

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

May 2023
Volume 24
Issue 5

HAMNEWS

**ROCKALL
DXPEDITION**

**THE
ARRL
WANTS
YOUR
INPUT**

**INDIANA
QSO
PARTY**

GREENE COUNTY

HAMVENTION 2023: MAY 19 - 21



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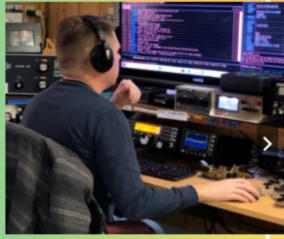
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And much more!

Hamming It Up With the Editor



As I wrote this column last month, an EF-2 tornado touched down just about a 1/2 mile north of my home. While there was some damage to numerous homes in my addition, there was no loss of life. My sincere thanks to all of the hams who helped on the **Skywarn** net that evening.

Hamvention 2023 is just a few short weeks away on the weekend of May 19-21. Whether this will be your first time or your 50th time heading to Hamvention, “Dayton” always proves to be a fun destination for many hams.

Indiana QSO Party 2023 begins on the first weekend of this month. Check out the information in this edition of HamNews.

In the March edition, Terry K9FMX told the story how he had a recent opportunity to tell a young person about CW and ham radio. It seems that there is so much that we as the Allen County ham community can do to help the hobby to grow. I think that most of the readers of this column would agree that most of the ham operators who are active in FWRC, ACARTS, and FWDXA are not exactly novices to the hobbies. I believe that numerous operators in our area have been licensed for well over 50 years. (I will qualify for QCWA next year, which is a scary realization.)

What can we do as a ham community to help the hobby expand to a **new generation of operators** in the area? I suppose that there are numerous options that all of us could consider.

After speaking with Larry KB9OS, Ken N8KR, Jay W9LW, and others, it seems that a class for individuals interested in the hobby is very long overdue here in Fort Wayne. While I do not

have a date for this class yet, please stay tuned. If you are interested in this initiative or getting involved, please let me know (my email address can be found below). What else could you do to help someone new obtain their ham radio license and get involved in the best hobby in the world?

Special thanks to Ted K8AQM for the notification about the upcoming **dxpedition to Rockall** in the North Atlantic Ocean. See the article in this edition of HamNews.

Have a safe trip to Dayton in a few weeks, and I hope to catch you on the airwaves for the Indiana QSO Party this month.

73,

Josh W9HT

P.S. Thank you to everyone who wrote a column or shared information for this edition of the Allen County HamNews!

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



LITTLE RED BARN NET

Next Dates would be 5/11/2023, 5/25/2023, 6/8/2023, 6/22/2023..... at 11:30am on each date.

If you want to be on the LRBN email list, let me know at gmrepair1@aol.com, or message me at 260-437-4676 with your email and call sign or name.

Net Control Operators are Monday KU8T Tom, Tuesday K9FW Al one round Net, Wednesday KD9HAV Norm, Thursday W9GT Jack, Friday K9SKS Steve.

Looking Back at April and Ahead to May

We had another great month on the LRBN -" Little Red Barn Net" Monday thru Friday at 9:00am on 3.820 mhz. LSB. We have about 14 to 20 check-ins per day, with self-generated topic's each day by the check-Ins, but Thursday when Jack W9GT picks a topic, and we kind of run with it, a lot of fun.

We have a Mobile web page at <https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile> works with Mobile and Computers systems. On the mobile page is Lunch information times dates, pictures of previous lunches and other information

Also we have at lrbn@groups.io | Home, and will need to sign up, this is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help I can invite you .

Also, Net Controls use Netlogger you may download the program at Download Center www.netlogger.org . Also, for smart phone's there is Net Scraper, on the android go to Play Store, and on Iphone go to App Store and download this app.



Also, we have a lunch every two weeks alternating from North Fort Wayne to South Fort Wayne. We usually have 15 to 23 participants at each lunch.

