

Allen County HamNews

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

November 2021

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Issue 11

In this edition:

From the Editor

Page 2

From the Hamfest Chairman

Page 3

Carole's Corner

Page 5

ACARTS Presi- dent's Column

Page 9

African DXpedi- tions

Page 11

Operating: Alive and Well

Page 12

Foxhunt

Chronicles

Page 14

Propagation Im- proving

Page 15

For Sale/Wanted

Page 16

Radiosport

Calendar

Page 17

And more!

IT'S HAMFEST TIME!

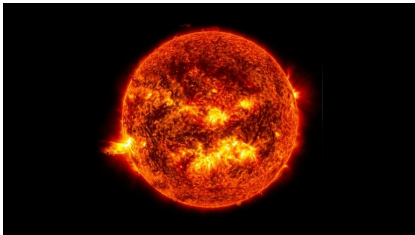
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21

Ramblings from the Editor

Solar Flare and DX: CW WW Phone

Right before the Halloween weekend there was a significant solar flare. The results on the HF bands over the weekend were stunning: 10m opened up (I was able to contact both New Zealand and Australia on that band for the first time in many years) and was able to make contacts with other exciting countries on the higher HF bands, including multiple contacts with China and other contacts with Thailand, Japan, South Africa, Namibia, St. Helena, Qatar, and others. Not bad at all!



Hamfest 2021

I am excited that the Fort Wayne Hamfest is approaching, especially since it was cancelled last year. Please support the Hamfest if you are able to this year. It is always a fun event, and many good deals can be found in the swap area.

Additional information about the Hamfest can be found in this edition of HamNews.

Giving Thanks

As we approach Thanksgiving in a few weeks, I would like to thank all of the writers who share their talents with the Allen County HamNews and also all of the readers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

73,

Josh, W9HT

ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

HAMNEWS IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB, THE ALLEN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO TECHNICAL SOCIETY, AND THE FORT WAYNE DX ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLES ARE WRITTEN BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF EACH OF THE THREE CLUBS. NEW SUBMISSIONS FOR HAMNEWS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR WITHIN TWO DAYS OF THE END OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT EDITION.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

**HAMNEWS EDITOR
JOSH LONG, W9HT
DRJOSHLONG (AT) GMAIL.COM**



FROM THE HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Greetings Hamfest-goers!

My name is Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP), and I am the 2021 Fort Wayne Hamfest Chairman. I would like to welcome everyone to the 2021 Fort Wayne Hamfest and let everyone know, that along with myself, the Hamfest Steering Committee is working very hard in putting the final touches on this year's Hamfest. Here are some of the highlights:

- The VE testing session that we are hosting in the Red Room will be a little different this year as we are having people that want to test pre-register so that the check in process is easier. If you would like to test or upgrade, please follow the link, select the Fort Wayne Hamfest as the session and follow the instructions that are listed at: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/N9QCL>
- Our team is working with speakers to fill the slots for forums, will be posting that schedule on the Fort Wayne Hamfest website when it is finalized and that can be found here: <http://acarts.com/hfmain.htm>
- We are also looking for some volunteers to help thought the Hamfest. If you are willing to volunteer, please email myself at chairman (at) fortwaynehamfest.com with the info listed below and we will find a spot for you to help out. Please let us know as soon as possible so that we can get your volunteer packet mailed out:

◇ Name,

- ◇ Call (if applicable),
- ◇ Mailing Address,
- ◇ Contact Number, and
- ◇ Time and date willing to volunteer

The past couple of years we have held a banquet Saturday night with keynote speakers and very tasty food prepared by the Coliseum Catering staff. This year we have decided to forego the banquet so that we are able to concentrate on the Hamfest itself.

We are looking to fill every vendor table, so if you know of a vender that has had a table in the past or is not sure if they want to come, help give them that nudge. Let them know that they have until Nov 6th to register and get their payment sent in! More information is available at: <http://acarts.com/tableinfo.htm>

We do want to let everyone know that if you feel the need to wear a mask, please do so as we are not requiring anyone to wear one. We are also asking anyone that attends to please leave any firearms locked in your vehicle. Thank you for your assistance!

Looking forward to see everyone there at the 2021 Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 13 and 14.

73,

Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP

2021 Fort Wayne Hamfest Chairman

FORT WAYNE HAMFEST 2021

DON'T MISS THE...

**2021
FORT WAYNE
HAMFEST AND
COMPUTER EXPO**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 9-4
&**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9-2

**ALLEN COUNTY
MEMORIAL COLISEUM**

[HTTP://ACARTS.COM/HFMAIN.HTM](http://acarts.com/hfmain.htm)

Hamsplatter

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

Carole's Corner for November 2021



Happy Autumn for those of you who like the cooler weather. I agree that the leaves will be beautiful, but the colder weather that comes with it too much for me! But, with autumn also comes the Fort Wayne Hamfest where we can see lots of electronic gadgets and other neat stuff. The best part for me is seeing people we haven't seen in a year or more.

