



The group made portable yagi antennas suitable for foxhunts and other uses.
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Time for the annual ACARTS Spring Banquet.
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Allen County HamNews

May 2011
Volume 12
Issue 5

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NWS) SKYWARN® PROGRAM

Tornado outbreaks in St. Louis and the southern states made national headlines last month. The following is from the FWRC web page.

Many area hams participate in the National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN® program. They serve as volunteer storm spotters, using their radios to relay reports of certain severe weather phenomena to the Northern Indiana NWS weather forecast office (WFO) near North Webster.

IMO Skywarn and its Quadrants

IMO Skywarn is an organization of hams in the 37-county county warning area (CWA) of the Northern Indiana WFO. To coordinate the radio relay of spotter reports to the WFO, IMO Skywarn has divided the CWA into four quadrants. IMO Skywarn has designated a primary and backup repeater for each quadrant. During periods of severe weather, a specially trained ham volunteer at the WFO monitors those four repeaters.

Allen County is in quadrant 2. The Primary SKYWARN® repeater for quadrant 2 (and Allen County) is the ACARTS 146.88 MHz repeater. The FWRC 146.76 MHz repeater serves as an alternate, should the 146.88 repeater fail. Allen County opera-

tors should keep in mind that even when there is no severe weather in Allen County, the 146.88 repeater might be needed to relay spotter reports from other quadrant 2 counties to the Northern Indiana WFO.

Guidance for Quadrant 2 Spotters

The following information from IMO Skywarn former Quadrant 2 Director Joel Tye, KB9RH provides important information to hams who wish to assist during periods of severe weather.

Even though significant advances have been made in radar technology, meteorologists cannot see with radar 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.



Some of the tornado damage in the St. Louis area last month. *Photo by KC0WAX, Phil Frohne.*

The two most important aspects of storm spotting are safety and accurate reporting. For those reasons, it is best to be "situationally aware" of atmospheric conditions. One of the best sites on the internet is the Storm Prediction Center at www.spc.noaa.gov. The daily convective outlooks and mesoscale discussions on that Web site detail the specific types of severe weather expected.

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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, KC9TPF, at kc9tpf@arll.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.

Ham splatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

FWRC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

May starts with a sad note. One of our own, Renee Thomas, KC9KTG became a Silent Key this month. We will miss her greatly. Details and links to her obituary are available on our website. Please keep her family in your prayers.

For Amateur Radio in the Fort, May has many meanings. For the Fox Hunters among us, May 1st marks the beginning of all-Sunday hunts. Instead of switching to Monday nights, the club will now only hold the hunts on Sunday afternoons at 1:30. It is our hope that Fox Hunting will now be available to more hams. It is a blast, so plan on giving it a try.

Also, if you have never participated in the Indiana QSO Party, this would be a good year to start. With stations all over the country looking for Hoosier contacts, it is a target rich environment, and a good entry into the contesting world.

On May 13th, the Fort Wayne Radio Club will have its Spring Banquet. Be sure to join us for some great food, fellowship, and fun.

Of course, the granddaddy of all ham-fests is this month as well. I am talking about the Dayton Hamvention, again at Hara Arena in a Dayton suburb. If you have never made the pilgrimage, you owe it to yourself to take in this spectacle. I seldom go to buy anything in particular, but it is really great to see all the newest in Ham Radio technology. Dayton is usually when most of the big name manufacturers roll out new model rigs and accessories. The antenna companies have full size displays of their latest and greatest. The Dayton flea market has just about anything radio or electronics. If you can't find it there, you probably can't find it anywhere.

Rounding out the month, the annual ARMAD event is coming up. May 28th is the date. Read full details at WWW.ARMAD.NET. It is a fun way to honor our armed forces and veterans by "Hamming it up for the Troops".

There you have it, the month of May! And it just keeps getting better with the ARRL VHF QSO Party and of course, Field Day to round it out. It's great to be a ham!



Steve Nardin, W9SAN

FWRC President

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

The April Meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 16 April 2011 with club president Steve Nardin, W9SAN serving as host. There were about 30 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.

The minutes from the March meeting were read, and there were no corrections. Thanks again to Charles Ward, KC9MUT for taking the March minutes in my absence at that meeting.

Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the Treasurer's report dated 16 April, 2011 as follows:

Year to date income, \$2,128.21,

Year to date expenses, \$362.46,

Cash on hand, \$141.00,



Officers

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W9TE Trustee

Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Webmaster

Jay Farlow, W9LW

May 13th: The Fort Wayne Radio Club will have its Spring Banquet at the church.

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

Savings/Checking balance, \$8,323.36

The report was approved as read.

Al Burke gave the Foxhunt report for April. The team of Charles Ward and Fred Gregnagle, KC9MUT and KC9EZF won the April hunt based upon their mileage and time-to-find totals, so they will serve as the fox for the May hunt. Year-to-date, Jim & Kim Machamer, KB9's DOS and DOT are the point leaders. Details regarding the April hunt may be found in the April issue of the Foxhunt Chronicles which will be posted on the FWRC web page, and in the May issue of the Ham News. Al also noted that there is interest in changing the Spring/Summer foxhunt schedule from Monday evenings to Sunday afternoons or early evenings. Al will solicit the foxhunter community as to what start time they would prefer, 1:30 pm, 3:30pm or 6:00 pm.

New Business:

Brian Jenks, WB9BGJ announced that he had just come from Parkview Hospital where he had been visiting with Carl and Renee Thomas, WB9YBI & KC9KTG. Renee has been battling cancer for some time and regrettably Brian had to report that she appears to be loosing that battle. So with Larry Temenoff, KB9OS leading, all in attendance took a few moments and offered a prayer for the Thomas family.

Steve Nardin announced that two locations are being considered for the



club's participation in the Indiana QSO party, those being the Korean War Veterans park out on O'Day road, and the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical site out on Edgerton Rd. east of New Haven. Steve will pursue the issue and choose a location.

Steve also announced that the roof of the IPFW parking lot is the likely location for the VHF QSO party again this year. Joseph Lawrence, KB9RFZ is pursuing this possibility.

Finally, Steve announced that IPFW's Dolnick Hall will be the site for this years Field Day activities. Larry Temenoff has been working with IPFW on these arrangements and was happy to note that we will have 24 hours access to bathrooms (and a shower), an air conditioned hall, will be able to set up one or two fire bowls, will have access to a lean-to for a Hog Roast if we decide to have one, and we will have ample space for parking, for widely spaced antennas, and for tents.

Steve Nardin stated that the club had been offered the opportunity to purchase a new Cummings-Onan 5KW portable generator with electric start for under \$400.00 thanks to the efforts of Fred Gregnagle, KC9EZF. The offer had been discussed at the last Board meeting and the Board voted to recommend purchase of the generator and bring it up for a membership vote at the April meeting. That being the case the proposal was voted on by the club members present during the April meeting and passed with no dissenting votes. Hence the club will purchase the generator.

Steve Nardin announced that there is a possibility that we will be able to move the location of the 146.91 repeater antenna from the roof of IPFW's Kettler Hall to a location fifty or sixty feet higher up, on the Kettler Hall IPFW tower. This would markedly improve the footprint of the 146.91 machine which is popular given its



Echo-Link capability. If this comes about we will be careful not to create an interference problem with the 146.91 machine down in Decatur.

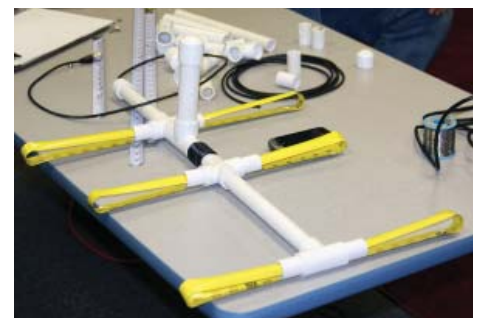
Jim Moehring, KB9WWM reported that the local ham community would be providing communications support for the March Of Dimes-March for Babies, and also for the Juvenile Diabetes March, both occurring on the same day, April 30. He needs about 20 volunteers and is still taking names of who can help out. Check in to the ARES net on Tuesday night to get more details.

Following the business meeting Charles Ward, KC9MUT led a fox hunting tape measure antenna building project where-in about six fox-hunter wannabees constructed four element vhf yagis using PVC for the booms and steel tape measure material for the elements. It was an excellent project and the results were very professional looking. A great big "thanks" is in order to Charles for organizing this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC



State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ACARTS president Vic Berko, KA9LTV, is currently in rehab after his latest round of radiation and is unable to write his column this month I am sure that all members of ACARTS and the FWRC are joining me in wishing him a speedy recovery.