73,

KU8T Tom



We had two lunch's this month on 4/ 13/2023 at the Big Eyed Fish with 20 attending and 4/27 at Back 40 with 17 attending. Always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

If attending the Dayton Hamvention on May 19 at 11:00 to 11:30am, KU8T will be taking a group picture for the News Line and LRBN Group web page. Stay tuned for the location!



The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

AUBURN HAMFEST

New Date! **Saturday, July 29, 2023**

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

1600 S. Wayne St. Auburn, IN 46706

OPEN 9 AM TO 2 PM • TALK-IN: 147.015 (141.3) 7:00 AM • LOAD-IN: 7 TO 9 AM

FREE Admission

6,000 SQ. FT. INDOOR DISPLAY SPACE (Not counting the huge Museum Area!)



FREE AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG Museum

View an amazing collection of classic motor vehicles.

FREE Parking

Supervised by the DeKalb County ARES Team.

NEW this year—FOOD VENDOR on the parking lot.

NEED MORE INFO?
E-MAIL: W9OU@ARRL.NET

Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.
Order online now at www.w9ou.org

Outdoor Sales - One raffle ticket purchase for each parking space.

Contact: W9OU@ARRL.NET

Raffle Prizes:

- 1st-** Xiegu G90 HF Radio with Base
- 2nd-** Yaesu FT-70DR with Mag Mount Ant.
- 3rd-** N3FJP Logging software—Full Reg.
- 4th-** \$50.00 DX Engineering Gift Cert.

Ticket Prices \$5.00 - Buy 2, get 1 Free!

Complete and return
this form to reserve a
table at the 2023 Au-
burn Hamfest!



NIARA
PO Box 145
Auburn, IN 46706

Name _____

Business Name (if you have one) _____

Amateur Radio Call Sign (if you have one) _____

Street Address _____

Apartment, Suite, etc. _____

City _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Email Address _____

Number of tables to reserve (\$10 each) _____

Do you need electricity? _____

Notes (Additional information we need to know) _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

From the American Radio Relay League
Making a Big Decision -- Together

Dear ARRL Affiliated Club,

This Monday, May 1, ARRL will launch a survey for members, encouraging their participation as we consider a dues increase.

The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity for members to share their feedback.

The participation of every member is important. Please encourage all the ARRL members in your radio club to complete the survey in May.

The survey will open on May 1 at www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey. This is a member-only page. Members need to be logged into the ARRL website to take the survey. Members who are not logged in may select the Login button on the top of the web page, and they will be prompted to enter their ARRL website username and password. If they have not logged in since April 2022, they should use these Login Instructions.

Thank you in advance for urging all ARRL members to complete the survey.

73,

Mike Walters, W8ZY

ARRL Field Services Manager

PS: this message was sent to club Presidents, Secretaries, Newsletter Editors, and Contact Persons. We're grateful for all you do to help keep your club members informed and engaged.

Reprinted with permission.



I apologize for the delay in getting this out to you.

Next weekend, Saturday, May 6th, is the Trillium Fest at the LC Nature Park, We have been invited to provided communication support for the event. Our support will include visitor safety and weather watch.

The event is located at LC Nature Park, 9744 Aboite Road, Roanoke, IN. This is about a mile off of US 24 west of Fort Wayne.

See below for a map of the route.

Our positions will include the MEC, the intersection of Ridge Trail and The Alley, the intersection of the Alley and the Dune Loop and the Trillium Tent. The trail locations will require walking to those locations. The NCS station will be located at The Look Out.

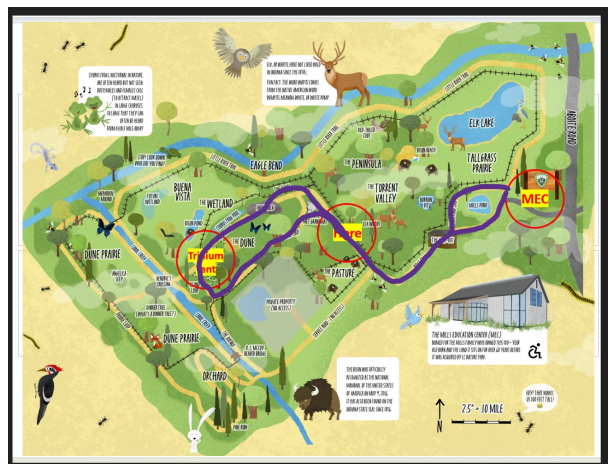
The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th from 12 to 4 pm. I anticipate we will need to be on location from 11am-5pm.

