

Allen County HamNews

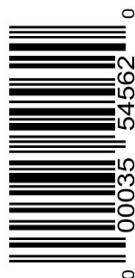
Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

July 2024

Volume 25

Issue 7



Still
free

JULY '24
NO. 7

ALLEN
COUNTY
HAMNEWS

VE SESSION RETURNS TO FORT WAYNE

SKYWARN NEWS AND
NET OPERATIONS

FIELD DAY: 2024...
AND BEFORE

HAMFESTS
LRBN NEWS
DXPEDITIONS

BUILDING
ANTENNAS

NEAT HAM RADIO
STUFF FOR SALE

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- Along with updated radiosport events, updated classified listings, local repeater and net information, and much more!

IN PERSON!

ARRL VE SESSION



**Get your first hamradio
license or upgrade!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 27TH, 10AM-NOON
CUNNINGHAM BUSINESS CENTER
INDIANA TECH
CORNER OF MAUMEE AND ANTHONY AVES.
FORT WAYNE**

- Preregistration preferred; walk-ins accepted.
- Testing will conclude by noon.
- Cost: \$15 (\$5 for less than 18 years old)
- For more information, please contact Josh, W9HT at [drjoshlong \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:drjoshlong@gmail.com) or 260-749-9851..



It seems that each edition of the HamNews becomes more and more varied. I am never quite sure what will show up in any particular edition, which is half of the fun.

Please notice from the flyer on the previous page that an in-person VE session will be held on the campus of Indiana Tech on Saturday, July 27th from 10am-noon. While VE sessions are available almost daily in an online modality and often in-person in some of our surrounding communities, it seems valuable to try to offer this licensing and upgrade opportunity to our local community. If you happen to be a current ARRL VE and are able to participate, please drop me a line. Also, if you would like to take an exam that day, please preregister (if possible) or just show up the day of the session if that is more convenient. See the flyer for more information.

Field Day 2024 is in the can. I hope that you were able to get on the air, visit a Field Day site, and/or participate in some way (dinner at the Fort counts!). Photos from the FWRC event and from a past Field Day event are included in this edition.

Multiple hamfests are coming up in the next few weeks—Auburn, Van Wert, and Elkhart. The FWRC tailgate hamfest will be held later in August. Check out the flyers in this edition for more information.

I would be remiss if I did not note the passing of Jack Shutt, W9GT. From time to time, DX stations would confuse my call for Jack's on the air. May Jack rest in God's peace.

Alrighty, it's about time to send this edition off to the printers. Be sure to check out the several

pages of classified items towards the end of this edition of HamNews. Please remember that any local ham is welcome to include a listing. Just drop me a short message with a description of your item(s), photos of the item(s) if available, asking price(s), and contact information.

Have a great 4th of July, enjoy the warm weather, and catch you on the air or at a local hamfest!

73,

Josh, W9HT



ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

HamNews is a monthly, joint publication of the Fort Wayne Radio Club, the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, and the Fort Wayne DX Association.

Articles are written by members and friends of the three clubs. New submissions for HamNews are always welcome. Please send your information to the editor within two days of the end of the month for inclusion in the next edition.

HamNews Editor
Josh Long, W9HT
drjoshlong (at) gmail.com



New Date!

The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

AUBURN HAMFEST

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

1600 S. Wayne St. Auburn, IN 46706

OPEN 9 AM TO 2 PM • TALK-IN: 147.015 (141.3) 7:00 AM • LOAD-IN: 7 TO 9 AM

FREE Admission

6,000 SQ. FT. INDOOR DISPLAY SPACE (Not counting the huge Museum Area!)



FREE AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG Museum

View an amazing collection of classic motor vehicles.

FOOD VENDOR
on the parking lot.

NEED MORE INFO?

hamfest24@w9ou.org

FREE Parking

Supervised by the DeKalb County ARES Team.



Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.

Order online now at www.w9ou.org

Outdoor Sales - One raffle ticket purchase for each parking space.

Contact: hamfest24@w9ou.org

Raffle Prizes:

1st- Yeasu FTM 500

2nd- Zumspot with MD UV380 DMR

3rd- N3FJP Software (Full Access)

4th- \$50 Gift Certificate, DX Engineering

Ticket Prices \$5.00 - Buy 2, get 1 Free!



Using appropriate terminology when transmitting storm spotter reports during our Skywarn nets can greatly increase the accuracy of reports and net efficiency.

This article will cover some less-than-helpful terminology and more helpful alternatives.

Tornado on the ground. By definition, a tornado is in contact with the ground, so saying “on the ground” wastes time. The only reliable way to know a tornado exists (e.g., is “on the ground”) is to see ground debris rotating. So, if we see a funnel cloud but cannot see rotating debris, we must report it as a funnel cloud, even though it might be lifting debris that we can’t see. If the bottom of a funnel cloud is obscured, e.g., by a tree line, it can be helpful to report, “funnel cloud, bottom obscured.”

Possible tornado. It’s unclear what this report means. From a spotter’s perspective, either a rotating column of air is visibly lifting ground debris, or it isn’t. If we see rotating debris but cannot see a funnel cloud extending to the ground (e.g., because it is

Appropriate terminology helpful during Skywarn nets

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, Allen County Skywarn Net Manager

wrapped in rain, a condensation funnel doesn’t reach the ground, or debris has not yet darkened the column), we should either report a tornado (straight-line winds don’t make debris fly in a circle) or just report the rotating debris. Either report would be more helpful than “possible tornado.”

Two minutes ago. To understand why this isn’t helpful, it helps to know what happens after we transmit our reports on air. Typically, a net control station operator will type the report into an internet chat room on a platform called Slack. By the

time the operator finishes typing the message and an NWS meteorologist sees it, at least a minute could elapse, perhaps even more (if the operator is behind on typing). The NWS will then create something called a “local storm report” based on our spotter report. That takes another minute or two. The NWS report must contain the time of day that the spotter saw the phenomenon or effect they reported. If the meteorologist assumes that the observation time was two minutes before they saw the report in Slack, the observation time will be incorrect.



