



Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

April 2012
Volume 13
Issue 4

“WARNING DESENSITIZATION” MAKES SKYWARN SPOTTERS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT

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

I attended the 16th Annual Severe Weather Symposium, organized and hosted by The Ohio State University's Meteorology Club March 2 (ironically, the same day that tornadoes struck southern Indiana).

I was particularly interested in a presentation by Gary Garnet, warning coordination meteorologist, National Weather Service Cleveland, Ohio weather forecast office. Garnet spoke on "Findings from the Joplin Tornado Assessment." His presentation about the devastating tornado strike in Joplin, Missouri on May 22, 2011 did not focus on meteorology. Rather, he reported on a study he helped to conduct to assess "issues ranging from internal NWS warning operations to dissemination strategies to public warning response." Garnet and other team members had conducted nearly 100 interviews in Joplin with tornado survivors, business people, media representatives as well as emergency management, NWS and local government officials. The team's full report is available on the Web.

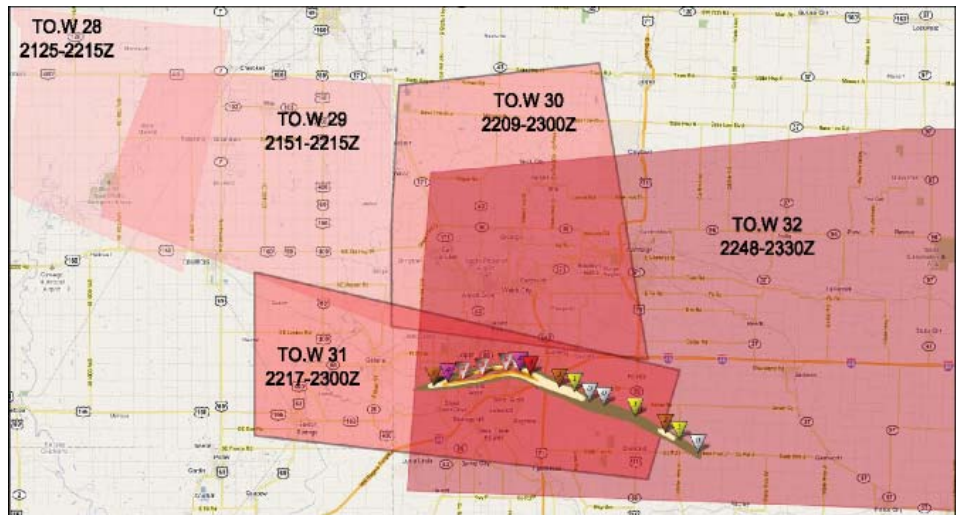
Garnet reported that due to warning

desensitization, most Joplin residents did not take immediate action when they learned of the NWS tornado warning. Instead, most sought additional information, including going outside to look for the storm, eating away at the 21 minutes between the warning and the beginning of EF-4 tornado damage.

Garnet said "non-routine triggers" are what eventually prompted citizens to take action to protect themselves. For example, Joplin officials broke from their

normal practice and sounded tornado sirens more than once. Broadcasters began imploring listeners to "take cover now," something listeners were not accustomed to hearing.

In some ways, the weather service's relatively new practice of basing warning areas on storm movement, rather than county lines, adds to the problem. Making warning areas more specific is a
Continued on page 5



Also this month

Indiana QSO Party	5	Story from Little Red Barn	9
FWRC History	7	Contest Calendar	10
Foxhunt Chronicles	8	Local Nets	11
Rain and Snow Network	9	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@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.

Hamspletter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

April already! And the temperature case it would be needed.

Amakes it feel like June! Who could have imagined that Spring would come in like this?? Good for our heating bills, of course, and I hope most of us are taking



advantage of the great antenna repair and experimentation weather. It is a good start to our Fox Hunting season as well, with three of them already in the record books. I have spent so much time enjoying the outdoors and the Hamfest and Fox Hunt season, I should have doing more work on antennas myself.