We will attempt to use simplex communications within the park. We may have some additional options available which I will advise later in the week.

If you can help out with this event, please advise me ASAP so that I can put the worker list together.

Thanks in advance!

Jim Moehring, KB9WWM
Emergency Coordinator
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Allen County, Indiana
Cell Phone: (260) 452-8559
email: kb9wwm@arrl.net

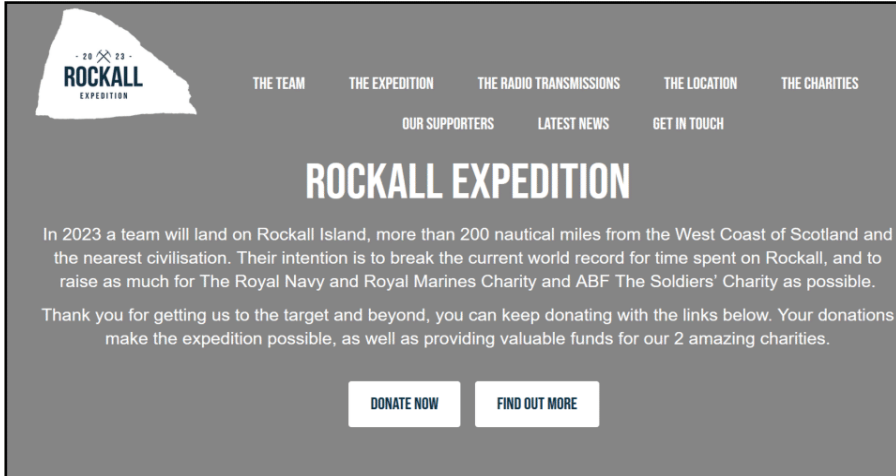


Special DX Section

(Courtesy of Ted, K8AQM)

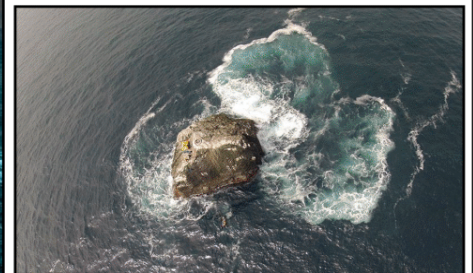
Rockall DXpedition

Here is an interesting happening, “Rockall DXpedition” and it’s for charity



“Google” the url below for full details and history. The event is happening in June 2023 and although not an SKCC operation, it would be a wonderful to have a QSL in the shack.

<https://https://www.rockallexped.com/2022/05/22/update-may-2022-expedition-pushed-back-to-2023/>



We are exceptionally fortunate to have some highly experienced and skilled radio operators as part of our expedition team. One of the World’s most Wanted IOTA’s **EU-189**, QTH LOC **IO37DO**. This very rare and difficult activation is set to go ahead in May/June 2023.

Rockall is an uninhabitable granite islet situated in the North Atlantic Ocean. The nearest permanently inhabited place is North Uist, an island in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, 200NM to the east. The UK claimed Rockall on 18 September 1955 when “Two Royal Marines and a civilian naturalist, led by Royal Navy officer Lieutenant Commander Desmond Scott, raised a Union flag on the islet and cemented a plaque into the rock”.

Rockall stands at 17.15m above sea level at it’s tallest point, covering an area of just 784.3 m².