More volunteers are needed to support the Hamfest. None of the jobs are hard and the more the merrier makes the work easier on all of us. If you can help out please contact Hamfest Chairman Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP [260-704-7801 or kc9ezp (at) gmail.com] and let him know what you can do to support the Hamfest.

It is also club dues renewal time with a chance to be included in a drawing for several interesting ham gadgets, a spectrum analyzer and a dual band H/T. Details are included in this issue of the HamNews.

Remember, the dues have increased for the 2022 club year by \$5 to \$25. This was not a decision we took lightly, but since we will now be charged monthly for

the use of the church, \$50 per meeting and \$150 for the use of Rausch Hall and kitchen, a dues increase was warranted. The dues increase is in preparation for the club years 2023 and beyond.

Our guest speaker for FWRC is Mike Maahs, Voice of the Tin Caps on The Fan, 1380 AM and 100.9 FM and also the voice of PFW Sports. This man has a great sense of humor and is a walking encyclopedia on sports. I'm sure we will enjoy him immensely. Besides all of the above Mike is a good friend of Al's and mine.

Hope to see you all November 17th at the Dupont Library at 6:00 pm!

73,

Carole, WB9RUS



Next FWRC Meeting

Allen County Library,
Dupont Rd. Branch

11/17 at 6pm

FWRC Officers 2021

President

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

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Bill Hopkins, K9WEH

Stuart Hall, KD9LFW

Newsletter Editor

Josh Long, W9HT

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

13 October 2021

The October meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Dupont Rd. branch of the Allen County Public Library on 13 October, 2021. We once again made use of a meeting room which provides comfortable space for about 35 people in a Corona virus compliant environment. We will hold one more meeting at this venue in November (on Wednesday, 17 November, starting at 6:00 pm). We will transition back to the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC), at the corner of Vance Ave. and Reed Rd., across the street from Snider High School for the Christmas Banquet (on Friday, 10 December) and then hold regular monthly meetings at the GSUMC on the third Friday of the month, starting at 7:00 pm, the same as had been our practice before the Corona virus struck.

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

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the current club Treasury statistics as of 13 October, 2021, to wit:

Savings-	\$1,841.92
Checking-	\$5,613.48
Vanguard Money Market	\$11,326.12
Year-To-Date Income	\$3,027.00
Year-To-Date Expenses	\$2,225.76
Club members count	137
2022 Pre-paid members	7

Paul Prestia, KA3OZP reported that all club repeaters are operational, including the 146.91 machine which is back on the air pushing about 60 watts. The internet connection has been re-established and Echolink is working. Bruce Dennis, N3QKX completed work on a preselector that will be placed in front of the .91 receiver to provide a tighter front-end, and we

have procured a low noise preamplifier to make up for the insertion loss introduced by the preselector. Paul will install these items on the .91 machine as his schedule allows. Al Burke, WB9SSE reported that we have noticed no desense of the 146.76 machine at Robison Park so far as a result of the low power FM station, WQSW being co-located with us on the Robison Park tower.

Al Burke proposed that we disable the input tone requirement to all of our analog repeaters during the week-end of the Fort Wayne Hamfest. This will likely be implemented.

Carole discussed the initiatives implemented to get the club meeting schedule back to "normal", i.e., back to the way it was before the Corona Virus descended upon us all. The use of the Allen County Public Library (both the downtown branch and most recently the Dupont branch) has provided us with a very nice venue. However, the various meeting dates available (especially not being able to meet on Fridays) and the restricted meeting times (6pm to 8pm) seems to have had an impact on attendance (average 15 members per meeting as opposed to 30-40+ members attending the Friday GSUMC venue).

As it turns out, the GSUMC facility is once again available to us. However they now are requiring a rental fee per meeting. Classrooms are available at \$50.00 per meeting. If we wish to use the large (Raush Hall) venue, the fee is \$100.00. And if we need to use the kitchen an additional \$50.00 fee is required per event.

Club members Adam and Meghan Warrix, KD9NRT & K9ODP have graciously donated \$600.00 towards renting the GSUMC facilities during 2022, and we have booked Raush Hall for the Christmas Banquet (10 December). In order to otherwise finance use of the GSUMC facilities the FWRC must pay its own way. Therefore the Board proposed that we increase yearly dues from the present \$20.00 per year to \$25.00 per year which would essentially offset the rental fees.

There was considerable discussion on this proposal from the floor with everyone generally being ok with an increase in the dues. So a motion from the floor for a vote to increase the dues from \$20.00/year to \$25.00/year starting in 2022 was put and second-

ed. Hence a hand vote of the members present was taken and was unanimously approved. Therefore the dues rate starting with the 2022 club year will be \$25.00 per year.

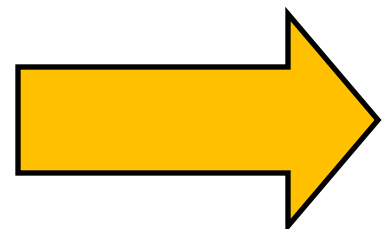
Carole reminded everyone that our Christmas Banquet will occur at the GSUMC on 10 December in Raush Hall. The club will provide baked and fried chicken, coffee, ice tea and punch, as usual, plus plates, cutlery, napkins, etc., the usual stuff. Attendees will provide the real goodies; we leave it to your imagination. (Al Burke noted that the theme this year is.....meat balls and/or deviled eggs...; he tries this gambit every year). Carole will probably provide a large quantity of Sauer-Kraut (which, irrationally to the Secretary), seems to be a favorite.

Election of club Officers and Board members occurred during this meeting. Since there was only one person each willing to run for the various Officer positions, those persons were elected by default. They are:

- President – Carole Burke, WB9RUS
- Vice President – Paul Prestia, KA3OZP
- Treasurer - Bob Streeter, W8ST
- Secretary – Al Burke, WB9SSE
- Communications Manager – Charles Ward, KC9MUT
- Editor - Josh Long, W9HT

We had five persons sign-up to run for the four Board of Director positions, they were:

- Terry Bowman, K9FMX
- Clark Derbyshire, KG9FM
- Bill Hopkins, K9WEH
- Steve Nardin, W9SAN
- Larry Temenoff, KB9OS



Carla Barrett, KD9ITZ was kind enough to collect the ballots and count the results, and she reported that our new Board members for the 2022 club year are:

- Terry Bownan, K9FMX
- Clark Derbyshire, KG9FM
- Steve Nardin, W9SAM
- Larry Temenoff, KB9OS

Carole expressed a thank you to everyone who was willing to serve and run for office, and especially thanked Bill Hopkins for the service he provided as a Board member this year.

Following the business meeting Tom Rupp, KU8T provided an excellent and informative presentation on his adventures in the Parks On The Air program which is gaining popularity within the amateur radio community.

The meeting adjourned about 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club



FWRC “New Ham” HF Station To Be Given Away At The Fort Wayne Hamfest

Recently the widow of a silent key from the Allen County area donated an operating HF station to the Fort Wayne Radio Club for the sole purpose of getting it into the hands of a new ham to help him or her get started on HF. This station is comprised of the following items:

- An ICOM IC-745 10 thru 160 meter, 100 watt, multi-mode transceiver with matching ICOM SP-3 speaker.
- An ICOM SM-10 Compressor/Graphic Equalizer with microphone.
- An MFJ 949E Versatuner.

In other words, this is a complete HF starter station except for the antenna and coax.

New hams are encouraged to apply for a chance at the raffle of this station from now up through the conclusion of

the Fort Wayne Hamfest which will end on Sunday, November 14th.

For the purposes of the raffle, the definition of a “new ham” is:

- A person who became first licensed on or after November 17th, 2019, the license class being a Technician, General or Extra, and had not held a license prior to November 17th, 2019. This can also include a person who will be receiving his/her license by the end of the Fort Wayne Hamfest (November 14th). Hence a person who passes the Technician, General or Extra Class exam during the Fort Wayne Hamfest VEC testing session on Saturday, November 13, or a recent Columbia City VEC testing session, and has not held any class license prior to November 17th, 2019 would be considered a “new ham” for the purposes of the raffle.
- A person eligible for the raffle may presently have a HF capable receiver, but not an HF transmitter or transceiver. The ICOM IC-745 would represent the “new ham’s” first HF transmitter.

Anyone wishing to enter this raffle must contact the FWRC during the Fort Wayne Hamfest (at the club table), or prior to it by contacting any FWRC Board member via telephone or email (see contact list as follows)

- Carole Burke, WB9RUS, [wb9rus \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:wb9rus@comcast.net), (260)-637-1989
- Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ, [phixer \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:phixer@gmail.com), (260)-2463042
- Bob Streeter, W8ST, [w8st \(at\) arrl.net](mailto:w8st@arrl.net), (260)-672-9737
- Al Burke, WB9SSE, [aburke55 \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:aburke55@comcast.net), (260)-637-1989
- Steve Nardin, W9SAN, [w9san \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:w9san@yahoo.com), (260)-482-4039
- Bill Hopkins, K9WEH, [k9weh \(at\) outlook.com](mailto:k9weh@outlook.com), (260)-341-4338
- Clarke Derbyshire, [cderbyshire \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:cderbyshire@comcast.net), (260)-485-6255
- Stuart Hall, [stuarthall \(at\) aol.com](mailto:stuarthall@aol.com), (260)-418-1755
- Charles Ward, KC9MUT, [kc9mut \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:kc9mut@gmail.com), (260)-312-6338
- Terry Bowman, K9FMX, [tjbowman \(at\) frontier.com](mailto:tjbowman@frontier.com), (260)-705-7128
- Larry Teminoff, KB9OS, [Temenoff \(at\) pfw.edu](mailto:Temenoff@pfw.edu), (260)-490-3089,

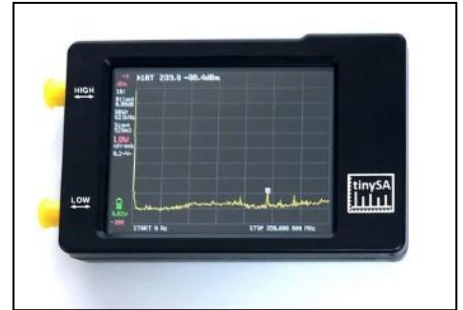
and provide information as to your being eligible to enter the raffle.

The drawing for the HF station winner will occur at the conclusion of the Hamfest on Sunday, 14th.

Fort Wayne Radio Club 2022 Dues Promotion

The Fort Wayne Radio Club is again holding a 2022 Club dues promotion which will include a raffle of two items consisting of:

- ♦ A SA handheld Spectrum Analyzer - 100 kHz to 960MHz MF/HF/VHF UHF- ESD Protected - 2.8 inch Touch screen. See: <https://www.tinysa.org/wiki/>
- ♦ A Baofeng UV-82 dual frequency (2 meters vhf and 440 MHz uhf) hand held transceiver.



The promotion is active now and will run through the end of the Fort Wayne Hamfest (the Hamfest ends on Sunday, 14 November). All persons who pay their 2022 FWRC dues during the promotion will be entered for one chance in the raffle. Additional chances in the raffle will be available for \$1.00 per chance and if additional chances are purchased they may be specified for either the Spectrum Analyzer or the UV-82 transceiver.

Folks who have currently paid their 2022 dues are already entered in the promotion. The list of those who have already paid their 2022 dues include:

W9GOO, WB9RKB, KC9GGV, KC9Z, KD9HWH, KD9SXX, and Chris Jehl

You may also pay your 2022 dues at the Fort Wayne Radio Club table during the Hamfest on Hamfest Saturday and again on Sunday until the Hamfest closes. People may also submit their dues by using the application form included in this edition of the HamNews. (See last page of the November HamNews.)

Mail it and your check to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club
P.O. Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

Those mailing their dues must make sure that the dues are received at the above noted P.O. Box by noon on Saturday November 13th in order to be included in the raffle.

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

ACARTS President's Message for November 2021

The Hamfest is almost here. The enthusiasm is high among the local hams. We will see how much of that excitement



carries over to out-of-town amateurs. The vendors are still deciding whether to attend or not, so how much smaller it will be is still unknown. The forum slots are filling up, so the enthusiasm has carried over to other aspects of amateur radio other than buying and selling equipment. If you want to help and work at the Hamfest for an hour or two, let Fred, KC9EZP, know of your desire and availability. We can always use more people.

Another way that you can help the club is to run for office, either as an officer or a board member. You can help shape the future of ACARTS. Chris, W9TSB, as head of the nominating committee, is actively seeking members that would like to be on the November ballot. Let Chris know that you would like to run for office or that you would like more information

as to what the various positions entail.

The November board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9th at the Salvation Army.

We are actually having a general meeting in November, and it is an important one. The meeting will be the Hamfest wrap-up and the club elections for 2022. It will be held on Tuesday, November 16th, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Salvation Army. Entry to the sanctuary will be thru the Metz room, where we hold our board meetings. I hope to see you there.

Save the date of December 21st. That is when the Christmas Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty Diner. I will begin taking reservations around the first of December.

73,

Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

**Next ACARTS
General Meeting**

11/16 at 7pm

ACARTS Officers 2021

President

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

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kd9lrw(at)gmail.com

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n9ads(at)arrl.net

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260-999-8132
Kd9npl(at)gmail.com

Fundraising Manager

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

Directors at Large

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

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

(1 open position)

W9INX Trustee

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

ACARTS October 2021

Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dave, W9LKH. Dave reported that he had received an e-mail from a new Salvation Army administrator, who had seen us leaving after last month's board meeting and had no idea who we were. She requested a meeting with her and the unit captain. Dave set up and attended the meeting and explained that we have been using the facility for over 15 years, have never had a contract, and don't pay rent, but do make an annual donation. They stated that we would need a formal contract in the future, that the donation was OK in lieu of rent, and offered the use of the sanctuary for general meetings, or large board meetings. They said that they would be preparing a proposed contract.

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

Dave then turned the meeting over to Fred, KC9EZIP, for a Hamfest Committee meeting. Final details of the Hamfest were discussed with the attending Hamfest managers.

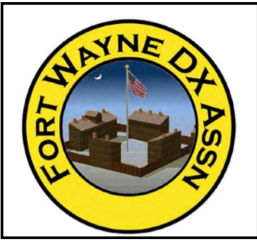
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Dave Lindquist, W9LKH

Allen County Amateur
Radio Technical Society

African DXpeditions Live Up the Higher Bands

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA



The month of October 2021 gave us four major DXpeditions to Africa: S9OK (Sao Tome and Principe),

3DAØRU (Kingdom of Eswatini), J5T (Guinea Bissau) and 7P8RU (Lesotho). Because of covid travel restrictions, there hadn't been many DXpeditions prior to October to light up the bands. Of course being at solar minimum for the past several years didn't help, either.

Thus these four DXpeditions came at an opportune time. First, DXers needed to get back on the air to make sure they still know how to get through a pile-up and to make sure their stations are operating at their best level. Second, Cycle 25 is definitely starting its rise (the rise is

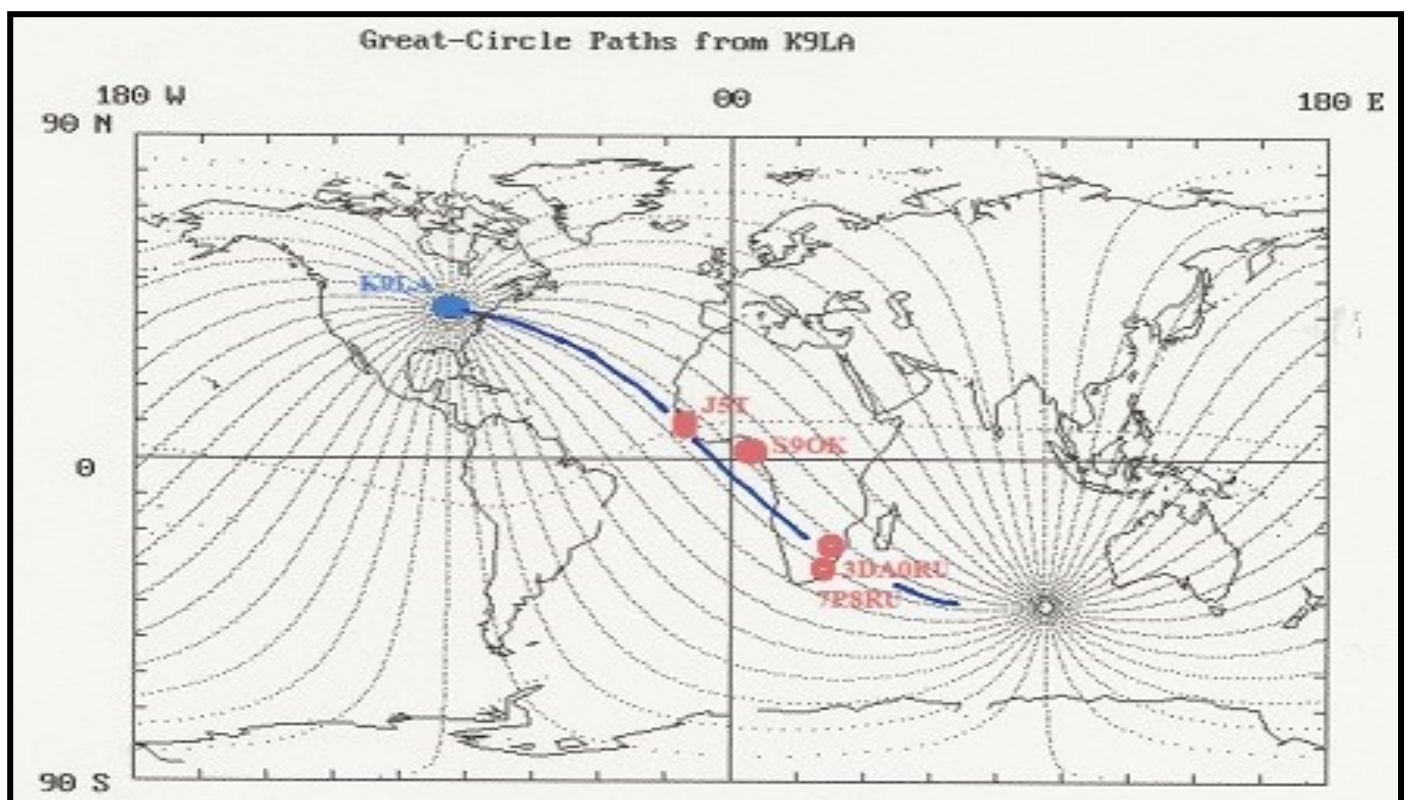
kind of slow right now, though). Third, moving into the fall and winter months results in the highest daytime F2 region ionization in the northern hemisphere – which helps many of us on the first hop on the path to Africa. And fourth, the paths to these four locations stay at relatively low latitudes, where the ionosphere is most robust.

The accompanying figure shows great circle paths out of Fort Wayne to the African locations. The 95 degree heading out of K9LA is highlighted in blue, and for all intents and purposes it was the heading to all four DXpedition locations. As a side note, my Tennadyne T6 log periodic dipole array with only six elements on a 12-foot boom does not have a razor-sharp azimuth pattern – I could have pointed it anywhere from about 80 degrees to 110 degrees with no difference in signal strength.

