Allen County HamNews

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

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Yikes, November is here, and it is time to publish the latest edition of the Allen County HamNews. This month's deadline definitely approached in stealth mode.

The major event this month is the 2026 Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo at the Coliseum on Saturday, November 21st. Note that the Hamfest is only a one-day event this year. Please see the flyer and message from Fred in this month's newsletter for more information. More volunteers are needed to make this year's Hamfest a success. Tables are also available, so reserve one or two to sell all of the goodies that you want to rehome!

Note that there is one more event that will be supported by local ARES groups in December. See Jerry's columns for more information.

Carl K9LA reminds us this month that there are two things to enjoy this time of year besides turkey and stuffing: contests and low band DX! Check out his column for more information.

In his column, Jim AC9EZ discusses a new antenna that he installed at this home station. Maybe this same antenna model would also be a good addition to your home station!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of Tom Baker, N9TB. Tom was a past FWRC president and formerly participated in the Fort Wayne VE team. May he rest in peace.

If you are aware of any local silent keys, please send me a message. I will do my best to mention the in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to operate in Bermuda as /VP9 once again. Ed Kelly VP9GE rents an apartment that also includes a full shack that operates on 160-10m, so I had the chance to make a good number of HF contacts . Thank you to the local Fort Wayne stations that made a contact with me during this holiday-style DXpedition!

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, thank you to each of the monthly columnists and contributors who continue to make the Allen County HamNews a reality!

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday in upcoming weeks.

Also, I hope to see you at the Hamfest in a few weeks!

73,

Josh, W9HT

ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

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

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

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

Multiple County ARES Groups Support the IT100 Run

Amateur Radio operators from multiple counties banded together to again support the annual "Indiana Trails 100 (IT-100)" in Albion, Indiana at the Chain O' Lakes State Park: the event was on October 10th and 11th. It was a 30-hour support venture, which included 28 operators from as far away as Lafayette Indiana, volunteering for multiple shifts starting at 5am Saturday through Sunday noon. A HUGE "thank you" to the entire team of radio operators.



With cell phone service being extremely limited in the Park, amateur radio operators were a welcome addition and support providing communication from various stations in the park. They were stationed at: "road/traffic crossings" to assist in traffic safety of runners crossing the roads; "Aid" stations where runners could get refreshments and take a break; "rovers" would drive around the park, surveying for needs, helping both runners and radio operators.



ARES constructed a full communications network to reach throughout the park. This involved setting up a mobile repeater and cross-band repeater to obtain full coverage of the course and aid stations.

Operators not only communicated to net control runner transportation support and supply needs for Aid stations, many lent helping hands in moving supplies around.

The next marathon event is December 12 at Chain O' Lakes from 8am to 4pm. Volunteers are still needed. If you are able to help, please drop me a line kd9qhi (at) gmail.com.

73,

Jerry Etnier , KD9QHI

Noble County ARES/Emergency Coordinator

Hold the Dates

The Fort Wayne VE Team is tentatively planning the following dates for its in-person ham radio exam licensing sessions for 2027:

- January 16, 2027
- April 17, 2027
- July 17, 2027
- October 16, 2027

Stay tuned to the upcoming editions of the Allen County HamNews in the new year of 2027 for more details about these sessions.

Your help is needed to support the Ignite Trail Marathon & Half Marathon in December!

Event: Ignite Trail Marathon & Half Marathon.

Date: 12/12/2026

Location: Chain O Lakes State Park, 2355 E 75 S, Albion, IN 46701

Time: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

There will be two shifts for this event.

- Shift 1: 7:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Shift 2: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Positions available

- Net Control
- Aid Station Support
- Safety Checkpoint
- Traffic Crossing Control
- Rover
- No Preference

You can email Jerry or use the online registration form that is available here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSWjh5yvimfIFOzau2rbZnMPRgwDOq9UtYFudofjBN4Iopvw/viewform?pli=1

There are about 30 positions that need to be filled for this event.

Thank you for your support of this event.

73,

Jerry Etnier , KD9QHI

Noble County ARES/Emergency Coordinator

PH: 260-704-8018

Email: kd9qhi (at) gmail.com

LRBN Update: October 2026



About the LRBN

The Little Red Barn Net, a group of Amateur Radio operators, was started by Bob Seivers, W9FJT in the 1970s on 75m AM. The net continues in memory of the late Bob Seivers and Ron Gregory, personalities on the Little Red Barn Show on Radio Station WOWO years ago. We started the lunches on Feb 2011 at Sara's, and we appreciate all the attendees.