This might be a tornado with debris spinning on the ground, but the trees prevent us from seeing any debris. Rather than reporting this as a “possible tornado,” we should instead report, “funnel cloud, ground view obscured by trees.” Photo from NWS spotter training video.

It's much more helpful, therefore, to make mental note of the time of day we see something and include that time of day in our on-air reports.

There's little excuse for not knowing the time of day during a severe weather event. We usually know at the beginning of a day whether severe weather is likely that day, so it's a simple matter of making sure we put on a watch that morning or keep a smart phone with us to display the time. On severe weather days, we should keep both our radios and a time-of-day reference handy.

Estimated 60 mph wind.

Scientific studies have shown that that even trained people usually think the wind is stronger than it is. Winds that feel very strong or make a lot of noise often aren't as strong as we think. During spotter training, the NWS provides the Beaufort wind scale, which lists the types of damage various wind speeds can do. If we estimate the wind without using that scale to correlate our estimate with damage we see, our estimate will probably be wrong. Unless we have an anemometer to measure the wind, it's therefore far more helpful to report the damage we see and let the NWS meteorologists decide how fast the wind

was blowing.

Reports of measured or estimated wind speeds below 50 mph aren't very helpful to NWS, because NWS doesn't consider wind severe until it reaches 58 mph. A number Beaufort 9 equates to an average wind of 50 mph, which according to the scale, should cause "light structural damage." For these reasons, we don't even need to report measured wind of less than 50 mph or estimated wind that didn't *cause at least light structural damage*.

Frequent cloud-to-ground lighting. The National Weather Service doesn't care about our lightning reports *unless the lightning does visible damage or injures or kills someone*. Lightning sensors exist all over the country that provide the time and location of every strike, data that's available at the NWS office. So, no matter how impressive or unusual the lightning is, it's most helpful if you don't use net time to report lightning, unless you can also report first-hand knowledge of damage, injury or death caused by the lightning.

Tornado sirens are sounding. This report is not helpful because it consumes net time and is of zero value to the National Weather Service. The

NWS does not control outdoor warning sirens, that's done by local officials. NWS therefore has no need to know that you can hear sirens and neither do members of the net, who already know a warning went out. The exception, of course, is the monthly ARES siren test net, which exists specifically to gather siren operation reports and never happens during actual severe weather.

Skywarn Training Net gets Good Start

Our new Skywarn training net, led by Skywarn assistant net manager Jim Stephens, K9BAT started May 29. It meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. on the Fort Wayne 146.88 MHz repeater. Topics discussed have included the Beaufort wind scale and the relationship between Skywarn and ARES. The net has also included an exercise during which stations practiced sending simulated storm reports. All radio amateurs who are interested in severe weather are welcome to check in.



June Update

We had another great month on the Little Red Barn Net (LRBN) which meets on Monday thru Friday at 9:00am on 3.820 MHz LSB. We have about 14 to 20 check-ins per day, with self-generated topics each day by the check-ins.

Also, we have a lunch every two weeks alternating from north Fort Wayne to south Fort Wayne. We usually have 10 to 15 participants at each lunch.

We had two lunches this month on 6/6/2024 at the Back Forty in Decatur and 6/20/2024 at Ziffles Rib Bar. Always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

The next upcoming lunch dates would be 7/4/2024, 7/18/2024, and 8/1/2024 at 11:30am on each date.

If you want to be on the LRBN email list, let me know at gmrepair1@aol.com, or message me at 260-437-4676 with your email and call sign or name.

Net control operators are also follows: Monday KU8T Tom, Tuesday K9FW Al, Wednesday KD9HAV Norm, Thursday KE9IWX Jim, and

Friday WB9TYJ Don.

We have a web page at <https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile> works with mobile and desktop browsers. The page includes lunch information (times & dates), pictures of previous lunches, and other information.

Also we have at lrbn@groups.io | Home, but you will need to sign up. This is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help .

Also, our net controls use Netlogger. You may download the program at the Download Center (netlogger.org). Also, for smartphones, there is Net Scraper. On, the Android go to Play Store, and on iPhone, go to App Store and download this app.

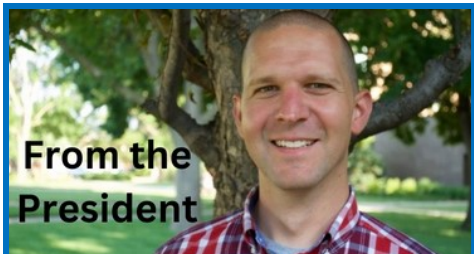
73,

KU8T Tom



Hamspatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN



From the President

Welcome to the peak of summer. Hopefully everyone is staying cool in this abnormally hot summer. Remember to limit exposure outdoors, wear something to keep the sun off you, and drink plenty of water.

Since it is warm, this may be a good time to go portable. The purpose of Field Day is to support emergency communication. Operating a radio takes skill, and like all skills, practice makes perfect. There are a few programs within radio that can assist us. The largest of those is Parks on the Air, or POTA. The basics of the program is that an activator sets up in a park and calls CQ. Hunters find them and work the station. This is a good way to chase some of the rarer counties, states, etc. There are plenty of parks around Fort Wayne. If you are unsure how to get started, email club members, including myself, and we can bring you along for an activation.

Recently, my wife and I have started to dive more. Scuba diving requires skill and gear, as with many hobbies. But having the best gear doesn't give you the most skill. A gentleman wearing high end equipment set his canister light on the dock. He bent over to take his fins off, pulling on the cable attached to his light, causing it to fall onto his head. Sometimes we need to be reminded that no mat-

ter how experienced we think we are, or how good our equipment is, we are just one decision away from being hit in the head. At the Fort Wayne Hamfest, a gentleman was giving a talk. During that he mentioned that it isn't the new technician making the mistakes. It is the extra who is calling CQ with no response, because they forgot to unplug their dummy load from the night before. How can you refine your skill?

