



You Could Win a \$20 Gift Certificate at the March Meeting

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Spring Banquet Is Just Around the Corner

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There's Nothing Like a Cruise In February

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# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

March 2012  
Volume 13  
Issue 3

## SPOTTERS LEARN ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER CLIMATOLOGY

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, Interim Quadrant Two Director, IMO SKYWARN

Flooding and lightning both kill more people than thunderstorm winds or tornados in northern Indiana, southern Michigan and northwest Ohio. That's one of the climatology facts Michael Lewis from the National Weather Service (NWS) presented at the annual training for SKYWARN spotters Feb. 21 in Fort Wayne. Lewis is warning coordination meteorologist at the NWS Northern Indiana office, which covers 37 counties, including Allen County, Indiana. Part his presentation included information gathered from 30 years of local storm reports in the counties his office covers. Lewis said the role of flooding in weather fatalities between 1980 and 2010 reinforces the importance of spotters reporting flooding in their areas. As shown in the chart below, flooding killed 14 people during that period, while lightning killed 13, and tornados and thunderstorm winds each ended seven lives.

Regarding severe thunderstorm winds, Lewis reported that June was the busiest month during the period, followed by July, August and May, in that order. These dangerous straight-line winds peaked during the 4 p.m. hour, as the chart below

indicates.

By contrast, the climatology study showed that the 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. hours were the most active for tornados, with 35 of the period's twisters occurring during each of those hours. And if you thought that autumn tornados are rare, the study indicates otherwise. As you can see in the next chart, October was the fourth-most-frequent month for tornados. June once again led the pack, followed by July and then May.

The complete 30-year climatology re-

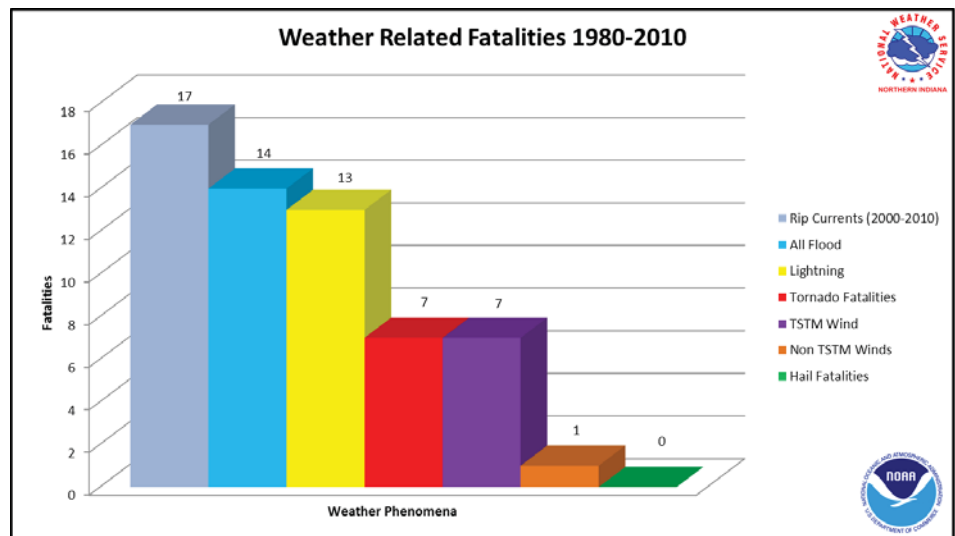
port is available on the NWS website at:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx/?n=svrwxclimo>

During the SKYWARN training, Lewis reminded spotters of the kinds of information NWS needs (as well as the kinds it doesn't) when severe weather strikes. He provided the following list of phenomena spotters should report:

- **Tornado** – A violently rotating column of air that touches the ground. Do not report a tornado unless you can see

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### Internet Home Pages

Fort Wayne Radio Club:	<a href="http://www.FWRC.info/">http://www.FWRC.info/</a>
	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWRC/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FWRC/</a>
ACARTS:	<a href="http://www.acarts.com">http://www.acarts.com</a>
Fort Wayne DX Association:	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/">http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/</a>
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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 first day of the month.

# Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Looking at the upcoming calendar of events for the first half of this year, we have a lot of fun stuff coming up. For the near term, we have the March meeting, which will be a "Go-Kit" Contest.



First prize is a \$20 gift certificate to Hall's Restaurants, so this will add an element of fun to the "competition". With bad weather season coming up in the Hoosier state, it is certainly a good time to review our equipment and make sure that everything is Murphy-Free and ready to go. Since operating procedures are the other side of emergency preparedness, Jay Farlow, W9LW, will be talking about the new, revised Skywarn techniques. This is especially important if you want to be a part of Skywarn operations going forward. So get to work on your Go-Kits, whether it is a rig-in-a-box, a portable power system, a portable antenna system, or some combination of these, be ready to bring them to the meeting and give a short demonstration of what they can do.

This should be a good time!

For April, I am working on a presentation on Stealth Antenna Systems. If you have such an animal, please send photos and description of the system, whether it worked or not. We are looking for all ideas, and your failures as well as successes, so we can share concepts and learn lessons from that. Operating in restricted locations is becoming an increasingly important challenge in Amateur Radio today. We are focusing on permanent type installations here, so put-up and take-down type solutions will not be included to limit the scope of the presentation to fit in the time allotted. Other than that, we will examine the wide range of hidden skyhooks. After the meeting, we will put the presentation in \*.PDF form on the club website for all to download as a reference.

