3
W9SAN	2	2nd		2
W9LAN	2	2nd		2
KB9DOS	3	3rd		1
KB9DOT	3	3rd		1
K9OMA	Fox	-		5.33
KA9YYI	Fox	-		5.33
KB9RUS	Fox	-		5.33
KB9SSE	Fox	-		5.33

I did not hear a consensus on how to score things if a team or teams do not find the fox within the two and one half hour window from the start of the hunt. I believe this is an item that needs to be agreed too.


Overall, this was an excellent and productive meeting with numerous questions resolved. From the text above it is obvious that a few more questions and details need to be dealt with.

Respectively submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



HAMFEST 2015



TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION
TMRA's 60th Hamfest - Radios/Computers/Electronics
March 15th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Owens Community College
Student Health and Activity Center (SHAC)
30335 Oregon Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551

On Campus Parking is Free and Close to the Hamfest

CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are a few of the contests that will be held in the next few weeks. Please refer to the contest web sites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Some of the places on-line with information on contests include:

ARRL Contest Corral Web page	www.arrl.org/contests	ARRL's National Contest Journal	www.arrl.org/ncj
ARRL Contest Update	www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues	Contesting On-Line	www.contesting.com
WA7BNM Contest Calendar	www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/	Contesting Wiki	http://wiki.contesting.com
DX Zone Contesting	www.dxzone.com/catalog/Contesting/	Radio-Sport.Net	www.radio-sport.net/

NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY			YL CW PARTY			ARRL INT'L PHONE DX CONTEST					
MAR 1, 1500Z		MAR 2, 0059Z		MAR 3, 1900Z		MAR 3, 2100Z		MAR 7, 0000Z		MAR 8, 2359Z	
3.5-28	50, 144	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL		3.5	-	CW		1.8-28	-	PHONE	
NC COUNTY OR S/P/C, RS(T) OPTIONAL			RST, SERIAL, IF YL "YL," NAME			RS AND STATE, PROVINCE, OR POWER					
www.rars.org/ncqsoparty			www.agcw.de			www.arrl.org/contests					
LOUISIANA QSO PARTY			IDAHO QSO PARTY			NORTH AMERICAN RTTY SPRINT					
MAR 14, 1400Z		MAR 15, 0200Z		MAR 14, 1900Z		MAR 15, 1900Z		MAR 15, 0000Z		MAR 15, 0359Z	
1.8-28	50, 144	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL		3.5-28	-	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL		3.5-14	-	DIGITAL	
CALL SIGN, RS(T), LA PARISH OR S/P/C			RS(T) AND ID COUNTY OR S/P/C			BOTH CALL SIGNS, SERIAL, NAME, AND S/P/C					
http://laqp.org/			www.idahoarrl.info/qsoparty			www.ncjweb.com					
WISCONSIN QSO PARTY			OKLAHOMA QSO PARTY			VIRGINIA QSO PARTY					
MAR 15, 1800Z		MAR 16, 0100Z		MAR 21, 1300Z		SEE WEBSITE		MAR 21, 1400Z		SEE WEBSITE	
3.5-28	50+	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL		3.5-28	50	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL		1.8-28	50-440	PHONE, CW, DIGITAL	
WI COUNTY OR S/P/C			RS(T) AND OK COUNTY OR S/P/"DX"			SERIAL AND VA COUNTY/CITY OR S/P OR "DX"					
www.warac.org			www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm			www.qsl.net/sterling					

Classified Ads

Items for Sale

Want to Buy



If you have something you would like to have listed in the classified section then please send an email to the newsletter editor at ab9zd@arrl.net.

Articles, photographs, and classified ads for publication in the Allen County HamNews should be emailed to the newsletter editor at AB9ZD@ARRL.NET several days before the first of the month.

HAM RADIO CLASSES IN NORTHERN INDIANA

To satisfy the growing popularity of the Ham Radio hobby, the Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Club will sponsor free classes leading to the exam for an FCC Technician Class license. There will be eight two-hour training sessions beginning Monday evenings on March 9 in preparation for the FCC license exam to be held on Monday, April 13. The classes will be held at the DeKalb County Annex Building, 200 East Tenth Street in Auburn. To obtain complete information and the schedule, contact Dave Southern by e-mail at kc9yy@yahoo.com with "License" in the subject line or by phone at 260-925-1673. Advance reservations are requested to be sure of adequate materials.

