

Allen County HamNews

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

December 2021

Volume 22

Issue 12

In this edition:

From the Editor

Page 2

Gravity Waves?

Page 3

FWRC Plaque

Page 4

FWRC Meeting Minutes

Page 5

ACARTS Presi- dent's Message

Page 6

Observation:

CQ WW SSB

Page 8

SDR QRP Trans- ceiver: A Review

Page 9

Foxhunt

Chronicles

Page 11

Ferrite Choke

Magic

Page 12

SKCC Report

Page 13

And more!



Ramblings from the Editor

Fort Wayne Hamfest

I can only use one word to describe the recent Fort Wayne Hamfest—fun! Thank you to Fred, KC9EZP and the other volunteers who made this event possible this year.

This edition of HamNews includes a synopsis of the SKCC table from Ted, K8AQM.

Recent Operating

Last weekend was the annual CQ WW CW Contest. Although I did not make as many contacts as I did during the recent SSB version of this contest, I was able to operate and make contacts with Russia, Japan, New Zealand, and some of the usual suspects. Check out Jim's article about his QRP operation during this contest!

Thank You

Sincere thanks go out to Dave Lindquist, W9LKH for his many years of service as president and vice president of ACARTS! You have certainly earned your retirement from club leadership, Dave.

Cover Image

Bob, W8ST shared the photo shown on the cover of this edition. It is from the Fort Wayne History Center Gingerbread Festival and depicts an early telegraph station. You can see this display in downtown Fort Wayne.

KJ9R (sk)

I was saddened to hear about Joe Randle's passing. Joe was a true gentleman and will be missed.

Wrapping Up

As we conclude another year, I would like to wish each column author and each reader a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. I will catch you in the January 2022 edition of HamNews!

73,

Josh, W9HT



Allen County HamNews

HamNews is a monthly 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

Gravity Waves?

In 1985, a local FM broadcast station increased its radiated power to 50kw, equaling the power of WOWO (AM). A News-Sentinel writer knew that the signal of WOWO could be received at a much greater distance than the FM station's signal. In his August 1st column he presented the following brief propagation tutorial:

"That's because AM signals are affected by gravity and follow the curvature of the Earth. But FM signals are relatively unaffected by gravity. They travel in a straight line and, when the Earth begins to curve under them, FM signals keep going straight out into outer space. As a result, a 50,000 watt AM signal can be heard more than 4,000 miles away, but a 50,000 watt FM signal (broadcast from a tower of the same height) reaches only about 75 miles."

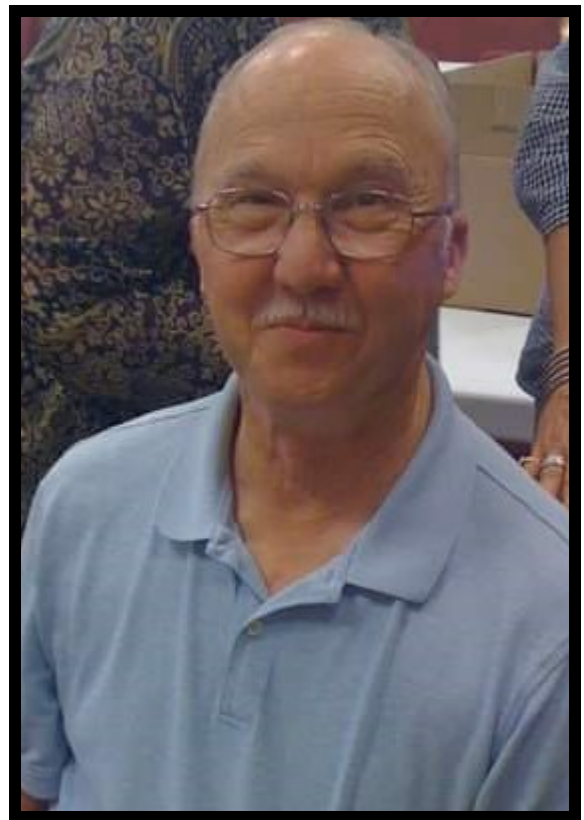
If you would like to read the entire column, let me know. I keep it filed under "Propagation Curiosities."

