

# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

February 2008

Volume 9 Issue 2

## Allen County ARES Meeting - Get To Know Your Served Agencies

The first Allen County ARES meeting in recent memory is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 27 in conference room C at the downtown public library. Representatives from the Office of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army have been invited to discuss the role ARES will play in each agency's emergency operation plan. This is an opportunity to hear directly from the agencies ARES would support during an incident, get to know their leadership, and emphasize the important mission that ARES can serve in an emergency.



Following the discussion with the served agency representatives, ARES members will be photographed so that ID cards can be supplied to each registered member at a later meeting. It is important that all interested and eligible licensed amateur radio operators attend this meeting if you want to be a registered Allen County ARES member. New registrations will be accepted at the meeting and updates to previously registered member records will be available. Many records haven't been verified since the early 1990's and it's time all former ARES members either re-commit or are removed from

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## Annual Skywarn Training



Date: Wed. February 20, 2008

Time: 2:00 PM and another session at 7:00 PM

Where: the new Public Safety Academy (Southtown Centre)

All amateur radio storm spotters are invited to attend either of these training sessions.

There WILL NOT be separate training offered to the ACARTS and FWRC groups. The NWS office only wants to provide training coordinated through the county EMA offices. The specific meeting room at the PSA will be announced later (probably on the new Allen County ARES Training Net on Tuesdays at 9:00 PM on the 146.94 repeater).

The Public Safety Academy (PSA) is located behind the new Menards and Wal-Mart stores near the intersection of Tillman Rd. and US27 (formerly Southtown Mall). Enter the shopping center and follow Phoenix Parkway to the rear of Menards. The PSA parking is accessed from Patriot Crossing. Enter the building nearest the flag poles. You will be required to register with the receptionist.

Joseph, K9RFZ  
Allen County ARES EC

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

Please send any articles, corrections, for sale notices, etc. to the editor, Victor Guess, WB9UZA, wb9uza at arrl.net. Please put "for newsletter" in the subject line. Text should be plain ASCII, graphics should be JPEG or GIF. For those computer impaired: snail mail to 3311 Sanibel Drive, Fort Wayne, IN, 46815-4755.

**Deadline for Mar. issue is Friday, 2/29/08.**  
**Please do NOT send anything in all caps!!**

### Internet Home Pages:

**Fort Wayne Radio Club:**  
<http://www.fortwayneradioclub.org>

**ACARTS:**

<http://www.acarts.com>

**Ft Wayne DX Association:**

<http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/>

# Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

## Officers

### President:

Tom Baker  
N9TB 747-2714  
n9tb at arrl.net

### Vice President:

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KC9CGN 632-4083  
woody922 at netzero.net

### Secretary:

Al Burke  
WB9SSE 637-1989  
woffermom at cs.com

### Treasurer:

Bob Streeter  
W8ST 672-9737  
w8st at arrl.net

### Communications

#### Manager:

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W9SAN 483-4039  
w9san at arrl.net

### Board of Directors

Carole Burke  
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wb9rus at comcast.net

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Clint Stedje  
KB9LOF 485-4067  
kb9lof at verizon.net

Vic Guess  
WB9UZA 485-7472  
wb9uza at arrl.net



## President's Corner



The January meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club was the annual ham radio and related equipment auction. Attendance was good despite the cold weather. Although it was not the most equipment we have had; there was a lot of good spirited bidding going on. Auctions always seem to be unpredictable. I want to thank Chad Beech, W9GGA, for doing the Auctioneer duties, Woody Woodbury, KC9CGN, and Steve Nardin, W9SAN, for assisting with the tracking paperwork, and Bob Streeter, W8ST, for his great job organizing, accounting, and handling the money. It was great fun as always.

The February meeting will be our annual Skywarn training. That training will operate a little different this year. As you may remember, in the past the Fort Wayne Radio Club and ACARTS have taken turns hosting Skywarn training as the February General Meeting. This year the National Weather Service has decided to offer training only through the county EMA office and not offer any radio club hosted training. We learned about this change late enough in our 2008 planning that the board voted to use the EMA sponsored training as our February General Meeting. The training is Wednesday February 20th at the Public Safety Academy in Southtown Centre. The training will be offered at 2:00 PM in the afternoon and again at 7:00 PM in the evening.