The club has been quite busy as well. Let's see, we have several major projects well underway. The first that comes to mind has been the raising and test of the 146.91 repeater antenna enhancement at Kettler Hall at IPFW. Thanks to ACARTS, we have a nice gain antenna that was just installed about 150 feet up on the radio tower that sits on top of Kettler Hall. It is right across the tower from our ATV repeater. Check the website for pictures. There are some posted now, and I have a bunch to upload. The effects of this "new" antenna, much higher than the original, were immediately known, as suddenly stations started appearing from all around the county and even Kendallville and Decatur! I was able to do something I never could before, hitting the machine with full quieting from home to work, all at 5 watts output power. Don't forget that this is still the Echolink machine, too. I had a great conversation driving home one evening with KB9LHT/KN0 in Saipan, just 200 miles north of Guam!

The next big club project is without a doubt the new trailer. We needed to get going on transferring material from the old trailer to the new one, as we have the first event coming up soon (the Indiana QSO party). Our first work day on the trailer went well, as we built internal racks for the towers and made a storage/work table that could do double duty for hauling equipment and as operating positions in

There is still work to do, but we have a very good start. The old trailer is of course up for sale, and we have already had some interest in buying the unit.

If you know of anyone interested, have them get in contact with the club BODs.

Coming up this spring, there are events to keep us all hopping. There are QSO parties, the VHF contest, and the granddaddy of them all, Field Day. It is Ham Radio fun at its best, so do your best to join the fun and get out there!

Best Regards,

Meet you on the air!

Steve



Officers

President

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

Vice President

Jim Pliett, K9OMA
260-693-9211
jhp16702 at frontier.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Bob Streeter, W8ST
260-672-9737
w8st at arrl.net

Communications

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ
260-247-2806
pfixher at gmail.com

Directors

Tom Baker, N9TB
260-747-2714
n9tb at arrl.net

Terry Bowman, K9FMX
260-493-7177
tjbowman at frontier.com

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

W9TE Trustee

Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Webmaster

Jay Farlow, W9LW

April 20: Stealth Antenna Systems will be the topic of the meeting.

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 March Meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 16 March 2012 with club president Steve Nardin, W9SAN, serving as host. There were about 40 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 16 March, 2012 the statistics regarding our financial position is as follows:

Income Year to Date is \$3,375.65

Expenses Year to Date are \$2,511.17

Cash on Hand is \$117.99

Savings Balance is \$2,013.48

Checking Balance is \$7,030.46

Minutes from the February meeting may be found on the club web page and in the Allen County Ham News.

New Business:

Steve Nardin announced that a trailer upgrade project for the club's newly acquired trailer would kick off Saturday 24 March starting at 11:00 am at Charles Ward's QTH. The intent is to outfit the trailer with both 115 VAC and 12 VDC interior lights, wall racks for hanging tower sections and potentially fold down tables for operating positions.

Meanwhile, the old club trailer will be sold.

Steve noted that the sale of club owned test equipment had generated more than enough cash to fund relocating a replacement antenna near the top of the IPFW Kettler Hall tower for the 146.910 MHz (Echo-Link) repeater. Consequently the Board of Directors voted to proceed with this project, so we should expect to realize significantly improved coverage of the 146.910 machine in the near future.

Steve also announced that the Applebee's Restaurant fund raising initiative would occur on 1 May. Fifteen percent of

the dining bill for anyone who participates in an Applebee's dining experience on that day, and who provides a coupon to Applebee's (obtainable from Steve) when paying their bill, will be donated to the club treasury. Since 1 May is the date of the May Board of Directors meeting, the Board plans to hold it's meeting at a local Applebee's that evening. Likewise members and friends are encouraged to obtain a coupon from Steve and to also eat out at Applebee's on the 1st of May to help raise funds for the club.

A site has been obtained for the Indiana QSO Party and for Field Day (IPFW - Dolnick Hall), and for the VHF QSO Party (the top of the IPFW Parking Garage) for this year's festivities.

Steve Nardin hosted a demonstration and competition of emergency communication "Go Kits" that had been brought to the meeting by a number of club members. The kits, the creation of their respective owners demonstrated a lot of ingenuity in concept and implementation. All of the meeting attendees voted on what they considered the "best" kit which turned out to be the creation of Steve Zavadny, AB9VD. For his efforts, Steve won the first (and only) prize, a \$20.00 gift certificate to Hall's.