73,

Jim Mast, W8HDM



In Memory of Joe Randle, KJ9R



Hamsplatter

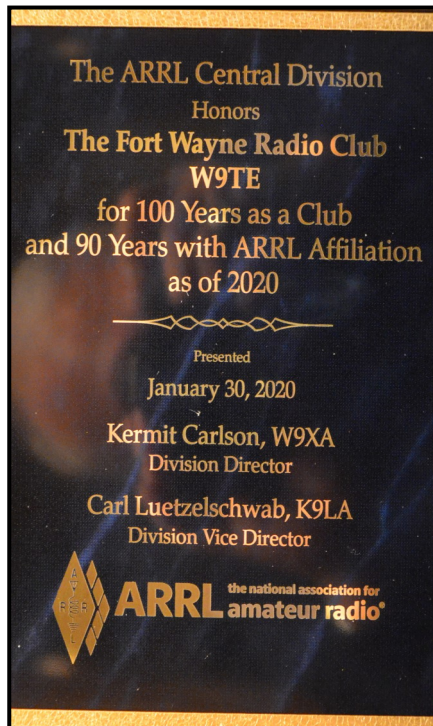
Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

ARRL Recognizes the Fort Wayne Radio Club's 100 Year Anniversary



In a ceremony conducted during the Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 13, 2021, ARRL Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA presented Fort Wayne Radio Club President, Carole Burke, W9RUS with a plaque recognizing 2020 as the

FWRC's 100th year as an organized radio club, and its 90th year of affiliation with the ARRL.



Carole accepted the plaque on behalf of the entire club. The award ceremony was to occur in 2020, but was delayed due the cancellation of the hamfest by the covid situation. Congratulations to the Fort Wayne Radio Club!

FWRC Officers 2021

President

Carole Burke, WB9RUS
(260) 637-1989
Wb9rus(at)comcast.net

Vice President

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ
(260) 485-9632
Phixer(at)gmail.com

Secretary

Al Burke, WB9SSE
(260) 637-1989
Aburke55(at)comcast.net

Treasurer

Bob Streeter, W8ST

Communications Manager

Charles Ward, KC9MUT
(260) 749-4824
Kc9mut(at)yahoo.com

Directors

Steve Nardin, W9SAN
(260) 482-4039
W9san(at)arrl.net

Clarke Derbyshire, KG9FM
(260) 485-6255
Cderbyshire(at)comcast.net

Bill Hopkins, K9WEH

Stuart Hall, KD9LFW

Newsletter Editor

Josh Long, W9HT

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES November 2021

The November meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Dupont Rd. branch of the Allen County Public Library on 17 November 2021. We made use of a meeting room which provides comfortable space for about 35 people in a Corona virus compliant environment. This is last time we will make use of the library venue as we will be moving back to the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church facilities that we used before the Corona virus mess began, starting with the Christmas Banquet in December.

Club President Carole Burke, WB9RUS welcomed the attendees (about 17) and led them in the pledge of allegiance as is our usual practice. Then all present introduced themselves by their name and call-sign.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the current club Treasury statistics as of 17 November, 2021, to wit:

- Savings- \$1,841.97
- Checking- \$5,649.73
- Vanguard Money Market \$11,326.22
- Year-To-Date Income \$2588.00
- Year-To-Date Expenses \$2,225.76

- Club members count 137
 - 2022 Pre-paid members 7
- Al Burke, WB9SSE reported that all of the club repeaters appear to be operating ok with the exception of the 91 machine.

It has been reported that 91 seems to lose input sensitivity and output power perhaps correlated with rainfall. Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ and Al are going to look at a means to remotely monitor the antenna VSWR and determine if any VSWR anomaly events occurs in sync with rain. If it does then we might be looking at rain getting into the antenna or feedline. If that's the case an expensive antenna replacement could be in our future. (The antenna is getting long in the tooth).

Al also reported that the FWRC 2022 dues promotion during the Ft. Wayne Hamfest was a success. Dues from about 90 members were collected and the club membership count for 2022 as of the end of the Hamfest is at 103.

Carole noted that former WOWO personality Ron Gregory, K9RGM will be the featured speaker at the January meeting and he will be discussing his experiences working in the broadcast radio business during its heyday.

Carole reminded everyone that our Christmas Banquet will occur at the GSUMC on 10 December in Raush Hall. The club will provide baked

and fried chicken, coffee, ice tea and punch, as usual, plus plates, cutlery, napkins, etc. Attendees will provide the real goodies; we leave it to your imagination. (Al Burke once more stressed "Think meatballs or Deviled Eggs....or both). Carole is thinking about bringing a large quantity of Sauer Kraut.

Following the business meeting Carole introduced Mike Mauss, the radio voice of the Fort Wayne Tin Caps who provides the play-by-play for the team on AM 1380 The Fan. Mike is very knowledgeable regarding baseball plus other sports in general. And he loves to talk about it. It was a very entertaining presentation.

The meeting adjourned about 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club



State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS President's Message for December 2021



The Hamfest is over, and it can be called a success even though ACARTS lost about \$2600.00 by holding it. Table sales were down because of COVID-19

restrictions and precautions. Many vendors are not yet taking the chance of attending an indoor hamfest. The good news is that the attendance was good, about 1200 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the Hamfest and the vendors that were there were making sales. We are working on ways to continue the Fort Wayne Hamfest without losing money.

Many, many thanks to Fred, KC9EZP, for all his work as Hamfest Chairman, for bringing it all together and making the Hamfest possible. Thanks also go to all the volunteer workers that spent time helping. Thanks to the vendors that attended. And, last but not least, Thanks to all of you that attended and made the Hamfest a fun event.

COVID-19 restrictions have eased enough that we can hold a Christmas Dinner this year. It will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 21st at the Liberty Diner. I am taking reservations so we can inform the restaurant as to how many will be attending. Please contact me at w9lkh(at)comcast.net or 260-485-6135 by Sunday December 19th to let me know how many members and guests will be attending. Due to the Hamfest losses that ACARTS endured this year, the club will not be paying a portion of the members din-

ners. It will be an evening of good food and good conversation. Plan on attending.

As I announced in August, after over ten years as ACARTS president, I did not run for re-election. Chris McCullough, W9TSB, was nominated and elected ACARTS president for 2022. Chris will bring younger enthusiasm and ideas to ACARTS. Let Chris know what activities and functions that you would like.

Most of the club officers and board members remained the same, except for the addition of Dan Dahms, N9WNH, filling the vacant Board Member at-large position. Dan has helped at the Hamfest for many years.

The club Secretary position is open as Chris, W9TSB, changed from Secretary to President. The ACARTS board can fill officer and board vacancies during the year. If you are interested taking to position of ACARTS Secretary, or desire more information, please contact any board member.

Congratulations and thanks to those that joined the board, changed positions, or continued on the board in the same position.

As this will be my last President's Message, I wish to express my gratitude for all of the cooperation and respect that I received from the members and the board during my tenure as President for ten years and Vice-President for 11 years before that. I tried to do my best to provide the members what they wanted in a club. I have no serious medical conditions, but I am feeling my age. It is time for a younger generation to lead ACARTS into the future. Again, many, many thanks.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

ACARTS Officers 2021

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Chris McCullough W9TSB
260-312-2750
kd9lrw(at)gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Station Manager

Jim Sampiere KD9NPL
260-999-8132
Kd9npl(at)gmail.com

Fundraising Manager

Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP
260-704-7801
kc9ezp(at)gmail.com

Directors at Large

Bob Erb N9PWM
260-466-7772
roberterb(at)hotmail.com

Steve Shannon K9SKS
260-704-5353
k9sks(at)aol.com

(1 open position)

W9INX Trustee

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

ACARTS November 2021

Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH.

Dave announced that he had signed a contract with the Salvation Army for November and December. He added that there would be a general meeting the following week in the Salvation Army sanctuary. The meeting will be the Hamfest Wrap-up and the club elections.

Dave announced that the Christmas dinner would be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 21st at the Liberty Diner. He added that he would begin taking reservations around December 1st.

Dave then turned the meeting over to Fred, KC9EZP, for a discussion of Hamfest final preparations.

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

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

ACARTS November 2021

General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH.

After introductions, Dave announced that the Christmas Dinner would be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 21st at the Liberty Diner. He added that he would begin taking reservations around December 1st.

Dave then turned the meeting over to Fred, KC9EZP for the Hamfest Wrap-up. Fred stated that there were 1200 attendees despite the reduced number of vendors that COVID-19 restrictions and precautions had caused. Howard, N9ADS, stated that preliminary figures showed that ACARTS lost about \$2600.00 this year. There were only 249 tables sold, 20 of those being premium tables. The consensus was to try again next year. Several ideas were discussed, in-

cluding working on getting the vendors back, and increasing the admission charge to \$8.00 and increasing the table charge by \$5.00 to make up for the increased Coliseum costs that ACARTS has absorbed for years. Everything is still in the air, but nobody wants to give up yet.

Dave announced to the group that after more than 10 years as ACARTS president, that he was not running for re-election. He added that Chris, W9TSB, has been in charge of a nominating committee, along with Jim, KB9IH and Bob, N9PWM. Chris, W9TSB, has been nominated for the office of president.

Dave stated that nominations were still open and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Dan Dahms, N9WNH, volunteered for run for the open Board Member at-large position.

Dave asked if there was a motion to close the nominations. A motion was made, seconded and the nominations were closed by a voice vote.

Dave asked if there was a motion to accept the slate of candidates by acclamation as there is only one candidate per position. A motion was made, seconded, and the slate of candidates as presented was elected.

The Hamfest worker's drawing was held and was won by Bill, KA9ODT

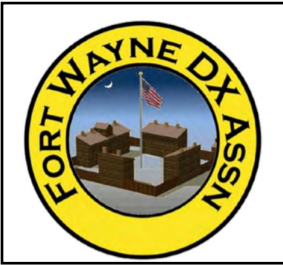
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH



Observations from the 2021 CQ WW DX SSB Contest

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA



The Sun gave us a big spike in extreme ultra-violet (EUV) radiation at the end of Octo-

ber, which increased the F2 region MUF (maximum useable frequency) to allow worldwide propagation on 15 meters and 10 meters. Of course the 10.7 cm solar flux and the sunspot number showed a big spike, too, but remember they are just proxies for EUV.

I noted that 10 meters had stations all the way up to about 29.0 MHz. This was a pleasant surprise since we're just coming out of solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25. Hopefully the Sun cooperated for the CQ WW DX CW Contest at the end of November (I'm writing this around the middle of November).

I made two interesting observations during the contest period. There were probably more, but these two stuck in my mind.

Indonesia on 40 meters

On Sunday morning around 1110 UTC (7:10 AM), I heard YD9VE on 40 meters calling 'CQ Test' with a good signal. 1110 UTC was about an hour before my sunrise and about two and a half hours after his sunset.

I called and called, but no luck. I heard others call with no luck, either, so I didn't feel too bad. But it got me thinking. I was us-

ing my AL-811H, which is around 500 Watts out. My Commander HF-1250 amp is down for repair, and it does about 1000 Watts out. So I was down 3 dB from normal.

I was using my 40 meter inverted-vee with its apex at 45 feet. If I had a 2-element Shorty-40 at 60 or 70 feet, I would have had another S-unit advantage with the Yagi. That adds up to an S-unit and a half if I was running my Commander and had a Shorty-40 – would that have allowed me to make the QSO? I don't know.

Japan on 40 meters

K9CT (near Peoria, IL) did a Multi-2 operation, and he noted working JA7ZEN on 40 meters at 1719 UTC on Sunday. See the accompanying map from the W6ELProp propagation prediction program showing K9CT, JA7ZEN, the short path in red, the long path in black and the terminator.