With my Command Technologies amplifier out of service for repair work, I used my Ameritron

AL-811H at about 500 Watts output to work these DXpeditions on 80m through 10m (I didn't have a 160m antenna up at the time). Their signals on 15m, 12m and 10m were very welcome after so many years of nothing but occasional South Americans. It was fun (but sometimes frustrating) to jump back into a pile-up after not having done it for many years. And it was great to learn that I still remembered how to operate my Ten-Tec Omni VII in the split mode.

If you chased any of these DXpeditions (or all of them), I hope you had fun doing so. And I hope that these October DXpeditions will be the start of many more DXpeditions – in other words, we'll get more back to normal. I've seen many planned operations for the CQ World Wide DX Contests. The Phone weekend should be over by the time you're reading this. And I'm sure the CW weekend will offer many opportunities to work DX worldwide, too.



Tuning Up

CW Operating: Alive and Well

By Jim, AC9EZ

Although CW is no longer required for receiving one's license in the USA, CW has far from expired. The CW mode remains popular amongst hams around the world, and part of that popularity is due to the existence of dedicated CW clubs. For this month's article, let's take a look at some of these CW clubs and what their main focuses are.



SKCC- the Straight Key Century Club

Probably every ham in north-east Indiana has heard of SKCC, but it can be helpful to take a deeper look into the club and some of its aims. SKCC, short for Straight Key Century Club, is actually a fairly new or-

ganization, having been founded in January of 2006 (immediately following the traditional "Straight Key Night" held and sponsored on January 1, UTC by the ARRL). In the 15 years since its founding, the SKCC has grown by leaps and bounds, with a membership of over 25,000 (and still growing!)

The purpose of the SKCC is to encourage manually-sent CW, either via a straight key, a "cootie" or sideswiper key, or a bug (all types of CW keys that generate CW characters when physical pushed or tapped). The group holds monthly events such as the "Weekend Sprintathon" (WES), a Tuesday sprint (held one Tuesday per month), a "Slow Speed Saunter" (for ops that may not be able to send faster than a few words per minute), and a host of other activities. Membership in the organization is totally free, with membership done via an online sign up on the SKCC website (or in person at a local hamfest). Once a new member signs up for SKCC, that person receives an SKCC membership number (some number that, at this point, will be in the 25,000 range). To that number, certain letters like "S", "T", or "C" may be added, indicating various award achievements. Fort Wayne, Indiana actually boasts one of the most active groups of SKCC members of any city in the USA, lead by the efforts of SKCC member Ken, N8KR, (SKCC # 7559s).

NAQCC - the North American Qrp CW Club

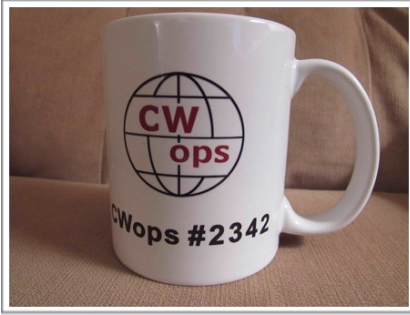
A similar organization to the SKCC is the NAQCC. The NAQCC was started in October of 2004, with a current member-

ship of over 9,800. The club focuses primarily on encouraging and utilizing Qrp power levels (power outputs of 5 watts or less) for CW operation. Additionally, according to the NAQCC's website, the club is also dedicated to "...pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes."

The NAQCC, like the SKCC, offers free membership to any interested amateur, again with members receiving a membership number. The club offers various awards and hosts several contests, such as the monthly sprints (held on a Wednesday evening).

The NAQCC differs from the SKCC in a few different respects. Firstly, for the NAQCC monthly sprints, stations are split into two main entry groups - those who use antennas that meet the NAQCC's definition of a "simple wire antenna", and those who use "gain" antennas. Within each main antenna category are three sub-categories based upon what type of key is used by the entrant, straight keys, Bug users, and electronic keyers or keyboards. Point multipliers are given to entrants based upon the type of key they use, with straight key users receiving a x2 to their score, and Bug users receiving a x1.5 to their score. Fort Wayne, IN has several NAQCC members in its ranks (demonstrating the widespread interest in CW in the northeastern Indiana area).

CWops - the CW Operator's Club



CWops is an interesting club that was founded in January of 2010. The club now has a membership of nearly 3,000. The purpose of CWops is to promote the ability to send and receive high speed CW at or above 25 wpm (words per minute). The club hosts a variety of activities and contests, including weekly sprints (the CWT's, held every Wednesday), the annual CWO (the CW Open, held every September), and the QTX award (which encourages members to carry on rag chews using CW).

Membership in CWops is somewhat unique in that members are invited to join, rather than simply signing up. New members must be capable of sending/receiving at 25 wpm, and they must be nominated (and sponsored) by four current members of CWops. Once invited into CWops, members pay a membership fee (varying from \$12 per year to a one-time payment of \$100 for a lifetime membership). Probably one of the most well-known activities promoted by CWops is their CW training program, called "CW Academy", which connects CW teachers or mentors with "classes" of CW-interested students. These classes are held virtually via zoom or skype, and the classes themselves are offered for a variety of CW skill

levels, from those who know nothing about CW to those who are comfortable sending CW at 20+ wpm. There are a few CWops members in the Fort Wayne area, with 29 members total in the state of Indiana.



FISTS CW Club

One of the oldest CW clubs in existence today is a group called FISTS. The name for FISTS comes from the nickname that developed in describing the sending style or characteristics of a CW operator (the operator's "fist" or sending characteristics might be how they send certain letters or words or how much spacing they put between code characters). FISTS was founded in 1987 in England, and since then has grown to be an international organization with thousands of members.

According to the FISTS NA website, the purpose of FISTS is to encourage CW operation and to introduce newcomers to CW operation, all while engendering friendship amongst the members. For the western hemisphere, operators may join the Americas chapter of FISTS if they are living in North, South, or Central America or one of the islands associated with North/South America. Membership currently is lifetime (dues free), and the group offers operating

awards and an online newsletter.

There are many, many more CW-centered clubs in existence in the world of amateur radio today, such as FOC and Flying Pigs, but the above mentioned organizations are a good example of how popular CW operation has become in the world of ham radio today. With organizations dedicated to high speed operating, low power operating, and manually-sent CW, the proud tradition of CW operation by ham radio operators will remain alive and well for many years to come.

73 de Jim AC9EZ

CWops #2342
SKCC #10658t
NAQCC #6672





FOXHUNT CHRONICLES

OCTOBER 2021

The weather on Sunday, October 3rd, 2021 was really quite pleasant. Despite that, only one fox hunt team showed up for the contest, that being Charles Ward, KC9MUT. Disappointing, but it can happen from time to time.

The Fox was comprised of Jim and Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI plus Carole and Al Burke, WB9's RUS and SSE. They hid the microfox deep within the bushes, just to the north of East Main St., of the Fort Wayne Civic Center parking lot (@ 41.081094, - 85.136551). The microfox was placed deep within the bushes and proved to be a frustrating challenge to find visually.



The hunt started promptly at 13:30 local time with the high power putting about 30 watts into a roof mounted monopole on 146.430 MHz. The high power fox would broadcast for one minute followed by the microfox (about 20 milliwatts) the following minute and then one and one minutes later for one minute and then the cycle would repeat, every five minutes.

Evidently Charles heard the fox from his starting point at Colbin Memorial Park from the get-go and proceeded to track us down at the Civic Center. He arrived on scene about forty five minutes into the hunt. Once localized, it took him about twenty five minutes to find the micro-fox, and we chuckled at his frustration as he knew the microfox was located in those bushes, he just couldn't see it!



After the hunt we proceeded to Hall's Hollywood and partook in our repast.

So Charles will serve as the fox for the November hunt (7 November, mark it on your calendar). The November hunt will be the last hunt of the year. They will resume in February of next year.

The scores for October and year-to-date are as below:

HUNTER	OCTOBER SCORE	YTD SCORE
WB9SSE	2	26.08
WB9RUS	2	24.08
KA9YYI	2	27.08
K9OMA	2	25.08
KC9MUT	2	38.2
W9SAN	0	26
W9LAN	0	25
ALEX	0	25
K9WEH	0	8
KD9NIV	0	3
N9FEB	0	8
KD9QHI	0	3.5
WILLIE	0	3.5
N9DC	0	4
KD9OKH	0	4
KD2TCP	0	3
KW9S	0	2
KD9QQW	0	2
N9AMT	0	1
KD9SDY	0	3
KD9QHL	0	6
KD9NRT	0	2
KD9ODP	0	2

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Upcoming Foxhunts

November 7

Stay tuned for 2022
dates!



Propagation Improving . . . 10 and 15 meters

Last month I wrote an article about the simplicity of building dipoles for the higher bands, especially as the sunspots continue to increase and propagation improves. Little did I know that conditions would be stellar during the CQWW SSB contest the last weekend of October. 15 meters has been pretty good so I focused my attention to that bands during the Saturday of the contest weekend. WOW! 91 countries and over 700 dx contacts on that band! The afternoon had a great opening to Asia working numerous JA's and a couple China stations! Even though I have a yagi, Josh – W9HT worked many DX stations including China and Japan with his newly built/erected 15 meter dipole only 20 feet high!

Sunday, following church, I decided to take a look at 10 meters . . . WOW WOW WOW! It was loaded with DX. I decided to call CQ, (after hearing W9GT working his pileup) and over the course of the next hour and a half, I added 200+ dx stations to the log! The DX was thick from 28.300-28.900! Easy picking!

So, get those 10 and 15 meter antennas up and running. The high bands are back! The simplicity of the dipole along with its efficiency makes it a super antenna!

73,

Ken, N8KR

Check
out the
SKCC
booth at
the
Hamfest!