Spring is a good time to be a ham, that cannot be denied! We have the Hamfesting season starting already, with Marshall and Toledo coming up, and of course the granddaddy of them all, Dayton. Also, we are hoping to put together an effort for the Indiana QSO party, as well as the ARRL VHF QSO Party, and another granddaddy of events, Field Day, coming up the end of June. In July, the CQ WPX VHF contest is one that is gaining in popularity, and it would be great if we could activate 6 and 2 meters toward the end of the month.

As I have said, this is a great time for our hobby! We will need the help of our club members to work on many projects like the new trailer. We will continue to work with our friends at ACARTS as well. There will be community events to help support, including a new one with the Blood Cancer walk-run at the airport. (on April 14th, mark your calendars) Stay tuned!!

Best Regards,

Steve Nardin, W9SAN



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Carole Burke, WB9RUS

#### Webmaster

Jay Farlow, W9LW

**March 16:** Will feature a "Go-Kit" Contest. First prize is a \$20 gift certificate to Hall's Restaurants.

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

## FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

The February Meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 17 February 2012 with club president Steve Nardin, W9SAN, serving as host. There were about 50 persons present.

### Old Business:

Steve started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and followed this by having all in attendance introduce themselves and their calls.

While not read at the meeting, a Treasurer's report is included in these minutes.

As of 17 February, 2012 the statistics regarding our financial position is as follows:

Income Year to Date is \$2273.60

Expenses Year to Date are \$2469.75

Current Year to Date Deficit is \$196.15

Cash on Hand is \$96.99

Savings and Checking Balance is \$8025.26

The club has no outstanding liabilities at this time.

A little more detail regarding the financial report reveals:

Income Year to Date is \$2273.60, consisting primarily of dues income of \$1550.00 and fund raising income of \$423.50.

Expenses Year to Date are \$2469.75, consisting primarily of equipment acquisition expenses of \$2249.75 and repeater expenses of \$220.00.

Current Year to Date Deficit is \$196.15

Cash on Hand is \$96.99

Savings and Checking Balance is \$8025.26

The total club physical asset base is currently valued at \$5150, which we believe is understated based on replacement value of the club physical possessions. The club has no loss insurance on these assets.

The club has no outstanding bills payable at this time, and there are no unpaid sources of income due to the club for this month.

### New Business:

At a recent Board meeting it was decided that, unless a club member specifically asked for them to be read, in order to save time minutes would no longer be read at meetings since they are readily available on the FWRC web page and in the Ham News.

Steve Nardin announced that the club had procured a new (used) trailer from a private individual for \$2,000.00 which was within the expense limit that the club membership had previously approved for procurement of a trailer. The trailer has a back door, a side door and a roof vent. It is 12' deep by 6' 3" feet high by 5' 9" wide, and is a single axle unit rated at 3,500 lbs. Pictures of it are available on the FWRC web page. Steve commented that we would like to install internal racks to store the club tower sections, install a dual voltage (12VDC, 115VAC) interior lighting system, and possibly install fold-up interior tables and perhaps chairs to serve as equipment operating positions. To that end Steve solicited volunteers to organize and implement the modifications to the trailer to provide the facilities he described. Anyone interested should contact him.

Steve also mentioned that Terry Bowman and Bob Streeter had been successful in getting the trailer titled to the Ft. Wayne Radio Club, Inc., and had obtained plates too.

Bob Streeter announced that in going through the paper work required to be submitted to the BMV regarding the title and plates, we have discovered some problems relating to the club being recognized by the Indiana Dept of Revenue (IDOR), and being recognized as a Tax Free Organization with the IRS. These issues must be attended too. At present, Bob and Al Burke are working the problem. It may turn out that the club will need to re-apply for tax-exempt status with the IRS (it apparently was at one time in the 1950's), and that may result in a fee between \$100.00 to as much as \$800.00 being charged by the IRS. And we may need to get a lawyer involved as no paperwork involving the IRS is straight-forward, and we don't know what we will be getting into with the IDOR. So we are concerned

about the impact this may have on the club treasury.

This (potential financial) issue also impacts the initiative to relocate the 146.91 MHz repeater antenna from the roof of Kettler Hall at IPFW to the top of the Kettler Hall tower (where the club's ATV repeater antennas are located), and to replace the present Ringo-Ranger antenna with a donated commercial gain antenna, similar to what we use at the Robison Park site and for the D-STAR machine. These actions would significantly improve the footprint of the 146.91 MHz machine (and hence Echo-Link availability) to handheld users in Allen county. We had previously negotiated a \$500.00 fee from a commercial tower climber who had agreed to perform the 146.910 MHz antenna work for that price, and we told him that we expected to take a membership vote on the (\$500.00) expenditure at the February club meeting. Since the financial implications of the IRS and IDOR issue are unknown at present, it was moved and seconded to take a club membership vote regarding authorization to spend \$500.00 on the tower climber contingent upon resolution of the IRS/IDOR cost impact issue, i.e., no money will be spent regarding moving the 146.91 MHz antenna until we know what the IRS/IDOR situation may cost the club. The club membership voted in the affirmative on this proposal.