The big question is "how was this QSO possible with so much daylight on the K9CT end?" There are three issues that ena-

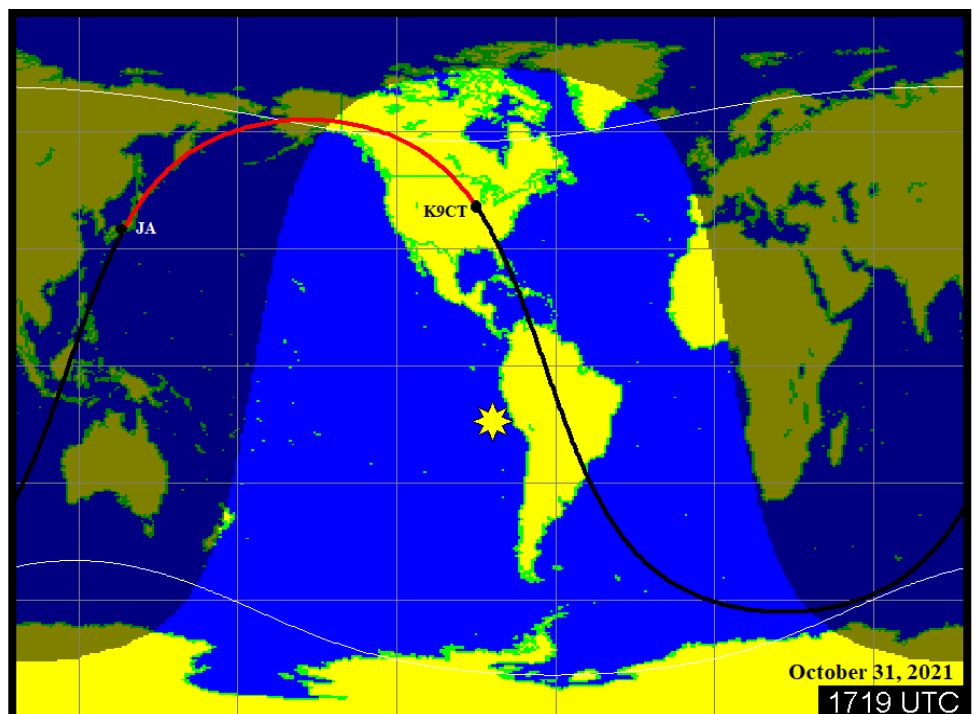
bled this QSO.

First, the amount of ionospheric absorption incurred by our signal is inversely proportional to the square of the frequency. 160 meters can't stand too much daylight, but 80 meters can stand more. And 40 meters can stand even more daylight.

Second, note where the overhead Sun is (the yellow eight-sided star) – in the southern hemisphere at about 15 degrees south geographic latitude. That results in solar radiation reaching the absorbing region at high northern latitudes at more of a grazing angle rather than from directly overhead.

Third, we're just coming out of solar minimum. Thus absorption is lower.

These three issues resulted in a low enough amount of absorption for the QSO to have occurred on 40 meters. There are other examples of similar high-latitude QSOs in northern hemisphere winter around solar minimum with part of the path in daylight – even on 80 meters.



Tuning Up

SDR QRP Transceiver: A Review

By Jim, AC9EZ

It's hard to believe that December is already here! The Ft. Wayne Hamfest held a couple of weeks ago plus Thanksgiving last week gave November a real sparkle. What a great prelude to the season of Christmas cheer! A big thank you to the organizers in the ACARTS for planning and holding an excellent hamfest.

Speaking of the hamfest, your author was pleased to purchase a like-new Qrp transceiver at the hamfest. This is a unique transceiver, because it is an SDR radio, with all the bells and whistles of an sdr. This month's article is going to be a short review of that transceiver, with a look at the pros and cons of this particular transceiver, a few comments on the transceiver's physical characteristics, and lastly some operating experiences based on your author's use of the transceiver during the CQWW CW-portion contest.

Background Info

This sdr qrp transceiver is actually a Chinese clone of the British-made, open-source mCHF



sdr qrp transceiver. The Chinese version uses the same operating software as the original British version. Figure 1 above shows a full view of the transceiver's front panel.

