

Allen County HamNews

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

May 2020

Volume 21

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2020

INDIANA QSO

PARTY 2020

**SATURDAY
MAY 2
11AM-11PM**

12 HOURS OF OPERATING, FUN, AWARDS

In this edition:

IN QSO Party
Page 2

From the Editor
Page 2

VE Sessions
Page 2

FWRC President's
Column
Page 3

Antennas 101
Page 3

Celebrating 100
years with 100 Con-
tacts
Page 4

ACARTS Presi-
dent's Colum
Page 5

Solar Minimum?
Page 6

MIQP Multi
Mobile
Page 7

For Sale/Wanted
Page 8

Contest
Calendar
Page 9

Daily Net Infor-
mation
Page 10

Repeaters
Page 10

Membership Forms
Page 11

From the Editor

I hope that you and your families are safe and doing well during this early part of May. This has been a difficult time for many people, but hopefully things will start to return to some semblance of normality soon.

This month's newsletter includes a few "new" additions, including the for sale/wanted section, the upcoming VE sessions list, and a Fort Wayne repeaters list. Please let me know if any of this information should be updated or if you would like to include any for sale/wanted listings.

If you would like to include any information in the June edition of HamNews, please have that information to me by no later than May 30th. This provides me with the opportunity to finalize content for the next edition of HamNews.

Have a safe and good month of May--catch you on the airwaves!

73,

Josh W9HT
drjoshlong (at) gmail.com

Upcoming VE Sessions

Saturday, August 8, 2020,
9AM until Noon,
Boy Scout Office (8315
W. Jefferson Blvd, Fort
Wayne)

Saturday, November 14,
2020, 9AM until Noon at
the 2020 Fort Wayne
Hamfest

GET ON THE AIRWAVES WITH THE

INDIANA QSO PARTY

Saturday, May 2nd
11AM-11PM

COMPLETE RULES AT:
[HTTP://WWW.HDXCC.ORG/INQP/](http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/)

In Brief: Indiana QSO Party

This event is being held this Saturday, May 2nd from 11am to 11pm. This is an all-out effort to support our club, FWRC! Both CW and Phone. CW ops are encouraged to make some phone contacts BECAUSE they count as new multipliers!! (Yes, they help multiply the cw points!) WE WORK EVERYONE!!!! States, Indiana Counties, Canadian Provinces are all multipliers. (Each mode! 302 possible multipliers!) 20 meters during the day, 40 later in the day, 40 and 80 at night. Work the same station one each band and each mode!

Make sure you indicate FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB as club affiliation as we will have a club entry.

If you need help, especially with logging software, please let me know. Good Luck!

73!

Ken - N8KR
n8kr (at) hotmail.com

Hamsplatter

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



Carole's Corner

Happy Spring. I hope everyone is holding up well under the constraints we find ourselves in. Nothing is normal and when we come out on the other side it will be a new normal.

We held an on-the-air Board meeting last month and we will do so again in May to decide how we proceed. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is still closed as I write this, but should be opening this month. We will decide about the May Fox Hunt, the May club meeting, and decide about a Spring Ban-

quet.

In the mean time, hold on to your sanity, and thank heavens for radios for communication. See you on the air. 73,

Carole WB9RUS

Antennas 101

I ran across a white paper prepared by Rhode & Schwartz entitled "Antenna Basics" that provides a great introduction into the art and science of antennas. It is sort of an entry level introduction to the subject that provides some insight into the buzz words and terms that can be confusing to those newly exposed to the subject. I think many of our club members, especially, newer ones, could gain a lot of insight into the subject by reading it.

The white paper is posted on the front page of the Allen County Ham News. An easier way to get to it is at:

<https://fwrc.info/2020/04/30/antenna-basics-white-paper-provides-helpful-information/>

I think you will find it very informative. 73,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



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Fort Wayne Radio Club W9TE

Celebrating 100 years with 100 Contacts

The Fort Wayne Radio Club in the year 2020 is celebrating its Centennial Birthday as it was organized 100 years ago. The Club has planned at this time no less than 4 Special Event W9TE operating activities throughout the year.

There is also a centennial event contacting FWRC members during the year of 2020. This event is not a contest but it is an event to celebrate the spirit of Amateur Radio and our Centennial. The event name is **Celebrating 100 Years with 100 Contacts**.

Event open all year, Ends January 1, 2021 05:00 UTC. Anyone can make 100 contacts with any FWRC member using any band, any mode, any amateur equipment. May contact same member multiple times per day only if different band, mode, or combination of both. Must make contact with minimum of 25 different FWRC members. Exchange info: Call, Name, City and, State or Providence or Country; Signal report, Rig and Antenna. Rag chew is encouraged.

Logs may be saved using a logging program. A file, containing only the Fort Wayne Radio Club members contacted, with contact information, date, time, mode and band, to be emailed to [kg9fm\(at\)arrl.net](mailto:kg9fm(at)arrl.net). Paper logs as done 100 years ago absolutely accepted. There are special certificates and QSL cards for all of the events. Certificates will be emailed.

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



ACARTS President's Message

As you are aware, the COVID-19 virus precautions required the cancellation of the ACARTS April board meeting and the Spring Banquet last month. For that reason, the May ACARTS board and general meetings are cancelled. One thing that was not cancelled was the FM VHH/UHF Simplex contest on April 4th. As the May 1st deadline for submitting contest logs is still in the future at the time of this writing, I cannot go into many details now. I will say that there were many

more participants and logs submitted than in past years, resulting in more contacts made and townships worked. ACARTS normally announces the results and presents the certificates at the May meeting, but because of the COVID-19 restrictions, it is unknown when the next ACARTS meeting will be. The 2020 Simplex Contest results will be announced in the June Allen County HamNews.

We are not making plans for June ACARTS meetings at this time as it is very doubtful that the restrictions will be reduced enough to allow group assemblies without "social distancing" and that the Salvation Army and the Red Cross will permit outside groups at that time. ACARTS has no meetings in July.

That brings us to the ACARTS picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 8th at the Jefferson Township Park. Let's hope that things will be pretty much back to normal by then and the park will permit us to use the pavilion and that "social distancing" restrictions will allow more than two people at a picnic table. Mark your calendars of the date, and I hope that I will be able to see you there.

In the meantime, remember that we are hams. Make use of your radios to stay busy and keep in contact with your friends via the repeaters.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

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W9INX

ALLEN COUNTY

AMATEUR RADIO TECHNICAL SOCIETY



When is Solar Minimum?

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

In December 2019, the international NOAA/NASA panel released their latest forecast for Solar Cycle 25. The panel concurred that solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April 2020 with an uncertainty of +/- 6 months. This puts the minimum anywhere between October 2019 and October 2020. If this solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the 7th longest on record (11.4 years).

Recently Frank W3LPL (of Multi-Multi contesting fame) hypothesized that it is 'highly likely' that the start of Cycle 25 occurred on December 24, 2019. That was when there was significant Cycle 25 activity from Active Regions 2753 and 2754. Indeed, a plot of Cycle 24 and Cycle 25 sunspots tends to support this – see the accompanying image.

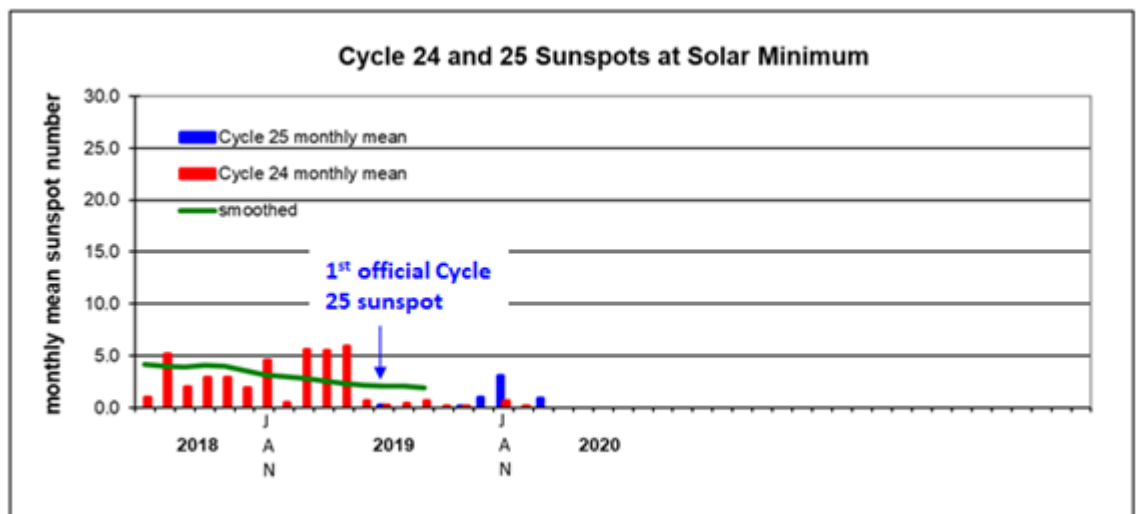
But note the Cycle 25 sunspot in July 2019. This sunspot lasted just long enough and was just big enough to be assigned an Active Region number – AR2744. The www.spaceweather.com web site on July 8, 2019 noted that "Record-keepers will likely mark this as the first official sunspot of Solar Cycle 25." It only lasted one day and was only one sunspot area, so it's easy to understand why the December 2019 sunspots from Cycle 25 could be called the start of Cycle 25 as these sunspots lasted for five days and included two sunspot areas. As a side note, there was another Cycle 25 sunspot area (AR2750) in November 2019, but it only lasted one day like AR2744.

So when will solar minimum occur? Historically solar minimum has been defined as the numerical minimum of the smoothed sunspot number. We haven't reached that point yet – but we're close. Solar minimum between Cycles 23 and 24 occurred about one year after the first official Cycle 24 sunspot. That suggests that our current solar minimum may happen in July 2020 (one year after July 2019). That's certainly in the range of the NOAA/NASA prediction.

Is the numerical minimum of the smoothed sunspot number a good indicator of solar minimum? That's an interesting question because other solar parameters may not be in concert with the numerical minimum of the smoothed sunspot number. For example, K. L. Harvey and O. R. White (What is solar cycle minimum?, Journal of Geophysical Research, Volume 104, Number A9, September 1999) looked at several solar parameters during the solar minimum period between Cycles 22 and 23. The numerical minimum of the smoothed sunspot number and the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux both occurred in May 1996. The TSI (total solar irradiance – the radiation from the Sun at all wavelengths) minimized in February 1996. The shift in dominance of Cycle 22 regions to Cycle 23 regions occurred in January 1997. The fundamental question is "what defines solar minimum?"

I even took a look at several solar parameters for the solar minimum period between Cycle 23 and Cycle 24. The smoothed sunspot number minimized in December 2008, the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux minimized in October 2008, the smoothed EUV (extreme ultra-violet radiation that ionizes the F2 region) minimized in November 2008, the smoothed Ap (planetary A index) minimized in September 2009 and the smoothed TSI minimized in November 2008. Which one is solar minimum?

For our amateur radio activities with respect to propagation, I don't think it's important to pin down solar minimum to the exact month. It's more of an emotional issue that says "at last – we're on the up-swing!"



MIQP Multi Mobile by Ken – N8KR

This year's Michigan Qso Party did not allow mobiles from Michigan to operate BUT out of state mobiles were permitted! So Josh (W9HT) and I decided to take a *three hour tour* to Michigan and operate from several counties. While I have operated HF mobile with my Icom 7100 (which also serves as my 2 meter radio for the vehicle) I decided to add more *sophistication* to the operation and incorporate the laptop, computer logging, and the Winkey interface for cw operation with N1MM logger. Folding the front seat down in my Ford Edge allowed a perfect table for the laptop while allowing me full visibility of where we were going and when we would be crossing county lines. With Josh in the driver's seat, I enjoyed the comfort of the back seat with my Kenwood 590, cw paddles, and computer. Josh, on the other hand, had the Icom 7100



and a microphone. Having two HF stations in the car meant we needed multiple antennas. Having multiple hamsticks we decided on taking 20, 40 and 80 meters. With a hamstick mount already on the back of the Edge, I grabbed an old 3-magnet mobile mount for the roof and Josh had a trailer hitch mount which gave us our three antennas. I mounted the modified 75 to 80 meter hamstick on the existing car mount. No one makes an 80 meter hamstick that will load or tune in the cw portion of the band so I added 2 feet of 12 gauge solid copper wire at a right angle at the base of the stinger. (It looked like a cross!) that brought the resonant frequency to 3.540 MHz. While hamsticks are not very efficient on 80, it did make a lot of contacts for us! The 40 meter hamstick rode nicely on top of the vehicle and that left the 20 meter antenna for the trailer hitch.



We spent about 3 hours in 7 Michigan counties and made about 120 contacts. We switched operating positions, switched antennas, stopped and modified the 80 meter antenna for SSB, had a fast-food supper, and enjoyed the beautiful day and evening. We had intermod between the two stations but worked together in timing qso's so we could continue to operate two stations. Obviously, there is much more to be learned about operating like this but it's nice to know it can be done! I'm looking forward to Ohio QSO Party in August!





For sale and wanted listings in this section are provided to members of the Fort Wayne Radio Club, Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, and the Fort Wayne DX Association. Listings can be renewed upon request to the editor (see pg. 2 for contact information).

- ◆ Kenwood TS-530S HF transceiver. For parts or repair. \$100. Contact Al **K9FW** at k9fw (at) frontier.com

- ◆ Icom IC-R7000 receiver. Comes with original manual and large schematic. The memory backup battery was recently replaced. \$200



- ◆ Vibroplex Vibrokeyer. In nice condition. \$125



- ◆ MFJ-969 - 300W roller inductor HF antenna tuner with lighted dual function meter and MFJ power supply. \$125
- ◆ Very solid antenna mast tripod, 32" tall and 32" from foot to foot. New and unused. \$20
- ◆ Enough ladder line for 3 or 4 G5s, just \$10

For any of these items, please contact Terry **K9FMX** at tjbowman (at) frontier.com

- ◆ Cushcraft A4S HF triband antenna. Also have the 40 meter traps. Currently up in the air and in use. Needs attention. \$100
- ◆ Three DC Astron power supplies in good working order: RS-12A (\$50), RS-20 (\$60), and RS-35A (\$75)



For these items, contact Ken **N8KR** at n8kr (at) hotmail.com

- ◆ Your old or unwanted item(s) could be listed here next month!

Contest Calendar for May 2020	
<u>AGCW QRP/QRP Party</u>	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
<u>10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW</u>	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
<u>RCC Cup</u>	0300Z-0859Z, May 2
<u>SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge</u>	0600 local, May 2 to 2359 local, May 3
<u>ARI International DX Contest</u>	1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3
<u>7th Call Area QSO Party</u>	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3
<u>Indiana QSO Party</u>	1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3
<u>FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint</u>	1700Z-2100Z, May 2
<u>Delaware QSO Party</u>	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
<u>New England QSO Party</u>	2000Z, May 2 to 2400Z, May 3
<u>MIE 33 Contest</u>	2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
<u>ARS Spartan Sprint</u>	0100Z-0300Z, May 5
<u>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon</u>	1200Z, May 9 to 2359Z, May 10
<u>VOLTA WW RTTY Contest</u>	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
<u>CQ-M International DX Contest</u>	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
<u>Arkansas QSO Party</u>	1400Z, May 9 to 0200Z, May 10
<u>FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint</u>	1700Z-2100Z, May 9
<u>4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint</u>	0000Z-0200Z, May 11
<u>NZART Sangster Shield Contest</u>	0800Z, May 16 to 1100Z, May 17
<u>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</u>	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
<u>Aegean RTTY Contest</u>	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
<u>Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</u>	0100Z-0300Z, May 18
<u>Baltic Contest</u>	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
<u>QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint</u>	0000Z-0100Z, May 25
<u>SKCC Sprint</u>	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
<u>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</u>	0000Z, May 30 to 2400Z, May 31
This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is gratefully acknowledged.	

RADIOSPORT

Area Nets					
Daily			Tuesday		
8:00 AM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	7:30 PM	147.150+	21 Repeater Group Net (97.4 PL)
8:30 AM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net
6:00 PM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Allen Co. ARES Training Net (141.3 PL)
6:30 PM	146.880-	IMO (alternate is 146.760)	Wednesday		
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRC YL Net
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	145.270-	Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL)
Week-days			8:00 PM	50.580 FM	FWRC 6-Meter FM Net
9:00 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net (141.3 PL)
Sunday			Thursday		
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL)	8:00 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
8:30 PM	1.965 & 146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	8:00 PM	50.580	AM 6-Meter AM Net
9:00 PM	145.53 simplex	Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2)	8:30 PM	145.510 simplex	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
Monday			Saturday		
8:00 PM	224.780-	Fort Wayne 224 Net	8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES(141.3 PL)
1. All times local time. Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com. 2. NEIPN is direct accessible via any BPQ Chat Node (or through Node hopping etc.) via other packet frequencies in this area and other areas through other nodes (it is locally direct accessible on 145.53 in NC & NE Indiana/NW Ohio and SE Michigan using KA9LCF-11, KC9VYU-11, N9LCF-11, N9PXO-11, K9BIF-11) Most BPQ Nodes use an SSID of -11. 3. Reflector REF024B. 4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred. 5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: http://www.inarri.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts					

Fort Wayne repeaters							
Frequency	Offset	Tone	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone	Callsign
145.330	-0.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	443.100	+5 MHz	141.3	K9MMQ
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	141.3	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	442.6375	+5 MHz	--	N9MTF
146.760	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	443.800	+5 MHz	--	W9INX
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	442.99375	+5 MHz	--	W9TE
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
				53.3300	-1 MHz	--	W9FEZ

FWRC Membership Application

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
 License Class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone #: (_____) _____
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? _____

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:

Regular membership	\$20.00 / year
Family membership ¹	\$30.00 / year
Student membership ²	\$5.00 / year
Associate membership ³	\$20.00 / year

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

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club (check number _____) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.

ACARTS Membership Application

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
 License Class: _____
 Street address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone #: (_____) _____
 Email address: _____ ARRL Member? _____

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

ACARTS dues:

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

(New regular memberships are \$1.00/month)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (check number _____) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

A.C.A.R.T.S.

P.O. Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.