The 2nd week of July, I will be out of town helping with some research. My background is in plant biology, and I continue to do research in the field. We will be at Pictured Rocks in the UP of Michigan. We have limited cell reception, so we take along radios for communication. I decided to take along my Icom ID-52. I haven't used it in quite a while, so I had to refresh myself on the operation. As with any piece of equipment, it is only as good as the individual using it.

Since I will be in Michigan, Meghan, KD9ODP, the VP for FWRC, will lead the next meeting. Charles, KC9MUT, will be giving a wrap up of Field Day. Even though I will be out of town, I will still be checking my phone periodically. You can reach me at kd9nrt(at)gmail.com. Your feedback and input is crucial to club operation. Have a safe summer.

73,
Adam, KD9NRT

FWRC Officers 2024

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kd9nyz(at)gmail.com

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temenoff(at)pfw.edu

As seen at the June FWRC meeting...



***BUILDING
DIPOLES***
June 2024



Field Day in Photos



More Field Day photos





Indiana QSO Party 2024
Top Indiana Club
Fort Wayne Radio Club
Sponsor: ARRL Indiana

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



**From the
ACARTS
President**

I want to apologize to Dennis KA9IPA; I believe I forgot to recognize him in my article last month in regards to him serving as IMO Net Control. Please support and utilize this Net to listen for announcements, formal or informal traffic, or as a place to catch that fellow local amateur etc. As a reminder, the net occurs every evening at 6:30 PM on the ACARTS W9INX 146.880(-) PL 141.3 Repeater or the FWRC W9TE 146.940(-) PL 141.3 Repeater which serves as a backup.

Still awaiting word from Red Cross in regards to another meeting with them. Hopefully within July we can sit down again and talk about some of the ideas that we talked about at the first meeting.

This month was a busy month for me personally, mostly because of doctor appointments, tests etc, so needless to say I didn't get accomplished all that I wanted to for ACARTS in June. But I am back on track and playing catch up.

At our June general meeting we had our first reading of the proposed new by-laws and constitution. We have a board meeting online on MS Teams on our normal second Tuesday of the month to make any adjustments etc. before our second reading at the July general meeting on the third

Tuesday. So we are nearing completion of that task and will be able to start the process of converting from a 501 (c) 4 to 501(c)3 organization.

We will also be discussing on selecting our new investment firm soon beginning at our board meeting as well this month.

Kevin Hecksher W9KMH our Treasurer has brought up the idea of a possible skills training on a future a Saturday. The initial idea of proper soldering techniques was mentioned. So, listen and watch for more details in the future.

Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP our Fundraising Manager/Hamfest Chairman has completed the 2024 ACARTS Fort Wayne Hamfest Flyer and it will be posted here in this edition of the ACHN, ACARTS Ham Club Online, acarts@groups.io, <http://www.acarts.com>, <http://fortwaynehamfest.com>

Jim Bassett W9YME one of our Directors is looking for input from the membership in regards to ACARTS Logos for club apparel, banners, signage and for social media etc. Let us know what you think. The artist example is the or one of the originals for ACARTS. Here are a few examples:



ACARTS Officers 2024

President

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W9INX Trustee

Dan Dahms N9WNH
260-503-4163
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The next ACARTS General Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 16 at 7 PM at the Northeast Chapter of American Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd. Fort Wayne. The business portion after the presentation of the meeting will consist of the second draft reading of the new proposed By-Laws, Constitution and Policies. The presentation will be about and given by the Mizpah Shrine Radio Unit W9FEZ.

We will again plan to have a small hamfest this month. Just around five to ten items maximum at a time to see how it goes. Since there was no takers of club's small excess power supplies I will bring them in again. We will be offering (3) Astron 7A's, (1) Astron SL-11A and (1) Kenwood PS-53.

They have all been checked out in a lab and have a printed report for each one. We will be inviting all to bring items into future meetings. All are welcome to attend any ACARTS General Meeting.

73,

Dan, N9WNH

| Upcoming ACARTS and other local events of interest | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------|
| 7/9/24 | 7:00 PM | MS Teams (Online) | ACARTS Board Meeting | ACARTS Board | ACARTS |
| 7/16/24 | 7:00 PM | At Red Cross & MS Teams (Online) | ACARTS General Meeting | ACARTS General Meeting/ Mizpah Shrine Radio Unit | ACARTS/MSRU |
| 7/20/24 | 9 AM - 2 PM | ACD Museum (Auburn) | NIARA/ Auburn Hamfest | Auburn Hamfest | NIARA |
| 7/21/24 | 8 AM - ? | Van Wert Co. Fairgrounds | Van Wert ARC Hamfest | Van Wert Hamfest | Van Wert ARC |



PLEASE PROGRAM ALL YOUR RADIOS TO TRANSMIT A 141.3 Hz ON THE INPUT (146.280) FOR THE ACARTS 146.880 (-) REPEATER IN CASE OF LIMITED FUTURE NEED.



DXpeditions Are Getting Back to Normal

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Remember several years ago – 2020 and 2021? We were deep in the covid pandemic, and DXpeditions were few and far between. We've pretty much recovered now, and there are many opportunities to work needed DX and WAZ zones. For example, during June, we saw some semi-rare and very rare DXpeditions.

FH4VVK was active as FT4GL from Glorioso Island, which is #7 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List (<https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>). As a side note, Glorioso Island was my last one back in September 2009 to work all 340 current entities.

DL7ZM was active as EZ/DL7ZM from Turkmenistan, which hasn't been on the air since August 2006. It's #23 on the Most Wanted List.

YL2GM operated as VK9LA from Lord Howe Island. It is #63 on the Most Wanted List. I really like the suffix of this call.