ACARTS April meeting was the annual Spring Banquet held at the Golden Corral. A good meal and lots of conversation was enjoyed by all those that attended.

The May ACARTS Meeting will be a presentation on Anderson PowerPoles and the use of the crimping tool by Jim Boyer, KB9IH.

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

ACARTS Vice President

APRIL 2011 ACARTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Dave announced that the April General Meeting would be the Spring Banquet to be held on April 19th and that he was taking reservations because of Vic's absence.

Jim, KB9IH, said that he attended the Toledo Hamfest and left flyers for the Fort Wayne Hamfest. He added that he had also sent flyers to the Marshall Hamfest.

Jim also stated that he would give a presentation on Anderson Powerpoles and the crimping tool for the May program.

No other business was discussed.

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

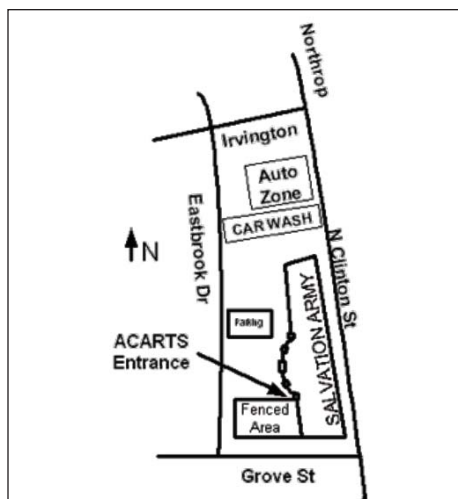
Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

APRIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting this month was the banquet.

May 17: The May ACARTS Meeting will be a presentation on Anderson PowerPoles and the use of the crimping tool by Jim Boyer, KB9IH.

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



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ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
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This feature is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of April.

The FCC has given radio amateurs a partial victory in response to the ARRL's challenge of a rules waiver that permits the certification and licensing of the Recon Scout

The California Supreme Court refused to hear the antenna zoning case brought forth by Alex Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California.

World Amateur Radio Day was April 18.

The ARRL announced that it would be changing the provider for its equipment protection and club liability insurance programs.

The ARRL Lab is back in its space at HQ after renovations were made to the area. Lab personnel are trying out the new kits that will be available in the kit building area of the ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention. The Lab is also investigating certain fluorescent light bulbs without proper FCC labeling.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, together with ARRL Lab Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, have resurrected the ARRL's backup OSCAR 1 satellite. It will be on display in the ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention.

The antennas and antenna support structures at W1AW and W1HQ received their regular inspections. In addition, the weather satellite turnstile antenna was put back atop the North Tower, and each tower received new galvanized coating. All the hardline cables were tie-wrapped with #12 solid copper wire.

The ARRL Field Day Station Locator is up and running.

ARRL HQ staff members judged the entries for the first-ever ARRL Video Contest and announced the winners.

The ARRL held its Frequency Measuring Test.

With the assistance of ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and noted antenna zoning lawyer Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, the ARRL West Gulf Division held a webinar on antenna zoning.

The June issue of QST and the May/June issues NCJ and QEX were released to the printer. Two new publications -- Ham-speak Dictionary by QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, and Small Antennas for Small Spaces by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY -- were also sent to the printer.

New questions have been posted to the QuickStats page on the ARRL website.

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for April 2011 is Lou Burke, W7JI, for his article "The W7JI Low or Lower Power 40 Meter Transmitter."

The ARRL DXCC Desk approved two Tristan Da Cunha and Gough operations.

Official Observer Desk: ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, KOB0G, handled complaints from the FMRE -- Mexico's IARU Member-Society -- regarding interference on their daily net on 76 meters. Skolaut also received complaints regarding operations on or near 14.272 and 147.435 MHz. Wisconsin Official Observers are getting reports of obscene language and hams not identifying on a 2 meter simplex frequency. Reports of Spanish-speaking phone stations operating in the CW portion of the 10 meter band were forwarded to the OO Desk.

Member Contact: Chief Development

Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, and ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, attended the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, attended the ARRL Louisiana State Convention. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, attended Communications Academy in Seattle, Washington. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, attended the AES Superfest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and ARRL Chief Operating Officer attended the ARRL North Carolina State Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina.