All this talk regarding club finances provided a segue for Steve Nardin to discuss two initiatives that could bolster the club's treasury. The first involves an offer from the Applebee's restaurant chain where-in they will make available at no cost to the club a coupon which when used by a customer on a particular day chosen by the club, will result in 15% of the income to Applebee's of anyone using the coupon on that day returned to the club. This offer requires no investment by the club or it's membership. All we have to do is have a meal at an Applebee's on that day and provide them the coupon when paying the tab. Steve has chosen Tuesday, the first of May as the day this offer will be in effect. It will be valid at Applebee's through the area from Southbend, through Ft. Wayne, to Lima.

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# State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

## ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your ACARTS membership for 2012. If you have not renewed as of yet, your membership was officially dropped from the club roster as of March first. You will no longer receive notices of club activities via e-mail or mailed copies of the newsletter. It is not too late to re-up. We would love to have you back as a member.



If you have any ideas for a program topic, a speaker that you have heard before and would like to hear again, or an idea for a club activity, please let me know. ACARTS is your club. What kind activities do you want? What would bring you to a meeting?

Make plans to attend the Spring Banquet on April 17th. It will again be held at the Golden Coral on Lima Road. I will begin taking reservations next month, but you can mark the date on your calendars now.

Spring is almost here. After a mild winter with no major weather events, let's hope that the spring season is as mild and we don't have serious weather outbreaks in our area.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

## ARRL PUBLISHES NEW GUIDELINES FOR 60 METERS

Thanks to the FCC Report and Order issued November 18, 2011, amateurs will enjoy a number of new privileges on the 60 meter band beginning March 5, including a boost in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, as well as the ability to use CW and certain digital modes.

Late last year, the ARRL HF Band Planning committee surveyed 60 meter operators to gather opinions about how to best use the new privileges. On the subject of creating a specific band plan, the survey results indicated little consensus beyond the fact that 5403.5 kHz should retain its status as a de facto "DX channel." On the other hand, survey respondents made a number of suggestions for general operating practices.

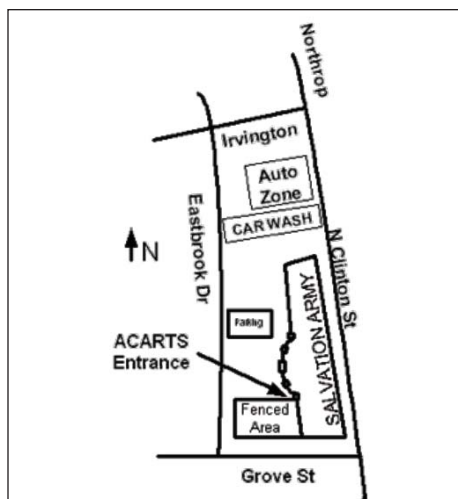
Based on the survey results and sub-

sequent research, the committee declined to propose a specific band plan for 60 meters at this time. The committee instead created a "Recommended Practices" document that is now available for downloading from the ARRL Web. The 60 Meter pages on the ARRL Web will also be updated to reflect the changes brought about by the Report and Order.

Check the April issue of QST magazine for a detailed discussion of the new 60 meter privileges and recommended operating practices.

March 20: TBD

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



## ACARTS Officers

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### Vice President

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Open

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### Communications

Open

### Station Manager

Open

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### W9INX Trustee:

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### Tech Committee

Open



## FEBRUARY 2012 ACARTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## SPOTTERS AND SEVERE WEATHER

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The meeting was called to order by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH.

Dave announced that the annual Skywarn Spotter Training at the Public Safety Academy would take the place of the February general meeting. He asked if anyone had any suggestions for the March program.

Dave asked if the Board wanted to keep the location for the Spring Banquet in April at the Golden Corral on Lima Road. The Board members agreed that that facility was fine and offered no other suggestions.

Howard, N9ADS, stated that due to changes in the Tax Code, the club was eligible to use a simplified tax form this year, eliminating the need for a \$500.00 fee for a CPA to prepare the return.

Howard also asked if anyone knew the location of the club's incorporation papers. Board members agreed to search possible locations for the papers.

Dave, W9LKH, asked if there was an electronic version of the club's constitution and bylaws so that they could be distributed for review for possible updates and modification. Jim, KB9IH, said that he had a CD from Don, WB8HQS, containing many of the club's past records.

Dave, W9LKH, asked if anyone had access to the club's webpage account besides the webmaster, Don, WB8HQS. It was agreed that the access information and passwords be made available to the Board so that more than one person could make changes if needed.

Howard, N9ADS, asked if the 146.88 MHz repeater still transmitted the CTCSS

tone. No one knew for sure and Dave, W9LKH said that he would check into it.

Howard, N9ADS, asked if the club was interested in having a Field Day site this year. As in the past several years, no one wanted to spearhead the activity. He stated that he has several of the club's tower sections stored at his QTH and that the club should sell them if the club is no longer participating in Field Day.

Jim, KB9IH, stated that he was considering cash prizes for the Hamfest this year instead of radio equipment. He suggested \$500.00, \$250.00, and \$100.00 for the three main prizes. This would save the club a few hundred dollars over the cost of purchasing radio equipment. It was agreed that the cash prizes be given this year.

Jim also stated that he has received official ARRL approval for the Hamfest to be the Indiana State Convention in 2012.

Jim also added that he will reduce the number of Hamfest tickets printed this year by 50%. This will save the club money as less than half of the tickets printed have been sold in the past few years. He also stated that he will reduce the number of single page Hamfest flyers printed this year as there were always many left over that were not given out at other hamfests. He added that the number of multi-page flyers would remain the same as the general mailing is the Hamfest's primary source of advertising.