QSL INFO & MANAGEMENT VIA **M0OXO** CHARLES [HOMEPAGE M0OXO](#)

Hamsplatter

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



FWRC Officers 2023

- President**
 Larry Temenoff, KB9OS
 Temenoff(at)pfw.edu
- Vice President**
 Josh Long, W9HT
 (260) 749-9851
 drjoshlong(at)gmail.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**
 Steve Nardin, W9SAN
 (260) 482-4039
 w9san(at)arrl.net
- Carla Barrett, KD9ITZ
- Terry Bowman, K9FMX
 (260) 705-7128
 tjbowman(at)frontier.com
- Carole Burke, WB9RUS
 (260) 637-1989
 wb9rus(at)comcast.net

The April general meeting included a discussion with three panelists who talked about Morse code in the past, present and future. This excellent presentation was conducted by Bruce N9DGL, Terry K9FMX, and Ken N8KR. I would like to thank them for the presentation.

The effort to archive old artifacts from the Fort Wayne Radio Club is in full swing. We're hoping to submit and close this project in about six weeks. If anybody has old newsletters or documentation that pertains to the history of the club, please submit it to me at temenoff (at) pfw.edu or Bob Streeter at rdstre(at) yahoo.com within the next few weeks.

After looking into the Old Fort for our Field Day operation, discovered that it is already been reserved. We are now actively looking for another location. All suggestions are welcome.

We have started the process of applying for a call letters for the Special event station on Aug 5th. This will be held at 2911 Meyer Rd. This was the old International Harvester engineering building. It was rumored to be the largest engineering facility in all North America at one time. This will be part of the International Harvester homecoming festivities.

Respectfully submitted by,
Larry Temenoff, KB9OS

Next FWRC Meeting
Friday, May 12th
6:30pm
Good Shepherd UMC
 Discussion topic: Go boxes
 (If you have a go box, please consider bringing it.)

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

14 April 2023

The April meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 14 April 2023. The meeting started at 6:30 pm.

President Larry Temenoff, (KB9OS) welcomed all attendees (about 30), lead them in a short prayer and in the pledge of allegiance, and had everyone introduce themselves by virtue of their name and callsign.

Bob Streeter, (W8ST) provided the Treasurer's report as of 14 April, 2023 indicating the following account balances:

Savings-	\$1,964.99
Checking-	\$7,187.53
Vanguard Money Market-	\$11,628.92
Year-to-Date Income-	\$905.50
Year-to-Date Expenses-	\$1,679.05
Club members-	138

Larry asked Bob Streeter to comment on the fact that both Larry and Bob held a First Class Radiotelephone FCC license (for employment at AM, FM, and TV stations). Bob also holds a Second Class Radiotelegraph FCC license (for employment as a CW station operator on the "high seas" and costal maritime stations) which makes him a somewhat rare breed in today's world. He obtained these very early in his career and used them to his benefit at commercial radio stations. The FCC has modified the commercial First Class Radiotelephone license to be combined with lower class licenses to be the current General Radiotelephone Operator license, and the telegraph licenses have been combined to the new Radiotelegrapher Operator license. The FCC has also created newer commercial licenses for the newer communications technologies.

Larry noted several upcoming dates of interest:

Peru Hamfest, Saturday, April 29, 2023; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST)

Dayton (Xenia) Hamfest, 19-21 May, 2023

Auburn Hamfest, Saturday, July 29, 2023; 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (EST)

FWRC Special Events station set up at the International Harvester Homecoming in Ft. Wayne, 4-5 August, 2023.

FWRC Vice President Josh Long (W9HT) is applying to the FCC for a special callsign in support of the event. More to come as this initiative evolves.

Larry said that planning for Field Day has begun and we are looking at returning to the Old Fort since the noise level we experienced at last year's Jefferson Township Park venue was an issue. The one question regarding the Old Fort locale is how much of a hassle the on-going construction around East Superior and Spy Run is likely to be.

Steve Nardin (W9SAN) noted that the Indiana QSO Party will occur on 6 May. See rules posted at:

<http://www.hdxcc./inqp/>

Last year the FWRC scored more than one million points and we should be able to do that again this year. All club members should operate from their home QTH, and when you submit your log be sure to mention affiliation with the FWRC/W9TE.