G0SKW was on the air as S21ZI from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is #91, so it's not a real rare entity. But it's a tough over-the-pole path for us, so we don't hear them as well as others.

In summary, visit <https://www.dailydx.com/the-daily-dx-calendar/> for many current and upcoming DXpeditions. Some of the upcoming rare DXpeditions are the following:

In early August, Jarvis Island will be activated as N5J. Jarvis Island is part of the Palmyra & Jarvis island group, and this island group is #18 on the Most Wanted List. Don't miss this one.

For three weeks in the winter of 2025/2026, 3Y0K will be on from Bouvet Island. Bouvet is #11 on the Most Wanted List.

In 2027, Peter 1 Island will be on the air. Peter 1 Island is #8 on the Most Wanted List. Here's an excerpt from an e-mail I recently received from the Peter 1 team.

We plan to activate Peter I Island in February 2027 with a team of 19 operators, and we're in the process of negotiating the vessel contract. We're teaming up with a small private group where we share the total cost of the estimated \$2,000,000. At the time of activation in 2027 it will be 21 years since the last DXpedition to this island.

Note that the estimated budget is two million dollars. Whew – that's a bunch!

In addition to DXpeditions, we are also seeing DX conventions coming back. The Pacific Northwest DX Convention is August 9-11. It is being held in the Seattle area this year. It rotates between Portland (OR), Spokane (WA), Vancouver (British Columbia) and the Seattle area (WA). Vicky and I have attended this convention many times, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the convention itself and the scenery in the Pacific Northwest (we like to visit lighthouses).

The W4DXCC Convention is being held August 15 in Huntsville, AL (a couple days before the Huntsville Hamfest – a great hamfest). And the W9DXCC Convention is being held September 13 and 14 in the Chicago area.

In summary, get on the air and have some fun. I have to admit I haven't been on much – my last interesting QSO was with V85NPV in Brunei (an auroral path) on 15m SSB in late April (see the accompanying QSL card) – at least it's good to know that the station is still playing well. Finally, be sure to get on the higher HF bands (15m, 12m and 10m) this fall and winter – worldwide propagation should be great.

TO **K9LA** BAND 15m
MODE SSB/USB
FREQ 21.305 Mhz
WHEN 24 Apr 2024 15:26 UTC
FR **V85NPV** RSTS/R 59 / 59

Thanks for the QSO and hope to see you on the waterfall again.

FWDXA Field Day in 1999

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

While visiting several Field Day operations this year, it brought back memories of when the Fort Wayne DX Association jumped into the Field Day fray for a couple years.

In 1999, the FWDXA operated 1A (using a generator brought by John K9UWA) from the K9LA QTH using K9LA. The team consisted of Dan N9NO, Jim KR9U, John K9UWA, Charlie KC9LA, Carl K9LA and our Field Day mascot Heidi. We operated from our little shed on the west side of our property, with antennas erected in the field to the west of our property.

Our HF rig was an ICOM IC-765, and our satellite station (from Charlie KC9LA) was a Kenwood FT-847. Our antennas were the driven element from a TA-33 beam for 20m/15m/10m on 45-feet of Heights aluminum tower, a Cushcraft shorty-dipole for 40m also on the tower, an inverted-vee in a tall pine tree (thanks to Dan N9NO and his sling-shot) for 75m/80m and long-boom Yagis for 2m/70cm (satellite station).

We received several bonus points: 100% emergency power, media publicity through a letter to WANE-TV through Frank WA1URA (SK), the satellite station, message origination to our Section Manager (Peggy W9JUU) and the W1AW Field Day bulletin. We did have a sign out at

our driveway entrance on Pion Road advertising our operation, but it didn't count as a bonus due to us not being in a public place (we did have seven visitors – four non-hams and three hams).

How did we do? We ended up with 1479 QSOs. Applying the points/mode, our low power level and the bonus points put us in third place with a total score of 6020 in the 1A (generator) category behind W7MR (total score of 6996 in UT) and W2BC (total score of 6048 in WNY). One more bonus effort would have put us in second place – c'est la vie. The satellite station was a pleasant surprise, and I even made some QSOs on this station.

As usual, Murphy visited us. Around midnight Saturday night the generator shut off due to a low oil level. Shame on us for not keeping an eye on that. And the generator hiccupped during a heavy rain around 3AM, which took the logging PC down (thankfully all we had to do was re-boot it).

All in all, we had fun and I know I look back fondly on this effort.

| FWDXA Field Day 1999 - QSOs | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|
| | CW | SSB |
| 80m/75m | 119 | 61 |
| 40m | 520 | 105 |
| 20m | 509 | 18 |
| 15m | 123 | 0 |
| satellite | 10 | 14 |
| total | 1281 | 198 |
| total = 1479 | | |

Back in the last century...



1999
Field
day



37th Annual Van Wert, OH Hamfest



Join the Van Wert Amateur Radio Club for their highly anticipated Van Wert Hamfest on July 21, 2024. Held at the Van Wert County Fairground in Van Wert, OH, this event is a must-visit for amateur radio operators and enthusiasts looking to connect, learn, and explore the world of radio communication.

Event Details:

- **Date:** July 21, 2024
- **Location:** Van Wert County Fairground, 1055 S. Washington Street, Van Wert, OH 45891

Website: w8fy.org

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

What Makes Van Wert Hamfest Special:

1. **Rich History:** Organized in 1952 and affiliated with the ARRL since 1954, the Van Wert Amateur Radio Club has a long-standing tradition of promoting amateur radio and fostering a community of radio enthusiasts.
2. **Mission:** The Hamfest embodies the club's mission to educate, train, and encourage radio amateurs in advancing the science of radio communication and providing public service during emergencies.
3. **Activities:** Explore indoor tables featuring a variety of radio equipment and accessories, participate in outdoor trunk sales, and engage in discussions with fellow enthusiasts.