As of January, 2011, the Allen County emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is Jim Moehring, KB9WWM. Jim can be reached via email at kb9wwm (at) arrl.net.

Say Again?

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

FWDXA

Fort Wayne DX Association

SPRINGTIME BRINGS OVER-THE-NORTH-POLE DX

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

In an e-mail to the FWDXA members announcing the April quarterly meeting, I commented on the extremely good over-the-North-Pole propagation paths during the CQ WPX Phone contest on March 26 and 27. There were JT (Mongolia), S2 (Bangladesh), VU4 (Andaman Islands), VR2 (Hong Kong), and others rolling in on the higher bands (20m, 17m, 15m and 12m). What caused these good conditions? Two issues factor in – Cycle 24 has continued to be very active and we've moved into spring.

As for Cycle 24 being very active, the smoothed sunspot number has increased from a solar minimum low of 1.7 in December 2008 to 19.6 for September 2010 (the latest smoothed data as of the time I wrote this). As you're probably aware, the smoothed sunspot number correlates very well to EUV (extreme ultraviolet) ionizing radiation, and a higher smoothed sunspot number means the ionosphere is

more ionized.

As for moving into spring, the Sun has started coming back into the northern hemisphere. This results in more illumination at the high northern latitudes, which results in higher MUFs (maximum useable frequencies) at these latitudes – especially for the over-the-North-Pole paths.

To better understand this, let's compare the short path from Fort Wayne to Bangladesh (24oN / 90oE) for December 2010 and March 2011. I'll use the predicted smoothed sunspot numbers at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt> since smoothed data is not available yet. I used VOACAP with 1 KW transmit power and Yagi antennas.

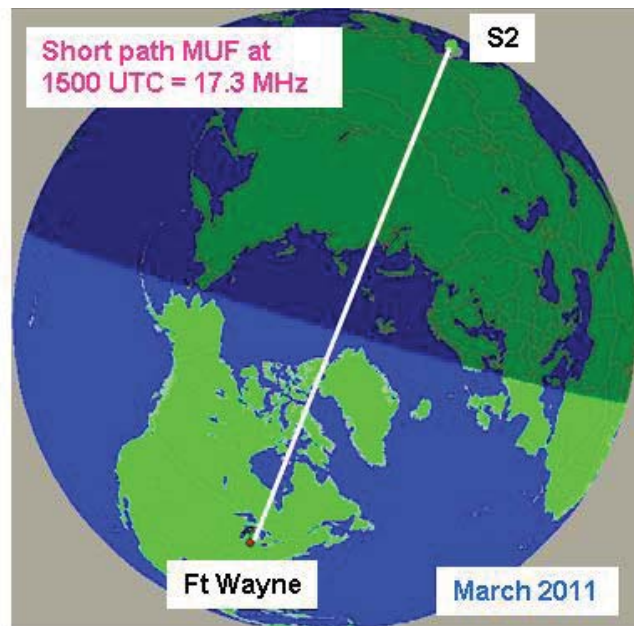
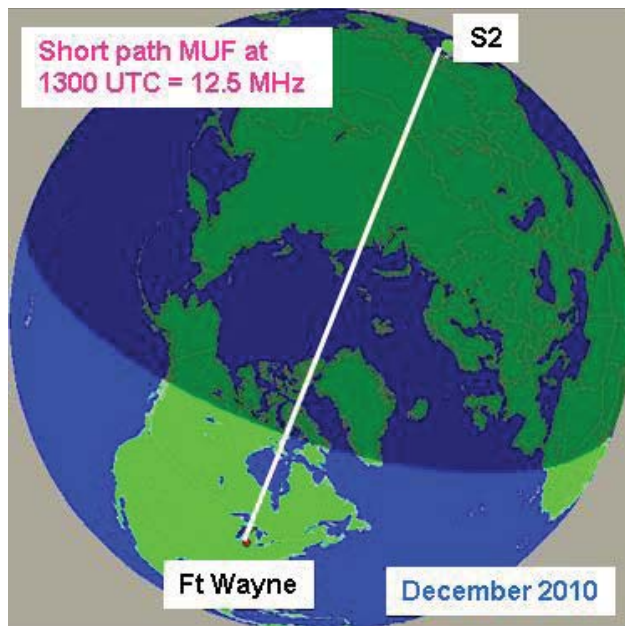
With Bangladesh at 24oN latitude, it is in the robust equatorial ionosphere. Thus we can correctly assume that the Bangladesh end is not the problem end with respect to MUF. It's our end, because it quickly goes into darkness in December as the path heads north. The accompany-

ing figure shows the results of this exercise.