Update for October

We had another great month on the LRBN — "Little Red Barn Net" — Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM on 3.820 MHz (LSB). Check-ins usually start around 8:45 AM. We average 10 to 15 check-ins per day. Even though the 80-meter band has had its challenges lately, we're still having a great time with self-generated topics each day from our check-ins — always a lot of fun and good conversation.

Bi-Weekly Lunch Gatherings

We continue to host lunch every two weeks, alternating between North Fort Wayne and South Fort Wayne. We typically have 10 to 15 participants at each gathering.

This month's lunches included:

- Oct. 1, 2026—Nine Mile
- Oct. 15, 2026—Red Lobster
- Oct. 29, 2026—Breakfast Club

As always, great food and even better fellowship!

Upcoming lunch dates (11:30 AM each day):

- Nov. 12, 2016
- None on Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 3, 2026
- Dec. 17, 2026
- See you next year in 2027!

Stay Connected

If you would like to be added to the LRBN email list, please contact Tom at:

Email: gmrepair1 (at) aol.com:

Phone/Text: 260-437-4676

Please include your email address and call sign or name.

Net Control Operators

- Monday – KU8T (Tom)
- Tuesday – K9FW (Al) or W9SRD
- Wednesday – KB9OS (Larry) or W8SRD
- Thursday – KE9IWX (Jim)
- Friday – WB9TYJ (Don) with News Line and ARRL Audio News

After the net each Friday, we air Amateur Radio Newsline and ARRL Audio News—thank you, Don!

Online & Net Resources

Mobile-friendly website: https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile (includes lunch info, dates, photos, and more)

Groups.io page: groups.io/g/lrbn (Sign up required —this is where we vote on upcoming lunch locations. Let us know if you need assistance.

Net control operators use NetLogger. You can download the program at netlogger.org (available through the Download Center). For smartphones, the following apps are available:

- Android: NetLogger Companion or Net Scraper (Google Play Store)
- iPhone: NetLogger Companion (Apple App Store)

Happy Thanksgiving & 73,

KU8T Tom

Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box15127, Fort Wayne, IN



We start this time with a somber note: former president of FWRC, Tom Baker, N9TB, has become a silent key. Tom started out as a DJ at a radio station in I believe, Byran Ohio and his life took him to Fort Wayne. He was a net control for a time on the Little Red Barn Net. He will be missed. Our prayers go out to his family.

Yes, it is Fall now and we are into the season of contesting, hamfesting, and elections. Since the Fort Wayne Hamfest has been moved to a single Saturday, November 21, the club meeting has been moved back to the second Friday of November, which would be the 13th. We originally moved the meeting date as not to conflict with Friday night setup at the Coliseum; but that is no longer necessary.

The meeting will be a special one this year. We promised a meal to all those who turned in a log for the Indiana QSO Party in May (24 logs were submitted) and the club once again won the "Top Club" award and plaque. So, the meeting at 6:30 pm EST on November 13th will be a pizza fueled gathering! Come out and enjoy! We will have plenty for everyone!



But wait, there's more! Ken, N8KR will have a short presentation and announcement. Plus, the club will vote on accepting the changes to the member handbook and bylaws. Then we will have our general election of officers for the year, 2027. There is still time to nominate someone or self-nominate yourself for any of the elected offices of the FWRC. Please consider giving it a try, it can be a load of fun!

The current slate is as follows:

President: Tom, KU8T

Vice President: Steve, W9SAN

Secretary: Al, WB9SSE

Treasurer: Bob, W8ST

Communications Director: Charles, KC9MUT

Director: Willi, KD9ZFP

Director: Kevin, N9KE

Director: Carole, WB9RUS

Director: Jim, KB9WWM

Nominations or self-nominations are open right up to the time that ballots are cast!

FWRC Officers 2026

President
Steve Nardin, W9SAN
(260) 602-3076
w9san(at)yahoo.com

Vice President
Tom Rupp, KU8T
mmrepair1(at)aol.com

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

Treasurer
Bob Streeter, W8ST
rdstre(at)yahoo.com

Communications Manager
Charles Ward, KC9MUT
(260) 749-4824
kc9mut(at)yahoo.com

Directors
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(260) 348-1171
kd9zfp(at)gmail.com

Carole Burke, WB9RUS
(260) 637-1989
wb9rus(at)comcast.net

Jim Moehring, KB9WWM
servo300(at)aol.com

Adam Warrix, KD9NRT
kd9nrt(at)gmail.com

The club usually does a raffle for a “renewal prize” at the end of the Hamfest. This year is no different, we will give each person that renews one ticket. People that have already renewed will also be entered to the drawing. Additional tickets can be purchased for $1 each. Our prize package this year is a vintage solid-state transceiver, power supply, and manual antenna tuner! The rig is a Kenwood TS-120S, an 80-40-20-15-10-WWV SSB/CW rig with a PS-30 power supply and an MFJ-949 tuner, plus hand mic and desk mic. This would be a fun second rig or POTA portable radio for anyone, and even Technician licensees can use SSB on the 10-meter band and CW on 80-40-15-10 meters. Photos of the prize package follow.