Larry is exploring starting a CW (code) class for wana-be cw ops. He is considering a beginners class conducted on the air using one of our repeaters. He is also looking at one-on-one class sessions at the church using code oscillators. Stayed tuned and contact Larry if you are interest in developing your cw skills, or are willing to serve as an instructor.

Al Burke provided a Repeater Update. All FWRC repeaters are up and operating, however:

The 146.94 MHz Fusion system at Parrott Rd. is working but has a low level buzz on its output.

The 442.99375 MHz D-STAR machine at Parrott Rd. is working normally.

The 146.910 MHz Echo-Link machine at P-FW is working normally.

The two 146.91 MHz satellite receivers are working normally.

The 146.76 MHz and 444.875 MHz machines at Robison Park are each operating on their exciters only. Tom Rupp (KU8T) currently has the 444.875 MHz P.A. on his workbench while Jim Pliett (K9OMA) is attending to the 146.76 MHz P.A. on his. The 100 watt P.A.'s for both machines have experienced failed power transistors in their signal chains; repair parts are on order.

Al noted that the (three) co-linear antennas at Robison Park, and the one at P-FW are getting long in the tooth and are exhibiting degraded VSWR's so it's time to seriously consider replacing them. To that end Al has agreed to discuss replacing the antennas with the power-that-be at Robison Park (I&M Power) and with Purdue-FW, and to obtain price and delivery quotes for replacement (folded dipole) antennas, and to obtain tower climbing quotes. If we elect to replace all of the antennas Al guesses we would be looking at an expense of around \$8,000.00.

Following the business meeting Larry introduced three speakers, Bruce Cadwell, (N9DGL), Terry Bowman, (K9FMX) and Ken Rogner (N8KR) to discuss CW operations and getting more people involved in the art. Bruce discussed the history of telegraphy, which started circa 1837, up through current times. Terry described his interaction with a very young grade school student who was interested in the subject and practice of operating cw, and Ken addressed the future of cw and its promotion via the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) which was started in 2006 and now boasts 37,000 members internationally and 88 local (FWA) members.

.Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club



Indiana QSO Party 2023

May 6 – 11am-11pm

Fort Wayne Radio Club #1

In the past three years, 40 different Fort Wayne Radio Club members have submitted logs for the Indiana QSO Party club competition. For the past three years our club received award plaques for being the top scoring club in the state. Last year we set a new record with a score of 1,187,825 points. So what does it take to hit the million mark again? The answer is simple . . . your participation! You don't need to spend 12 hours on the radio but you do need to make a bunch of contacts and log them. If you have a special logging program like N1MM or N3FJP, set them up for Indiana QSO party and you're ready to go. If you log by paper, use the logging and scoring sheets included in this newsletter. Some important points:

1. **EVERYBODY COUNTS: ANY ONE ANY WHERE!!!**
2. Multipliers include Indiana Counties, US States, and Canadian Provinces: 154 SSB, 154 CW 308 total!!
3. There are 15 states all having their qso parties on Saturday. . . answer their "CQ's" and log 'em! (In fact, answer anyone calling CQ – **EVERYONE COUNTS**)
4. Unless 40 meters is "short," expect to find Indiana Counties on 80 meters . . . especially in the evening.
5. You can work the same station on different bands and different modes (You can work W9TE on 40ssb, 40cw, 20ssb, 20cw etc.)
6. County line stations can be logged as two contacts with the two counties (Log N8KR 59 INALL/INDEK as N8KR 59 INALL and again as N8KR 59 INDEK)
7. When working the other QSO Parties for INQP points, just log their state: you work a station from Caribou County Maine (MECAR) – just log "Maine – ME" or you work a station from Clark County Nevada (NVCLA) – just log "Nevada (NV)" **Always give out Allen County Indiana – INALL**
8. **EVERYBODY COUNTS: ANY ONE ANY WHERE!!!**
9. People all over the world are looking for us. Consider calling CQ: "*CQ anyone anywhere for the Indiana QSO Party from your call.*" Last year 110 Indiana stations submitted their logs for our QSO Party . . . and almost 500 out of state stations submitted their logs!
10. **If you only have an hour or two to participate, 40 and 80 meters will be hot with activity after 8pm!**

Here are the qso parties happening on May 7:

- **NEQP:** ME, NH, VT, MA, RI CT
- **7QP:** AZ, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
- **INQP:** IN (Indiana)

2022 FWRC Member INQP Scores					
W9TE Multi/Multi	58,926	KB9OZI	3,450		
AC9ZS	4,600	W9SA	16,280	WB9DLC (SK)	23,816
KU8T	26,656	WA9BBN	45,000	AC9EZ/qrp	44,500
W9HT	79,074	K9FW	80,640	KR9U	201,235
W9GT	229,000	N8KR	319,536		

We need more participation from our club! Get on the air May 6!

2023 Indiana QSO Summary

Station Callsign _____ Station Location (county) _____

Entry Category _____ Power: High (100+) Low (100 or less) QRP (5)

QSO's

Points

Phone (SSB) _____ x 1 = _____

CW _____ x 2 = _____

Total Combined Points _____

MULTIPLIERS

Different states/provinces worked on Phone (SSB) _____

Different states/provinces worked on CW _____

Different Indiana counties worked on Phone (SSB) _____

Different Indiana counties worked on CW _____

Total Multipliers _____

Multiply Total Points times Total Multipliers =

TOTAL SCORE

I hereby certify that I have complied with the posted rules of the 2023 Indiana QSO Party and that the information submitted is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Club Affiliation: **Fort Wayne Radio Club**

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



Hello everyone!

Our April general went well, I think the library is going to work out just fine. We finally had our club board elections. Soon our website will be updated with our new board roster. One big change in the board of directors is Jim Boyer KB9IH has retired as VP, and Dan Dahms N9WNH has been elected to the VP position. I would like to thank Jim for all those years as a board member and his contributions to the club. Also let's welcome a new board member, Stuart Hall KD9LFW. Stuart was elected Director at Large. I am excited to see what the ACARTS can do in the years to come! We still have a couple of board positions open. If anyone is interested in being a part of ACARTS board, please reach out to any of our board members.

Our general meeting will be held at the Allen County Public Library Dupont Rd branch on May 16th from 7:30 to 8:45. The topic will

be 3D printing and 3D design for ham radio.

I hope everyone had fun in the 2023 Simplex contest this year! I am seeing contact logs coming in via US mail and email. Remember that the deadline is May 31st to get your log submitted.

Now that warmer weather is coming to stay, I encourage those that can go out and play radio. Take a HT to a city or county park and have a QSO or two. Or take a QRP rig and make some CW contacts. It's a good way to expose the hobby to new and younger people.

73,

Chris McCullough, W9TSB

ACARTS Officers 2023

President

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

Vice President

Dan Dahms N9WNH
260-503-4163
n9wnh(at)arrl.net

Secretary (open)

Treasurer

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

Station Manager

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

Fundraising Manager

Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP
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kc9ezp(at)gmail.com

Directors at Large

Bob Erb N9PWM
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roberterb(at)hotmail.com

Steve Shannon K9SKS
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k9sks(at)aol.com

Stuart Hall KD9LFW

W9INX Trustee

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



International DX Convention (better known simply as Visalia)

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

This year the 74th International DX Convention was held in Visalia, California. It was the first in-person event in 4 years.

I estimate that the attendance was around 500. That's less than the pre-covid attendance numbers, but it will pick up next year (just like many other ham-fests and conventions).

The ARRL was well represented at this year's event. In attendance were President Roderick (K5UR), CEO Minster (NA2AA), Director of Operations Naumann (W5OV), Second Vice President Vallio (W6RGG – of Scarborough Reef fame – sitting at a wooden operating position on a rock), Pacific Division Director McIntyre (K6WX), Northwestern Division Director Ritz (W7VO), Southwestern Division Director Norton (N6AA), Central Division Director Luet-

zelschwab (K9LA), Pacific Division Vice Director Marcin (W7XM) and Southwestern Division Vice Director Stearns (AA7A).