In December 2010, the path out of Fort Wayne goes into darkness at the north end of Hudson Bay. The MUF reaches a maximum at 1300 UTC of 12.5 MHz. Since this is a monthly median MUF, VOACAP predicts that 20m would be open on only 5 days of the month (due to the day-to-day variability of the F2 region). The median signal power on 20m would be -97 dBm, which is about an S4 on a typical receiver. No higher bands are predicted to be open.

In March 2011, the path out of Fort Wayne stays in daylight well past Hudson Bay. The MUF now reaches a maximum at 1500 UTC of 17.3 MHz. VOACAP predicts that 20m would be open on 28 days of the month with a median signal strength of S6. 17m is predicted to be open on 12 days of the month with an S5 signal. Even 15m is predicted to be open on 3 days of the month, but with a weak S1 signal strength. There is no predicted opening on 12m and 10m. For the record, I worked S2 on 20m, 17m and 15m in March.

So the extra daylight due to the seasonal change in illumination over the North Pole helps these over-the-North-Pole paths. If you're wondering what contributes the most, the added illumination in March or the higher smoothed sunspot number in March, VOACAP says it's mostly the additional illumination.



THE FOXHUNT CHRONICLES FOR THE APRIL HUNT

The third Foxhunt of the 2011 season was held on Sunday afternoon, the

3rd of April. The temperature was in the high forties and the sky was overcast and windy, but hinting of spring. So all in all, it was a great day for a hunt.

The April hunters consisted of six groups including the team of Steve & Linda Nardin, W9'sSAN/LAN, the team of Charles Ward, KC9MUT & Fred Gagnagle, KC9EZP, the team of Mark Berke, WA7NX and Steve Irving, KC9AUQ, the team of Brian and Debbie Jenks, WB9GJ & KB9ZQG, the team of Carole & Al Burke, WB9's RUS/SSE (who were refreshed from spending the major part of March in Florida, and eager to hunt), and then solitary hunter Woody Woodbury, KC9CGN. (Perennial hunters Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI had to miss this one as they were working on their spring sun-tans in Florida / the Bahamas).

The services of the fox were provided by Jim & Kim Machamer, KB9's DOT & DOS. They hid the actual fox, a cross-band HT, in the brambly, prickly piney- woods bordering Buckner Park at Bass and Flaugh Roads. (The Taliban could learn a thing or two from Jim & Kim in regards camouflaging IED's based upon how they hid that cross-band HT).

Since the Pliett's were relaxing in the Caribbean, the (van) roof mounted yagi normally used by Pliett / Burke team was not available to the Burke's, but they did have use of Jim's fancy newfangled VK3YNG Foxhunt Sniffer receiver. So they showed up at the Off-Track Betting Parlor parking lot with the intent of following one of the other foxhunt teams until the fox was localized. The question of whom to follow was quickly resolved when they spied the DF antenna arrangement in the back of Charles Ward's pickup truck. He had a five element yagi mounted on a mast sticking about 15' in the air which he could quickly erect, take a bearing, and then collapse back into the bed of his truck.

The fox began transmissions promptly at 13:30 local and everyone heard them from the get-go (probably because they

were using a high power transmitter in their jeep). I don't know for sure what paths the other foxhunters took, but I can tell you I stuck on the KC9MUT / KC9EZP team's rear bumper like glue, no doubt making Charles a little nervous. Several stops were made to take RDF bearings in what I consider a very professional and savvy manner. Charles would take bearings using the pickup truck bed mounted yagi (up at about 15'), while Fred would dismount and take separate readings using his hand held yagi, and we would all check to see if there was any sniff of the fox's third harmonic. Then a discussion ensued relative to what the readings seemed to be indicating before taking off again in order to minimize the distance travelled.