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

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

debris flying on or from the ground. If you can see the funnel but can't see the debris because of an obstruction (e.g. a line of trees), report it as a funnel cloud, even though it might, in fact, be a tornado. In that case, also report what's keeping you from seeing the bottom of the funnel. Also, remember that in a tornado's early stages, a funnel cloud might not be visible even after touchdown.

- **Funnel Cloud** – A violently rotating column of air that does not reach the ground. Remember, "If it doesn't spin, don't call it in!" A funnel-shaped cloud that isn't rotating is probably a harmless (and non-reportable) scud cloud.

- **Wall Cloud** – An isolated lowering from a cumulonimbus cloud base that resembles a pedestal. Watch for rotation and persistence.

- **Wind Damage** – Any wind damage to structures, uprooted trees and/or large, healthy limbs broken. Report these no matter how fast the wind was. If you can accurately measure the wind speed, report that as well. If you must estimate winds, remember that NWS only cares about winds in excess of 50 MPH. Between 39 and 46 MPH, twigs break from trees. Between 47 and 54 MPH, light structural damage occurs. If you are not seeing these phenomena, the wind you're experiencing is probably below a reportable speed. In general, the effects of wind are more important to NWS than estimated or measured speeds.

- **Hail** – Report hail of any size. Measure the largest stone you see and report that as the hail size. Also report the duration (or start and stop times) of the hail.

- **Flash Flooding** – Report any rapid rise of water, especially if it blocks a road or is life-threatening.

- **Injuries/Fatalities** – Report any injuries or fatalities that were a direct result of weather, regardless of the weather phenomena that caused them.

When you have one of the above phenomena to report, here's what NWS needs to know:

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## SECTION MANAGER SEEKS PUBLICITY HELP FOR QSO PARTY

ARRL Indiana Section Manager John Poindexter, W3ML, has asked ARRL members to help publicize the upcoming Indiana QSO Party. The QSO Party runs from noon midnight ET Saturday, May 5. In an email message sent today, John asked that ARRL members go to the Hoosier DX and Contest Club website, download the publicity package and show it at their club or group meetings.

"We would like to see all clubs in Indiana, as well as all counties, be on the air this year to celebrate ham radio in Indiana," John wrote.

FWRC President Steve Nardin, W9SAN added, "It would be great to have the club participate in this contest as a prelude to VHF QSO and of course Field Day. And a good shakedown for the new trailer."

# FWDXA

Fort Wayne DX Association

## THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A CRUISE IN FEBRUARY

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

Except for the fact that my wife Vicky EA9YL and I headed way far north for the cruise – not south. How did that happen? Here's the story.

At Dayton last year Vicky and I ran into Seppo OH1VR. We were with him and OH0RJ on Market Reef (OJ0) in July 2002, so we enjoyed chatting with him again. During the conversation he mentioned that he was the new Contest Club Finland president (visit <http://contestclubfinland.com/CCF/> for more details about this club – they also publish the quarterly on-line contesting magazine titled PileUp!).

I was aware that the Contest Club Finland sponsored a DX/contest cruise in early February on one of the Viking Line ships (we were on their Amorella when we visited OJ0 in 2002), and I mentioned to Seppo that this is one event that I should do at least once in my lifetime. Several days later I received an e-mail from Seppo asking if I'd like to attend the 2012 cruise and give a talk on propagation. I told him "we'll be there".



A view of the ice-covered fjord as the Mariella makes her way into Stockholm.

So on Wednesday evening February 1 Vicky and I flew from Fort Wayne to Chicago to London Heathrow on American Airlines. After a couple hour layover at Heathrow, we took British Airways to Helsinki, arriving in Helsinki around 4:30 PM Thursday afternoon. It was around dusk and it was cold, but we expected low temperatures and were dressed for it. We headed to the Holiday Inn at the city center.

There was a get-together for the cruise participants Thursday evening at a hotel near the Viking Line dock, and we enjoyed seeing many ham friends from the Scandinavian countries (including Ilka OH1WZ, the PileUp! editor) and from England (Roger G3SXW). Doug K1DG was there, too, to talk about the upcoming WRTC 2014 event (the contest for top contesters). The cruise didn't leave Helsinki until 5:00 PM on Friday, so we got a good night's sleep at the Holiday Inn.

Friday afternoon we planned to take a tram (streetcar) from our hotel to the Viking Line dock, but the tram wasn't running. So we took a bus to Market Square and walked about a half mile to the dock. It was around -25 degrees C (-13F) with a

slight wind, so we were quite cold after that walk. We boarded the cruise ship (the Viking Line's Mariella), and settled into our cabin. We had a wonderful buffet dinner later that evening on the ship with the other hams, and then went to bed while the Mariella made its way from Helsinki to Stockholm through much, but thin, ice.

We arrived in Stockholm Saturday morning around 9:30 AM. A bunch of SMs came aboard to attend the convention. The convention started around 10:30



Seppo OH1VR opens the February 2012 Contest Club Finland convention.

AM. We enjoyed talks by Jose EA7KW (the ST0R story), K1DG (a WRTC 2014 update), Pekka OH1TV (a new approach to antennas), Rich K2WR (a DXpedition to Sint Maarten), and Jacel SP5DRH (the H40KJ DXpedition). My propagation talk (mostly about high latitude issues) was right after lunch, and at the end of the presentations Mikko OH4XX conducted the SSB and CW pile-up contests.