February is also the return of the foxhunt season. Normally the first foxhunt of the season would be on the first Sunday afternoon. But since February 3rd is Super Bowl XLII, the foxhunt will move to the second Sunday, February 10th. Additional details are available with the foxhunt schedule later in the newsletter. With the passing of Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, the points tracking will now be done by Al Burke, WB9SSE. To clarify the scoring rules, Al has requested a meeting of those interested Saturday morning, February 9th, at 9:00 AM at the Benson's restaurant near the intersection of Maplecrest and St. Joe Center Roads. If you

have never participated in a foxhunt, come on out and meet some of the participants and get started in this unique aspect of amateur radio.

The third Friday in March is Good Friday, so the March general meeting will be the second Friday, March 14th. Also, due to youth activities every Friday night at Good Shepherd UMC, all of the 2008 Fort Wayne Radio Club meetings will be held in the large "Big Three" rooms off the back hallway.

As we look ahead the Amateur Radio calendar is just getting started and we have a lot of good activities coming: Dayton in May, VHF and Field Day contests in June, our tailgate hamfest in August, and the Fort Wayne Hamfest in November just to name a few. If you haven't participated, come out and give it a try; and if you see someone new make sure you make them feel welcome.

We hope to see you at the Skywarn training in February and at the general meeting in March!

Tom / N9TB

## SKYWARN Training

**2/20/08 2:00 & 7:00 PM**  
- Public Safety Academy  
(Southtown Centre)



**Fort Wayne Radio Club Auction**

photos by Vic Guess



**January FWRC new & renewing members**

- AB9OJ
- AF9Y
- K9EA
- KB9WWM
- KB9YKU
- KB9YTT
- KC9JYL
- KC9MJU
- KC9MRZ
- N9HRA
- N9JFN
- W9LKH
- WB9AA
- WB9RUS

**ARES Meeting cont'd.**

the roster. Free parking is available at the library if you have a current library card; otherwise on street meter parking is free after 6:00 PM.

Questions about the ARES meeting may be addressed during the Allen County ARES Training Net at 9:00 PM each Tuesday on the 146.94 W9TE repeater or by contacting the county EC directly.

Joseph Lawrence  
 Allen County ARES Emergency Coordinator  
 (260) 373-1986  
 k9rfz (at) yahoo.com

# STATE OF THE ARTS

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

## ACARTS Officers

### President

Vic Berko, KA9LTV  
(260) 456-2012  
vberko at comcast.net

### Vice President

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

### Secretary

Robin Berrier, KB9PCF  
(260) 436-8126  
robinberrier at aol.com

### Treasurer

Howard Pletcher, N9ADS  
(260) 747-5252  
n9ads at jun0.com

## ACARTS Managers

### Activities

OPEN

### Emergency Preparedness

Dan Soper, KB9NGM  
(260) 637-5787  
dan996 at aol.com

### Communications

Victor Guess, WB9UZA  
(260) 485-7472  
wb9uza at arrl.net

### Station Manager

Steven Berrier, KB9BGW  
(260) 436-8126  
sber34039 at aol.com

### Fundraising Manager

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

### W9INX Trustee

Vic Berko, KA9LTV  
(260) 456-2012  
vberko at comcast.net

### Tech Committee

Emery McClendon, KB9IBW  
(260) 485-4120  
kb9ibw at jun0.com

## President's Message



A reminder that there will be no general meeting this month. We will have the board meeting as scheduled.

I would like to thank Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, for last month's program. Carl and his wife talked to us about DX'ing. They explained what it is, and how you can get started. Carl also showed a slide presentation of some of the DX Expeditions that they went on. That is where you go to some remote or unusual location to operate. In some cases the radio equipment was already there. In others you had to take everything with you. A question and answer period followed the presentation. Everyone enjoyed the program.