We will also talk about the club’s presence at the upcoming Fort Wayne Hamfest, which is put on by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (ACARTS). We have 3 tables, so if you wish to sell an item at a club table, that is fine, but please man the table for at least one hour.

I hope to see you at the Fort Wayne Hamfest in a few weeks (and also at the next FWRC meeting on 11/13 for pizza and other surprises!).

73,

Steve, W9SAN

P.S. Don’t miss pizza at the FWRC meeting on Friday, 11/13!

P.P.S. Don’t miss the 2026 Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo this month!

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB

FWRC MEETING MINUTES

9 OCTOBER 2026

The October meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club took place on 9 October 2026 at the Red Cross facility on California Rd. in Ft. Wayne with club President Steve Nardin (W9SAN) presiding. There were 22 members in attendance and the meeting started at 6:35 pm.

Steve started the meeting with the pledge of Allegiance and then followed by having everyone announce their name and call-sign.

Treasurer Bob Streeter (W8ST) provided the Treasury update as of 9 October, 2026 as follows:

Checking account balance is $6,161.77.

Savings account balance is $510.18.

Cash on Hand is $50.00

Vanguard Fund balance is $25,671.08.

Year-to-Date Operating Income is $4,930.27.

Year-to-Date Operating Expense is $6,144.78.

Year-to-Date Gain or Loss of Liquid Assets is a loss = -$1,214.51.

Current Club Account Total Liquid Assets, Year to Date = $32,393.03.

Year-to-date Interest Earned at Vanguard is $671.08.

Year-to-date Interest Earned at Partners First FCU is $0.18.

Club membership is 129 members for 2026.

Club membership is 1 paid member for 2027.

Vice President Tom Rupp (KU8T) gave a brief report on a POTA event that he activated on September 12th at Roush Lake. Tom, Kevin Emenhiser (N9KE) and Craig Houston (KE9EVB), operated for about two and a half hours on 40 and 20 meters and garnered 21,12 and 12 QSO's each. They used a IC-7500 running 100 watts into a Hustler antenna. Tom noted that band conditions were fair.

Board of Directors member Adam Warrix, KD9NRT gave a talk "Amateur Radio in Schools" where he described establishing a ham radio club at Snider High School. He contacted the ARRL and got a $1,500.00 grant for the first year and $750.00 per year progress grants. The club station features an IC-7300, a Aston linear power supply, an end-fed 80 thru 10 meter antenna, a Raspberry Pi computer and a Yaesu FT-60 handheld. Four students got their license and three more are working towards getting theirs this year.

Larry Temenoff, (KB9OS) commented on the recently formed ham radio club at Purdue-Ft. Wayne. A donated vertical antenna was installed on the roof of the Engineering building. Bob and Donna Streeter donated $1,000.00 to fund the installation of a feedline from the ham shack in the Engineering building to the antenna on the roof. Larry said the antenna is working well.

Ken Rogner, (N8KR) announced that the implementation details of the Remotely Operated Station project had been worked out. All that is needed now is to identify a location to install it with enough land to accommodate antennas.

Steve Nardin announced that a clean-out party would occur on Saturday October 17th at our Robison Park repeater site. Some items the club intends to keep, some we will remove and offer for sale at the upcoming Hamfest in November, some we will offer to give away and some we will junk.

People willing to serve as club officers or Board members for 2027 include:

President - Tom Rupp, KU8T

Vice President – Steve Nardin, W9LAN

Treasurer – Bob Streeter, W8ST

Secretary – Al Burke, WB9SSE

Communications Manager – Charles Ward, KC9MUT

Board of Directors – Carole Burke, WB9RUS; Willi Tucker-Hall, KD9ZFP; Jim Moehring, WB9WWM; Kevin Emenhiser , N9KE

The slate will be opened at the November meeting in case anyone else wants to run for an office and then elections will occur.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 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

From the ACARTS President

Well, after six months of commercial land mobile antenna shopping, making phone calls, and sending emails just to get vendors to call me back—let alone trying to negotiate a fair price with availability and the lowest shipping cost—it was like pulling teeth.

I finally found a vendor that I knew of in the past with the lowest price and shipping quote. I did have two other big suppliers that were decent on communication, but their prices were just a little higher.

The bad thing is I already knew I wanted either model A from company A or model A from company B. I can tell you these distributors or their employees don't seem interested in selling products. They must all be independently wealthy! Why didn't I order locally? There are two local companies only, and they could not top the quotes from over a year ago.