The Mariella left Stockholm Saturday evening around 5:00 PM. We had another great dinner with the convention participants (minus most of the SMs who left the ship in Stockholm before it departed for the return trip to Helsinki), and arrived back in Helsinki Sunday morning. We immediately headed to the Holiday Inn at the Helsinki airport, and walked to a nearby shopping mall (it had warmed up to -5 degrees C) for lunch and ice cream.

We got up Monday morning around 4:30 AM, watched the last 4 minutes of the Super Bowl, and then headed for the

airport for our 7:50 AM flight to London. The weather wasn't cooperating, and we were delayed long enough in Helsinki (they had to de-ice the A320 Airbus two times prior to take-off) to miss our 10:15 AM flight to Chicago. Fortunately we got on the 1:15 PM flight to Chicago and then on the last Chicago-to-Fort Wayne flight of the evening. We walked in the door at home a little after midnight.

In summary, we enjoyed the trip in spite of the cold. I think our fondest memory will be of sitting and talking to the OHs, SMs, LAs, and Gs before, during, and after dinner. And we even made a quick trip to the Hard Rock Café in Stockholm on Saturday to get a shirt for Vicky's collection.

## 2012 Foxhunt Schedule

The following is the planned Foxhunting schedule for 2012. Each start at Trackside, the Off Track Betting Complex, 1820 W Washington Center Rd:

March	03/04/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
April	04/01/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
May	05/06/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
June	06/03/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
July	07/01/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
August	08/05/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
September	09/09/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
October	10/07/12	1:30 pm	Sunday
November	11/04/12	1:30 pm	Sunday

## 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 at arrl.net.*

### FWRC MEETING MINUTES

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The second initiative involves the possibility of the club raising funds by operating one of the refreshment stands at the Coliseum for (up to ten) of the many Coliseum events (Komets, Antz, concerts, trade shows, etc.) that occur throughout the year. Steve had determined that ARA manages the concession stands for Coliseum events and that they provide training for non-profit groups interested in manning the food concession stands at the Coliseum. If we can get our name on the list, we should be able to work five to ten events per year and we should be able to earn between \$200.00 to \$300.00 per event for the club treasury. A crew of at least five is needed for each session, and we concluded that we should have at least twenty people willing to participate to make sure we could satisfy a commitment to participate in this program. A list was passed around to solicit participants with the result that a total of twenty two club members indicated their willingness to participate. That being the case, Steve will proceed with getting the FWRC's name of the ARA list.

Brian Jenks announced that he intends to enter his name on the ballot for the upcoming ARRL Indiana Section Manager elections. He would appreciate club member's support.

Steve Nardin noted that the Fort Wayne Hobby Show will occur March 10th. This would give us the opportunity to set up a FWRC booth and show-off aspects of our hobby to include setting up radios. Contact Steve if interested in participating.

It was noted that a charity walk at the Ft. Wayne International Airport would occur the 14th of April to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Societies. Participants will traverse the airport grounds, including crossing a runway during this event. Organizers are asking hams to provide communications support for the event.

It was also noted that the quarterly ARES meeting will be held at the Allen County (downtown) Public Library Thursday, February 23rd starting at 6:30 pm.

Steve Nardin announced that the March club meeting will feature a demonstration of various members emergency

communications "GO Kits". A \$20.00 gift certificate to Hall's will be awarded for the "best" kit as determined by the members attending the meeting. Steve also announced that Jay Farlow will provide a Skywarn presentation at the conclusion of the meeting.

For the April meeting Steve Nardin will provide a presentation of Stealth Antennas.

Following the business meeting, Adolph Wozniak provided the attendees with a fascinating presentation on Electronic Warfare systems and techniques employed during the 2nd World War. Included in the presentation were a few examples of hardware items from actual German radar equipment.

The meeting concluded with the 50-50 drawing. The \$42.00 pot was split between the club treasury and Barb Ward, W9WOZ.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC



# THE FOXHUNT CHRONICLES FOR FEBRUARY 2012

The 2012 Foxhunt season commenced on a sunny Sunday, the 12th of February, amidst a cold, breezy and slightly, here and there, snow covered landscape. Aside from the mild frostbite potential, not a bad day for a foxhunt.

The February hunters included the team of Annie and Jim Pliett, KA9YYI and K9OMA, and Al Burke, WB9SSE, the team of Linda and Steve Nardin, W9's LAN and SAN plus grandson Alex, the team of Kim and Jim Machamer, KB9's DOT and DOS, the team of Dave Spence and Mark Berke, KB9VTK and WA7NXI, hunter Carl Thomas, WB9YBI, hunter Bob Dean, KC9UHU, and hunter Steve Irving, KC9AUQ.

Charles Ward, KC9MUT and Fred Gengnagle, KC9EZP provided the services of the fox and ensconced themselves in a park in Monroeville, and thus were just this side of the Indiana-Ohio border. In other words, barely, just barely, within the confines of Allen County. (The author received loud, whiney complaints from the Indiana chapter of Tree-Huggers, United about the "profligate use of those nasty hydrocarbons (gasoline) resulting from the distances traversed in this hunt"). The author listened to their complaints, and then offered them a "salute" commensurate with their griping).