4. **Admission:** Gates open at 8:00 AM EDST, with admission tickets priced at \$10.00. Free parking is available during the event, with an option for overnight parking at \$25.00.
5. **Door Prizes:** Don't miss the chance to win hourly door prizes, generously supported by sponsors like Belden.
6. **Vendor Setup:** Vendors can set up starting at 6:00 AM, ensuring a vibrant marketplace for all attendees.
7. **Community Spirit:** Connect with like-minded individuals, share knowledge, and immerse yourself in the fascinating world of amateur radio.

Contact Information:

- **Public Contact:** Steve Kouts (WA8WKF)
- **Address:** PO Box 602 Van Wert, OH 45891
- **Phone:** 419-771-8152

Email: stevekouts145@gmail.com

Whether you're a seasoned radio operator or just beginning your journey in amateur radio, the Van Wert Hamfest promises an enriching experience for all. Mark your calendars and join us on July 21st for a day of discovery, camaraderie, and celebration of radio communication in Van Wert, Ohio!



On June 9th, 2024, a week later than usual for a fox hunt (typically hunts are the first Sunday of a month), two teams met at the start point near the center of the county. The teams were the husband and wife team of K9OMA & KA9YYI, Jim and Anne Pliett, (minus the Al and Carole team as they were under the weather), and the team of W9LAN and W9SAN, Linda and Steve Nardin, with helpers: daughter Courtney and grandson Wyatt. All were ready at 1:30 pm when the Fox, Charles Ward, KC9MUT, started transmitting from his Fox's liar on the north side of Fort Wayne.

From the first transmissions, the strength of the signal indicated that the Fox was not too far away. Initial bearings were roughly northwest of the start point, so both teams started driving that direction by going up the "bypass" toward Purdue Fort Wayne Campus. As the Nardin team passed in front of what was once Don Hall's Triangle restaurant, they were amazed to hear the microfox and its 50 milliwatt signal! This immediately led to the conclusion that the fox was on the Purdue campus. Driving on to the campus ground they were greeted by the Fort Wayne Region of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) who were holding an Autocross event in one of the parking lots! There was a lot of noise and squealing tires from the cars so finding a quieter place to get bearings was in order!

Driving around the campus, the Nardin team realized that the fox must be on the other side of the Saint Joseph River. First thought was they were in the "PLEX" area where there are many parking areas and soccer fields. A quick spin through the PLEX revealed nothing. By this time the Pliett team had located the fox and within minutes had found the microfox. Since the PLEX was not the location,

the other team searched the professional building area located on the other side of the woods from the Plex and where Midwest America Credit Union and several medical buildings were located. According to Google Maps, the area where the fox was is at 5050 North Clinton Street. It is a parking area with a microwave relay tower on site.

Now that the high power fox was found, the microfox could be heard strongly, and the second team zeroed in on a light pole in the parking lot. When lifting up the metal decorative base of the light, the microfox could be clearly seen, but also there were not one, not two, but three hornets nests inside!! W9SAN quickly dropped the base and walked away, not wanting to get stung!! Charles had placed the fox into the base quickly and apparently did not see the nasty insects inside! Ouch! Nobody got hurt, but that was not a pleasant surprise, to say the least.

Since this was the conclusion of the hunt, the fox and Pliett team went off to find food, while the Nardin team had a birthday party to attend in Hicksville, so they drove off to that buckeye city. All in all it was a very enjoyable hunt, except for the bees, and we determined that the next hunt would be on July 14th (Bastille Day). We would love to have any other hams join us for the fun! Why not put it on your master calendar (the one on the side of the refrigerator; you know) and come on out!

73, Steve, W9SAN



2024 ELKHART EAST HAMFEST
SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2024
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway - Elkhart, IN 46514

More details are available on our website
at: <https://www.elkharteasthamfest.com>.

The Northern Indiana Event Center is
a state-of-the-art convention facility
located at the MH/RV Hall of Fame in
Elkhart, Indiana. (Toll Road at Exit 96)

Questions? info@elkharteasthamfest.com



Welcome and Join us!

Indoor 20,000 sq ft of Amateur Radio, Hobby Electronics, and More Convention
125 tables of retail and consumer vendors, HAM Radio license exams all classes
\$8.00 admission comes with discounted admission to the RV Hall of Fame

\$15.00 per table 120v/220v available at no charge
One free admission per vendor / children under 12 free

Talk-in: K9DEW Mishawaka Repeater (147.330+ 131.8 pl)

Additional Reserve Info.

Info@elkharteasthamfest.com
Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway
Elkhart, IN 46514





Happy July everyone! June is now in our rearview mirror, and a new month means a new HamNews edition. The halcyon days of summer are upon us, and with summer comes one major activity – antenna building! In this month’s column, we’re going to take a look at a new antenna design your author has just recently built – the W1ZR-designed Skeleton-Sleeve folded dipole.

Design principles of the skeleton-sleeve folded dipole:

What exactly is the skeleton-sleeve folded dipole? Starting close to 15 years ago, the Technical Editor of *QST Magazine* Joel Hallas, W1ZR, originated a novel solution to cover two of the most popular contest bands – 40 and 20 meters. His solution was to take advantage of two antenna designs, the “coupled resonator” design, and the folded dipole.

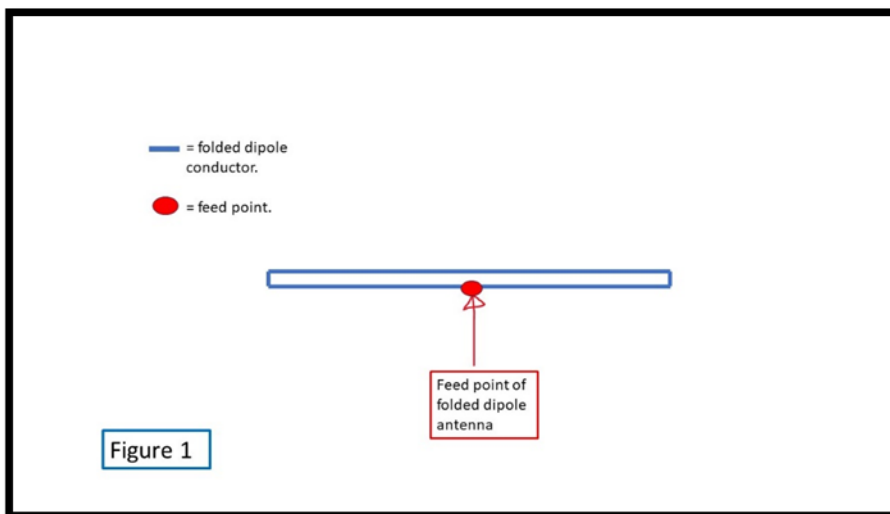
Folded dipoles are excellent antennas, and generally will have a slightly larger bandwidth than their non-folded classic cousins. Some have claimed that the folded dipole is quieter than a normal dipole, due to the conducting wire “folding back” on itself (hence the name “folded dipole”). Whether or not this is true depends on the situation, although there is some merit to the idea. Figure 1 demonstrates the basic concept of a folded dipole.

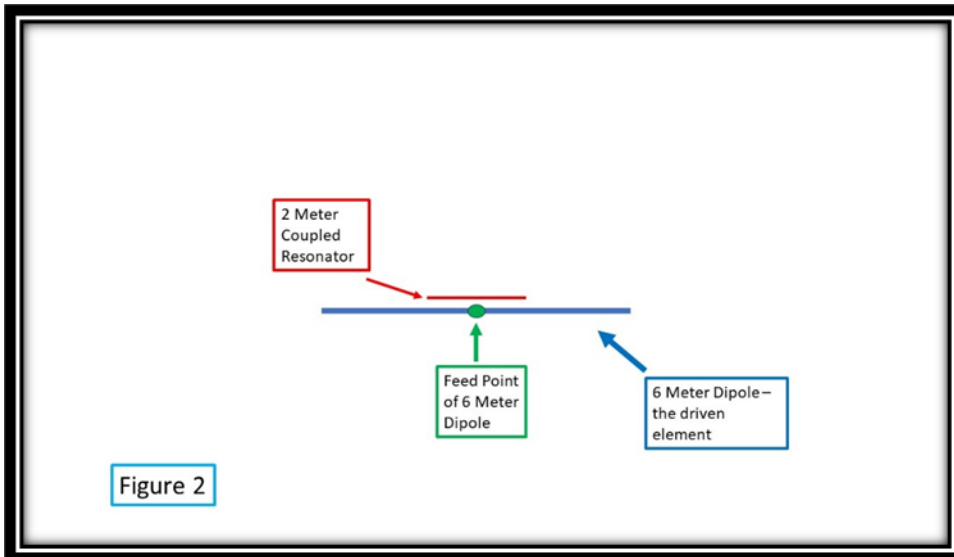
Unlike a classic dipole, the folded dipole is not a good match for direct feeding by 50 Ohm coaxial cable. Instead, folded dipoles have a feed point impedance closer to 200 Ohms, necessitating the usage of a 4:1 transformer at their feed points to allow for connection to 50 Ohm coaxial cable.

Coupled resonators are an interesting approach to multi-band antenna systems. Coupled resonators have been in the ham antenna design

arsenal for decades, and they include multiple variants (such as a “sleeve” coupled resonator). The basic principle is simple – if a conductive object, known as the “coupled resonator,” is brought within a close proximity to a radiating element, the “coupled resonator” will begin to radiate on its resonant frequency without needing to be electrically or physically connected to the original resonating object.

Here is an example (Figure 2 visualizes this explanation). Say we have a dipole cut for resonance at 50.125 Mhz. on the 6 meter band. That dipole is connected to our 50 Ohm coaxial cable, as dipoles will generally have a natural feed point impedance of between 50-75 Ohms (depending on height





above ground and other factors). However, we want to also operate at 144.200 Mhz. on the 2 meter band, without having to add a separate feedline to our antenna system. To accomplish dual-band operation, we simply place a 2 meter dipole in close proximity to the 6 meter dipole. Simply put, when our radio goes to transmit on 144.200 Mhz., the radio will not “see” the 6 meter dipole. Instead, the radio will “see” the 2 meter dipole, since it

is so closely placed to the 6 meter dipole. The radio will happily transmit on either 6 meters or 2 meters, depending upon what frequency we choose to operate.

The coupled-resonator idea is a bit more complicated than the above explanation, but you get the general idea. If you have two conductors of differing lengths, but place the two conductors within close proximity to one another, you can create an antenna that can operate on two different frequencies without needing a separate feed line for the second antenna. How close one has to space the two antennas to gain the coupled-resonator ability is a matter of conductor diameter and resonant frequency of the conductors.

W1ZR’s solution

W1ZR’s method to obtain coverage of 40 and 20 meters was to use a single piece of 450 Ohm window line, and mix together the ideas of a folded dipole and a coupled resonator. He took the ends of the 450 Ohm window line and shorted them by soldering the ends of the wire together. Next, he cut notches in the top conductor of the window line, effectively creating two, non-connected wire antennas. The lower wire conductor wraps around to the top of the window line, stopping at the notches cut in the conductor. The upper conductor looks like a single conductor that happens to be close to the length of a typical dipole antenna.

W1ZR then directly attaches his feedline to the lower, folded dipole antenna, with ferrite beads placed over the coax cable to prevent common mode current from traveling down the coax. The lengths chosen for both the folded dipole and the upper, coupled resonator, are such that the antenna is now resonant on both the 40 and 20 meter bands.

W1ZR’s design has been built by several folks at ARRL headquarters and has received high marks for being an effective, simple, easy to build and deploy antenna. Other amateurs have used the antenna for portable contesting, such as the Indiana Qso Party, as the antenna provides full-band coverage on both 40 and 20 meters without the use of an antenna tuner.