We even had a vendor that promised to send out an invoice, but after repeated emails and phone calls, we gave up.

So far, Primus Electronics has been found to be very responsive while dealing with three of their employees. They sent a box of goodies before we even committed.

It will probably be toward the end of the year before I receive the antenna. We will have to purchase the standoff, etc., a new jumper, inspect, and prep the antenna. This is after several other hoops we have to jump through.

We have been using a dual-band Diamond X-300A (2M/70cm) amateur-grade fiberglass antenna at 575' with degraded performance—totally wrong in use, but understandable.

Plus, we think this antenna has been up for at least 6–7 years. Please understand that there was only one feedline/antenna for two repeaters back then. Currently, there are three repeaters on one antenna/one feedline.

<u>Current Diamond X-300A</u>

Key Specifications

• Bands: 2 meters (144–148 MHz) and 70 centimeters (435–450 MHz) [1]

• Gain: 6.5 dBi on 2m and 9.0 dBi on 70cm [1]

• Maximum Power Rating: 200 Watts [1]

• Height: 10 feet [1]

• Connector: UHF Female (SO-239) [1]

• Wind Survival Rating: 112 MPH (without ice) [1]

• Construction: Heavy-duty fiberglass radome with stainless steel hardware



ACARTS Officers 2026

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

Vice President
Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP
260-704-7801
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Secretary
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Treasurer
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tres(at)acarts.com

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260-348-1171
cm(at)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
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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

Andrew DB-224(E) for 146.880 (-) TX/RX 141.3 W9INX/R (On Order)

The Andrew DB224-E (now manufactured by CommScope / Amphenol) is a 4-bay exposed dipole omnidirectional base station antenna designed for VHF mobile radio and repeater systems.

• Frequency Range: 138 – 150 MHz

• Gain: 6.0 dBd / 8.1 dBi

• Coverage: 360° horizontal beamwidth (16° vertical beamwidth)

• Maximum Power Handling: 500 Watts

• Impedance & VSWR: 50 ohms; 1.5:1 maximum VSWR

• Connector Interface: N Male (located at the bottom)

• Lightning Protection: DC Ground

• Physical Dimensions: ~270 inches (6,858 mm) length; weighs approximately 37.9 lb (17.2 kg) without mounting hardware

• Construction & Wind Rating: Aluminum radiators, silver color, and designed to withstand winds up to 81 mph (130 km/h) or 100 mph rated wind loading.

• Included Hardware: Features a 2-piece mast for easier shipping, N male jumper/harness, and DB365-0S pipe mounting clamps (fits 1.25 to 3.5-inch outer diameter round members).

Data Sheet: https://www.repeater-builder.com/antenna/db/pdfs/db-224-data-sheet-(andrew).pdf

Andrew DB-408(B) for 443.800(+) TX/RX 141.3 W9INX/R & 462.675(+) WRDC557/R (Already Purchased)

Data Sheet: https://www.repeater-builder.com/antenna/db/pdfs/db-408-data-sheet.pdf

Stay tuned for more updates on the ACARTS repeaters in upcoming editions of the Allen County HamNews!

See you at the Hamfest in a few weeks.

73,

Dan Dahms, N9WNH

Mark your calendar for the...



The 2026 Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo Is Less Than a Month Away!

Volunteers and vendors are still needed for this year's event.

The Fort Wayne Hamfest is less than a month away, and preparations are underway for another great event. We are still looking for volunteers to help make the hamfest a success. Whether you can assist with setup, registration, event support, or cleanup, your help will be greatly appreciated. Reach out to the following team leaders if you can help:

ACARTS Club Tables:

Jim Bassett W9YME
trrrrbo(at)aol.com
dir3(at)acarts.com
(260) 438-6664

Inside/Outside Traffic:

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

Hamfest Talk-In:

Jerry Etnier KD9QHI
kd9qhi(at)gmail.com
(260) 704-8018

Hamfest Security:

Dan Ungemach N9PAP

N9PAP(at)yahoo.com

(260) 385-3956

Vendor Check-In:

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

Planning to attend as a vendor? Be sure to reserve your table spot soon. Space may be limited, so reserve your table today to ensure your place at the hamfest and share your equipment, parts, and other items with fellow radio enthusiasts. Reserve your spot here: https://portal.conventionforce.com/index.cfm?aid=884

VE testing will be conducted on Saturday morning in the Archer Room A from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Anyone interested in taking an examination or advancing their license is encouraged to arrive early and allow enough time for registration. Pre-register here: https://hamstudy.org/sessions/6a2d52156287c649e189d3d8/1

Mark your calendar for Nov 21st, reserve your table, and consider volunteering. We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo!