Charles and Fred ran 50 watts into a beam for their initial transmissions, and, (they told me) had an intermediate decoy fox located about 5 miles from the park, had a faux fox located in the park, and then had the real fox stashed in the port wheel-well of a Republic Aviation F84F Thunderstreak jet fighter-bomber situated as a display at the entrance of the park.

Initially, the hunters, located at the Off-Track Betting Parlor parking lot at Lima Rd. and Washington Center Road could not hear the fox. After about one-half hour and some adjustments by Charles and Fred, the rabid pack finally picked up fox transmissions indicating it was "out East". Comments akin to "Oh crap, New Haven again" were heard to be uttered as everyone took off in pursuit of the signal.

The Pliett/Burke team suffered a computer failure with their fancy new DF vector plotting program and thus had to resort to old fashion hand plotting of DF bearings in order to triangulate and localize the fox. However, since the fox was located soooooo far out, we ran off our available hardcopy map in short order. Non-the-less we managed to find our way to Monroeville based upon DF readings and wound up asking a guy at a gas station if there was a park or public space in

town which he promptly vectored us too. Not too long after reaching the park we spotted Charles' vehicle and, after almost getting Jim & Annie's van swallowed alive in a mud pit, we got out of the vehicle and started tracking the third harmonic of the fox. Most of the other hunters arrived at the park five to ten minutes after we arrived and joined in on foot.

Jim Pliett was the first to find the actual fox up in the F86F's wheel-well followed by the Spence/Berke team, then by Carl Thomas, Bob Dean and the Machamer's essentially simultaneously, and then by the Nardin's. Steve Irving had to break off his hunt due to another commitment and did not finish.

Based upon the mileage and time-to-find scoring criterion, the scores for this hunt, and the year-to-date scores are as listed in the table below.

So the role of the fox for the March hunt will be provided by the Pliett / Burke team.

Following the hunt most everyone buzzed over to the I-469 / Maysville Rd. Steak-N-Shake for a hearty repast.

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Burke, WB9SSE

## FOX HUNT YEAR TO DATE POINTS

WB9YYI	K9OMA	WB9SSE	KB9DOS	KB9DOT	W9SAN	W9LAN	WA7NXI	KB9VTK	KC9MUT	KC9EZP	WB9YBI
537.5	537.5	537.5	528	528	413.5	413.5	530	530	744	744	410
KC9UHU	KC9AUQ										
450	200										



## IRCC APRIL MEETING REMINDER

Just a reminder, our next meeting is in Avon, IN again, at the Avon Washington Township Public Library two blocks north of the intersection of U.S. 36 and St. Rte. 267 on the left (west) side. The meeting is Saturday, April 14th from 2:00 till 4:30 P.M. down stairs in meeting room C.

<http://www.inarrl.org/ircc.html>

## Say Again?

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

Thomas Watson  
Chairman of IBM, 1943



## SPOTTERS AND SEVERE WEATHER

Continued from Page 5

- **Who you are** – If you call in by telephone, be sure to mention that you're a trained spotter.
- **When it happened** – Report the time of day the event was observed. Remember, a few minutes can elapse as reports are relayed, so "4:13 p.m." is more helpful than "two minutes ago."

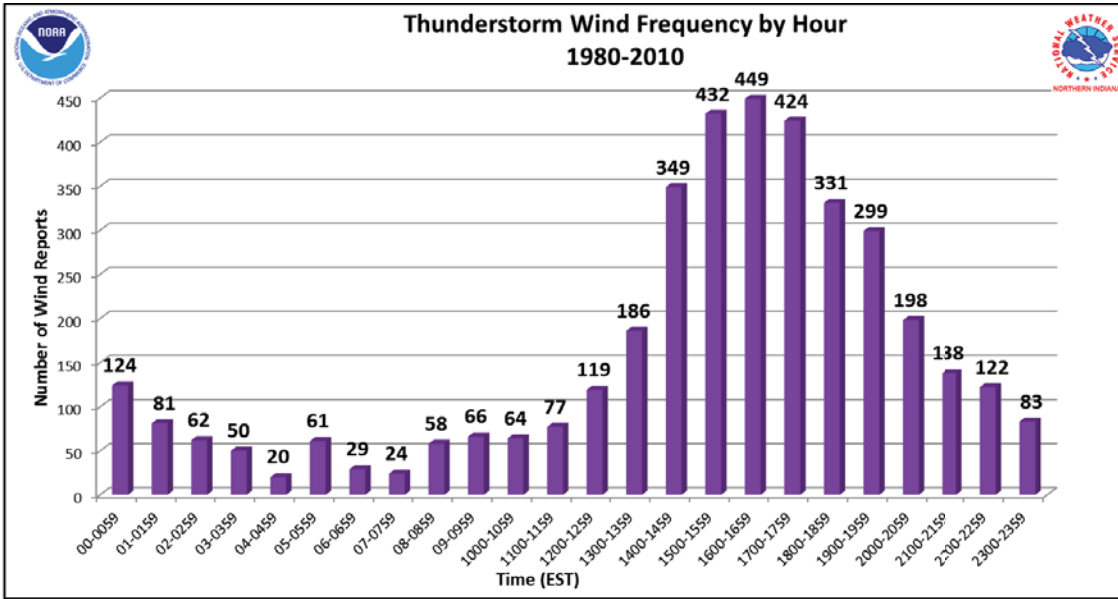
• **Other details, as appropriate** – Damage, duration, direction of movement, injuries, fatalities, etc.