The 50-50 raffle pot totaled \$29.00 to be split between the club treasury and the winning ticket holder. That ticket holder was Wilbur Ort, WB9IQY who graciously donated all but \$1.00 of his winnings to the club.

Following the business meeting Jay Farlow, W9LW



gave a very informative presentation on IMO-Skywarn network protocols describing the very efficient procedures in place for communicating essential weather spotting information during a severe weather event.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC

Photographs this month provided by Steve Nardin, W9SAN and Al Burke, WB9SSE. There are plenty more photos on the club's web page.



State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is officially here and that means it is time for the ACARTS Spring Banquet. The banquet will again be held at the Golden Corral on Lima Road. The date and time are Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. The club will pay for the members' dinners. Guests, which are more than welcome, must pay for their own dinners. A good time and good food has always been enjoyed by those that have attended in the past. Please e-mail me at w9lkh@comcast.net or call me at 260-485-6135 if you plan to attend the banquet and include the number of guests that will be with you.

The early spring and summer like weather that we had in mid-March gave us an opportunity do any antenna work that was put on hold for the winter. It also means that we got a jump start on the spring yard work and other outside projects. I had to cut the grass this year about



three weeks earlier than usual.

Many thanks to Bradd, KA9LCF, who gave an excellent presentation and demonstration of the KA9LCF packet bulletin board system at the March meeting. The W9INX-1 digipeater, which Bradd utilized in the demonstration, had gone off the air the week before the meeting. Upon inspection, the system had no AC power, probably because of construction and remodeling at the City-County building. Thanks to the City-County building maintenance staff for restoring the power.

The May ACARTS program will be a presentation by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. I hope to see many of you at the banquet and at the May meeting.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

MARCH 2012 ACARTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting as called to order by Dave (W9LKH) and the next meeting will be at Golden Corral on Lima Road at 7 PM.

Bradd (NIFL) gave a very informative take and demonstration on "Live Packet on the BBS". The discussion was very well given with hand outs and some live demonstrations of how the software and the TNC works. Also some of the very interesting things that can be done on Packet. There are 10 ports that can be used with the BBS. There is even a bulletin board

that can be used for many different topics that can be talked about from all over the world.

Make sure to tune in Sunday Nights at 9 PM for the packet net. Make sure to get with Bradd to get further information.

April 17: The April meeting will be the Spring Banquet at the Golden Corral on Lima Road on Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.

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



ACARTS Officers

President

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

Vice President

Dave Keiser, WB9UNL
260-244-3322
wb9unl at yahoo.com

Secretary

Rita Alvey, KC9VCX
260-241-4907
kc9vcx at hotmail.com

Treasurer

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

ACARTS Managers

Activities

Open

Emergency Preparedness

Dan Soper, KB9NGM
260-637-5787
dlsoper at frontier.com

Communications

Open

Station Manager

Open

Fundraising Manager:

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

W9INX Trustee:

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

Tech Committee

Open

MARCH 2012 ACARTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The board meeting was called to order by Dave (W9LKH) and the calendar year is as follows at this time.

April - Golden Corral

May - 10 Meter/10 Meter Antenna

June - Field Day

July -

August - Picnic

September -

October -

November - Ham Fest

December - Dinner

Different items about the bylaws were discussed. But no changes have been made at this time.

Those attending were Dave-W9JKH, Howard-N9ADS, Dave-WB9UNL, Jim-KB9IH, and Rita-KC9VCX.

Submitted by Rita Alvey KC9VCX

INDIANA QSO PARTY IN MAY

It is getting closer to the first Saturday in May, when the Indiana QSO Party will be on the air. This year that is May 5th. The Indiana QSO Party is a short 12 hour contest. I am writing to ask that you go to the Hoosier DX and Contest Club website and download the Publicity Package and show it at your club or group meeting. It is a PowerPoint presentation made by Mel, KJ9C. You can adapt it to fit your group in order to make it more personal for your members.

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. Besides the awards for the most

points achieved, don't forget about the Work All Indiana Award. You can find out more about this award on the website as well.