Amateur radio licensees are entitled

to transmit on a wide range of frequencies and may use numerous modes of transmission including AM and FM voice, TV and Radio Teletype. Hams also enjoy using a variety of digital modes and can enjoy satellite communications including conversations with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. The Ham radio hobby is growing worldwide. In the U.S. alone, there are more than 700,000 licensed amateurs. A proliferation of modestly priced radio equipment and the elimination of the requirement to learn Morse Code is credited with much of the resurgence of interest.

The class series will conclude with administration of the FCC exam on Monday, April 13 at 6:00 PM.

The Allen County HamNews is prepared using Adobe's InDesign software along with PhotoShop and Acrobat on an i7 PC running Windows 7.

Membership Application for ACARTS OR FWRC

Name: _____ Call sign: _____ License class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____ Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ Unlisted? Yes
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? Yes

(ARRL membership helps your club maintain affiliation.)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster and on our club web site? Yes No

Both clubs now offer this newsletter as a downloadable (Adobe Acrobat) PDF file, in lieu of a paper copy sent through the mail. For FWRC a mailed paper newsletter is a \$20.00/yr. premium.

How would you like your newsletter delivered? by snail mail download from web site.

A.C.A.R.T.S. Dues	
Regular membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12.00 / year
Additional family members ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 / year
Student membership ²	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 / year
Associate membership ³	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 / year
(New Regular memberships are \$1/month)	

Fort Wayne Radio Club Dues	
Regular membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 / year
Family membership ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 / year
Student membership ²	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 / year
Associate membership ³	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 / year
Mailed newsletter premium	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 / year
(Memberships for Jul - Dec are 1/2 the stated amounts.)	

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

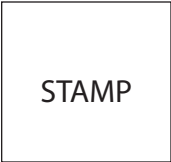
Please attach a check (number _____) for the appropriate amount and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

ACARTS	Fort Wayne Radio Club.
PO Box 10342	PO Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342	Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

For dual membership, send a check to each club for your respective membership. Payment by check is strongly encouraged!

ACARTS AND FWRC REPEATERS		
W9INX		ACARTS
146.880 (-)	Voice	General use / Skywarn priority (Note 1)
147.255 (+)	Voice	General use
443.800 (+)	Voice	General use
144.390 (s)	Digital	APRS - wide
145.530 (s)	Digital	W9INX-1 Digipeater and Node
W9TE		FWRC
146.760 (-)	Voice	General use
146.940 (-)	Voice	General use with autopatch
146.910 (-)	Voice	EchoLink connection repeater Node number 519521
444.875 (+)	Voice	General use
439.25 In, 910.250 Out	ATV	144.340 Audio & control
442.99375	D-STAR	General use (Note 1)
224.880 (-)	Voice	W9FEZ, 1.6 MHz offset
Notes:		
1. D-STAR, Offset + 5.0 MHz, W9TE ____ B, W9TE ____ G		

AREA NETS					
Daily			Tuesday		
8:00 AM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6 Meter Net
8:30 AM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Allen Co. ARES Training Net
6:00 PM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	Wednesday		
6:30 PM	146.880-	IMO (alternate is 146.760)	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRCYL Net
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:30 PM	147.150	21 Repeater Group
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	145.270	Whitley Co. ARES (131.8 PL disabled)
Week Days			9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net
8:30 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net	Thursday		
Sunday			7:30 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. Sunday (131.8 PL)	8:00 PM	50.580 AM	6 Meter AM Net
8:30 PM	1.965 & 146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	8:30 PM	145.510 (s)	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
9:00 PM	145.530	Northeast Indiana Packet Net (Note 2)	Saturday		
			8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES
Notes:					
1. All times local time. Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor AB9ZD (at) ARRL.NET.					
2. On 145.530 @ 1200 baud. Use unconnected converse mode to communicate for a roundtable net setting. Use your "UNPROTO" command or equivalent to set Digi path(s) through the strongest station(s) needed between you and your destination. Only use those that are necessary! Have all your "Monitor" settings on so you can see everyone.					
3. 1st and 3rd Thursday, 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/inhfnets.html					



To:

Activities Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Place
03/01/2015	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin	Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course
03/10/2015	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
03/10/2015	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
03/17/2015	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
03/27/2015	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
04/07/2015	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
04/12/2015	1:30 PM	Foxhunt - River Greenway Trailhead/Cobin	Memorial Park near Lakeside Golf Course
04/14/2015	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
04/17/2015	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
04/21/2015	7:00 PM	ACARTS Spring Banquet	The Guesthouse
11/15/2015	9 AM - 4 PM	2014 Fort Wayne Hamfest	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
11/16/2015	9 AM - 2 PM	2014 Fort Wayne Hamfest	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum