

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

May 2025

Volume 26

Issue 5

In this edition:

From the Editor

Page 2

Skywarn Update

Page 3

VE Session

Page 5

CW Class Update

Page 6

FWRC President's

Column

Page 7

2025 INQP

Page 8

ACARTS President's

Column

Page 11

ARES Meeting

Page 13

Cycle 25 Update

Page 14

Bugs

Page 16

SKCC News

Page 18

Classifieds

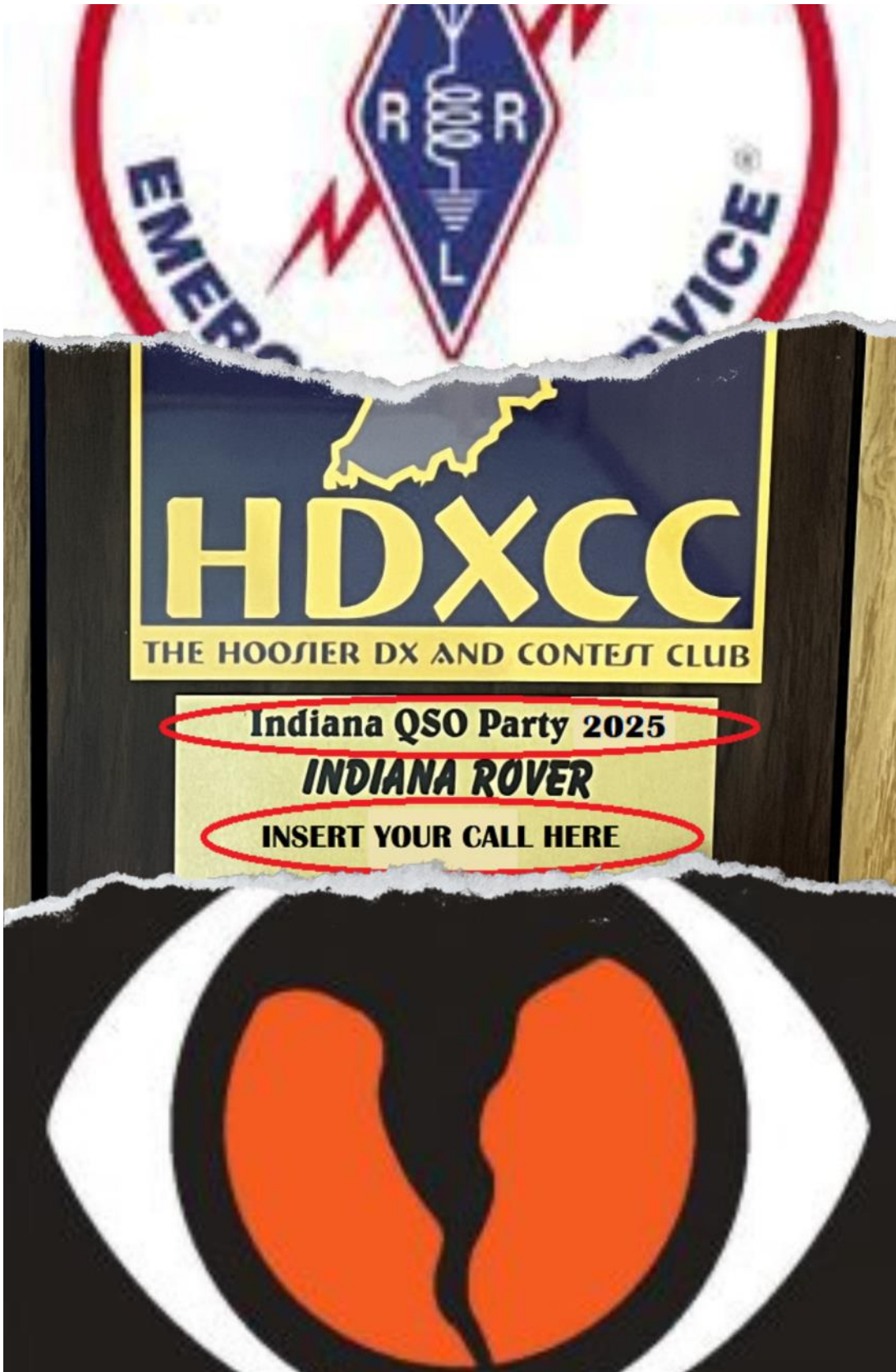
Page 32

Operating Events

Page 34

and much,

much more!





the love of ham radio...

On a closing note, I heard today that there is a supposed ham that is operating from North Korea. While I am guessing that the station is probably a pirate or someone copied a busted call, this might be something interesting to watch over the month. (It's been about 25 years since the last ham operated from North Korea, but that's an entirely different story.)

I hope that you have a great month! Catch you on the airwaves during INQP!

73,

Josh, W9HT/VE9FWA

Wow, May is going to be a very busy month!

This first weekend of May features the **Indiana QSO Party**. Ken N8KR includes comprehensive information on how you can participate in this annual event in this edition of HamNews. Allen County has been well represented in the past several years. Let's try to keep up the momentum in 2025! Whether you are out to win a plaque, support the Fort Wayne Radio Club's efforts (and to provide friendly competition to the Auburn club), and/or just want to have fun, all three opportunities are there. I hope to catch you on the air for this event.

Also, our VE team will be holding its next **VE session** at Indiana Tech on Saturday, May 3rd at 10am. Walk-ins are welcome—plus the FWRC will cover the exam cost for any first-time examinees. Thank you to each member of our VE team that makes this happen.

May also includes the opportunity to support ARES and **Fort 4 Fitness**. See the advertisement in this edition of HamNews for more information.

One of the main things that I look forward to each year in May is **Hamvention** (aka, "Dayton," although the event is now held in Xenia, Ohio). One of the highest holy days on the ham calendar, this weekend event begins on Friday, May 16 and runs through Sunday, May 18. Not only is the flea market legendary, the commercial vendors always have new and exciting products to feature. The ARRL and other ham organizations offer membership specials and other services. And there are lots of people there. The big question is whether the weather will cooperate on the day that I plan to attend. Last year I ended up getting drenched waiting for the shuttle bus, but at least I was able to dry out as the day went on. The things that we do for

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

Skywarn activity continued in late March and in April

By Jay Farlow, W9LW

As the Allen County HamNews editor put the April issue “to bed,” the Allen County Skywarn Net became active again.

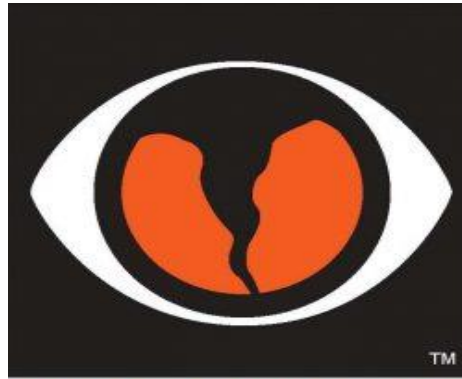
On Sunday, March 30, at 2:13 p.m., the National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Prediction Center (SPC) issued tornado watch number 71 that included Allen County. At 2:16 p.m., Chad Beach, W9GGA activated the Allen County Skywarn Net in standby mode, which made a net control station available to relay reports while keeping the repeater available for other use.

At 4 p.m., Stephen Clower, AC9XS relieved W9GGA as net control station operator.

At 5:05 p.m., the NWS Northern Indiana weather forecast office issued severe thunderstorm warning number 25 for all of Allen County and all or parts of several other counties. The warning had “tags” that read, “tornado possible” and “damage threat considerable.” A minute later, AC9XS placed the net in directed net mode, which limited transmissions to those containing spotter reports that meet NWS reporting criteria.

At 5:21 p.m., W2TAZ reported tree damage at Indiana 9 and US 24.

At 5:26 p.m., W2TAZ reported an overturned pickup truck and t



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV



March 30 EF-1 tornado damage near Laotto, Indiana. (NWS photo).

railer on Indiana 9 south of Indiana 114.

At 5:39 p.m., W2TAZ reported multiple branches and scattered debris on Indiana 9 at Business US 30.

At 5:35 p.m., the NWS Northern Indiana office issued severe thunderstorm warning number 27 for most of Allen County and all or parts of several other counties. Like warning number 25, warning number 27 had “tags” that read, “tornado possible” and “damage threat considerable.”

At 5:41 p.m., KD9QHI reported pea-sized hail at I-469 and Cov-

erdale Road.

At 5:53, AC9XS returned the Allen County Skywarn Net to standby mode, which permits transmissions not directly related to spotter reports.

At 6 p.m., severe thunderstorm warning number 25 expired.

At 6:04 p.m., Jerry Etnier, KD9QHI relieved AC9XS as net control station operator.

At 6:18 p.m., NWS canceled se-

vere thunderstorm warning number 27.

At 6:21 p.m., KD9QHI discontinued Skywarn operations.

At 6:36 p.m., NWS canceled severe thunderstorm watch number 71 for Allen County.

The following stations checked in during the March 30 operation but did not have reports to make: AC9XU, AE9EC, K4OWX, K9BAT, K9OL, K9SMO, KA9IPA, KB9UTO, KB9WWM, KB9YTT, KC9MUT, KC9PVE, KC9RAC, KC9SJP, KD8GOB, KD9LFW, KD9OKT, KD9QZC, KD9RAF, KD9YGU, KD9ZDW, KD9ZFO, KD9ZFP, KE0VVL, KE9CTG, KE9IWX,

N9EHK, N9IYI, N9JFS, N9PAP, N9RAG, N9WNH, W9KMH, W9LW, W9NEG, W9SA, W9SAN, W9YME, WB9TYJ, and WB9UDW.

ana. A convective outlook that SPC issued that morning indicated an unusually high probability of a tornado in Allen County, as well as an elevated proba-

thunderstorm warning number 46 for southeastern Allen County and parts of several other counties.

At 11 p.m., tornado watch number 99 expired.

At 11:02 p.m., NWS removed Allen County from severe thunderstorm warning number 46 and KD9ZDW discontinued Skywarn Net operations.

During this day's net operations, the following stations checked in: AC9XU, AE9EC, K4OWX, K9BAT, KA9IPA, KB9YTT, KC9EZP, KC9SJP, KC9TIH, KD8GLE, KD8GOB, KD9LFW, KD9NEG, KD9NYY, KD9PVE, KD9RAF, KD9ZAJ, KE9AUL, KE9CTG, KE9IWX, N9WH, N9XKU, NT9F, W2TAZ, W9CLC, W9HT, and W9LW.



April 2 EF-2 tornado damage near Dupont, Ohio. (NWS photo).

As the storm system moved through the NWS Northern Indiana county warning area (37 Indiana, Michigan and Ohio counties) on March 30, it produced six tornadoes that subsequent storm surveys confirmed. The closest to Allen County did EF-1 damage along a 1.4-mile path west of Laotto. Allen County “dodged a bullet.” The only storm damage report that the NWS received from Allen County was a public report of a tree down across E. Washington Center Road.

April 2

Only three days later, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms again threatened northeastern Indi-

bility that any tornado that struck would do at least EF-2 damage.

At 4:19 p.m., Stephen Clower, AC9XS placed the Allen County Skywarn Net into standby mode. Jerry Etnier, KD9QHI relieved AC9XS at 6:59 p.m.

At 7:34 p.m., NWS expanded tornado watch number 99, which previously covered areas to the west of Allen County. The expanded watch area included Allen County.

Jim Moehring, KB9WWM relieved KD9QHI as net control station operator at 9:17 p.m. Korry DuMont, KD9ZDW relieved Jim three minutes later.

At 10:43, NWS issued severe

Once again, severe weather spared Allen County. NWS received no reports of storm damage in the county, either from the Allen County Skywarn Net or other sources. The tornado watch verified however, as surveyors from the NWS Northern Indiana office confirmed eight tornadoes from this storm system in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The strongest was EF-2 damage in southeastern Paulding County, Ohio, about 44 miles directly east of the center of Fort Wayne.



IN PERSON!
VE SESSION

May 3rd

**Get your first ham radio
license or upgrade!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 10AM-NOON
CUNNINGHAM BUSINESS CENTER
INDIANA TECH
CORNER OF MAUMEE & ANTHONY AVES.
FORT WAYNE**

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

Special Feature to the Allen County HamNews

Local Morse Code Class: A Success!

By Jeff DeLucenay, KB9QG

In December 2024, the Northeastern Amateur Radio Association placed a query to see if there would be interest in a class for learning Morse Code. The initial response produced 16 people who were interested in the class. However, several people were from the Fort Wayne, Auburn, Kendallville, and Angola. Since this overlapped the Fort Wayne Radio Club, the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, and the Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association, a decision was made to make the Morse Code class a cooperation between the three clubs. This required coordination and cooperation to determine the approach for training the class.

The following people met to come to a consensus on an approach for the class. Kurt Crip KC9Z, Bruce Cadwell N9DGL, John Chalmers, Jim Mast W8HOM and Jeff DeLucenay KB9QG had a meeting to discuss several approaches and some ideas for how the new operators could get on the air with some simple contacts to get started. If enough people would show up we would have considered a class in Auburn and in Fort Wayne. We decided to present the code using 5 to 6 characters per session.

groups of 5 characters to learn the alphabet, number and some punctuation. The character rate was set for 15 words per second and the spacing was set to 3 words per second. This would give the students time to recognize the code tone sequence and associate it to a given letter, number or punctuation. The class was then setup to have 8 sessions once per week on Tuesdays. We got permission from the Comfort Suite in Auburn to use their meeting room for the class. The class started February 8th ran until April 15th. We did add an additional Tuesday on April 22nd. Once the class started, we had 8 people show up for the Morse Code training.

Bruce did an excellent job presenting the material and providing other websites such as a SDR site for listening to on-the-air code. I would like to thank the Fort Wayne Radio Club and the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society for a successful collaboration between our clubs by help members of the clubs to get into using CW on the amateur bands! We suggested the students use POTA and SKCC contacts as a starting point for getting contacts.

Bruce N9DQL agreed to teach to class and found an on-line training website. The site is called Learning CW Online. The website is found at LCWO.net. The method that the website uses is called the Koch method. There are 40



Hamsplatter

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



Welcome to the start of summer. Though the weekdays have pleasant weather, the weekends haven't been the best, but that shouldn't stop you from enjoying the nice weather. Part of the attraction that amateur radio has on myself is using equipment outdoors. Parks on the Air is an easy choice, but some days, I like just walking around the neighborhood talking on the repeaters.

Recently, the club has moved its general and board meetings to the American Red Cross, just off Coliseum Blvd. This has been successful and club members have enjoyed the new location. If you have something you would like to share with the club, you can present it at a general meeting. We are looking for presenters to share one of their passions in the hobby and teach us about it. Just email one of the board members to sign up for a date.

Since we are in May, I have to mention the Indiana QSO Party. We have been the top club for the past 5 years, and we hope to get it for another year. Even if you only spend a short time participating, the club would love for you to submit your logs. Remember to add Fort Wayne Radio

Club, spelled out, as your club affiliation. Every point matters. Auburn has thrown down a challenge to dethrone us as the top club. Your log may help us hold the top spot in the state. There are also a few New England area QSO parties happening, so not a bad time to get a few more states/grids/counties.

Field Day will be here before you know it. The club is looking for volunteers to help out. Contact Charles, KC9MUT, if you wish to help out. We need more than just members to operate. Field Day is a fun event each year. It provides a true sense of community in amateur radio. It is also one of the biggest events we put on each year.

Finally, one of our board members, Jim, K9BAT, has stepped down. Jim has been a large part of the board for the past two years. He has provided the club with lots of fresh ideas. The chili cookoff each year was his idea. Jim's presence at board meetings will be missed. This opens up a spot on the board. If you have ever thought of getting more involved, let one of the board members know.

If you have any suggestions or feedback, let me know at kd9nrt(at)gmail.com. Your feedback is essential to moving the club forward. While I don't respond to every email, I do read them all

73,

Adam, KD9NRT

FWRC Officers 2025
<p>President Adam Warrix, KD9NRT kd9nrt(at)gmail.com</p>
<p>Vice President Meghan Warrix, KD9ODP warrixmr(at)gmail.com</p>
<p>Secretary Al Burke, WB9SSE (260) 637-1989 aburke55(at)comcast.net</p>
<p>Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST rdstre(at)yahoo.com</p>
<p>Communications Manager Charles Ward, KC9MUT (260) 749-4824 kc9mut(at)yahoo.com</p>
<p>Directors Steve Nardin, W9SAN (260) 482-4039 w9san(at)arrl.net</p>
<p>Willi Tucker-Hall, KD9ZFP mzwilli1223(at)gmail.com</p>
<p>Carole Burke, WB9RUS (260) 637-1989 wb9rus(at)comcast.net</p>
<p><insert your name here> <insert your number here> <insert your email here></p>

2025 Indiana QSO Party

Fort Wayne Radio Club Involvement

Most Individual Club Members Involved

When: This Saturday – May 3 11am to 11pm (local time)

Once again, it's time to make our club **stand out!** The club competition for Indiana QSO Party relies on aggregate scores submitted by individual club members! That means all we need to do is get on the air from our home stations, makes some contacts on HF (SSB or CW or BOTH!), and submit our logs as members of the Fort Wayne Radio Club.

During the 12 hour event, stations from all over Indiana will be calling, "CQ Indiana QSO Party." Simply contact them, log their information (signal report and county . . . or, if out of state, signal report and state) and give out a signal report (everyone sends 59 for SSB or 599 for CW) and your county.

Logging of contacts **can** be made by using special logging software like WriteLog, N3FJP, or N1MM. The INQP webpage (www.hdxcc.org > Indiana QSO Party) also suggests several others but these are the ones that work the best! Both WriteLog and N3FJP are for purchase. The N1MM Logger+ is totally free and supports all contests and state QSO parties without having to download extra files. Like N3FJP and WriteLog, it can interface with your radio, connect to PacketCluster via telnet, interface and log FT-8, PSK, RTTY, along with producing files for uploading to LoTW and whatever computer logbook you operate! You can also have it submit your score!