73,

Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP

54TH FORT WAYNE HAMFEST & Computer Expo

Sponsored by Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

ARRL Representatives

Brian Sexton KD9EDR
INARRL Section EC

Bob Burns AK9R
INARRL Section Manager

Josh Long W9HT
ARRL Central Division Director

November 21st, 2026

SAT 9 AM to 5 PM

Admission: $10
Children under 12 free
(with adult)

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

WAS & DXCC Card Checking and CQ Awards
New & Used Ham Equipment Dealers
Main & Hourly Door Prizes

2 Rooms of Special Interest Forums All Day Saturday
Talk-in Radio Frequency 146.880 (-) PL 141.3

Tables: Starting at $25 Regular thru $90 Premium Main Endcap, $40 Electricity

Drive Directly to Your Table for Setup

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

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

Hamfest General Questions:
Email: info@fwhamfest.com
Table Questions:
orders@fwhamfest.com
Mail: PO Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851
Phone: (260) 579-2196

Here Comes the Low Band DX and Contest Season

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Wow – it's November already! And that means the low band DX and contest season is underway. We've already had some good North America-to-Europe QSOs on 160m in late September. Next up was the CQ WW DX Phone contest (end of October) and then the forthcoming CQ WW DX CW contest. Then we have the ARRL 160m contest in December, followed by the ARRL DX contests in February and March. And don't forget the Stew Perry event in December.

As fall continues and winter approaches, nighttime gets longer in the northern hemisphere to make paths between the three major contest areas (North America, Europe, Japan) more in darkness. This is good for the low bands, especially on 160m.

We're also in the decline of Solar Cycle 25. There will be less ionospheric absorption that reduces signal strengths, because Earth is appropriately tilted so that the Sun shines on the southern hemisphere in fall and winter. But unfortunately, the decline of a solar cycle has the most and the severest geomagnetic storms that adversely impact the ionosphere – which come from coronal holes. Remember that coronal mass ejections are most prevalent around solar maximum.

There are three other issues that may adversely impact low band DXing and contesting. First, and most obvious, is man-made noise. As we bring more electronics into our culture, man-made noise increases. Man-made noise is highest on the low bands, making low band signals nearest the noise floor of your environment. Figure 1

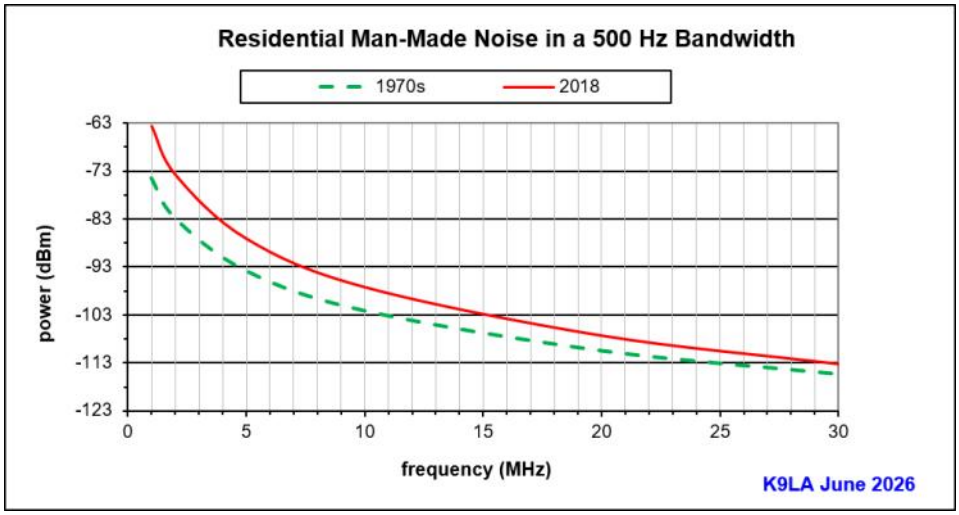


Figure 1 – Old noise data versus new noise data

shows man-made noise versus frequency in a CW bandwidth in a residential noise environment in the 1970s versus new data in 2018.

Man-made noise on 160m in a residential environment is about 10 dB worse nowadays. That is significant. 80m is a bit less, and 40m is about one S-unit worse now. In a rural noise environment, 160m and 80m are still several dB worse now.

Second, more CO_2 (carbon dioxide) is being injected into the atmosphere due to global warming. A simulation in 2008 showed that if the amount of CO_2 is doubled, the number of electrons below 250 km increases. Thus, there may be more electrons in the D region and lower E region, causing more ionospheric absorption.

Third, more satellites are being launched into Earth orbit. For example, navigation constellations, space telescopes, Earth observation satellites and others make up almost 30,000 satellites. When a Starlink satellite de-orbits (this happens about every 16 hours), about 30 kg of aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3) is put into our atmosphere. In 2026, Starlink is on track to add between 26% and 39% to the natural amount of the Al_2O_3 in the atmosphere due to meteor ablation. This adds up to a giant uncontrolled experiment in atmospheric chemistry. We do know that Al_2O_3 can destroy the ozone layer. Nowadays, the ozone layer delays ionospheric absorption a bit at sunrise, which especially helps 160m. If the ozone layer goes away, we'd have much more to worry about than propagation on the low bands.

There's lots of interesting processes going on nowadays that could affect our low bands. It also might be worth looking at CQ WW 160 and ARRL 160 contest results from this upcoming season to compare these results to older contest data

.



A Diamond of an Antenna

Happy November fellow radio bugs! It's hard to believe we're almost done with the year 2026. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family (and that you join us for the Fort Wayne Hamfest!)

As promised in last month's column, this month, I'm going to give a quick rundown on a new antenna at station AC9EZ.

Over the past several years, I've used a variety of antennas for my vhf/uhf operating. My original base station antenna was a dual band j-pole for 2m and 70cm. Once that antenna failed (after about three or four years of steady usage), I designed and built a tri-band yagi, covering 6, 2, and 70cm using a unique coupled-resonator idea to drive the 2m and 70cm portions of my yagi via a 6m driven element.

Unfortunately, that antenna became inoperational due to a combination of user error (who was doing some antenna work at the time) and mechanical error (a too-small 3d printed bracket holding the driven element to the boom). So, that antenna is in need of a re-design and rebuild.

After talking things over with my family, I decided to go ahead and purchase a new antenna (a rarity for this ham!) and soon a Diamond V2000A from DX Engineering showed up on the doorstep, along with a new length of rg-8x coax (I had to throw out a couple of lengths of coax due to they're suffering some insulation damage over the years I used them).

Diamond antennas are never cheap, and the V2000A is no exception. However, after looking at the various reviews on Eham.net and the DX Engineering website, I felt reasonably confident that this antenna should last me close to 10-15 years.

The Diamond V2000A is an interesting tri-band vertical, consisting of an inner radiating element encased in a fiberglass exterior. Covering 6m, 2m, and 70cm, the antenna relies on three radials included in the package to serve as the "counterpoise" of the antenna (plus the coax cable).

The instructions that came with the V2000A give the following gain figures for 6, 2, and 70cm:

6m – 2.15 dBi , 2m – 6.2 dB, 70cm – 8.4 dB

The 2m/70cm portions don't indicate what kind of dB unit these gain figures are, so I can only assume that these values are also in dBi, as dBi values give higher numerical value than dBd and make for a better sales job.



6m is described as a half wavelength radiating element, while 2m and 70cm are two 5/8 and four 5/8 waves respectively. This should mean that the takeoff angle for the main lobe of radiation on 2m and 70cm should be quite low, giving me good coverage on those bands.

The main operational need for this antenna was twofold: First, I wanted an antenna that would give me access to both 2m and 70cm, particularly since I frequently use crossband repeat from my home to get into some of the local repeaters. Second, I wanted an antenna that gave me the opportunity to jump on 6m, in case of a big 6m band opening. For me, the V2000A fit the bill nicely.

Assembly of the antenna was fairly straightforward, although this is the first time I have ever purchased or assembled a collinear style vhf/uhf vertical. It took me about two hours total to get the antenna assembled, the joint weatherproofed with electrical tape, and the antenna installed on my military mast.

SWR results are a little mixed. 2m looks beautiful with fairly low swr across the band. 6m is also fairly good, although the antenna does not cover the entire band (an expected result). 70cm is bit more troubling, as I seem to have at least a 3:1 swr on much of the band. Perhaps I have something installed incorrectly or maybe the length of coax cable is just the wrong length producing a higher swr? If any of you folks might have a thought as to what might be going on please feel free to drop me a line at my email address: dfile13(at)hotmail.com or give me a call on the air if you hear me on!

One experiment I did try was seeing if adding a somewhat longer radial would change the 6m resonance point. I happened to have a stainless steel whip on hand from a different antenna and the experiment proved successful, as I was able to drop the resonance on 6m from the upper half to the lower quarter of the band. However, I then swapped back to the supplied radial, as I wasn't sure if the longer 6m radial was interfering with the 70cm tuning (it appears it wasn't).

The antenna is now installed with the base roughly 16-20 feet up, giving the antenna a peak height of about 28 feet above ground. I have found it to be an excellent performer and good quality of construction, with solid coverage on my primary band of interest, 2 meters. Although the sale price is a little high, if this antenna lasts for as long as reports have claimed, I think the overall value of this unit is well worth the price.