We wound up at the Buckner Park location after three other teams had arrived. Once dismounted Carole and I used Jim Pliett's VK3YNG Foxhunt Sniffer receiver and a tape measure implemented vhf yagi, plus a uhf yagi and receiver tuned to the third harmonic of the fox to find the fox. These instruments led us into the piney-woods I mentioned previously. After tripping on a bit of the remnants of a barbed-wire fence and cutting her knee in the process, Carole spotted the actual cross-band fox HT as she crashed to the ground. After (demurely) bellowing "@@!#%\$^&!"; there's the "&*!!@#\$!" fox, now come over here and help me up or you're toast!", we proceeded to note the time and hobble over to Jim & Kim's location to report that we had found the fox and request a tetanus shot. Carole observed that she had seemed to take on Jim (Pliett's) role of getting injured during a foxhunt, as Jim has historically realized all forms of cuts and abrasions during each of the foxhunts we have participated in over the past five or six years. The hydrogen peroxide she applied to her knee really fizzed up!

As it turned out, Charles Ward and Fred Gagnagle were the first to find the fox, followed by Steve and Linda Nardin, followed by Carole and I, followed by Mark Berke and Steve Irving, followed by Brian and Debbie Jenks. Woody Woodbury pulled the plug on his hunt when the fox batteries gave out.

Scoring-wise, based upon the mileage & time to find criterion, foxhunt points for the April hunt were as follows:

KC9MUT / KC9EZP	705 points
WB9RUS / WB9SSE	695 points
W9LAN / W9SAN	687.5 points
WB9BGJ / KB9GJQ	587.5 points
KA7NXI / KC9AUQ	305 points
KC9CGN	200 points
KB9DOS / KB9DOT (the Fox)	711 points

Based upon the points realized during this hunt, Charles Ward and Fred Gagnagle will serve as the fox for the May hunt.

Following the hunt, everyone proceeded to the Illinois Rd. Steak-N-Shake to partake in a little post-hunt celebration and re-fueling. It was, as usual, GOOD.

It was brought to this scribes attention that a number of foxhunters are petitioning to change the foxhunt schedule for the remainder of the year to all Sunday hunts (1:30 pm) instead of holding the spring/summer hunts on Monday evenings. So I plan to query all the hunters I am aware of on this subject and ask for a vote on the proposal. I will do so via email. Stay tuned to see how this works out.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

FOX HUNT YEAR TO DATE POINTS

K9OMA	KA9YYI	WB9SSE	WB9RUS	KC9TIK	AB9YB	KB9OS	KC9MUT	KC9EZP
1438	1438	1363	1363	525	525	525	2045	2045
W9SAN	W9LAN	ALEX	KB9DOS	KB9DOT	KC9CGN	WA7NXI	KA9AUQ	
1601.5	687.5	914	2098	2098	925	1648	1093	

RENEE KAY THOMAS

Books for Sale. ARRL License Manuals. Both are used but in good condition.

Level 1 Technican (with CD), good through June 30, 2014. List \$29.95. Will sell for \$20.

Level 3 Amateur Extra (no CD), good through June 30, 2012. List \$24.95. Will sell for \$15.

or \$30 for both.

Ken Helms, KC9TPF
email: helms.ken (at) frontier.com
260-749-2089

If you have someting you would like to have listed in the classified section then please sent an email to the newsletter editor at helms.ken (at) frontier.com.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

05/20/2011 to 05/22/2011
Hara Arena
1001 Shiloh Springs Road
Dayton, OH 45401
<http://www.hamvention.org/>
Talk-In: 146.94- or 146.64-
Email: info at hamvention.org

INDIANAPOLIS HAMFEST

07/09/2011
Camp Sertoma
2316 South German Church Road
Indianapolis, IN 46201
<http://www.indyhamfest.com>
Talk-In: 146.16/146.76 (no tone)
Public Contact: Bill Akin , K9YDO
PO Box 1672 Noblesville, IN 46060
Phone: 317-261-6658
Email: k9ydo at comcast.net

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

Photos of this month's of club events were provided by the newsletter editor.