SDR's are becoming so mainstream that they really need little explanation, but just in case the reader is unfamiliar with the topic, SDR stands for "Software Defined Radio". The title really tells it all – an SDR transceiver is, quite literally, a radio that runs primarily on software. Because of this, an sdr transceiver can change its functionality depending on the programming done for the transceiver's operating system. As "bugs" are experienced in the transceiver, new versions of the software are released, which can be directly downloaded into the transceiver itself. SDR transceivers can change what features they offer and how those features are used with a simple update from online. It's like having a completely customizable transceiver that never needs to have its boards replaced or additional through-hole parts soldered added inside its case.

Physical Characteristics

This qrp radio is quite small, measuring approximately 7.5" long, 2.75" tall, and 1.75" deep (not including protrusions like knobs and antenna connector). The radio, weighing a meager 1 lb. 4.4 oz. is quite light and could be easily carried in one's coat pocket. The front panel of the radio is populated, but not too crowded. The radio's screen (measuring ~2.25" wide by 1.75" tall) occupies a good central location and is quite readable, with a smallish tuning knob on the right of the screen, a series of push-buttons below the screen, and a combination of push-buttons and multi-function rotary encoders (which can be rotated like a dial or pushed like a button). The antenna connector (a chassis-mount BNC, common in Qrp transceivers), rig-control jack and update port are all on the left-side edge of the radio. On the right-side edge of the radio, there are a plethora of jacks, including the power jack and a host of 3.5mm stereo jacks used for your microphone, cw paddles or straight key, headphones, and other various accessories. Figure 2 shows the left-hand side of the radio, and Figure 3 shows the right-hand side.



Design Positives

Overall, this radio has several positive features. The radio's chassis is solid metal, giving the transceiver an overall robust feel. The radio's screen shows a host of useful operating parameters, including operating frequency, filter/mode selection, power output/swr/etc., and most importantly, a spectrum display! Being an sdr, this radio actually has the ability to show the operator a waterfall display, a spectrum display, and a combination waterfall/spectrum display. Your author found the spectrum display to be more useful when operating cw or ssb, but having the waterfall option is a nice touch. Power output is adjustable from about 0.5 watts up to full power (approximately 10-15 watts). The receiver appears to be quite sensitive, and many of the routine features one would need to adjust on a semi-regular basis are easily controlled from the front of the radio. Overall, the design is really quite excellent and the radio is a pleasure to use.

Design Negatives

Although there are a lot of positives to the radio, there are a few negatives that should be mentioned. First, the menu system is a bit non-intuitive, at least the first couple of times one uses the radio. The menu is accessed via a push-button on the front panel. From there, one must use a combination of the two nearest rotary-encoders to firstly expand a menu option, and secondly change that menu option to the desired value (basically a two-step process). This can take some time to accomplish, and when one is trying to operate quickly, the process can become a bit cumbersome. Secondly, there appears to be a lack in the heat-sink design, as the top of the radio can become rather warm after extended operating periods. Thirdly, when your author was attempting to operate the radio on cw in semi-qsk at ~30 wpm, there was a noticeable delay from switching between transmit and receive (and vice versa). This caused the sent characters to not always include the initial dits or dahs of a particular Morse character, severely hampering clean cw sending. After a quick internet search, the problem was almost entirely fixed by increasing the transmit/receive turnaround time to 70 milliseconds, making cw operation much smoother and more enjoyable.

Operating Experience in CQ WW -CW

My first serious use of this transceiver was for the CQWW-CW contest held the weekend of November 27th. I have almost never operated in a big contest like CQWW as a Qrp-entrant, so this transceiver gave me the perfect excuse to do so. I set my power output to the "2

Watt" setting (although this needs to be confirmed with a calibrated meter). Antennas used were my trusty homebrew 40m EFHW, and a homebrew 112-foot long doublet. Neither antenna is more than about 30 feet up at their highest point. Results during the contest were surprisingly good, with 17 contacts logged in a little over 3 hours of casual operating. DXCC entities worked included Argentina, the Cayman Islands, the USA, Canada, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Madeira Island, Curacao, Germany, Bonaire, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and the Azores. Several Japanese stations were heard (although not worked), as well as many other dxcc entities. The AGC seemed a little bit slow, so the receiver took a while to "recover" after hearing a big signal. The spectrum display made looking for big signals to work extremely easy. Most of the contacts I made took multiple calls to accomplish, but the joy of working stations thousands of miles away using such small output power more than made up for the time spent working each contact. Of course, most of the "heavy lifting" was done by the dx stations themselves, but it is always an awe-inspiring experience to see how far one's small station can reach. Overall, I considered the operation a success, particularly since I wasn't "skunked" in terms of contacts!

For now, may you all have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to 2022! Don't forget Straight Key Night, the SKCC's December WES Christmas-themed event, and the special events celebrating the centennial of the ARRL's transatlantic tests!

73 de Jim AC9EZ



NOVEMBER 2021

The weather on Sunday, November 7th, 2021, the last foxhunt of the year was warm for November, but no complaints from the foxhunter crowd.

The crowd consisted of three teams. Team one included Carole and Al Burke, WB9's RUS & SSE plus Jim and Annie Pliett, K9OMA and KA9YYI. Team two consisted of Linda and Steve Nardin, W9's LAN & SAN plus grandson Alex. Team three included a contingent from Trine University, Ismar Chew, KD9OKH, Brian Sears, KD9QHL, Tim Mayer, KD2TCP, and Abigail Decamp, KD9SDY. They were all anxiously awaiting the start of the contest at their lair, Colbin Memorial Park.

Charles Ward, KC9MUT served as the fox for this one. He was situated at the Havenhurst Sports Complex in New Haven (@ 41.079297, -85.010880). He hid the microfox under the rubber covering of the top rail of the chainlink fence that ran down the first base side of Diamond #2,it was a GOOOOOD hiding place!

Promptly at 13:30 Charles began transmitting via the high power fox on 146.430 MHz He transmitted for one minute, taunting the foxhunters to come find him. This transmission was followed by a one minute cw transmission from the low power fox (the microfox) hidden in the chain link fence top rail. It repeated its transmission during the fourth minute, and this process repeated itself every five minutes.

The foxhunters heard the first transmission and noted it was coming from the east,.... oh no, it was coming from the dreaded New Haven area, where all rf signals go to die!

Undaunted, our team headed south on Coliseum and then east on Lincoln Highway East until the DF readings told us to turn north. So we followed

Landin Rd. north until the DF readings directed to the Havenhurst Park area where we localized the high power fox. Once there and on foot, we found the microfox hidden under the chain link fence top rail plastic covering using our hand held two meter and third harmonic yagis. Jim was first to spot it. We found the microfox about thirty minutes into the hunt.

Roughly thirty minutes later the Nardin team arrived and located the microfox.



They were followed by our Trine University team who located the microfox in the order KD9OKH, KD9QHL, KD2TCP and KD9SDY.



Following the foxhunt we buzzed over to the Bob Evans in New Haven and partook of a well deserved meal.

This was the last foxhunt of the year. They will restart with the February foxhunt and the Burke/Pliett team will serve in the role of the fox.

The scorecard for this contest and for the year-to-date is shown

HUNTER	NOV. SCORE	YTD SCORE
WB9RUS	3	27.08
WB9SSE	3	29.08
KA9YYI	3	28.08
K9OMA	4	31.08
KC9MUT	7.67	45.87
W9SAN	2	28
W9LAN	2	27
ALEX	2	27
K9WEH	0	8
KD9NIV	0	3
N9FEB	0	8
KD9QHI	0	3.5
WILLIE	0	3.5
N9DC	0	4
KD9OKH	1	5
KD2TCP	1	4
KW9S	0	2
KD9QQW	0	2
N9AMT	0	1
KD9SDY	1	4
KD9QHL	1	7
KD9NRT	0	2
KD9OOP	0	2

Congratulations to Charles Ward for being this year's high point winner!