Even though the weather is cold, and still a lot of winter left, it is time for Skywarn training again. The weather in Indiana can change quickly. Last week we had a few days in the 50's. Last night in a matter of eight hours, we had a severe thunderstorm watch, and a winter weather advisory. The training session this year is a little different than in the past. The two clubs, AC-ARTS, and FWRC are no longer the hosts. The training is now through the Department of Homeland Security. It will be held on February 19th, at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the new Public Safety Academy located at Southtowne Centre. The Academy is behind the Wal-Mart store.

When there is severe weather possible, the Skywarn Net is activated. The net is a directed net, and under the control of the control operator. If you need to make a call, do it through the operator, then move to another frequency. You can tell if the repeater is in Skywarn condition by the "WX" trailer when the carrier drops. Also a audible "Weather Alert". When you are

making a report, follow the weather reporting guidelines in Joel's, KB9RH article in this newsletter. Keep it short and to the point. The net control, or the operators at NWS may also have questions for you. If you are out and about, be careful. We do not want you to become a storm statistic. I can use some ideas for a March program. Remember that our Spring Banquet is on April 15th. That is all I have for this month.

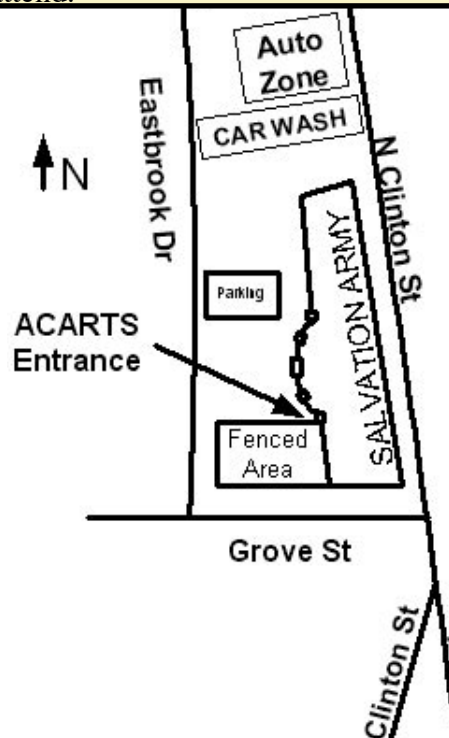
73,

Vic, KA9LTV

## Meeting Schedule

**SKYWARN Training - 2/20/08**  
2:00 & 7:00 PM - Public Safety Academy (Southtown Centre)

**Next Board Meeting: Feb. 12, 7:30 PM** All members are encouraged to attend.



## ARMAD News



Hello Everyone:

ARMAD 2008 is only five months away. We are working on making this years event a very special one.

We hope to have more QSO'S, and more young folks on hand to observe and be involved in third party traffic. I have received confirmation from several Boy Scout, and Girl Scout groups that they will be attending the event this year. That will mean kids, and parents. I also have confirmation from the Indiana Army National Guard, and the Indiana Air National Guard. They are presenting ARMAD to the deployed families as well.

Several performers have contacted me and stated that they will come to Fort Wayne at no charge if we want them too. They want to show their support for our Troops, Veterans, Military Retired, and their families with Amateur Radio Operators. I hope that all of you will encourage someone to attend, and also ask other Amateur Radio Operators to come out or work us on the air.

Keep your eyes and ears tuned in to WANE-TV News 15. They will be making an announcement soon that will also benefit Amateur Radio and ARMAD. There may also be something in the printed media as well.

If you have any ideas to help ARMAD grow and promote our hobby, please feel free to email us at the addresses on our web page [www.armad.net](http://www.armad.net).

Let's "Ham It Up For The Troops."

Sincerely,  
Emery / KB9IBW



## January 2008 ACARTS Board Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by Vic, KA9LTV.

Vic announced that the January program would be a presentation by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, on DX.

The board reviewed the club's income and expenses for 2007 and decided to keep the 2008 budget the same as 2007.