73 es good dx! De Jim ac9ez

Local SKCC News

Summary for October 2026

Details from the SKCC operating activities during the month of October 2026 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 October 10-11, 2026, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

N8KR	165
WA9BBN	99
W9HT	40
KU8T	19
WG9K	15
KA9GKE	11
WB9NOO	5
W9SA	2

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, Sept. 22, 2026, 8-10 PM local, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown:

NJ0U	38
N8KR	35
WA9BBN	25
W9HT	23
WB9NOO	4
KE9GBH	1

Please see the radiosport calendar later in this edition for this month's dates for WES and the Sprintathon.

SKCC will have a table at the upcoming Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo. Please stop by to say hello!

73,

Ed, WA9BBN

Halloween 2026: On-Air Adventure



Last Friday night, October 30th, I had the privilege of working the following characters (and just naming a few): Skull, Phantom, Igor, Bones, Slimy, Count, Lurch, Fang, Mummy, Casper, Blob, Boris and Elvira!

Yes, these are some of the names of the characters that made their way into my log in the annual Zombie Shuffle QRP event. In just a few hours I managed 81 contacts, all on CW (of course!) and was amazed at what my puny 5 watts signal could work: coasts to coast, Canada to Mexico, and even a European!

It was fun with lots of laughs! It's over for another year but will try to give you all a "heads up" for the event next year.

73 de N8KR - Booger



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:



Radioditty GS-10B Pro VHF/UHF handheld FM 8-watt transceiver with incorporated shortwave receiver. Like-new condition, little used. It transmits on the amateur 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands and receives on a wide range of bands, including the low frequency (LF), high frequency (HF), FM broadcast and VHF aircraft bands. Its receiving modes include AM, SSB and CW on the long wave through short wave bands and AM on the aviation band. A built-in Bluetooth radio enables configuration via a mobile app. This sale includes everything that Radioditty ships with the radio, including one 2,500 mAh rechargeable battery, one VHF/UHF antenna, two “donut” magnetic loops antennas, one USB-C charging cable, a belt clip and an earbud-style headset. This model sells new for $69.99 plus shipping. Offered here for $50 with local pick-up in Fort Wayne.

For information on this item, please contact Jay Farlow, W9LW at jmfarlow(at)gmail.com.

For sale:





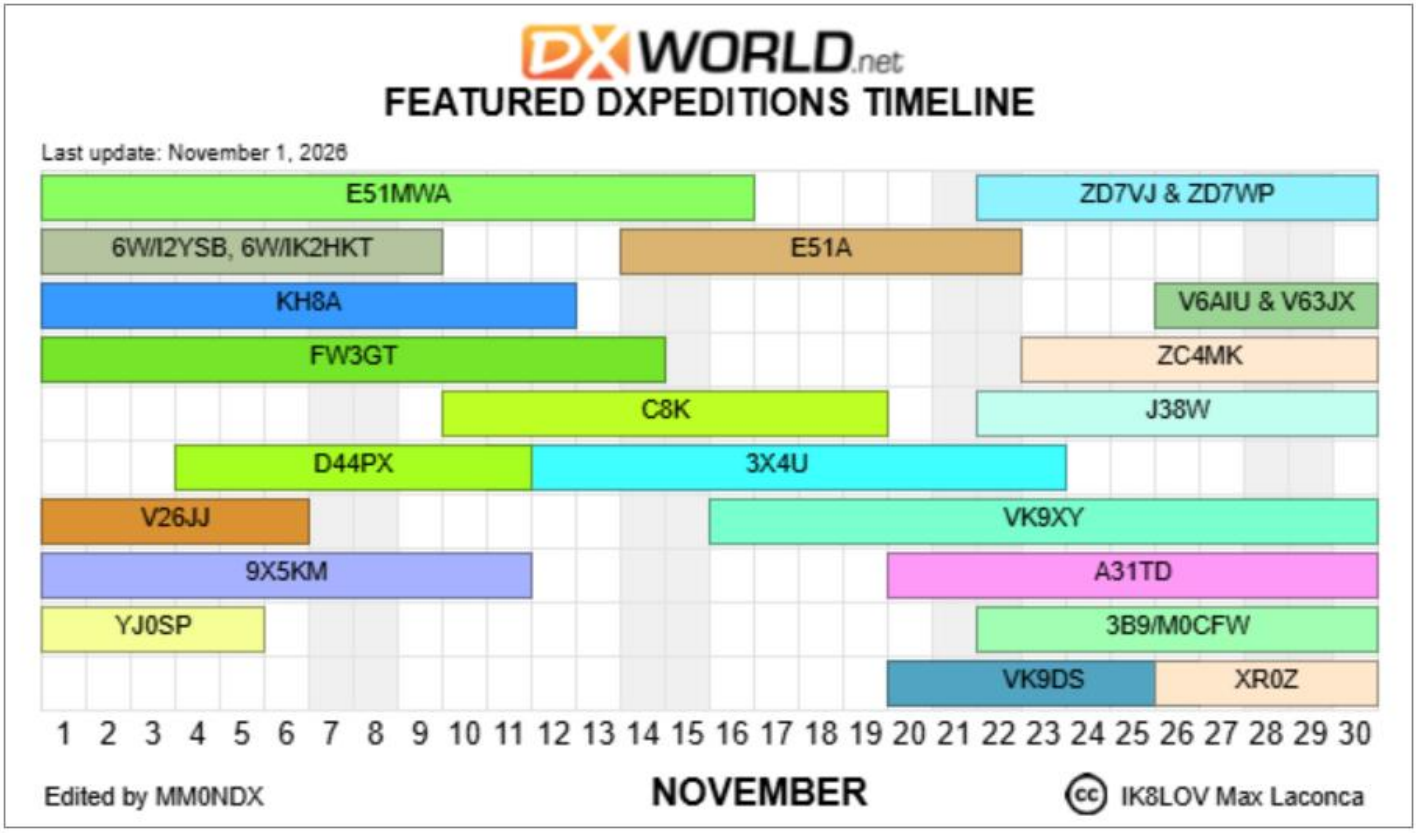
- ASTRON RS-35 Power Supply - $50 – In use last month – works great!
- Tenma Power supply – 30amp variable w/meter $30 quiet and works