Renee Kay Thomas, 45 a brave woman of great faith passed away April 16th, 2011 after a nine month battle with colon cancer. Born in Fort Wayne, Renee was a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. To know Renee is to love her, as she was a very unique and special woman that drew you in and made you feel loved and cared about. Her thoughtfulness and compassion for others was unconditional and touched the lives of many, leaving the gentle impact that only Renee could do. Her passion for having the best interest of others always in mind was a quality that revealed her character the most. Renee enjoyed laughing and playing with her family and friends, and was looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild Lyla Ne. Renee's beauty was not contained to only the physical, but her inner beauty was incredibly pure and sincere. Renee was truly one of the sweetest, kindest, most tender, self-sacrificing, gracious people that one would be blessed to know. Renee graduated from Leo High School Class of '84 continuing on to attended Vincennes University and Ivy Tech to pursue her nursing degree. Renee was connected to many or-



ganizations: member of the Noble County 4H (showing horses), Girl Scout Troop Leader, Leo PTA room mother, Fort Wayne Radio Club member, Ham Radio Operator: KC9KTG, member of the Leo, Grabill, Harlan, Auburn, and Hicksville Chambers of Commerce, and Leo Lions Club. Renee was also very active - she ran several 26.2 mile marathons and 13.1 half marathons. Through the years, Renee had worked at Pizza Prize, Leo Cafe, Towne House Retirement Center, UPS, the Town of Grabill, and Pizza Hut. Renee and her husband Carl owned and operated their own sign making business, Custom Graphics from 1993 to present. This was where you would see Renee co-piloting their office on wheels in the John Deere Green Bus with Carl. Renee was currently employed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) where she was nominated and presented with the Integrity Award. Surviving are husband Carl, daughters Jessica Thomas, and Angela (Randall) Smith, mother Gail (Hubert Roethele) Linn, father Wayne (Janet Buck) Linn, brother Randy (Karen) Linn, nephew Colton Linn, and extended family members and good friends.

INDIANA STATE CONVENTION (FORT WAYNE HAMFEST AND COMPUTER EXPO)

11/19/2011 and 11/20/2011
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46801
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>
Talk-In: 146.880+

Public Contact: James Boyer , KB9IH
PO Box 10342 Fort Wayne, IN 46851
Phone: 260-579-2196
Email: chairman at fortwaynehamfest.com

SKYWARN

Continued from page 9

If the Storm Prediction Center issues a tornado watch or severe thunderstorm watch, the staff at the Northern Indiana WFO evaluates the situation and determine when and if spotters are needed. If a watch is in effect we might initiate a "standby" net, even if there is no severe weather in our area. Under certain atmospheric conditions, severe weather can develop very rapidly and we need to be ready. An operator may be called in to staff the amateur station at the WFO. That station operates under the callsign WX9IWX.

When activated, the quadrant 2 net 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. When a directed net is in progress, the 146.88 controller announced "weather alert" from time to time. Also, the net control station uses the club call sign, W9INX. If you hear "weather alert" on the repeater or hear a station signing W9INX, assume a directed net is in progress.

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 might 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.



Making Reports - Reportable Phenomena

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

- Tornadoes, Funnel Clouds, and Wall Clouds (remember there must be rotation).
- Winds 45 miles per hour or greater (please note if winds are estimated or measured).
- 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.
- Heavy Rain (1 inch or more in 1 hour or less, or storm totals of 2 inches or more).
- Flooding in progress (rapid pooling of water on roadways, etc).
- Storm damage (large trees, branches, any structural damage, etc).

Please refrain from reports like "it is raining very hard on the west end of town" or "it is getting very windy over here".

Keep your reports short and to the point. 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 pea-size hail!).

Please report only what you see. Don't speculate. If you see power flashes in the distance, do not call it in as a tornado unless you actually see the funnel. Report only the power flashes.

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 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 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.

Safety First

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.

More Information - Links

For more information about IMO Skywarn, including online spotter training aids, visit the IMO Skywarn Web site: www.imoskywarn.org.

Foxhunt Chronicles

The following is the planned Foxhunting schedule for 2011:

June	06/05/11	1:30 pm	Sunday
July	07/10/11	1:30 pm	Sunday
August	08/07/11	1:30 pm	Sunday
September	09/11/11	1:30 pm	Sunday
October	10/02/11	1:30 pm	Sunday
November	11/06/11	1:30 pm	Sunday

Say Again?

"While theoretically and technically, television may be feasible; commercially and financially, it is an impossibility."

Lee de Forest, inventor

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.

For updates and additional contests, see the Contest Corral Web page at www.arrl.org/contests .