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

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## January 2008 ACARTS General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vic, KA9LTV.

Vic announced that there would be no February meeting. The Skywarn training sessions at the Public Safety Academy on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, would serve as the meeting.

He presented the 2008 club budget. It was approved by the members present.

After refreshments, Carl, K9LA, and his wife Vicky, AE9YL, gave a presentation on DX operation and some of the DXpeditions that they have been on.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

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## January ACARTS new & renewing members

KB5CTO  
KB9IQW  
KC9GAT  
KC9HYX  
KC9LPQ  
N9ANB  
N9HRA  
N9JFN  
ND9T  
W9BRW  
W9MWS  
WB9AA

# FWDXA

## The 2007 ARRL 10 m Contest - Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

**Ft Wayne DX Association** Considering we're at solar

minimum, last December's ARRL 10 m Contest turned out to be great fun for many. Even up north things were a lot better than expected. The biggest recipients of better-than-normal propagation were the southern states (especially Texas) - they enjoyed some great sporadic E openings on the first night.

I ended up with 190 QSOs, 35 states, 2 VE provinces, and 5 DX stations. I made 21 QSOs Friday evening (before and after a Christmas party), 84 QSOs on Saturday, and 85 QSOs on Sunday. Due to the weak-signal advantage of CW, I made 75% of my QSOs on CW.

Of the 190 QSOs, 67 (35%) were with stations in Texas. Many stations up north reported a similar pipeline to Texas. Not only was there an abundance of Lone Star ops, the signals were generally very strong.

The DX stations I worked were KP4, CX, XE, ZS, and LU. They all were weak and on the direct short path.

On Friday evening around 10:00 PM I heard NA5TR (in Texas, of course) report to another station that he already had 300 QSOs with stations all over the country. That's 100 QSOs per hour - not bad for 10 m at solar minimum! I have to admit that was depressing to hear (remember I only made 21 QSOs on Friday evening), but I stuck it out anyway. By the way, NA5TR ended up with 876 QSOs. Not bad - but more impressive was the NX5M multi-single effort with 2243 QSOs. Wow!

I worked quite a few W7s - AZ, NV, WY, WA, and OR went in the log much to my delight. I even worked VE7 and South Dakota. I was disappointed to not work (or even hear, for that matter) a W6.

I didn't work many East Coast stations. I kind of expected that due to the short distance. I did manage to work MA, NH, CT, NJ, and VA - all after a couple repeats due to quite weak signals.

Earlier I mentioned that the five DX QSOs were via direct short path. That wasn't necessarily the case for many of the stateside QSOs. Many were made with my antenna pointing in a generally southerly direction to areas of higher F2 region ionization. These were scatter paths.

The close-in states were worked via ground wave - MI, OH, IN, and IL. It is rather easy to work the big contest

	CW QSOs	PH QSOs
Friday night	6	15
Saturday	65	19
Sunday	71	14

stations (K8CC, W9RE, K9QVB, WB9Z, etc) on 10 m ground wave even though signals are weak - especially when there isn't a lot of QRM.

I missed a lot of QSOs due to very short burst-type openings, where I might get some of the call or even a full call but the station would disappear before the exchange was made. These were kind of like meteor pings, but I'm guessing these were due to irregularities in the ionosphere.

I have to admit I enjoyed this contest even though the going was tough. This type of contest makes you use your understanding of all propagation modes on 10 m - F2, sporadic E, ground wave, and scatter. In a perverse way it's a lot more fun than sitting there and running S9+ signals for hours on end. Well, almost!

## Professional Media Award



The ARRL Board of Directors held its first 2008 meeting in Houston, Texas on January 18-19. The following excerpt from *The ARRL Letter* is of local interest:

"Only one award, the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award, was conferred at this meeting. Alyssa Ivanson, of WANE-TV News, Fort Wayne, Indiana, received the Leonard Award on the recommendation of the ARRL Public Relations Committee. Ivanson brought public attention

to Amateur Radio by producing and reporting a television story on the efforts of Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, also of Fort Wayne, to create and promote Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. McClendon traveled to Washington, DC and met with First Lady Laura Bush as part of his promotion of Amateur Radio."