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

- Kenwood SSB Transceiver TS 520S \$300 OBO
- MC-50 KENWOOD microphone \$90 OBO
- MFJ 25 amp Mighty Lite Switching Power Supply MFJ-4125 \$80 OBO
- Kenwood SP-180 \$100 OBO
- LDG Electric YT-1200 Autotuner \$200 OBO
- Yaesu FT-950 HF/50 Receiver \$700 OBO
- Radio Shack DX-394 \$375 OBO
- Pyramid Stereo Equalizer \$70 OBO

For any of these items, please contact Cris Marshall at rubybell1963 (at) gmail.com 260-246-0686.

2 meter equipment (\$175 for all as one package)

- ICOM IC-2200H 2M MOBILE **\$90** (never transmitted)
- ASTRON RS-12M **\$50**
- DIAMOND F23A 2-METER VERTICAL ANTENNA. **\$50**
- ONE 2/44 ANTENNA MISSING A RADIAL **FREE**

For any of these items, please contact Gary, N9IJB at garysturm10 (at) gmail.com.

1) FlexRadio Maestro (Model B - power button on the left side) - \$1050 shipping included. A savings as prices have increased. DC Cable comes with an Anderson PowerPole connector.

2) Q5 Systems 144 Transverter - SN 1172, 25W output. Common IF, 28Mhz input. Complete with BNC cabling to a Flex 66xx series radio. Used in 3 VHF contests and occasional 2M FM operation, less than 80 hours in total. Power connector is Anderson PowerPole. Common RF, -20dBm to +20 dBm IF drive Level, PTT polarity Low (GND), Standard LO stability, Standard IF 28Mhz. - \$400 shipped.

3) BG7TBL GPSDO, complete with wall wart and GPS antenna. Used to provide a 10MHz reference to the Q5 xvtr - \$70 shipped.

4) RM Italy LA-144 2M Mobile Amplifier (SSB/FM), 70 watts. Used with the Q5 as above. 5W in, 70 out (xvtr power when used was dialed down to 3W), comes with Anderson Powerpole connectors - \$100 shipped.

5) Cushcraft A503S 3-el 6M beam. New in box. I opened the box up to look at it and it's been sitting in the garage ever since. Ordered from DXEngineering earlier this fall. - \$150+shipping (still comes with the original unopened packing slip).

6) Alpha 76PA Amplifier - NOT WORKING ... Wired for 110V but tripped the breaker when I put it in operate mode during a contest. A good parts amp, or if you have the time/resources to fix it, a pretty darn good amplifier. \$120 - LOCAL ONLY, not shipping this thing.

Email direct for photos, will be able to accept phone calls in the early evening hours (6-9PM Central). Phone is 815-683-8915.

Can also meet within reasonable distances of the Chicagoland area, i.e. within 45 miles of zip code 60506. Will ship via UPS, FedEx or lastly, USPS. Paypal preferred. 73 de WT2P

Major Contests November-December 2021

Nov		Dec	
6 2100Z	8 0300Z	3 2200Z	5 1600Z
ARRL SS CW		ARRL 160	
13 0000Z	14 2359Z	11 0000Z	12 2359Z
WAE RTTY		ARRL 10	
20 2100Z	22 0300Z	18 0000Z	18 2359Z
ARRL SS SSB		RAC Winter	
27 0000Z	28 2400Z	24	25
CQWW CW		HAPPY HOLIDAYS	

RadioSport

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

Fort Wayne area repeaters (updated as of 10/1/21)							
Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign
145.330	-0.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	443.100	+5 MHz	DMR	K9MMQ
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	P25	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	442.6375	+5 MHz	--	N9MTF
146.760	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	442.99375	+5 MHz	D-Star	W9TE
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3 FM C4FM	W9TE	444.250	+5 MHz	141.3	W9AVW
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
				53.3300	-1 MHz	--	W9FEZ

Update: The 146.91 W9TE repeater is back on-the-air as of 11/1/21!

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
Family membership¹
Student membership²
Associate membership³
(Memberships for _____)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:
Fort Wayne Radio Club
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.

FWRC Membership Application Form

(For the FWRC Ft. Wayne Hamfest 2022 Dues Promotion)

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
License Class: _____
Street address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone #: (_____) _____
Email address: _____ ARRL Member? _____
(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)
May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site? _____

Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:

Regular membership \$25.00 / year _____
Family membership¹ \$35.00 / year _____
Student membership² \$5.00 / year _____
Associate membership³ \$20.00 / year _____

¹ Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

² K-12 or full time student.

³ Unlicensed member.

You are automatically entered for one chance in the raffle for the

Spectrum Analyzer _____

Baofeng UV-82 Handheld Transceiver _____

Choose One

Additional chances at the two raffle items may be purchased for \$1.00 each.

Spectrum Analyzer _____ chances at \$1.00 each.

Baofeng UV-82 Handheld transceiver _____ chances at \$1.00 each.

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 bring to the FWRC table at the 2022 Allen County Hamfest, or mail to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club
P.O. Box 15127 Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

so that it arrives at the P.O. Box by noon on 13 November, 2021.