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

Thanks, and I look forward to making contact with you on May 5th during the Indiana QSO Party.

73

John Poindexter, W3ML

Indiana Section Manager

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio™

SPOTTERS AND SEVERE WEATHER

Continued from Page 1

good idea but NOAA weather radio still alerts entire counties and many (if not most) tornado siren systems lack the ability to selectively activate sirens. In addition, subsequent warning polygons often overlap each other, confusing citizens.

Tornado warnings issued before and during the Joplin tornado. Notice how some of the warning polygons overlap. Graphic courtesy NWS.

So, what does all this have to do with ham radio? To me, it reinforces the importance of live reports from trained spotters. The earlier a spotter makes a report, the earlier NWS can issue a warning and the more time citizens have to decide whether they are at risk. Also, when a ham sees a tornado and reports it via radio, a lot of people hear it: other hams, NWS meteorologists, broadcasters and members of the general public who listen to spotter nets on their scanners. Such reports can provide the non-routine triggers that get people to take cover.

IMO SKYWARN Makes Twitter Recommendation

The IMO SKYWARN board of directors met March 26 and voted to make an official recommendation regarding spotter reports via Internet "microblog" service Twitter. IMO SKYWARN recommends that when spotters use Twitter to report severe weather observed in any of the 37 counties covered by the Northern Indiana weather forecast office, they should include the following "hash tag" in their tweets: #wx4iwx. IMO SKYWARN is not suggesting that ham radio operators use Twitter instead of ham radio to report weather. But the organization realizes that many trained spotters are Twitter users but not hams, hence the recommendation.



The 146.91 MHz repeater gets a new antenna.



FWDXA

Fort Wayne DX Association

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – 10-METER ROTARY DIPOLE

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

With Cycle 24 still on the rise, worldwide propagation on 10-Meters was great last fall and in December. The CQ World Wide DX Contests last year (October and November) packed the band, as did the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. The ARRL DX Contests this year (February and March) weren't as good, but there were many South American and Caribbean stations on. Cycle 24 is likely to be below average, so it would be good to take advantage of 10-Meters now.

Due to electrical lengths being physically short on 10-Meters, this is a prime band to get on to work DX with a homebrew antenna. This month we'll go through the construction of a simple 10-Meter dipole that can be easily rotated with a TV rotor. All the material needed should be available at your local hardware store, and the cost should be in the neighborhood of \$30.

When you go to the hardware store, you have three major items to purchase: two 8-foot lengths of aluminum tubing and one appropriately-sized wooden

dowel. For the tubing, I recommend at least 1/2-inch OD. The OD is a compromise between cost, weight and SWR bandwidth (larger diameter tubing costs more and weighs more, but the SWR bandwidth is greater). For the wooden dowel, get the size that fits snugly inside your tubing (you may have to do some sanding on the wooden dowel to get it to fit in the tubing).

When you get home, put the tubing lengths over a 12-inch length of the wooden dowel (leave about 3 inches of the dowel exposed at the center for a U-bolt for mounting to a mast). Drill two holes on each inner end of the tubing to secure the tubing to the wooden dowel. I suggest #8 hardware. This also provides connections for the center conductor and braid of the coax. See Figure 1 for a close-up of the center of the dipole. Do not cut

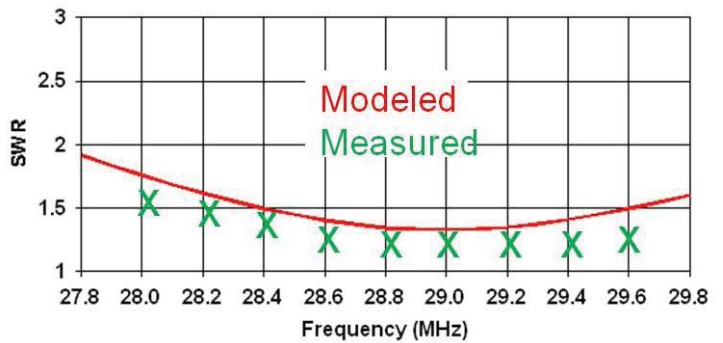
the 8-foot lengths of aluminum tubing on each side. After attaching the coax, I'd spray the wooden dowel with Krylon (or varnish it) to keep it from soaking up moisture.