HF	Contest Title	Ph	CW	Dig	Exchange & Frequencies (MHz)	Logs Due
VHF+	Dates / Times				Sponsor's Web Site	
	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	X	X	X	Grid square	Jul 14
50+	June 11, 1800Z - June 13, 0300Z				www.arrl.org/contests	
3.5-28	ARRL Kid's Day	X			Name, age, location, favorite color	
	Jun 18, 1800Z - June 18, 2400Z				www.arrl.org/kids-day	
1.8-28	ARRL Field Day	X	X	X	Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX	Jul 27
50+	June 25, 1800Z - June 26, 2100Z				www.arrl.org/contests	
1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	X	X		RS(T) + S/P or IN county, DX RS(T) only	Jun 15
	May 7, 1600Z - May 8, 0400Z CW - See Web site				www.hdxcc.org/inqp	
3.5-21	Radio Club of America QSO Party	X			RS, QTH, name, equipment	
	May 7, 1700Z - May 8, 0459Z				www.radio-club-of-america.org	
1.8-28	ARI International DX Contest	X	X	X	RS(T), serial or Italian province	30 days
	May 7, 2000Z - See Web site Multiple operating periods				www.qsl.net/contest_ari	
1.8-28	7th Area QSO Party	X	X	X	State and County Code	June 5
50, 144	May 7, 1300Z - May 8, 0700Z				7grp.org	
3.5-28	New England QSO Party	X	X	X	RS(T) and S/P or New England county	30 days
	May 7, 2000Z - See Web site				www.neqp.org	
3.5-14	CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test		X		Name, member number or S/P/C	2 days
	May 11, 2000Z - See Web site				www.cwops.org/onair.html	
1.8-28	Armed Forces Comm'ns Test	X		X	RS(T)	No Logs
	May 14, 1200Z - May 15, 2400Z See Web site for specific station schedules.				www.netcom.army.mil/mars	
1.8-28	Nevada Mustang Roundup	X	X	X	RS(T) and S/P/C or NV county	Jun 15
50	May 14, 1700Z - May 15, 1700Z				www.nvqsoparty.info	
3.5-28	FISTS Spring Sprint		X		RS(T), S/P/C, name, FISTS nr or power	30 days
	May 14, 1700Z - May 15, 2100Z				www.fists.org/sprints.html	
1.8-28	Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint			X	RST, QTH, Feld-Hell number	
	May 20, 1500Z - See Web site				www.feldhellclub.org	
1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest		X		RST and serial	Jun 27
	May 28, 0000Z - May 29, 2400Z				www.cqwx.com	
1.8-28	MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint		X		RST, S/P/C, MI QRP number or power	30 days
	May 29, 2300Z - May 30, 0300Z				www.miqrp.org	
28	Ten-Ten Spring Digital Contest			X	Call, name, S/P/C, member number	15 days
	Jun 4, 0000Z - Jun 5, 2400Z				www.ten-ten.org	
1.8-28	Alabama QSO Party	X	X		RS(T) and county, state, province, or 'DX'	30 days
	Jun 4, 1600Z - Jun 5, 0400Z - See Web Page				www.alabamagsoparty.org	
1.8-28	World Wide QRP Contest	X	X		RS(T)	Jul 11
50-432	Jun 11, 0000Z - Jun 19, 2400Z				en.jaqrp.org	
14-21	Asia-Pacific Sprint	X			RST, serial	7 days
	Jun 11, 1100Z - Jun 11, 1300Z				jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt	
	Worldwide EME Contest	X	X		TMO/RS(T) and "R"	Jun 25
1.2G	Jun 4, 0000Z - Jun 5, 2400Z				www.dubus.org	
3.5-28	West Virginia QSO Party	X	X	X	RS(T), WV county or S/P/C	Jul 20
	Jun 18, 1600Z - Jun 19, 0200Z - See Web Page				www.qsl.net/wvsarc	

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 (digipeaters)

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

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"

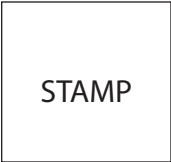
settings on so you can see everyone.

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
05/10/2011	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Fort Wayne
05/13/2011	7:00 PM	FWRC Spring Banquet	GSUMC
05/17/2011	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Fort Wayne
06/05/2011	1:30 PM	Foxhunt	Fort Wayne Off Track Betting Complex
06/07/2011	7:00 PM	FWRC Board Meeting	GSUMC
06/14/2011	7:00 PM	ACARTS Board Meeting	Salvation Army Fort Wayne
06/17/2011	7:00 PM	FWRC General Meeting	GSUMC
06/21/2011	7:00 PM	ACARTS General Meeting	Salvation Army Fort Wayne