It is equally important to understand that we can waste a meteorologist's valuable time by reporting things they don't need to know, for example:

- **Rain** – If there's one thing Doppler radar does well, it's indicating where the heavy rain is! Even if the rain is de-

that give them all the lightning data they need. So don't report lightning, no matter how frequent, but do report lightning effects, such as injury, fatality or structure damage.

- **Radar** – Believe it or not, NWS has received calls from people wanting to tell meteorologists what's on the radar! Not only are the meteorologists already watching the radar, they have far more training on how to interpret



those images than any of us.

- **Sirens** – NWS doesn't need to know that you hear a tornado siren. When they issue a warning, they trust that local authorities will sound sirens appropriately.

- **TV Reports** – NWS does not need to know what the local TV weather person is saying about the weather! Most of the data the TV station reports comes from NWS to begin with.

### • What happened

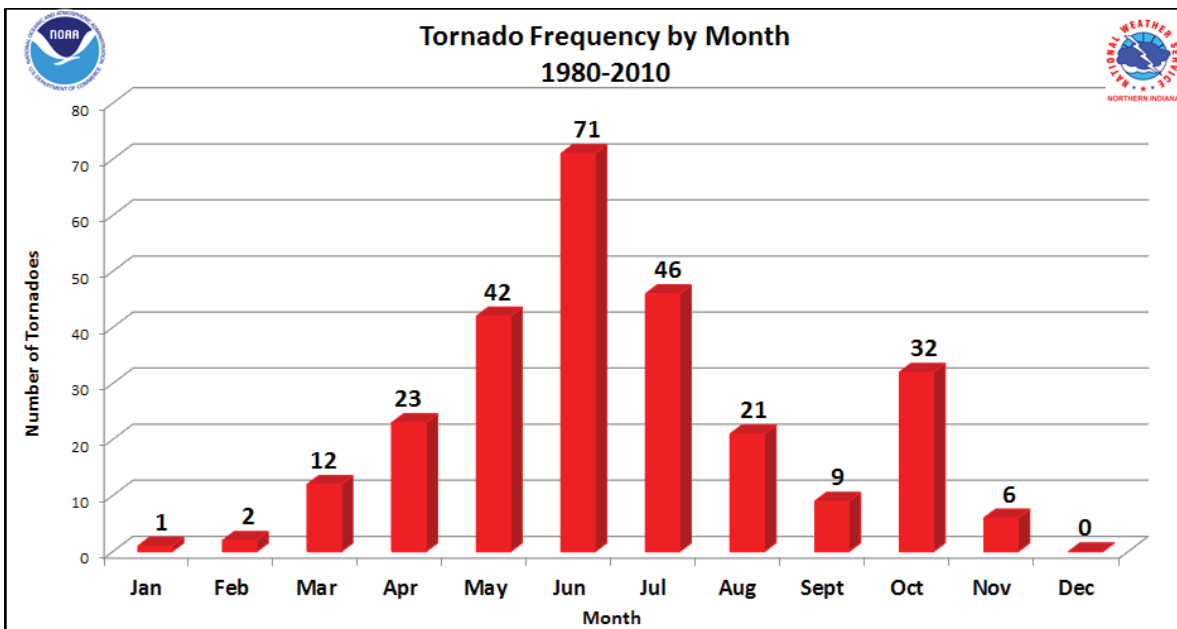
- **Where it happened** – Give the nearest street or road intersection or if you're out in the boonies, the distance and direction from the nearest town is helpful (e.g. five miles northeast of Woodburn")

creasing your visibility, they don't need to hear from you. On the other hand, if that heavy rain causes a flash flood (see above), that they need to know!

- **Lightning** – Years ago, "frequent cloud-to-ground lightning" was reportable. Now, NWS has access to sensor reports

for an article about any interesting information that comes from the Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium scheduled for March.

That's all for this month. In next month's issue, look



# 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 contest include:

ARRL Contest Corral Web page: <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

WA7BNM Contest Calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

ARRL's National Contest Journal calendar: <http://www.ncjweb.com/contestcal.php>

Contesting On-Line: <http://www.contesting.com/>

HF	Contest Title	Ph	CW	Dig	Exchange & Frequencies (MHz)	Logs Due
VHF+	Dates / Times				Sponsor's Web Site	
3.5-28	ARRL Int'l Phone DX Contest	X			RS and state, province, or power	
	Mar 3, 0000Z - Mar 4, 2400Z				<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>	
3.5-28	Wisconsin QSO Party	X	X	X	WI county or S/P/C	
50+	Mar 11, 1800Z - Mar 12, 0100Z				<a href="http://www.warac.org">www.warac.org</a>	
1.8-28	Virginia QSO Party	X	X	X	Serial and VA county/city or S/P/C	
50-440	Mar 17, 1400Z - (see web)				<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling">www.qsl.net/sterling</a>	
1.8-28	North Dakota QSO Party	X	X		RST and ND county or S/P/C	
50,144	Mar 17, 1800Z - Mar 18, 1800Z				<a href="http://www.w0nd.com">www.w0nd.com</a>	
3.5-14	North American RTTY Sprint			X	Both call signs, serial, name, and S/P/C	
	Mar 11, 0000Z - Mar 11, 0400Z				<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">www.ncjweb.com</a>	
3.5-28	CQIR - Ireland Calling	X	X		Serial and county code	
	Mar 17, 1200Z - Mar 18, 1159Z				<a href="http://www.irts.ie">www.irts.ie</a>	
3.5-28	North Dakota QSO Party	X	X		RST and ND county or S/P/C	
50,144	Mar 17, 1800Z - Mar 18, 1800Z				<a href="http://www.w0nd.com">www.w0nd.com</a>	
	Worldwide EME Contest	X	X		TMO/RS(T) and "R"	
144, 10G+	Mar 31, 0000Z - Apr 1, 2400Z				<a href="http://www.dubus.org">www.dubus.org</a>	