Antenna modeling software predicts the SWR in Figure 2. This is for 7/8-inch OD tubing

(what my hardware store had) and the antenna mounted at about 18 feet. For running 100 Watts, you can use RG-58 coax to feed the dipole. I also recommend a 4-turn winding of coax (4-inch diameter) as a balun to prevent feedline radiation.

As for mounting, your mileage will vary depending on your location. You could mount it to a short mast on top of the house (a chimney would be ideal). If you do this, I suggest mounting it so that the tubing is aligned north-south. This puts

10-Meter Dipole at 18 Feet (7/8-Inch OD Tubing)



the main lobes of the dipole to the east and west to cover Europe and most of the US.

You could also mount it on top of a small tower with a TV rotator. Or you could use a separate mast. For example, during testing of this antenna I mounted it on top of a telescoping 18 foot mast (eight pieces of aluminum tubing from 2 1/8-inch OD at the bottom to 1 1/4-inch OD at the top). My measured SWR compared very favorably to the modeled data (see Figure 2 again). For the record, 18 feet on 10-Meters is just over one half wave length, and this produces a main lobe with a maximum at about 25 degrees elevation – not bad for DXing.

With 100 Watts in the ARRL International Phone DX Contest last month, I worked many South American and Caribbean stations. I'm sure I could have worked Europe, too, if the band would have been open to Europe. Remember a dipole is only about one S-unit down from a small Yagi when they're mounted at the same height.

So make a trip to your local hardware store, spend an hour or two in the garage building your antenna, then put it up and have fun on 10-Meters.



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.

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

Say Again?

"Ours has been the first, and doubtless to be the last, to visit this profitless locality."

Lt. Joseph Ives
after visiting the Grand Canyon in 1861

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:

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

A LITTLE HISTORY – FWRC BACK IN THE DAY

Back in the 70's, the FWRC ran a very robust Code and Theory Class initiative intended to prepare interested folks for their entry into the hobby. In those days a demonstrated ability in both code and theory were required to obtain a license. Separate code and theory classes were offered by the club, usually provided by different instructors.

Ron Koczor, K9TUS, at times a past

FWRC President, Secretary and Board member was (is) a Purdue trained physicist who enjoyed providing the theory element of the FWRC's classes. Many an embryonic ham went through Ron's classes and emerged with their Novice or General ticket once they sat for the FCC administered code and theory test at the Federal building downtown. Carole Burke, (now) WB9RUS was one of Ron's students who went through the rigors

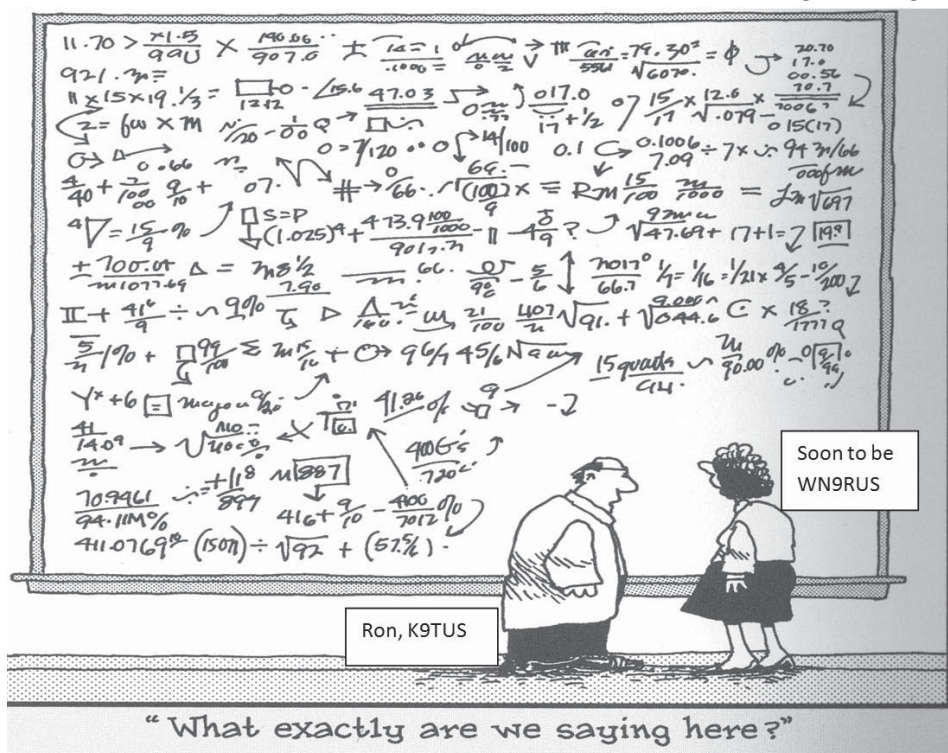
of his theory classes offered down at the Indiana Institute of Technology (IIT) facilities, and Ron was very thorough and worked his students, as depicted in the illustration.