Congratulations to Alyssa and Emery!

## Storm Spotter Training

- Joel KB9RH

With the severe weather season just around the corner, it's time again to get prepared. One of the ways is by attending a storm spotter training session and having meteorologists from the National Weather Service review severe thunderstorms while also bringing us up to date on the latest research.

One of the many aspects of amateur radio is public service, which includes reports by trained spotters of certain specific weather conditions. In our area, these reports are directed to the National Weather Service office in North Webster, Indiana where forecasters compare the information to other reports and to radar images. The office is responsible for issuing forecasts and warnings for 37 counties in northern Indiana, northwest Ohio, and the border counties in Michigan.

Even though significant advances have been made in radar technology, meteorologists cannot see what is happening at the surface because of the curvature of the earth. Therefore, our "ground truth" reports supplement what is being seen on radar.

The two most important aspects of storm spotting are safety and accurate reporting. For those and other reasons, the National Weather Service conducts spotter training sessions in every county each year. If you cannot attend the training for Allen County, the dates for other sessions can be found at the NWS North Webster home page [www.weather.gov/iwx](http://www.weather.gov/iwx).

If a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch is issued by the Storm Prediction Center, the staff at the North Webster office will evaluate the situation and determine when and if spotters need to be activated. Even if there is a watch in effect and no severe weather in our area, we may initiate a "standby" net. Under certain atmospheric conditions, severe weather may develop very rapidly and we need to be ready. An operator may be called in to staff the amateur station at the Weather Service office. That station operates under the call sign WX9IWX.

When we are activated, the net itself operates on the 146.88 repeater (146.76 backup) as a directed net. By definition, a directed net is a radio net in which no station (other than net control) may communicate with any other station in the net without first obtaining permission from net control. The net controls are responsible for managing traffic on the net. Please follow their instructions.

The counties under the jurisdiction of the North Webster office are divided into four quadrants; we are southeast or Quad 2. There are 10 other counties in the quad, so

reports will also be coming in from liaison stations to those county nets.

Most of the severe weather in our area is the result of squall lines of thunderstorms. The classic "supercell" thunderstorms are rare in this part of the country - but they occasionally do happen. As the storms approach and move through our area, net control or his designated station will attempt to give updated radar information to spotters in the field. We may also get radar updates and special weather statements from the amateur operator at the WX9IWX station. Every effort is made to insure spotters have the latest information, but that is not always possible.

Here are the specific weather conditions the National Weather Service would like to have reported:

1. Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds, and Wall Clouds (remember there must be rotation).
2. Winds 45 miles per hour or greater (and note if winds are estimated or measured).
3. Any Hail (NWS requests we do not report "marble size" hail). Please report hail size as pea-size, dime, nickel, quarter, etc. Even better, measure it with a ruler.
4. Heavy Rain (1 inch or more in 1 hour or less, or storm totals of 2 inches or more).
5. Flooding in progress (rapid pooling of water on roadways, etc).
6. Storm damage (large trees, branches, any structural damage, etc).

Keep your reports short and to the point. Speeches are not necessary. Your report should take 10 or 15 seconds at the most. If the storms are especially severe, there may be a flurry of reports in a short amount of time; this happens often. Depending on the situation, net control may ask spotters to hold lower-priority reports for a few minutes (if there is a tornado on the ground, that situation takes priority over a pea-size hail report!).

If you believe you have a reportable condition, but are not sure, report your suspicions to the net. An example would be if you are observing low-hanging clouds underneath the rain-free base, but are too far away to tell if there is rotation. There may be other spotters in the area, and your report can also be checked out on radar.