## JANICE VOSS, KC5BTK, SILENT KEY

NASA astronaut Janice Voss, KC5BTK, of Houston, Texas, passed away on February 7 from cancer. She was 55. One of only six women who have flown in space five times, Voss' career was highlighted by her work and dedication to scientific payloads and exploration. Voss participated in making ham radio contacts from space via the Space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX), the precursor to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

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

**TOLEDO HAMFEST 2012** IS MARCH 18, 8 AM TO 2 PM, AT OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, STUDENT HEALTH & ACTIVITY CTR, 30335 OREGON RD, PERRYSBURG, OH

**KOKOMO HAMFEST** WILL BE APRIL 21, 7 AM TO 1 PM, AT THE 4H FAIR GROUNDS

THE 2012 **DAYTON HAMVENTION**® WILL BE HELD MAY 18-20, 2012

Bernie Holm recommends the book **D-Star For Dummies 4.0** for those wanting more information on D-STAR. It is written by Charles Johnston III, W8KWA. It is 92 pages in PDF format. It is a free download from:

<http://www.siarc.us/articles/D-StarforDummies%28ReferenceEdition%294-0.pdf>

## Membership Application for ACARTS - and/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  \$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  \$20.00 / year

Family membership<sup>1</sup>  \$30.00 / year

Student membership<sup>2</sup>  \$5.00 / year

Associate membership<sup>3</sup>  \$20.00 / year

Mailed newsletter premium  \$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

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 two checks to either club. Payment by check is strongly encouraged!

### ACARTS Voice Repeaters

146.880 (-) General use / Skywarn priority

147.255 (+) General use

443.800 (+) General use

(For autopatch 88 has only speed dial emergency #'s.)

### ACARTS Digital Repeaters (digirepeaters)

144.390 (s) APRS - wide

145.530 (s) W9INX-1 Digipeater and Node

### Fort Wayne Radio Club Repeaters

Voice:

146.76 (-) General use

146.94 (-) General use with autopatch

146.91 (-) EchoLink connection repeater

Node number 519521

444.875 (+) General use

ATV: 439.25 In, 910.250 Out, 144.340 Audio & control

### D-STAR

442.99375, Offset + 5.0 MHz, W9TE \_\_\_ B, W9TE \_\_\_ G

Indiana D-STAR net, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7:30 - 8:30,

Reflector REF024B

### 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 7:00 p.m. on 147.015+

**21 Repeater Group:** Wed. at 7:30 p.m. on 147.150

**Help and Swap Net:** Mon. at 9:00 p.m. 146.94(-)

**Daily Indiana Traffic Net:** 3.910 @ 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. local.

**Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net:** 3.535 @ 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. local times.

### Miscellaneous Nets

**Allen Co. ARES Training Net:** Tue. at 9:00 p.m. on 146.94-

**Emergency Preparedness Net:** Thurs. at 9:00 p.m. on 146.88-

**Huntington ARES:** Sat. at 8:00 p.m. on 146.685-

**Whitley Co. ARES:** Wed. at 8:00 p.m. on 145.270

(Note 131.8 PL disabled for all nets)

**Whitley Co. Sunday:** Sun. at 8:00 p.m. on 444.550+, 131.8 PL

**"No-Name" Net:** 8:30 pm Sunday and Wednesday nights. 1.965 MHz or cross band on the 146.91 repeater.

**Little Red Barn Net:** Weekdays @ 8:30 a.m. on 3820 kHz. Thursdays at 3826 kHz.

**Northeast Indiana Packet Net:** Sunday at 9:00 p.m. on 145.530 @ 1200 baud. We 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.

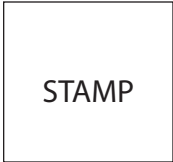
**FWRC YL Net:** Wed. 7:00 p.m. on 146.76-

**FWRC 6 Meter Net:** Tue. 8:00 p.m. on 50.580 USB

**6 Meter AM Net:** Thurs. 8:00 p.m. on 50.580 AM

**FW Area Student Net:** Wed. 9:00 p.m. on 146.91-





To:

## Activities Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Place
03/04/2012	1:30 PM	Foxhunt	Fort Wayne Off Track Betting Complex
03/06/2012	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
03/10/2012	9:00 AM	Amateur License Examinations	DeKalb County Court House Annex - Auburn
03/13/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
03/16/2012	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
03/20/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
04/01/2012	1:30 PM	Foxhunt	Fort Wayne Off Track Betting Complex
04/10/2012	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
04/10/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
04/17/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS Spring Banquet	Golden Corral on Lima Road
04/20/2012	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
04/28/2012	9:00 AM	Amateur License Examinations	Peabody Public Library - Columbia City