Along with Ron's theory course, Carole, and many other fellow students benefited from Bill Kindred's, (WA9RAP) and Lynn Hyndman's (W9FC) companion code classes which were also offered at the IIT campus. (Both of these gentlemen were also past club Presidents and Board members). In general, Bill and Lynn got students code speed up to the 5 words per minute needed to pass the Novice exam, or 13 words per minute needed to pass the General exam.

Ron, Bill and Lynn's efforts worked for many people, including Carole Burke who passed her Novice code and theory exams and proudly emerged as newly minted Novice WN9RUS and then later General and Advanced class WB9RUS.

Today's analogs to the Koczor, Kindred, Hyndman enterprise are Joseph Lawrence (K9RFZ) and Terry Bowman (K9FMX) who together provide complimentary theory and code classes to interested would-be hams and brass pounder over on the IPFW campus.

Provided by Al Burke, WB9SSE



THE FOXHUNT CHRONICLES FOR MARCH 2012

The second foxhunt of the 2012 season occurred on Sunday the fourth of March which turned out to be a brisk late winter day with on and off snow showers.

The March hunters included the team of Linda and Steve Nardin, W9's LAN and SAN, the team of Kim and Jim Machamer, KB9's DOT and DOS, the team of Dave Spence and Mark Berke, KB9VTK and WA7NXI, the team of Brian and Debbie Jenks, W9BGJ and KB9ZQG, the team of Charles Ward and Fred Gengnagle, KC9MUT and KC9EZP, and lone hunters Woody Woodbury, KC9CGN, and Bob Dean, KC9UHU.



Jim Pliett, K9OMA and Al Burke, WB9SSE served as the fox for this hunt. They were hold-up in the McNabb-Walter Nature Preserve next to the St. Joe river on Davis Rd. near Spencerville, i.e., close to the Allen-DeKalb County line. The fox itself was a cross-band H/T placed in a tree stump in the piney-woods overlooking the river. To start the hunt they used a six element yagi elevated about 12' off the deck pointed towards Ft. Wayne and driven with about 35 watts. While this hide location was a challenge to the hunters, it was nothing compared to the nearby lair

Jim and Al originally had discovered. Unfortunately, they decided not to use this delightfully evil spot because of the toothless guy with the shotgun who suggested we probably shouldn't use that particular location "fer your dang-fool games"!

The hunt started on time and everyone apparently heard the fox's howl from the Offsite Betting Parlor parking lot starting

point site on Washington Center and Lima Roads. Just slightly less than 1 1/2 hours from the start of the hunt, Dave Spence and Mark Berke showed up on the nature preserve site and immediately set out on foot to find the fox. They were indeed first to find the actual fox ninety four minutes after the hunt started. Charles Ward and Fred Gregnagle were next on the scene and next to find the fox. They were followed

by Steve and Linda Nardin, Kim and Jim Machamer, Brian and Debbie Jenks and Bob Dean who all found the fox within about one minute of each other. Hunter Woody Woodbury was not able to complete the hunt.