For information on these items, contact Ken N8KR at N8KR (at) hotmail.com.

CAN DELIVER AT FWRC RADIO CLUB MEETING NOVEMBER 13 AT RED CROSS BLDG

November 2026 Radiosport and On-Air Events

Selected Monthly Operating Events: November 2026 (times and dates are based on UTC)	
11/7-11/9	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
11/14-11/15	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital
11/14-11/15	JIDX Phone Contest
11/14-11/15	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
11/15	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party
11/21-11/23	ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB
11/25	SKCC Sprintathon
11/28-11/29	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
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.	



This DXpedition calendar is a monthly feature and comes to the Allen County HamNews with special permission from and credit to DXWorld.net. This permission is gratefully acknowledged.

Area Nets (updated as of 11/1/26)

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
Weekdays			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 additions, deletions, or corrections to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.*

Allen County Area Voice Repeaters (updated as of 11/1/26)

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 net-worked	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	448.80000	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 11/1/26)

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	WRDC557	ACARTS

Allen County area data systems (updated as of 11/1/26)

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 send any needed additions, deletions, or corrections to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.*

Note from the editor. This information will be updated with new tables in next month's edition of the Allen County HamNews. Please stay tuned for more information in December!

A fillable version of this form is also available at: https://acarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ACARTS-2026-Form.pdf

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society – W9INX

P.O. Box 10342
Email Completed to: Sec@ACARTS.com & Tres@ACARTS.com Fort Wayne, IN 46851

ACARTS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership applications can be sent via Email, Postal, or in person at a member or a 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 or ☐ **GMRS Family Group

Do you want the Allen County Ham News Monthly Newsletter Emailed to you? ☐Yes ☐No

Amateur Call Sign: _____ Class: _____ OR/& GMRS Call Sign: _____

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: _____

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. Please use the backside of this page for other GMRS family household members.
*Website Publication Information is only visible to registered Active members of HCO & ACARTS.

Membership Dues are calculated as follows:

	Quantity	Total
Full Membership $20 per calendar year (Jan 1 through Dec 31)	_____	$_____
Associate Membership* $10 per calendar year (Jan 1 through Dec 31)	_____	$_____

Partial year membership's are pro-rated per month (at $1.67 per month for Full and $0.83 per month for Associate, until Dec 31 of each year). Please email Tres@acarts.com for details and to make payment of an initial partial year.

Total Amount Paid: $_____

*Associate Memberships also include Licensed Household members, non-FCC licensed members, and Students (under 18 Y.O.).
**We only ask that GMRS family groups pay for a membership for the primary license holder (but we do request that you list additional household member's names that may use your GMRS call-sign for our records). ACARTS Licensed Amateur Radio Operator members do not need to pay additional fees for GMRS use.

ACARTS appreciates your continued support, and your membership dues helps pay to keep the repeaters maintained.

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 2026

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.

AMERICA 250

Year of the Club 2026 Amateur Radio

2026 FORT WAYNE HAMFEST & Computer Expo

. . .

or bust!