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

**Stay tuned for the next
Foxhunt in 2022!**

Ferrite Choke Magic de N8KR

Anyone who attempts a mobile HF adventure knows about internal noise. The biggest noise source includes the alternator, electric fuel pump, computer, shark plug wires, and other electrical devices. Most of that noise is often eliminated with a good radio noise blanker. Those who have a hybrid automobile face an even greater challenge with the noise generated by the hybrid system. One of our vehicles is a Toyota Camry hybrid and after many tries with various mobile installations in it, I, like many, gave up! The noise is s-9 all the time, and that happens on all hf bands. The noise blanker does little to nothing to improve the situation. My last attempt a couple of years ago had me pulling off the road and turning the car off to complete qso's.

This year my trip to FL happened during WES. I decided to throw the magnet mount on the roof of the car and operate during our evening stop at the end of the day. While assembling the car station, I decided to try a couple of ferrite chokes on my system. The first was 31 mix (that's important) snap on choke with an inside diameter of 5/8 inch. That allowed me to wrap 6 full turns of the rg-8 coax right at the base of the antenna. Inside the car, I wrapped 9 turns of my connecting cable from the base of the Icom 7100 to the head with another choke.

At our first rest stop, we switched drivers and I decided to put a 40 meter hamstick on the mag mount so I could attempt to hear a station or two. Was I surprised as

the noise on the radio was S-1 to S-2, and that was without the noise blanker! No more hybrid noise and I spent the day making WES contacts including evening contacts of 80 meters! I found the secret to eliminating my mobile noise! There's much to read about common mode chokes and you can search online for that info. What I can tell you from experience, is that the 31 mix ferrite chokes (snap on) that I got from DX-Engineering were magical in eliminating my noise. (I read, also, that there are cheap knock-offs that are not effective. The 31 mix is important for hf use!)



SKCC Report from the... **As told by Ted, K8AQM**

Fort Wayne, IN Hamfest 2021

The Fort Wayne Hamfest is a two day event , SKCC was there! The Fort Wayne SKCC group may be the most active group of SKCCers in the country. They have a major presence in all SKCC operating activities and are lead by several strong members; Ed WA9BBN, Ken N8KR and Josh W9HT just to name a few.



Ed WA9BBN “talking up” the many merits of joining SKCC

the distance of the booth, the club had a well presented presentation showing the many features of the SKCC web site. There was also a collection of different keys connected to a CPO where folks could try their hand at the various key types; straight key, bug and cootie. A log sign-in sheet was there for all visiting SKCC members to sign in and for all members and new sign-up members an “SKCC pin-on button” was given....a great idea! While walking around in

The SKCC booth was well equipped and staffed with a live internet connection where according to our membership manager, at least five Fort Wayne amateurs were signed up on site! One interesting fun-feature at the booth were two 2m rigs and asking members to make an honest and correct SKCC QSO right there with the club call KS9KCC to the other 2m rig! The results of these 2m QSOs were submitted in the WES going on during the hamfest! Aside from making QSOs across



WA9BBN Ed, passing out those neat buttons to an SKCCer who just logged in.



the hamfest it was nice to see all the button-wearing SKCC members.



The “official” SKCC button

An SKCC group photo was taken at 11:30 and as you can see, many members showed up to be included in the picture.

A great hamfest and a great job of promoting SKCC by those SKCCers in the Fort Wayne area.

Major Contests **December 2021**

Dec	
3 2200Z	5 1600Z
ARRL 160	
11 0000Z	12 2359Z
ARRL 10	
18 0000Z	18 2359Z
RAC Winter	
24	25
HAPPY HOLIDAYS	

Stay
tuned
for more
contest
info in
the next
edition
of Ham-
News!

RadioSport

Area Nets					
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	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net
6:00 PM	3.940	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 146.760)	Wednesday		
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRC YL 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	9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net (141.3 PL)
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	1.965 & 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.inarri.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts					

Fort Wayne area repeaters (updated as of 12/1/21)							
Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign
145.330	-0.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	443.100	+5 MHz	DMR	K9MMQ
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	P25	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	442.6375	+5 MHz	--	N9MTF
146.760	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	442.99375	+5 MHz	D-Star	W9TE
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3 FM C4FM	W9TE	444.250	+5 MHz	141.3	W9AVW
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
				53.3300	-1 MHz	--	W9FEZ

FWRC 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?

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

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

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?

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

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.