This year, the INQP will only accept computer generated Cabrillo files. If you use a logging program, it has the ability to generate a Cabrillo file for submission. Logging of contacts **can** also be done manually on paper but that information will need to be transferred into a Cabrillo file before submission. I've designed a special log sheet for the FWRC along with a summary sheet. This will make it super easy for you to casually add to the **Fort Wayne Radio Club** participation. Directions on how to make the conversion is included in this newsletter. You can also simply mail the log sheets and summary sheet to N8KR and he will make the log conversion and send in your log. Several of our club members used these log sheets in the past. **WE WANT YOU TO PARTICIPATE!**

OUR GOAL THIS YEAR: Win the Top Club Award

If you have interest in downloading and using (FREE) N1MM Logger+ (Windows 7,8,10) here is the link and basic directions:

www.N1MMwp.hamdocs.com

—> Downloads

—> Program Files

—> Full Install

—> 2 step process:

——> Download and run Full Install (Base Install)

——> Download and run Latest Update Files

Start the program run N1MM+

Questions? Contact me on the 146.910 repeater or via email at n8kr (at) hotmail.com

73,

Ken - N8KR

on behalf of The INQP Planning Committee for the FWRC

INQP Logging Notes for 2025

If you do not use a computer logger that can produce a *Cabrillo* file, you must hand log the contact information and when finished, enter all of the data and station information using the online *Cabrillo Webform* at www://b4h.net/cabforms/ and click on Indiana QSO Party and follow directions. If you have problems with it, submit your logging sheets and summary sheet to:

Ken Rogner N8KR
8526 Fox Home Dr.
New Haven, IN 46774

Ken will be happy to make the log conversion and send it in for you. It is important for all to be able to participate and submit scores for the Fort Wayne Radio Club.

Making Contacts

INQP runs from 11am to 11pm. If you are a phone operator, look for stations (any) on 40 (7.200-7.260) during the day/early evening or 80 (3.800-3.850) after dark. Find a clear spot and call, "CQ": here are 2 sample qso's:

CQ Indiana QSO Party CQ Indiana QSO Party from Whiskey Nine Tango Echo W9TE

November Eight Kilowatt Radio

November eight Kilowatt Radio you're five nine in Allen County Indiana (INALL)

QSL you're five nine in Adams County Indiana (INADA)

QSL Thanks Whiskey Nine Tango Echo Indiana QSO Party

Kilo Eight Alpha Quebec Mexico

Kilo eight Alpha Quebec Mexico five nine in Allen County Indiana (INALL)

Roger you're five nine in Michigan

QSL Thanks for Michigan Whiskey Nine Tango Echo Indiana QSO Party

Change "Whiskey Nine Tango Echo" to YOUR CALL

8pm to 10pm (11)

If you only have a little time to be on, consider 8-10 pm looking for stations calling "CQ Indiana QSO Party" especially our own club members. You can also work and log anyone calling CQ (CQ NEW ENGLAND, CQ DELAWARE, CQ 7-LAND) **Also use the 146.91 repeater to spot stations.**

The following FWRC Stations may be on – and probably more!

N9SE W9SAN AC9EZ K9LA K9FW KE9IWX AA9H (multi-multi station along with KR9U, W9HT, and N8KR) **WA9BBN KB9OS AC9XS K9FMX WB9TYJ**

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



Spring is upon us and with it everything seems to kick into high gear. Lots to catch up on after winter, like lawns, planting season, repairs, hamfests, events, contests, antenna work etc. Usually more than we can get done easily just in the spring.

Recently we have been working on installing the new Kenwood NXR-1700 VHF Repeater for the .88 Repeater. And that has been completed and it is has been on the air for around a week now. We have programmed the new Kenwood NXR-1800 UHF Repeater, although a controller cable needs to be made yet and we need to address two factors one is site location and two the fact we need to purchase an amplifier for this 25 watt unit. Below is a picture of the NXR-1700 and 1800 they are identical looking units.



Along with that was the integrating one of four external CAT-1000 repeater controllers to work with the new Repeater. The repeater can function with its own internal controller but in the amateur world we usually at least utilize some other features those in the land mobile world do not use and are not available with the internal LMR repeaters controllers.

To say the least sometimes marrying the two devices together without other major changes can be a little time consuming and involves some trial and error. We do have one audio level on the .88 that needs to be fine tuned yet that is a little high we are waiting on combining time schedules to do several work tasks at one time. Other features that involve additional time and programming that have never been utilized in the past will be added in the future. We have spent many days and hours on and off site trying to ready, program, install and test.

One thing also is that many don't realize we have to clear our access to the site each time we are there and therefore to be respectful of our host WANE-TV we try to limit and time our access.

We have delayed purchasing the new Crescend VHF Amplifier for a few reasons. One is we wanted to see if we could be successful in redi-

ACARTS Officers 2025

President
 Dan Dahms N9WNH
 260-503-4163
 pres(at)acarts.com

Vice President
 Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP
 260-704-7801
 vp(at)acarts.com

Secretary
 Jackson Wingeier W2TAZ
 260-443-5126
 sec(at)acarts.com

Treasurer
 Kevin Hecksher W9KMH
 260-755-8784
 tres(at)acarts.com

Community Manager
 Stuart Hall KD9LFW
 260-418-1755
 cm@acarts.com

Station Manager
 Dan Dahms N9WNH

Fundraising Manager
 Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP

IT Manager/Email Admin
 Kevin Hecksher W9KMH

Directors at Large
 Steve Shannon K9SKS
 260-704-5353
 dir2(at)acarts.com

James Bassett W9YME
 260-438-6664
 dir3(at)acarts.com

Kelley Clond NT9F
 260-579-2588
 dir1@acarts.com

W9INX Trustee
 Dan Dahms N9WNH

recting the Kendecom PA-100 VHF Amplifier that had been purchased years ago with very little use. This is now being driven by the Kenwood NXR-1700 Repeater. The new repeater itself only provides 25 watts continuous at full duty so it drives the the Kendecom 100 watt amplifier. We found the reason we had receive desense the one time we tested it before with its matching Kendecom VHF Repeater it is because it was being overdriven at 125 watts! So once we readjusted it to its limitation of 100 watts everything with it seems to function fine.

We will at some point be testing the single channel crystal controlled (which is only for 146.88/146.28) Kendecom VHF Repeater again with the Kendecom PA to see how things work out as a backup to .88 that was originally planned before. Another reason is to decide for this year to purchase a UHF Amplifier rather than a VHF Amplifier because of how things are working towards the positive in utilizing what we have now that is working and having available backups.

Presently the recently former .88 Repeated the Motorola MTR3000 sits at the ready as a backup to .88 though the intent is to be used for the 147.255/147.855 Repeater.

We also found that of the four CAT-1000 repeater controllers we have one that probably has an audio amp issue, as it's pretty unintelligible on voice command readback. This unit was originally on the 443.800 Repeater but this controller has not been used for years even when we had the 443.800 on the air for awhile because we did not utilize it at the time. Hopefully we can source the part and see what happens.

We have been patiently waiting for about a month now for a test replacement repeater to be completed for our GMRS repeater. This is so we can take the present one off the air to compare and determent its receive issues as well as look into other operational items that don't function correctly. We think with some of these operational issues it has a corrupt code plug or chip. As far as the receive issues it maybe that the receiver just does not have enough rejection as is. We have kept the current one on the air as is for it provide whatever service it could, but hopefully not disappoint anyone. We have not been happy with its total performance although at times its mobile receive range is good well into Defiance County, Ohio. We have noticed the noise floor adjacent to our frequency pair on one side is swamped at times. Our intent is to compare with another make and model with the same output wattage to see how it handles things.

We also have a lower wattage third unit we could press into service to compare as well. We are at a location with nearby heavy RF use on FM Broadcast, VHF and UHF LMR, TV Broadcast etc. aka Tower Heights. The present GMRS repeater is utilizing a freshly tuned TX/RX UHF Vari-Notch Duplexer but the repeater itself does not have a preselector or any other additional filtering at the moment. We could possibly add additional filtering if need be. But our first try will be trying a completely different repeater to begin with. Time will tell soon on what the results will be.

Work continues on the new ACARTS website offline. It will take awhile to figure what we want to offer on it and its new look, but the IT Committee is working towards the goal. Thanks to Stuart KD9LFW and all who participated in the ACARTS VHF/UHF FM Simplex Contest. Please remember your logs are due by May 17 with the winners in each category announced May 20th at the ACARTS General Meeting & via e-mail.

Send logs to:

ACARTS FM Simplex Contest

P.O. Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN 46851

- or by e-mail to: [cm \(at\) acarts.com](mailto:cm@acarts.com)

Any questions? Contact ACARTS Community Manager Stuart Hall KD9LFW via [cm \(at\) acarts.com](mailto:cm@acarts.com)

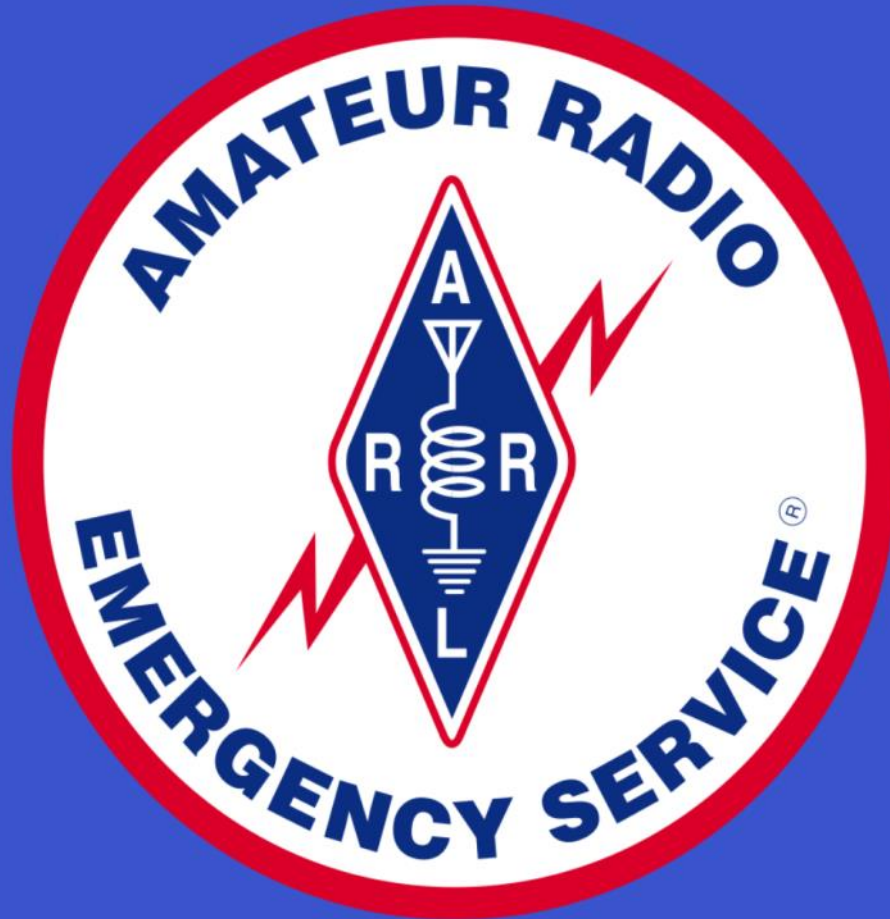
We have discussed about bringing back the ACARTS Picnic this summer. While details have not been hammered out yet, now is your chance to give us some input. Please contact ACARTS Community Manager Stuart KD9LFW with your ideas [cm \(at\) acarts.com](mailto:cm@acarts.com)

We intend to participate in some other spring and summer contests, events etc. though more than likely next year, only because at this time there is not enough time to plan and participate fully this year for those spring and summer events. We currently feel that we have enough to finish and complete of what we have started as is.

73,

Dan M. Dahms N9WNH

ACARTS President



The next Allen County ARES Team Quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15th. The meeting will be held at the Allen County Public Library in downtown Fort Wayne and will begin at 6:30 pm.



How Is Cycle 25 Doing?

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

I am happy to report that Cycle 25 is still doing well. It's creeping closer to an average cycle (like Cycle 23 was), and it's still giving us worldwide propagation on the higher HF bands – 15-meters, 12-meters and 10-meters. Will it get up to an average cycle or even higher? We shall see.

Figure 1 shows the current status of Cycle 25. The latest monthly mean sunspot number is for March 2025, which results in the latest smoothed sunspot number for September 2024. It took a small step upward in March, which is, of course, better than a small step downward.

Remember that the smoothed sunspot number is

six months behind the monthly mean sunspot number due to the additional averaging of the smoothed sunspot number. The smoothed sunspot number also gives us the best correlation to what the ionosphere is doing.

As summer approaches, we'll see lower daytime F2 region maximum useable frequencies due to the change in the composition of the atmosphere. But Cycle 25 should give us more worldwide propagation as we again enter the fall and winter months later this year. Let's hope it continues upward for a while to increase our probabilities of 6-meter propagation via the F2 region next fall and winter.

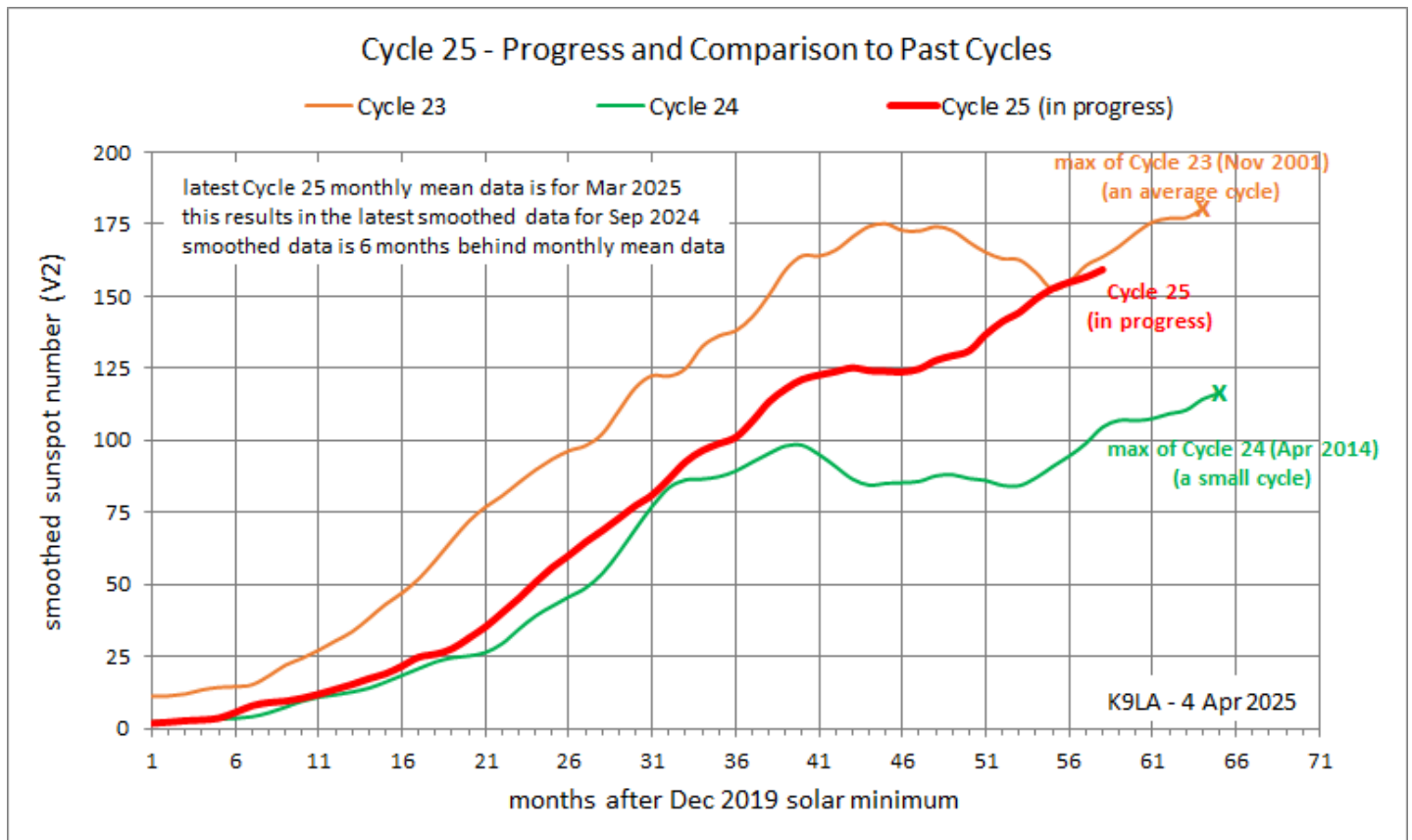


Figure 1

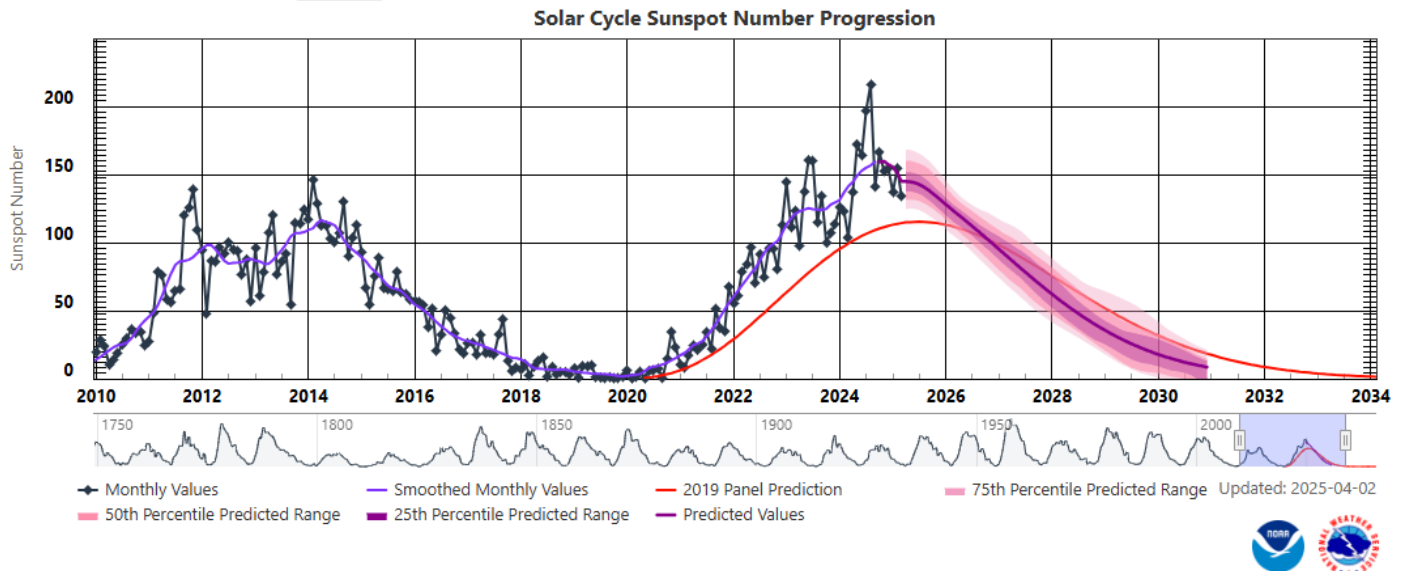



Figure 2

How long are we going to have worldwide propagation on the higher HF bands? Figure 2 is the forecast from NOAA at <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>.

Their forecast is the black line (monthly mean sunspot numbers) and light purple line (smoothed sunspot numbers). The dark purple line is their forecast for the decline of Cycle 25, which shows the smoothed sunspot number to start declining very soon. You can also see Cycle 24 on the left of Figure 2. The initial forecast from NOAA for Cycle 25 is the red line, and Cycle 25 has certainly exceeded that initial forecast by a good amount.

With a smoothed sunspot number of 100 needed for consistent daily propagation on 10-meters, the higher bands should be good through the end of 2026 per the latest NOAA forecast. After that, the higher bands will be open on fewer and fewer days.

Thus we still have more than a year and a half to take advantage of the good propagation on our higher HF bands. There's still time to chase DXCC, WAS, WAC and WAZ (and whatever else) on these bands. All you have to do is get your butt in the chair and turn on the radio.



Allen County ARES
Emergency
Communications Drill

May 3rd at 10:00am

Purpose: To determine our
ability to deploy and
communicate in various
methods under difficult
conditions. The goal is to
learn and improve.

Tune into the 146.91
repeater to join.



Catching a “Bug”

Happy May, my fellow radio bugs! Welcome to another edition of the HamNews.

This month’s column is a quick overview of the semiautomatic “Bug” key used to send Morse code, along with a quick recap of your author’s experiences in using a Bug.

But before I do that, just a quick reminder that the Indiana Qso Party is just around the corner on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. If you haven’t already made plans for the day, consider joining the Fort Wayne Radio Club’s effort in defending its top club title! It’s easy to do – simply work as many stations as you can in the Indiana Qso Party, submit your log, and include the “Fort Wayne Radio Club” as your club affiliation. If you have questions on how to submit a log, please feel free to either contact me or another club member and we’ll be happy to assist you.

With the commercial out of the ways, let’s get to the main topic of this month’s column – the “bug.”

A Little History

Some cw key history is appropriate to begin the discussion.

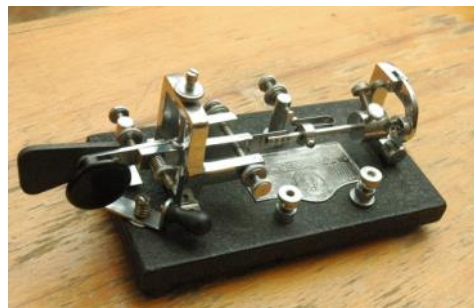
According to Vibroplex’s website (a maker of “bug” cw keys), the original bug was invented by a gentleman named Horace Martin in 1905. https://www.vibroplex.com/contents/en-us/d12_SEMI-AUTOMATIC__BUG__keys.html. Bug keys are unusual for many hams today, because of how they generate the dits and dahs (ham speak for dots and dashes) of morse code.

On a modern set of cw paddles – commonly called “iambic” paddles – there are two levers. One lever, when depressed, produces a series of dits automatically generated with pre-determined spacing via whatever keyer you have attached (such as the internal keyer of most modern amateur radio transceivers). The other lever, similar to the dits lever, will also automatically generated dahs when depressed. If proper timing is observed, a user of an iambic paddle can use a technique called “squeeze sending,” whereby the operator will “squeeze” the two paddles of the iambic keyer, sending cw at high speed with a minimum amount of movement.

Iambic paddles can be simplified by removing one of the levers, leaving the user with what is called a “single-lever” paddle. In this case, the operation is the same, although the user must now press the paddle left or right, depending on whether a dit or a dah will be sent. Squeeze sending is not possible

with a single-lever paddle, due to only having one lever available.

Back in the day well over a hundred years ago, what key choices an operator had were limited. There was no such thing as an iambic paddle and electronic keyers were a thing of the future. Other than a straight key, some operators could use what were called



A bug

“cootie” keys or “sideswiper” keys. (See link for more info on the Cootie key <http://www.ws1sm.com/CW-Page.html>).

The advantage of the Cootie key was that it used a side-to-side motion, instead of the vertical motion of a straight key. The side-to-side pivoting of the sideswiper meant that cw operators put less stress on their arm and wrist, mitigating the repetitive stress injuries (like “glass arm,” the old-time term for carpal tunnel syndrome) that plagued cw operators. (<https://morsecode.world/keys.html>).



But there was an issue. For a sideswiper key, the operator must manually “swipe” or slap the key from side-to-side to produce every single dit and dah of Morse code characters. Although this is nothing unusual from a straight key operator’s perspective, there were some cw operators who thought it would be nice to have a way to generate some of the dits or dahs automatically.

This brings us to the creation of the Bug key at the turn of the 20th century. The key is mechanically complex, because it relies on a system of springs, weights, and a lever to produce the dit characters automatically and the dahs manually. Simply put, when the operator pushes the lever a certain direction, the springs and weights cause the lever of the key to “bounce” rapidly, with each bounce creating an electrical contact that thus generates dits automatically.

The dah side of the lever is similar to a Cootie key or a straight key in that the operator must manually push the lever every time a dah is desired. However, the ability to “automatically” generate dits was a step for progress in the cw world.

AC9EZ’s Bug Experience.

Let’s just say that my first experience with the “Bug” key was – bugged. In my 13 years of being a licensed ham radio operator, I have only used a straight key, iambic paddles, and a single-lever paddle. Although I have had the opportunity to touch a Bug key (at the SKCC both at various hamfests), the Bug has never been something in my wheelhouse.

My no-bug-experience excuse failed me when I obtained a Bug at the last Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo last November (stay tuned for another column giving details about this Bug and its maker). However, I still didn’t put the Bug on the air until this past week when I jumped on the air for about an hour and a half of operating during the Straight Key Century Club’s (SKCC) monthly sprint held last Tuesday evening.

The SKCC sprints are leisurely paced, with a fairly long exchange. To be counted as a valid con-

tact, operators must exchange their name, RST, state/province, and SKCC number. For this operator, the event was a challenge to say the least. Frequently, I found myself adjusting anything and everything that turned or moved on my Bug, be it contact spacing, spring tension, or weight placement. Sometimes, the dits generated were so fast it sounded like a woodpecker had gotten loose in my station and was having a field day with my equipment. At other times, the dits were slower than a Galapagos tortoise.

The sprint ran 8-10 p.m. By 9 p.m., I was starting to get the hang of things, albeit with plenty of missed code characters. I ended the event with 21 qsos. Not bad for a total beginner.

What did I learn? Well, there were two main lessons.

For one, I learned that, apparently, there are instruction manuals available online to help guide the novice user in the mysteries and rites of proper Bug usage. I will be investigating those self-help manuals asap.

The other lesson I learned was how enjoyable sending cw with a Bug really was. For me, sending Morse code with a bug felt like reliving family history. My great – uncle was a radio operator during World War II and he relied on a bug to send Morse code messages (that’s another story for another column).

Like anything in ham radio, a new skill takes time to learn, and sending with a Bug is no exception. However, with practice and patience, sending with a Bug will eventually become second nature to this op (at least, I hope so!)

73 es good dx! De Jim ac9ez



Summary for April 2025

See this month's operating events calendar for dates for this month's SKCC WES and SKS.

Catch you on the air in May and 73!

Ed, WA9BBN

Operating activities during the month of March follow.

The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (WES) aims to bring together operators with different skill levels in a regularly scheduled, informal operating event lasting 36 hours. The event starts at 1200 UTC on the 2nd Saturday of each month and ends at 2359 UTC on Sunday. Participants can operate for the full 36 hours.

For the WES on April 12-13, the following local operators participated. The QSO count is shown:

WA9BBN 77
AC9XS 52
WG9K 33
N8KR 28
W9HT 26
W9GOO 20
WB9TYJ 20
W9SA 16
KA9GKE 17
N9DGL 13
WD9IKW 9

The two-hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) occurs on the fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 0000 UTC. For Indiana operators the start is on Tuesday evening.

For the SKS on Tuesday evening, April 22, 8-10 PM local, the following local operators participated. The QSO count is shown:

N8KR 63
WA9BBN 32
WG9K 21
AC9EZ 21
W9GOO 17
W9HT 17
KQ9R 3

**Upcoming
ARES Support
Event:
Fort 4 Fitness**

**Saturday,
May 31st,
7am-2pm**

**Please contact Jerry
Etnier, KD9QHI at
kd9qhi (at) gmail.com
to participate!**

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

11, April 11, 2025

The April meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held on April 11th, 2025. It occurred at the Red Cross complex on East California Rd. starting at 6:32 pm. It was hosted by club President Adam Warrix, KD9NRT; there were about 25 attendees.

Adam led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited all present to introduce themselves with their name and call-sign.

Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the Treasurers report as of 11 April as follows:

Checking account balance	\$3,962.69
Savings account balance	\$505.82
Vanguard Fund balance	\$28,476.10
Y-T-D Income	\$620.00
Y-T-D Expenses	\$556.85
Current Club membership	127

Adam introduced the new ARRL Vice Director of the Central Division, Josh Long, W9HT who talked about the ARRL, which is in its 111th year, and answered various questions from the audience. Josh also raffled off a copy of two new ARRL publications, "Inside Antennas" which was won by Jim Stephens, K9BAT, and a copy of the ARRL Repeater Directory, which was won by Mike Stein, KB9NOO.

Adam announced that regrettably Jim Stephens was resigning his position on the FWRC Board of Directors. Adam inquired if anyone in attendance would be willing to serve on the Board as a replacement. Nobody offered to serve. Adam commented that we intended to identify a person or persons willing to serve and plan to elect that person at the May club meeting.

Club Communications Manager Charles Ward, KC9MUT reported that the venue for our Field Day exercise had not yet been determined, but it will not be at the Old Fort this year. Several locations are under considerations and a choice needs to be made by the end of April. Charles noted that he needs a volunteer to help with obtaining media coverage of the event.

Steve Nardin, W9SAN noted that the Indiana QSO Party will occur on May 3rd from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, EDT. The FWRC has won this competition consistently for the past few years and this has resulted in a number of clubs, most notably the Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association, who have stated that they will be putting on a significant effort to unseat us. We will be missing the significant scoring contributions provided by Jack Shutt, K9GT and Dan Michnay, K9EA in the past, so we must depend upon other club members to associate with the FWRC effort if we are to remain number one in the state.

Ken Rogner, N8KR suggested that the FWRC consider sponsor plaques to be awarded as a result of the Indiana QSO Party competition. An interesting idea that the Club will consider.

Josh Long, W9HT announced that a VE test session (Tech, General, and Extra) would occur May 3rd, at 10:00 am at Indiana Tech. The FWRC covers the cost of a person's first attempt at a (Indiana Tech) VE test session.

The meeting concluded at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC



Attendance

President: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Vice President: Fredrick “Fred” Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Secretary: Jackson Wingeier, W2TAZ

Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Station Manager: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Community Manager: Stuart Hall, KD9LFW

I.T. Manager: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fredrick “Fred” Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Board Member: Kelley Clond, NT9F

Board Member: Steve Shannon, K9SKS

Board Member: James “Jim” Bassett, W9YME

Three regular members were also present.

Reason for Special Meeting

Dan, N9WNH, called this meeting stating that “time is of the essence on some issues,” mostly in regard to the Club’s plans to set up a GMRS repeater.

Start of Meeting, Approval of the Minutes

7:15 PM local time – Recording started.

- Jackson, W2TAZ, reviewed the minutes of the February 11th Board Meeting.
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes.** Made by Kelley, NTF. Seconded by Steve, K9SKS. **Motion carried.**

Housekeeping

- Financial reporting will be performed at the next General Meeting.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked Fred, KC9EZP, if he had made any progress with bringing on Dan, N9PAP, for the Hamfest. Fred, KC9EZP, responded that he has been busy but intends on reaching out and bringing Dan, N9PAP, on as the Hamfest Security Manager.
- Kevin, W9KMH, asked Fred, KC9EZP, if he wanted email accounts set up for the Hamfest managers. He requested some time to think about it.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked Dan, N9PAP, if he wanted his presentation at the next General Meeting to take place before or after the meeting itself. He requested to present before the meeting.

Business

- Dan, N9WNH, recalled the previous discussion about the GMRS repeater, and that as he understands, the intent is to run it as an open repeater once fully set up, and that ACARTS members will be notified once it moves from members-only access to public access.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked Kevin, W9KMH, if he could modify our membership forms to add a space for a GMRS callsign. Namely, remove the second address line, and add a “GMRS Member” checkbox with GMRS callsign field.
- Dan, N9WNH, mentioned the possibility of offering GMRS-only membership to the club, that grants access to the GMRS repeater before it’s made public, for the same cost as a normal membership.
 - Dan, N9WNH, asked if Ham Club Online will take GMRS callsigns for registration. Jackson, W2TAZ, confirmed that it does **not**.
 - Dan, N9WNH, advised that he would have to ask if Ham Club Online would at some point support GMRS licensees as well.
- Some discussion was had as to how much public outreach should be made for announcing the GMRS repeater.
 - Currently, an information meeting is scheduled for some time in March or April, at the American Red Cross, to announce once it’s on the air.
- Dan, N9WNH, stated that we should try to encourage users of the repeater to join the club, so that their dues can fund the repeater upkeep and maintenance.
- Some discussion was had as to how membership would work for “GMRS only” members, and what the price should be.
 - Kevin, W9KMH, voiced his opinion that GMRS membership dues should be higher than regular amateur members due to how GMRS licensing works, especially if we intend to let GMRS members vote.
 - **Motion: Add “GMRS Family Group” membership option for \$20/year.** Made by Kevin, W9KMH. **Motion rescinded and amended before voting.**
 - **Motion: Change Associate Member dues to \$10/year, and ass a “GMRS Family Group” membership option for \$18/year.** Made by Kevin, W9KMH. **Motion rescinded before voting.**

- **Motion: Propose raising membership dues for Full Members to \$20/year and Associate Members to \$10/year, for a membership vote, effective 2026.** Made by Kelley, NT9F. Seconded by Kevin, W9KMH. **Motion carried 8 to 1.**
 - This will be proposed to the membership at the next General Meeting.
 - Stuart, KD9LFW, stated that he would like more public outreach before raising dues. Kevin, W9KMH, expressed that the Club has already gained 10 members in 2025, with Dan, N9WNH, advising that the Club's total membership count was 156 members.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that the bylaws would need to be amended to allow for other membership options, such as GMRS members.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked the Board if they wanted to wait until the Club's status as a 501(c)3 is finalized, before working on the governance documents, or to handle it immediately.
 - **Motion: Proceed as-is in regard to setting up a GMRS repeater and wait until our status as a 501(c)3 is finalized before amending the governance documents.** Made by Dan, N9WNH, seconded by Jackson, W2TAZ. **Motion carried.**
- Some discussion was had in regard to the supporting equipment necessary for GMRS operation.
 - **Motion: Authorize up to \$600 to be spent on a new cavity filter and associated work on it, for the new GMRS repeater.** Made by Stuart, KD9LFW. Seconded by Kelley, NT9F. **Motion carried.**
 - Total cost was \$493.23 for the filter, not including the cost of tuning it.
 - Dan mentioned at this time, his intent to configure the repeater to operate on GMRS channel 20 (462.675 MHz +5 MHz)
- Kevin, W9KMH, mentioned meeting with Howard, N9ADS, to attend to some matters with the Indiana Department of Revenue. Kevin, W9KMH, also advised that said department is requesting Social Security numbers of the ACARTS Board.
- Dan, N9WNH, recounted the previous discussion about asking a lawyer to help with the Club's Conflict of Interest policy, and their stated \$5,635 fee for all associated work. Dan, N9WNH, understands that the Board feels this amount is unreasonable.
 - **Motion: Thank Alan for his help but decline further assistance at this time.** Made by Fred, KC9EZP. Seconded by Stuart, KD9LFW. **Motion carried.**
 - Given their statements, Dan, N9WNH, believes that the Club should be capable of writing the Conflict of Interest policy without further guidance, and only requires outside legal help for the Form 1023 that's required.
 - A General Meeting will be required to approve adding said policy to our governance documents.
 - Further discussion was tabled until the next Board Meeting, to give the Board time to read the proposed policy.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that he ordered a cabinet to store equipment at the American Red Cross. It cost roughly \$167, \$178 after taxes (which can be refunded later).

Closing

- **Motion: Adjourn the meeting.** Made by Kevin, W9KMH. Seconded by Jackson, W2TAZ. **Motion carried.**

Recording stopped at 9:26 PM local time.

Upcoming Meetings

- ACARTS Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, 7 PM, Online, MS Teams.
- ACARTS General Meeting: Tuesday, February 18th, 7 PM, American Red Cross, 1212 E. California Rd, Fort Wayne, IN.
 - Also online via Microsoft Teams.
 - Recording will be posted to Ham Club Online, the ACARTS YouTube Channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.

Attendance

President: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Vice President: Frederick “Fred” Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Secretary: Jackson Wingeier, W2TAZ

Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Station Manager: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Community Manager: Stuart Hall, KD9LFW

I.T. Manager: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Board Member: Kelley Clond, NT9F

Board Member: Steve Shannon, K9SKS

Board Member: James “Jim” Bassett, W9YME

Total attendance: 14 members.

Start of Meeting, Approval of the Minutes

7:07 PM local time – Recording started.

- Jackson, W2TAZ, reviewed the minutes of the February 18th General Meeting. Due to when the minutes were uploaded to HCO for the membership to view, Jackson, W2TAZ, has stated that he will wait until the next Board Meeting on the 25th, before officially marking the minutes as approved. Members can submit corrections or comments to him at sec@acarts.com.
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes as read, assuming no further corrections are made.**
Made by MzWilli, KD9ZFP. Seconded by Steve, K9SKS. **Motion carried.**

Presentation

Allen County ARES Introduction, presented by Jerry Etnier Jr, KD9QHI, and Dan Ungemach, N9PAP.

The presentation concluded at 7:48 PM local time, and a brief recess was taken, until 8:03 PM local time.

Business

- The financial report will be given after the conclusion of the meeting.
- Kevin, W9KMH, advised that the IT Committee is discussing using WordPress for the new ACARTS website, and that the small additional cost it will incur has already been incorporated into the proposed 2025 Budget.
- Kevin, W9KMH, presented the proposed 2025 Budget, and Dan, N9WNH, advised that the Board has not had much time to discuss it thus far.
 - Discussion of the Budget also brought discussion about raising Hamfest ticket and table prices, as well as plans to increase membership dues starting 2026.
 - Kevin, W9KMH, advised that he would make the budget available in HCO for the membership to look over.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked Fred, KC9EZF about his availability in the coming week for singing a copy of the election meeting minutes and other forms required by PNY Bank.
- Stuart, KD9LFW, solicited ideas from the membership for Club activities or presentations for future meetings. Jackson, W2TAZ, asked if he was expected to give a Meshtastic presentation in April, and he is.
- Stuart, KD9LFW, mentioned the FM simplex contest that will be taking place on April 19th from 7 PM to 10 PM local time.
 - There had been some previous discussion about incorporating digital modes into this contest, and that was tabled until next year.
 - Kevin, W9KMH, mentioned potentially running the context more than once a year, such as every quarter. Some discussion ensued as to participation, our efficacy of spreading awareness of the contest, and how many participants actually submit logs.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised Stuart, KD9LFW, about deadlines and some requirements when it comes to submitting information for the Allen County Ham News.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that he and Stuart, KD9LFW, visited the residence of Jim Sampiere, KD9NPL, SK, to remove some antennas that were installed on the premises, as they belong to Jim's estate, and Jim's widow has announced her intention to sell that property and move elsewhere. As far as both are concerned, there is no more ACARTS or estate property at that location.
- Fred, KC9EZF, reported that he's a little behind on some of the communications that he's been tasked with, and should be reaching out shortly.
 - Dan, N9WNH, asked Fred, KC9EZF, about the possibility of at least updating last year's Hamfest flyer to be current, so the Club has at least some information to give to those that are asking if the Hamfest will still be taking place. Fred agreed.
- Kevin, W9KMH, asked Dan, N9WNH, if there has been any discussion on new contract agreements for vendors this year, Dan replied that it has not been discussed yet.
 - Kevin, W9KMH, also encouraged Fred, KC9EZF, to look at the Dayton Hamvention's vendor contract for inspiration, as it is well thought out and thorough.
- Dan, N9WNH, mentioned the Club's new storage cabinet that was assembled by himself; Fred, KC9EZF; Jackson, W2TAZ; and Al, K9FW, just before the start of the Meeting. Currently he plans to store A/V equipment or Hamfest supplies in that cabinet, as the American Red Cross building

is relatively close to the Coliseum. He has stated he's already considering requesting permission and purchasing a second one.

- Dan, N9WNH, mentioned that the Club had purchased a UHF duplexer because at the time, the Club only had two UHF duplexers in inventory, and one is a mobile unit that is only designed for 50W of power, leaving the Club with no spare equipment in the event of malfunction or failure. Now that we have another one, that low-power UHF duplexer can be used for the upcoming GMRS repeater.
- Dan, N9WNH, mentioned that both Kenwood repeaters that had been purchased have been programmed, after some technical difficulties.
 - Due to how Kenwood's licensing works, procedure going forward for programming Kenwood repeaters will be to only "check in" the programming software once it's being used, and then to immediately "check out" that software install once programming is finished, to ensure that we will always be able to use our license key.
 - Both NXR-1700 repeaters are rated for 25W continuous power, or 50/40W intermittent.
 - Dan, N9WNH, noted that Kenwood wants additional licensing for digital modes, and only supports NXDN and DMR. Therefore, he stated his intention to use an MMDVM for digital modes, seeing as the Club owns a Repeater Builder MMDVM 3 unit.
 - Discussion followed about the power amplifiers that will be used, their alerting and management capabilities, and the choice of oversized amplifiers, so that they are not always running at full capacity.
- Dan, N9WNH, stated the plans to move the Bridgecom repeater that is currently on 443.800 MHz over to GMRS channel 20 (462.6750), at the WANE-TV location, reusing the same antenna that the 146.880 MHz machine has, and set it to require a CTCSS (PL) tone of 141.3 Hz. The GMRS repeater should have a similar coverage area to the existing UHF amateur repeater.
 - Members will be free to use the repeater, and non-members will be encouraged to join ACARTS to be able to join in.
 - An informational meeting will be held once the repeater is online, planned for next week.
 - Installation is blocked on the new UHF duplexer being tuned and adjusted.
 - Jim, W9YME, asked who all a GMRS license is allowed to be shared with. Jackson, W2TAZ, responded with the FCC definition.
 - 47 CFR 95.1705(c)(2): "...Immediate family members are the licensee's spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and in-laws."
 - Dan, N9WNH, commented that the GMRS community may require a little more oversight and guidance than the amateur radio community.
- Jim, W9YME, announced that the vendor he previously contacted for shirts and apparel has started to send back some finished products. There are some small mistakes with the printing, and they are already being corrected.

Closing

- **Motion: Adjourn the meeting.** Made by Jackson, W2TAZ. Seconded by Fred, KC9EZP. **Motion carried.**

Recording stopped at 9:16 PM local time.

Upcoming Meetings

- ACARTS General Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th, 7 PM, American Red Cross, 1212 E. California Rd, Fort Wayne, IN.
 - Also online via Microsoft Teams.
 - Recording will be posted to Ham Club Online, the ACARTS YouTube Channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.

Attendance

President: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Vice President: Fredrick “Fred” Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Secretary: Jackson Wingeier, W2TAZ

Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Station Manager: Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Community Manager: Stuart Hall, KD9LFW

I.T. Manager: Kevin Hecksher, W9KMH

Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fredrick “Fred” Gengnagel, KC9EZP

Board Member: Kelley Clond, NT9F

Board Member: Steve Shannon, K9SKS

Late join: Board Member: James “Jim” Bassett, W9YME

One regular member was also present.

Start of Meeting, Approval of the Minutes

The meeting was rescheduled from March 11th.

7:08 PM local time – Recording started.

- Jackson, W2TAZ, reviewed the minutes of the Mar 4th Special Board Meeting.
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes with corrections.** Made by Dan, N9WNH. Seconded by Fred, KC9EZP. **Motion carried.**

Housekeeping

- Financial reporting will be performed after the recording of this meeting ends.

Business

- Kevin, W9KMH, advised that the \$1,500 check to the Coliseum has gone through.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that the UHF GMRS duplexer is finished, he was going to pick it up but encountered card issues, and would have to return tomorrow to settle payment.
 - Bill will roughly be for 45 minutes of time. Dan, N9WNH, estimates about \$110, both Dan, N9WNH, and Kevin, W9KMH, believe that's a little slow.
 - Dan, N9WNH, also had to buy two cables, which are being put under the "equipment purchases" expense category.
- Dan, N9WNH, also advised that we are low on physical checks.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised Kevin, W9KMH, that he has some budget changes.
- Kevin, W9KMH, shared the revised budget:
 - Income line items added for donations and grants; no amounts set.
 - Club Activities expenses are estimated at \$150.
 - Some discussions followed about the Fort Wayne Radio Club joint picnic expenses, and viability of continuing that event.
 - The Board believes that the \$150 figure is reasonable.
 - Donations expenses changed from \$360 to \$330.
 - As the Club does not meet in the American Red Cross building in December, so the usual \$30 monthly donation will be suspended for that month.
 - Discussion followed about the Hamfest expenses.
 - Kevin, W9KMH, knows that they need to update the figures in regard to the cost of provided power to vendors.
 - Jackson, W2TAZ, advised that since we are now aware that the Coliseum has a minimum price in their contract, had we taken that into account, Kevin, W9KMH, confirmed that is has been.
 - Hamfest expenses estimated at \$17,500, assuming that a payment would be made to Jackson, W2TAZ, for developing a system for streamlining the raffles.
 - This will require a Conflict-of-Interest review.
 - Insurance expenses are split out into Directors and Officers, and Liability. We are currently waiting for more information regarding D&O insurance.
 - \$300 for liability insurance, D&O is unknown.
 - Estate purchases estimated expenses decreased from \$5,000 to \$4,500.
 - Current expenses are at \$3,694, the Board does not project that they will exceed \$4,500.
 - Discussion followed about the Hamfest pricing
 - Kevin, W9KMH and Fred, KC9EZF, discussed moving the ticket price to \$10 and \$5, as well as table fees to \$35 and \$55, plus a \$5 surcharge for vendors bringing their vehicles in, without a \$1,000,000 commercial liability policy.
 - Hamfest income estimates dropped from \$22,000 to \$19,000

- **Motion: Accept the new 2025 budget as discussed.** Made by Kevin, W9KMH, seconded by Jackson, W2TAZ. **Motion carried.**
- Fred, KC9EZP, advised that he's in the process of registering this year's Hamfest with the ARRL and requires some more information to continue.
- At this time Dan, N9WNH, dropped off the meeting due to phone issues, the meeting was (informally) paused while waiting for him to rejoin.
- Discussion ensued about the Hamfest contract, namely, adding an indemnification clause and detailing what types of items are prohibited from sale, as well as enforcement for prohibited items.
- Discussion also ensued about videotaping, as the Coliseum prohibits it unless written permission is provided by us.
- **Motion: Increase Hamfest vendor power fees to \$40.** Made by Fred, KC9EZP, seconded by Kevin, W9KMH, **motion carried.**
- **Motion: Increase Hamfest table fees to \$35 for Flea Market tables and \$55 for Premium tables.** Made by Dan, N9WNH, seconded by Kevin, W9KMH, **motion carried.**
- **Motion: Increase Hamfest entry fees to \$10 for Saturday and Sunday, or \$5 for Sunday only.** Made by Fred, KC9EZP, seconded by Kevin, W9KMH, **motion carried.**
- Dan, N9WNH, requested we reword the Hamfest flyer to show that the increased Saturday price includes both Saturday and Sunday.
- Dan, N9WNH, requested hours of operation for the local PNC Bank branch, and requested a date that Fred, KC9EZP, can meet there to sign some required documents.
 - Jackson, W2TAZ, already intended on meeting with Kevin, W9KMH, tomorrow, and will just meet with Fred, KC9EZP at that time while all three are in town.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that the Club's insurance is due in May.
- Dan, N9WNH, asked Stuart, KD9LFW, about the VHF Simplex contest, and Stuart, KD9LFW, asked if the rules were posted on the website. Jackson, W2TAZ, responded that he would update the website to include them.
 - Dan, N9WNH, requested that if the website is being updated, add information about the April General Meeting presentation as well.
- Dan, N9WNH, requested help with setting up the GMRS repeater, Jackson, W2TAZ, and Steve, K9SKS, volunteered.
- Dan, N9WNH, advised that the GMRS repeater information has been added to the Allen County Ham News.

Closing

- **Motion: Adjourn the meeting.** Made by Kelley, NT9F. Seconded by Jackson, W2TAZ. **Motion carried.**

Recording stopped at 9:08 PM local time.

Upcoming Meetings

- ACARTS Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 8th, 7 PM, Online, MS Teams.
- ACARTS General Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th, 7 PM, American Red Cross, 1212 E. California Rd, Fort Wayne, IN.
 - Also online via Microsoft Teams.
 - Recording will be posted to Ham Club Online, the ACARTS YouTube Channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.
 - Presentation will be Introduction to Meshtastic, by Jackson Wingeier, W2TAZ

**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.

For Sale: Ten-Tec Corsair #560 HF Transceiver. Clean radio that operates on all bands 10-160 meters. Power out is 90+ watts and the radio has a cw filter. The power cord has Power-Pole ends for easy connection to your 12v power supply. The Ten-Tec microphone gets good audio reports. It's a deal for only \$100! Contact Ken – N8KR at Hotmail.com or look for him on the 146.91 repeater.



For Sale: Elecraft KX3 qrp transceiver with lots of extras. 5-10 watts out, new internal batteries, power supply, special KX3 cw paddles, Headset with microphone, computer interface cable. \$1100 Contact Ken-N8KR at Hotmail.com





The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

AUBURN HAMFEST

Saturday, July 19, 2025

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

1600 S. Wayne St. Auburn, IN 46706

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

EARLY LOAD-IN FRIDAY, 2 TO 4 PM

(unless otherwise notified)

FREE Admission & Parking

6,000 SQ. FT. INDOOR DISPLAY SPACE



FREE Admission to the:

AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG MUSEUM

View an amazing collection of classic motor vehicles.



FOOD VENDOR
(at outside sales area)

VE Testing at 10:00 AM

NEED MORE INFO?

E-MAIL: auburnhamfest@w9ou.org

Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.

Order online or by mail, info at www.w9ou.org

Outdoor Sales - Buy raffle ticket(s)

\$5/ea space (buy 2, get 1 free)

Raffle Prizes:

1st- XIEGU G90 HF 20W SSB/CW/AM/FM

2nd- C3 Electronics Band Pass Filter
(C3 Electronics is an Auburn Hamfest vendor)

3rd- Yaesu FT65

4th- \$50 Gift Certificate, DX Engineering

Raffle ticket Prices \$5.00 ea - Buy 2, get 1 Free!

2025

OPERATING EVENTS

MAY 3

IN, DE, & NEW ENGLAND
QSO PARTIES

MAY 10-11

CQ-M INTERNAT.
DX CONTEST

MAY 10-11

SKCC WEEKEND
SPRINTATHON

MAY 24-25

CQ WW WPX
CONTEST, CW

MAY 28

SKCC
SPRINT

INSERT YOUR CALL HERE
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.

Area Nets (updated as of 5/1/25)					
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	145.270-	Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL)
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	50.580 FM	FWRC 6-Meter FM Net
Week-days			Thursday		
9:00 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net (NewsLine on Friday after net)	8:00 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
Sunday			8:00 PM	50.580	AM 6-Meter AM Net
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL)	8:30 PM	145.510 simplex	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
8:30 PM	146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	Saturday		
9:00 PM	145.53 simplex	Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2)	8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES(141.3 PL)
Monday					
8:00 PM	224.780-	Fort Wayne 224 Net			

1. All times local time.
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>
6. Please note that this information is provided by the local amateur community—thank you! *If you see any information that is incorrect or out of date, please send any needed changes, additions, or corrections to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.*

Allen County Area Voice Repeaters (updated as of 5/1/25)								
RX freq.	RX access	TX freq.	TX access	mode	network	callsign	owner	use/nets
145.33000	141.3	144.73000	CSQ/141.3	FM analog		W9FEZ	Mizpah	
146.76000	141.3	146.16000	CSQ/141.3	FM analog		W9TE	FWRC	
146.88000	141.3	146.28000	CSQ/141.3	FM analog		W9INX	ACARTS	SKYWARN, Red Cross, IMO Traffic
146.91000	141.3	146.31000	CSQ/141.3	FM analog	EL 519521	W9TE	FWRC	Echolink, No Name Help & Swap Net
146.94000	141.3	146.34000	141.3	FM/C4FM	Not networked	W9TE	FWRC	ACARES
147.25500	141.3	147.85500	141.3	FM analog		W9INX	ACARTS	
224.78000	141.3	223.18000	CSQ	FM analog		W9FEZ	Mizpah	Ft. Wayne 220 Net
442.63750	CC1	447.63750	CC1	DMR	Brandmeister	N9MTF	N9MTF	ACARES DMR Net
442.99375	W9TE-B	447.99375	W9TE-B	D-STAR	D-STAR	W9TE	FWRC	
443.10000	CC1	448.10000	CC1	DMR	Crossroads	K9MMQ	K9MMQ	ACARES DMR Net
443.80000	141.3	448.30000	141.3	FM analog		W9INX	ACARTS	Red Cross
444.25000	141.3	449.25000	141.3	FM analog		W9AVW	W9AVW	
444.80000	CSQ	449.80000	CSQ	FM analog	IRLP 8177	W9FEZ	Mizpah	
444.87500	141.3	449.87500	141.3	FM analog		W9TE	FWRC	

Allen County GMRS voice repeater (updated as of 5/1/25)								
RX freq.	RX access	TX freq.	TX access	mode	Special use	Nets	Callsign	Owner
462.675	141.3	467.675	141.3	WFM ana.	Red Cross	ACARTS GMRS Net	WRDC557	ACARTS

Allen County area data systems (updated as of 5/1/25)											
RX freq.	RX access	TX freq.	TX access	mode	network	BBS/ MBX/ PBBS	owner	net alias	network node	KA-node	digipeater
144.39	141.3	144.39	CSQ	APRS	APRS	W9INX-1	ACARTS	INFW	W9INX-2	W9INX-7	W9INX-8
145.53	141.3	145.53	CSQ	packet	NEIPN	W9INX-1	ACARTS	INALEN	W9INX-6	W9INX-7	W9INX-8

Please note that this information is provided by the local amateur community—thank you! *If you see any information that is incorrect or out of date, please ease send any needed changes, additions, or corrections to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.*

A fillable version of this form is also available at: <https://new.acarts.com/forms/acarts-app.pdf>



Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society – W9INX

Email to: Sec@ACARTS.com or Tres@ACARTS.com

P.O. Box 10342
Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342

ACARTS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership applications can be sent via Email, Postal, or in person at a member/board meeting. Membership applications & payments via credit card can also be filed out directly online at <https://www.Hamclubonline.com>

New Member Yes No / Existing Member Yes No / Additional Household Members*: Yes No
 Change in any contact information? Yes No *Attach additional membership forms for each family member
 Membership type: Full Member or Associate Member

Call Sign: _____ Class: _____

Are you a current **ARRL Member**? Yes No ARRL Expiration Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Do you use a

Nickname: Yes No: If so, what is your Nickname: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Type: Home Cell Work Publish*: Yes No

Phone Number: _____ Type: Home Cell Work Publish*: Yes No

Email: _____ Publish*: Yes No

Each member must have a UNIQUE email address; family accounts cannot use the same email for multiple persons in the Hamclubonline.com system database.

*Website Publication Information is only visible to registered Active members of HCO & ACARTS.

Membership Dues are calculated as follows:

	Quantity	Total
Full Membership \$12 per calendar year (Jan 1 through Dec 31)	_____	\$ _____
Associate Membership* \$6 per calendar year (Jan 1 through Dec 31)	_____	\$ _____

Additional Membership Names: _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

*Associate Memberships also include Licensed Household members, non-FCC licensed members and Students (under 18 YO).

ACARTS USE ONLY: Entered Date: _____ HCO Member #: _____ By: _____
 Fees Paid: In Person / Online via: Cash Check# _____ HCO/Square CC Trx#: _____
 Full Year / Partial Year? _____ HCO Updated? _____ By: _____

FWRC Membership Application for 2025

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	\$20.00 / year
Family membership ¹	\$25.00 / year
Student membership ²	\$5.00 / year
Associate membership ³	\$15.00 / 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.

ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org