Some amateurs have wanted additional band combinations besides 40/20, so W1ZR calculated a variety of different lengths for both the folded-dipole and the coupled resonator wires. These lengths are published online at several locations, such as the following web address: <https://skattagun.blogspot.com/2016/04/kg4gvl-skeleton-sleeve-pt-1.html>. From this table, one can see that the number of band combinations is quite extensive, with all kinds of varying lengths!

W1ZR's folded skeleton sleeve at AC9EZ

In your author's case, the skeleton sleeve folded dipole design has always been quite intriguing, particularly with its portability and easy band hopping attributes. Particularly, an antenna was needed to cover the 30/17m band combination, as 80-40-20-15-10 are going to be covered using a different classic antenna (more on that antenna in a future Tuning Up column!).

To construct a 30-17m version of W1ZR's antenna was easily accomplished using the table of lengths provided in the included link. Some #18 gauge solid-conductor window line was sourced from a local ham (a special thank you to that ham for the window line!) The antenna was cut according to the dimensions provided on the table with the following values: The overall length was 40.8 feet, with the upper conductor having a total length of 24.08 feet. On each side of the upper conductor (the coupled resonator) there is a 5.5 inch gap.

Results are quite promising on this antenna. Testing was carried out using cw and ft8, with several POTA pileups broken on 30m, dx worked on 30m, and multiple US contacts made on 17m ft8. DX was heard loud and clear on both 30 and 17m with the antenna up only about 16-20 feet – not bad for a single piece of 450 Ohm window line!

So there you have it, an easy way to get two bands on a single antenna. For the price, it's a pretty tough design to beat. For those who would like more detailed information on this antenna, your author recommends looking at the design on either the included web link or reading the article on the antenna in the ARRL's book, Small Antennas for Small Spaces by Steve Ford, WB8IMY (published in 2011).

73 and see you next month!

Jim ac9ez



Local

SK CC
 Straight Key Century Club

News



June 2024

NOTE: Check out the recently published and downloadable SKCC Handbook 2024 at https://www.skccgroup.com/SKCC_Handbook_2024.pdf

Operating activities during the month follow.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) on June 8-9, the following local operators participated. The QSO count is shown.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| K9FW 329 | W9GOO 22 |
| N8KR 85 | KA9GKE 17 |
| AC9XS 51 | W9HT 38 |
| WA9BBN 35 | WB9EAO 12 |
| WG9K 26 | WB9TYJ 11 |

For the Two Hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) on Tuesday evening, June 25, 8-10 PM local, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| N8KR 55 | W9HT 18 |
| K9FW 53 | W9GOO 5 |
| WA9BBN 27 | AC9XS 5 |

I hope to catch you on the air during July!

73,

Ed, WA9BBN

OPERATING EVENTS

1
RAC CANADA DAY CONTEST

13-14
IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

13-14
SKCC WEEKEND SPRINTATHON

20-21
NA QSO PARTY, RTTY

20-21
CQ WW VHF CONTEST

This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at contestcalendar.com and is gratefully acknowledged. It is deemed accurate as of the time of publication.

52nd FORT WAYNE HAMFEST & Computer Expo

Sponsored by Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society



Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA
ARRL Central Division Director

Brent Walls N9BA
ARRL Central Division Vice Director

Bob Burns AK9R
ARRL Indiana Section Manager

Mike Alley W9MSK
ARRL Indiana Section Emergency
Coordinator

Ham Radio License Testing All Classes (\$14)
9 AM till 12 PM Saturday

WAS & DXCC Card Checking and CQ
Awards

Youth Lounge (under 12 accompanied by adult)

New & Used Ham Equipment Dealers
Main & Hourly Door Prizes

2 Rooms of Special Interest Forums All Day
Saturday

Talk-in Radio Frequency 146.880 (-) PL 141.3

Tables: \$30 Regular, \$50 Premium, \$35 Electricity
Drive Directly to Your Table for Setup

November 16 & 17 2024

SAT 9 AM to 4 PM
SUN 9 AM to 2 PM

Admission: \$8 Sat &
Sun
\$4 Sun only
Children under 12 free
(with adult)

Allen County
War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Ave
Fort Wayne, IN
73,000 sq. ft. all indoors
(Coliseum Parking \$8 per
vehicle)

Get the latest information at
www.fortwaynehamfest.com
www.facebook.com/FTWAYNEHAMFEST/

Hamfest General Questions:
Email: FM@acarts.com
Table Questions:
tables@fortwaynehamfest.com
Mail: PO Box 10342, Fort Wayne,
IN 46851
Phone: (260) 579-2196

**FOR
SALE**

This section of the Allen County HamNews is available for local hams to list any ham radio related gear for sale or to place any ham radio related want ads.

Listings are posted for one month, but can be renewed upon request of the editor.

Please see page two for contact information.



Icom SP-41 external speaker that has DX Engineering audio enhancement kit for clear audio. \$200.00 in excellent condition.



Kenwood SP-120 external speaker that has DX Engineering audio enhancement kit for clear audio. \$125.00 in excellent condition.



Cushcraft D-3 rotatable dipole. \$275.00 in good condition

For these items, please contact Ken WD9HIY at 260-710-0617 or ksbuinowski (at) juno.com

Icom IC-718 hf transceiver. Includes hand microphone and power cord. Manual available online. \$300

Kenwood TS-120 hf transceiver. Includes hand microphone, power cord, and Kenwood SP-120 speaker. Manual available online. \$175

MFJ 969 roller inductor antenna tuner. \$125

Ten Tec 229 2kw tuner. \$175

Heil headset with Icom microphone element. \$50

For these items, please contact Josh W9HT at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com or see the items at the upcoming Auburn hamfest on July 20th (see the flyer in this edition of HamNews).