Based upon recorded mileage and time-to-find data from each hunting team, the points garnered by the participants turned



out as follows:

Consequently for the April hunt the duties of the fox will be provided by Dave Spence and Mark Berke.

Following the hunt most everyone transitioned over to Culver's at DuPont and I-69 to participate in a post-hunt repast.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



FOX HUNT YEAR TO DATE POINTS

	WA7NXI	KB9VTK	KC9MUT	KC9EZP	KB9DOS	KB9DOT	W9SAN	W9LAN	WB9BGJ	KB9ZQG	KC9CGN
March	504	504	477	477	336	336	327.5	327.5	230	230	200
Total	1034	1034	1221	1221	864	864	741	741	230	230	200
	KC9UHU	K9OMA	WB9SSE								
March	200	810	810								
Total	650	1347.5	1347.5								

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IMPORTANT NATIONWIDE RAIN AND SNOW NETWORK

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is expanding across Indiana and new volunteers are needed. This nationwide project, located online at <http://www.cocorahs.org>, offers an opportunity for anyone, young or old, to become a volunteer observer of rain and snow. Data collected by volunteer observers will help many local, state and national organizations improve weather forecasts and warnings, ultimately helping save lives.

The National Weather Service Northern Indiana Office, the Indiana State Climate Office at Purdue, and the Whitley County Amateur Radio Club will host a CoCoRaHS training session on March 22 at 7pm.. The training will take place at Peabody Library (lower level Community Room A) 1106 East State Road 205 Columbia City, IN. This hands-on session, lasting around 90 minutes, will educate volunteer observers on how to accurately set up and read their rain gauges and report the data via the internet. There is no cost for the training. However, observers will need to purchase their own rain gauge to participate.

CoCoRaHS came to Indiana in February of 2006 and now has over 900 observers of all ages from across the Hoosier State. Indiana was one of the first states in the Midwest to join this nationwide network of over 10,000 volunteers.

CoCoRaHS is a volunteer, grass-roots network dedicated to the monitoring of precious water resources across the country. Organizations involved in agriculture, public safety, and natural resources management will find great benefit from this data, available free of charge to all on the network website.

CoCoRaHS also represents an important new portion of nationwide drought monitoring and warning networks for flood monitoring and prediction services. Sam Lashley, Northern Indiana network coordinator and Senior Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Northern Indiana Office, says that the project will help forecasters pin point areas of drought, heavy rain and potential flooding. "Flooding kills more people each year than tornadoes. CoCoRaHS observers have provided valuable rainfall observa-

tions in the past which have helped forecasters determine how high rivers would crest and where flooding would occur," said Lashley.

Hundreds of extremely interested volunteers statewide have signed up and the benefits have been tremendous across the Hoosier State. According to Lashley, "Volunteers have included senior citizens, children with an interest in science, adult weather enthusiasts, and even schools and home schooled children."

Attendance at this training session is free, and open to any interested resident of the state of Indiana. Additional information can be found at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx/?n=iwxcocorahs> or <http://www.cocorahs.org>. Interested volunteers are asked to register prior to training by contacting Sam Lashley at the National Weather Service office in Northern Indiana (Sam.Lashley@noaa.gov), or by calling 574-834-1104.

HOUSE-HUNTING BIRD LOSES LIFE IN FREAK ACCIDENT

This was an interesting story that Jack W9OWO, gave on the Little Red Barn Net Monday morning, net time 8:30 AM on 3.820 MHz. Jack is located in Auburn, IN, and is Net control on Fridays.

Thanks! Tom KU8T

As further proof that one never knows what a new day will bring, I relate this story of sadness and despair:

It seems that a mother-to-be bird, possibly looking for a new home, made her way into the unprotected vent pipe for my clothes dryer. What bird would expect to encounter such a deadly threat on the roof of a human domicile, some 12 feet above ground? After all, this is "bird territory!"

The allure of the vent, closed on three sides, must have been too much to resist! "Here it is!" she must have thought, "the perfect home in a nice neighborhood, with no dangerous overhead wires for my

babies to navigate."