There are times when severe weather occurs even though there is no official weather watch in effect and a net has





## Severe Weather Notes

Northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio again escaped most of the severe weather in 2007; the year was quieter than 2006. However, there was plenty of severe weather all around us. The most significant event of the year was large hail which fell on Thursday evening July 26th. Hail the size of golf balls was reported in our northwest Ohio counties, and the supercell responsible for the hail generated one funnel cloud.

In our immediate area we were lucky. Most of the thunderstorms that had severe potential moved through after sunset or during the overnight hours after they had weakened. This happened consistently.

Across the country, statistics through the month of November indicate a total of 1074 tornadoes compared to the 3 year average of 1159. However, tornado deaths were up: 81 deaths vs. the 3 year average of 62. One item of note is that the number of tornadoes in October was the second highest on record. This goes along with what has happened in our area over the past several years: more severe weather outbreaks are occurring later in the season.

But now we turn our attention to this year. It's time once again to attend spotter sessions and review our notes from previous years. For those who have recently received their amateur radio license, I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to participate in the program. The only requirement is that you attend a training session given by NWS North Webster, and if possible, more than one. For veteran spotters, it is recommended

you attend a training session every year because the information is updated, thanks to the continuing research into severe thunderstorms.

For all spotters who wish to get into this a little deeper, the second Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium is going to be held Saturday, March 1 in Greenwood, Indiana. Several spotters from this area attended the 2006 session which focused on partnerships among all the organizations involved in severe weather. Details and registration information can be found at [www.weather.gov/ind](http://www.weather.gov/ind). There is not going to be an advanced training session in our area this year, but to the best of my knowledge, IMO Skywarn is still planning an all-day session in March of 2009.

Also for advanced spotters: you may wish to consider attending a training session given by another NWS office. I have done this for several years and it helps me by giving another perspective on severe thunderstorms. Some sessions close to us are in Muncie on Saturday, February 9 and Saturday, March 8 in Kokomo. The Cleveland office is conducting their training session for Lucas County (Toledo) on Saturday, March 29 at 10:00 AM at St. Luke's hospital. Easy to find: it's at the intersection of US 24 and I-475. I was there last year, and it was one of the best spotter training sessions I have ever attended (no kidding). Will this year's session be as good? Unknown. Listings of spotter training sessions for NWS offices around us can be accessed through the home pages of those particular offices.

Looking forward to receiving your reports this year.

from Joel KB9RH



## 2008 central indiana SEVERE WEATHER SYMPOSIUM

An all-day advanced spotter symposium Saturday, March 1 in Greenwood, Indiana. More information, agenda, and registration information is at [www.weather.gov/ind](http://www.weather.gov/ind).



## Test Points

22-Mar-2008

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

Time: 2:00 PM (No walk-ins)

Contact: STEPHEN J KOUTS  
(419)238-5560

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: VAN WERT COUNTY EMA  
1220 OLD LINCOLN HWY  
BUSINESS US 30 EAST  
HOMELAND SECURITY BUILDING  
VAN WERT, OH 45891



10-Apr-2008

Sponsor: GOSHEN ARC

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: PAUL F COREY  
(574)262-4414

Email: K9MV@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: WWW.GOSHENARC.ORG/VE\_TESTING.  
HTML

GREENCROFT BLVD  
GREENCROFT RETIREMENTCOMMUNITY  
HOMAN BUILDING  
GOSHEN, IN 46525

26-Apr-2008

Sponsor: W5YI-VEC -- WHITLEY COUNTY ARC

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ROGER L MC ENTARFER  
(260)503-9008

Email: N9QCL@ARRL.NET

VEC: W5YI VEC

Location: PEABODY LIBRARY  
1160 E STATE ROAD 205  
COLUMBIA CITY, IN 46725

## Spotter Training, cont'd.

not been called. If you have something to report, please give your call sign and indicate that you have a severe weather report. Any station with access to a telephone can call in your report to the North Webster office.

Space limitations do not permit a complete discussion of all situations which may occur during a severe weather net. Just remember to use common sense when a net is activated and always put safety first - we want you to be here for the next severe weather event. Be sure to operate from a location where you can safely observe the sky, and always have an escape plan if the unexpected should happen.