150 Ft. 9913 coax NEW \$100 200 Ft. RG-213U NEW \$100 Astron RS-35M (35amp) \$100



QRO 2000 Amp (2x3-500) Legal Limit \$1500 Elecrafft KX3 w/2 meters + filters \$1400



Autek RF-1 SWR Analyzer – Small unit \$40



Elecrafft KXPA100 – 100 watt amp \$1400

Items on this page available from Ken – N8KR@hotmail.com or on the 146.91 repeater
Will also be present at the Auburn Hamfest on July 20th and at the Elkhart, IN hamfest
(ARRL Central Division Convention) on Saturday, August 3rd.

FOR SALE

The following items are in excess to the needs of ACARTS. These items will be available for inspection and purchase at the July 16th ACARTS General Meeting at 7 PM NE Chapter Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd. Fort Wayne, IN. All proceeds go to support equipment improvements.

(3) Used Astron RS-7A Linear Power Supplies: Adjustable 11-15 Volts DC, 7A Intermittent, 5A Continuous Tested with analyzer and software, printed report. 90-\$140 new. \$30-\$60 used. Our price used \$? each. All three work fine.

(1)Used Astron SL-11A Linear Regulated Power Supply: Adjustable 11-15 Volts DC, 11A Intermittent, 7A Continuous. Tested with analyzer and software, printed report. \$105-\$170 new. Used \$40-\$90. Our price used \$? Works fine.

(1)Used Kenwood PS-53 Power Supply 13.8 Volts DC, 22.5A (25%) 20.5 A (Continuous for 1 hour)16A(50%) Tested with analyzer and software, printed report. May need repair in future! Used \$120-\$175 Our price used \$?



| Area Nets (updated as of 7/1/24) | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Daily | | | Tuesday | | |
| 8:00 AM | 3.535 | Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net | 7:30 PM | 147.150+ | 21 Repeater Group Net (97.4 PL) |
| 8:30 AM | 3.912 | Daily Indiana Traffic Net | 8:00 PM | 50.580 USB | FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net |
| 6:00 PM | 3.910 | Daily Indiana Traffic Net | 9:00 PM | 146.940- | Allen Co. ARES Training Net (141.3 PL) |
| 6:30 PM | 146.880- | IMO (alternate is 146.940) | Wednesday | | |
| 7:00 PM | 147.015+ | Tri State Two Meter Net | -- | -- | -- |
| 8:00 PM | 3.535 | Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net | 8:00 PM | 145.270- | Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL) |
| Week-days | | | 8:00 PM | 50.580 FM | FWRC 6-Meter FM Net |
| 9:00 AM | 3.820 | Little Red Barn Net | -- | -- | -- |
| Sunday | | | Thursday | | |
| 8:00 PM | 444.550+ | Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL) | 8:00 PM | D-STAR | Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3) |
| 8:30 PM | 146.910- | "No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521 | 8:00 PM | 50.580 | AM 6-Meter AM Net |
| 9:00 PM | 145.53 simplex | Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2) | 8:30 PM | 145.510 simplex | Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4) |
| Monday | | | Saturday | | |
| 8:00 PM | 224.780- | Fort Wayne 224 Net | 8:00 PM | 146.685- | Huntington ARES(141.3 PL) |

1. All times local time. **Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.**
2. NEIPN is direct accessible via any BPQ Chat Node (or through Node hopping etc.) via other packet frequencies in this area and other areas through other nodes (it is locally direct accessible on 145.53 in NC & NE Indiana/NW Ohio and SE Michigan using KA9LCF-11, KC9VYU-11, N9LCF-11, N9PXO-11, K9BIF-11) Most BPQ Nodes use an SSID of -11.
3. Reflector REF024B.
4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred.
5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

| Area Repeaters (updated as of 7/1/24) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|--------|---------------|----------|
| Frequency | Offset | Tone/Notes | Callsign | Frequency | Offset | Tone/Notes | Callsign |
| | | | | 442.6375 | +5 MHz | MDR CC1 | N9MTF |
| 145.330 | -0.6 MHz | 141.3 | W9FEZ | 442.99375 | +5 MHz | D-Star W9TE-B | W9TE |
| 146.880 | -0.6 MHz | -- | W9INX | 443.100 | +5 MHz | DMR CC1 | K9MMQ |
| 147.255 | +0.6 MHz | -- | W9INX | 443.275 | +5 MHz | P25 NAC # 293 | K9MMQ |
| 146.760 | -0.6 MHz | 141.3 | W9TE | 444.250 | +5 MHz | 141.3 | W9AVW |
| 146.910 | -0.6 MHz | -- | W9TE | 444.800 | +5 MHz | -- | W9FEZ |
| 146.940 | -0.6 MHz | 141.3 | W9TE | 444.8750 | +5 MHz | 141.3 | W9TE |
| 224.780 | -1.6 MHz | -- | W9FEZ | | | | |

FWRC Membership Application

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
 License Class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone #: (_____) _____
 * Email address: _____
 * (@arrl.net domain is unreliable. Please use an alternate email address if you have one).
 ARRL Member? _____ (ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)
 May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site? Yes or No

Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Regular membership | \$25.00 / year |
| Family membership ¹ | \$35.00 / year |
| Student membership ² | \$5.00 / year |
| Associate membership ³ | \$20.00 / year |

(Memberships for July-December are ½ the stated amounts)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:
 Fort Wayne Radio Club (check number _____) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:
 Fort Wayne Radio Club
 P.O. Box 15127
 Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

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

ACARTS Membership Application

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
 License Class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone #: (_____) _____
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? _____
 (ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)
 May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site? Yes or No

ACARTS dues:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Regular membership | \$12.00 / year |
| Additional family members ¹ | \$6.00 / year |
| Student membership ² | \$6.00 / year |
| Associate membership ³ | \$6.00 / year |

(New regular memberships are \$1.00/month)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:
 Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (check number _____) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:
 A.C.A.R.T.S.
 P.O. Box 10342
 Fort Wayne, IN

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