So excited, she most likely determined to do her own "home inspection." One can only imagine the terror of finding herself falling in a vertical cavern, too narrow to accommodate a ten-inch wingspan, too dark to reveal direction. Then to think of her relief when she landed in the blackness to discover a horizontal pipe that must surely lead to the safety of openness and daylight.

Then, suddenly, a welcome blast of air—a sure sign of freedom! Then, cautiously making her way in the strong headwind toward expected freedom, a sudden and searing torrent of heat and a frighteningly strange rumbling noise. Now faced with few options and realizing that tragedy is imminent, the bird had to brave the wind and heat to find escape.

In the cramped darkness, a sudden, loud "thump," then dead silence. No more noise, no more wind, no more heat, just

the sound of the big door opening. Too late to do any good.

After moving the washer, disconnecting the gas, electricity and vent tube from the dryer and upon removing the cabinet front to find access to the exhaust fan—therein did the victims lifeless body lay.

It was clear that resuscitation attempts would be fruitless. The body bore obvious signs of multiple blunt-force injuries, particularly about the head and neck. The loss of feathers alone was massive and the beak was splintered and broken. While no official post-mortem examination was conducted, the suspected cause of death was ruled as accidental with "massive blunt-trauma to the neck."

The victim was identified as Mrs. Black Starling, surviving family members unknown. There will be no viewing or services as the body has been accepted by National Servall for proper interment.

Jack Dold, W9OWO

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 Rookie Roundup	X			Both calls, name, check, S/P XE# or "DX"	See web
	Apr 15, 1800Z - Apr 15, 2359Z				www.arrl.org/contests	
3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	X	X		Serial and MI county or S/P/C	30 days
	Apr 21, 1600Z - Apr 22, 0400Z				www.miqp.org	
7-28	Florida QSO Party	X	X		RS(T), FL county or S/P/C	30 days
	Apr 28, 1600Z - See website				www.floridaqsoparty.org	
1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	X	X		RS(T) + S/P or IN county, DX RS(T) only	Jun 15
	May 5, 1600Z - May 6, 0400Z				www.hdxcc.org/inqp	
3.5-21	Radio Club of America QSO Party	X			RS, QTH, name, equipment	
	May 5, 1700Z - May 6, 0459Z				www.radio-club-of-america.org	
1.8-28	Armed Forces Comm'ns Test	X		X	RS(T)	no logs
	May 12, 1200Z - May 13, 2400Z				www.netcom.army.mil/mars	
1.8-28	Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint			X	RST, S/P/C, Feld-Hell member nr	7 days
	May 19, 1500Z - See website				www.feldhellclub.org	
1.8-28	MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint		X		RST, S/P/C, MI QRP number or power	30 days
	May 28, 2300Z - May 29, 0300Z				www.miqrp.org	

Seventh Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest



Sponsored by:



Kokomo Amateur Radio Club

Saturday, April 21, 2012

7:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET

At The

Miami County 4H Fairgrounds

1029W 200N

Approximately 2 Miles North of Peru, Indiana on Mexico Road

TALK IN ON 147.345+ K9ZEV Miami County Amateur Radio Club Repeater

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 members¹ \$6.00 / year

Student membership² \$6.00 / year

Associate membership³ \$6.00 / year

(New Regular memberships are \$1/month)

Fort Wayne Radio Club Dues

Regular membership \$20.00 / year

Family membership¹ \$30.00 / year

Student membership² \$5.00 / year

Associate membership³ \$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.

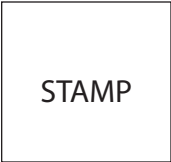
Northeast Indiana Packet Net: Sunday at 9:00 p.m. on 145.530 @ 1200 baud. We use unconnected converse mode to communicate for a roundtable net setting. Use your "UNPROTO" command or equivalent to set Digi path(s) through the strongest station(s) needed between you and your destination. Only use those 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
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
05/01/2012	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
05/05/2012	9:00 AM	Amateur License Examinations	Boy Scout Council Headquarters
05/06/2012	1:30 PM	Foxhunt	Fort Wayne Off Track Betting Complex
05/08/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Facility
05/11/2012	6:30 PM	FWRC Spring Banquet	GSUMC
05/15/2012	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Facility