If there is a disaster - either a tornado disaster or widespread wind damage in Allen County - the 146.94 repeater has been designated as the hub of recovery operations. Please monitor that repeater for information on possible activation. Nets on the 146.88/146.76 repeaters are concerned with operations before and during the event; the 146.94 covers operations after the event.

from Joel KB9RH

## 2008 Foxhunt Schedule

Jan - No Hunt

Feb 3 1:30

Mar 2 1:30

Apr 7 6:30

May 5 6:30

June 2 6:30

July 7 6:30

Aug 4 6:30

Sept 8 6:30

Oct 6 6:30

Nov 2 1:30

Dec - No Hunt

All foxhunts start at off track betting parking lot,  
Washington Ctr. & Lima Rds. - Carl, N9NRO



## Regional Hamfests

Date	Location	Contact Phone	URL or E-mail
17 Feb 2008	Livonia, MI	734-427-3934	<a href="http://www.LivoniaARC.com">http://www.LivoniaARC.com</a>
23 Feb 2008	LaPorte, IN	219-325-0043	<a href="http://www.k9jsi.org">http://www.k9jsi.org</a>
15 Mar 2008	Marshall, MI	269-966-0770	<a href="http://www.w8df.com">http://www.w8df.com</a>
16 Mar 2008	Maumee, OH	419-385-5624	<a href="http://www.tmrhamradio.org">http://www.tmrhamradio.org</a>
20 Apr 2008	Peru, IN	765-453-9256	<a href="http://www.ncihamfest.com">http://www.ncihamfest.com</a>

For more complete information go to <http://www.acarts.com/hamfests.htm> or <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html#listing>



## For Sale & Wanted

For Sale: Cushcraft A449-11s 440 beam  
This beam has never been up the tower or out in the weather. AES is asking \$99.99 and I am willing to sell it for \$50.00.

Victor Keller, N9GK, n9gk (at) arrl.net

\* \* \*

I like trains, but due to illness would like to sell two Motorola radios set up with the receive channels only for legalities. Can you add to website and Newsletter

Here are the descriptions:

1) Motorola HT1000 Handi-Talki with good battery and charger. This radio is programmed with all 97 U.S. and Canadian railroad receive channels only. Can scan up 8 channels which are field programmable. Asking \$175.00

2) Motorola Spectra A4 mobile transceiver currently programmed with all 97 U.S. and Canadian Receive channels plus 161.610 receive channel used by Metra in Chicago. This unit has been tuned and tweaked to receive well on the Railroad band. Can be field programmed to scan up to 16 channels. Includes power cord, Motorola speaker, and mounting hardware. This would also make a nice Christmas present for someone who likes trains. \$275 negotiable.

Call Gary at 260-627-0334 or email at n9ijb(at) arrl.net

\* \* \*

For Sale:

- Slide scanner - Nikon LS-20E, with SCSI card for PC, \$75
- 100 W amplifier with 10 W in, 2 m FM only, TPL PA3-1DE, \$70 call Vic, WB9UZA at 260-485-7472 or email wb9uza (at) arrl.net.

\* \* \*

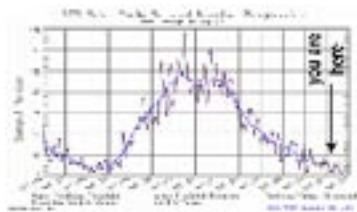
For Sale:

Astron RS-35A Power Supply, excellent condition, \$85 call Dick Byers at 260-493-6060

\* \* \*

Free: 8.5 ft satellite dish. Contact John at 260-485-5364.

## Cycle 24 Here, Experts Say



from *The ARRL Letter* – With the appearance of Sunspot 981 -- a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot -- on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back

in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later.

Reversed polarity describes a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ), continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts."

According to NASA's Tony Phillips, many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to a frenzy and Cycle 24 will be no exception. We still have some quiet times ahead," says Hathaway

## Membership Application for ACARTS - and/or - FWRC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_-4\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$12.00/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  \$12.00 / year
  - Additional family members <sup>1</sup>  \$6.00 / year
  - Student membership <sup>2</sup>  \$6.00 / year
  - Associate membership <sup>3</sup>  \$6.00 / year
- (New Regular memberships are \$1/month)

### Fort Wayne Radio Club Dues

- Regular membership  \$15.00 / year
  - Family membership <sup>1</sup>  \$21.00 / year
  - Student membership <sup>2</sup>  \$6.00 / year
  - Associate membership <sup>3</sup>  \$15.00 / year
  - Mailed newsletter premium  \$12.00 / 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
4. 9 digit ZIP code required for US bulk mail

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

ACARTS  
PO Box 10342  
Fort Wayne, IN 46851

Fort Wayne Radio Club.  
PO Box 15127  
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

For dual membership, fill out both sides and send 2 checks to either club. **Payment by check is strongly encouraged!**

### **ACARTS Voice Repeaters**

- 146.880 (-) General use / Skywarn priority
- 147.255 (+) General use / Autopatch priority\*
- 443.800 (+) General use

(All repeaters have autopatch, but 88 has only speed dial emergency #'s.)

### **ACARTS Digital Repeaters (digipeaters)**

- 144.390 (s) APRS - wide

### **Fort Wayne Radio Club Repeaters**

- Voice: 146.76 (-) General use
- 146.94 (-) General use with autopatch
- 146.91 (-) EchoLink connection repeater  
Node number 16636
- 444.875 (+) General use
- ATV: 439.25 In, 910.250 Out, 144.340 Audio & control

### **Area Traffic Nets**

- (please submit any changes or corrections to the editor)
- IMO:** meets nightly at 6:30 p.m. on 146.88-
  - Tri State Two Meter Net:** meets daily at 7 p.m. on 147.015+
  - 21 Repeater Group:** meets each Wednesday at 9 p.m. on 147.150
  - Help and Swap Net:** Mondays at 9:00 p.m. 146.94(-)
  - 6 Meter SSB/AM Net:** Tuesdays at 8:00 pm EDT or EST on 50.580  
MHz Net controls: K9RFZ & W9SAN

### **Miscellaneous Nets**

- Huntington ARES:** Saturday at 8:00 p.m. on 146.685
- Whitley Co. / ARES:** Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. on 145.270 (Note 131.8 PL disabled for all nets)
- Whitley Co. Sunday:** Sundays at 7:45 p.m. on 444.550 +. (The 146.460 simplex crossbanding from both nets has been dropped.)
- 160 Meter "No-Name" Net:** Sunday 8:00 p.m. Indiana time, 1966 kHz, Wednesday 3866 KHz. Everyone welcome! Contact Larry Temenoff, KB9OS for more info.
- ARES Training Net:** Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. on the 146.94 W9TE repeater.

Allen County HamNews  
 PO BOX 10342  
 FORT WAYNE, IN 46851



TO:



### Activities Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
2/10/08	1:30 PM	foxhunt	off track betting parking lot, Washington Ctr. & Lima Rds.
2/12/08	7:30 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Center
2/20/08	2:00 & 7:00 PM	combined SKYWARN training	Public Safety Academy (Southtown Centre)
2/27/08	7:00 PM	A.R.E.S. meeting	main ACPL conference room C
2/29/08	---	deadline for Mar. ACHN items	
3/2/08	1:30 PM	foxhunt	off track betting parking lot, Washington Ctr. & Lima Rds.
3/4/08	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
3/11/08	7:30 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Center
3/14/08	7:00 PM	FWRC Meeting	GSUMC
3/18/08	7:30 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Center
4/2/08	---	deadline for Apr. ACHN items	
4/7/08	7:30 PM	foxhunt	off track betting parking lot, Washington Ctr. & Lima Rds.
4/8/08	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
4/8/08	7:30 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Center
4/15/08	TBA	ACARTS Spring Banquet	TBA
4/18/08	7:00 PM	FWRC Meeting	GSUMC