Friday had DX University, and DX and Technical Presentations in the morning. The afternoon consisted of Contest Academy and more DX and Technical Presentations. Friday afternoon (and all day Saturday) also had Exhibits and Displays with many vendors.

Saturday had more DX and Technical Presentations, including a DX Forum, a YL Forum, an ARRL Forum, my presentation on Solar Cycle 25 and a handful more. The keynote speaker at the Saturday evening Banquet was Adrian KO8S-CA talking about the recent 3Y0J Bouvet DXpedition. I have to admit that the list of Silent Keys read at the Saturday evening banquet was sobering, as I knew many of them.

Sunday morning breakfast had Glenn W0GJ talking about "What is a real ham." The major prizes were drawn after breakfast. As usual, I didn't win a thing.

I enjoyed the Convention, as I hadn't been to one in more than 5 years. The number of international visitors was certainly down from previous years, but there were several Europeans, several Japanese,

several hams from Oceania and several from South America. One thing I can say is that it sure cost more to attend than in past years. In general, Division Directors are not reimbursed for travel outside their Division, so my total cost of around \$1700 came out of my pocket. What the heck – it was worth it!

A final comment – my wife Vicky AE9YL was supposed to go, too, but she got stuck staying home taking care of our seven new kitties. So we now have 8, including Tiger. It is fun to watch the kitties play, and they are bonding nicely with us. I think this will put me in a new cat-egory in contests.





HAMVENTION 2023

M A Y 1 9 T H 9 A M - 5 P M

M A Y 2 0 T H 9 A M - 5 P M

M A Y 2 1 S T 9 A M - 1 P M

G R E E N E C O U N T Y F A I R A N D E X P O C E N T E R

2 1 0 F A I R G R O U N D R O A D , X E N I A 4 5 3 8 5
C O O R D I N A T E S A R E 3 9 . 7 0 2 N - 8 3 . 9 4 2 0 W

<https://hamvention.org>

Operators Wanted

I'm looking for amateur radio operators to help me out at a number of triathlons and duathlon this spring and summer. Most are in Fort Wayne or Huntington. Below you will find a link for my sign up page. There you will find all the event dates, times, and full description. If you are interested or have any questions please let me know.

<https://form.jotform.com/230760707906054>

Thank you for your time,
Andy Grote



April 2023

Sunday, April 2nd was not only Palm Sunday, but also the first Sunday of the month, so that means it was time for the FWRC monthly Fox Hunt! The skies were overcast and gloomy that afternoon as several teams gathered at the starting point near the geographical center of Allen County, Indiana, which turns out to be the old K-Mart location on Coliseum Blvd. The teams were the following hams and friends:

- KC9MUT, Charles
- KD9DPA, Bryon
- KB9GAS, Greg
- K9OMA, Jim
- KA9YYI, Anne
- W9TSB, Chris
- KD9NPL, Jim

The foxes were the team of W9LAN, W9SAN, their grandson Alex, and his girlfriend, Haley. They had chosen a hiding place not far from the start location at Shoaff Park, in Northeastern Fort Wayne. While searching for a hide spot, the Fox team of Linda and Steve noticed that new Frisbee golf trails had been made in the park and in a wooded area. There were a large number of downed trees along the trails, and these presented some really good hiding places for the micro fox. Also, Steve was wanting to try out his new LiFePo battery for powering a high power fox transceiver and hidden antenna, so it was decided to use their



less used pickup truck to hide in the park. (the real story here is the battery will allow away-from-the-vehicle hiding in the future!!)



The Fox team started transmitting at 1:35 pm due to issues getting the system set up. Immediately, all teams at the start location heard the high power fox and the hunt was on! As the foxes did more transmissions and slowly dropped power from 50 watts down to 5, it was noticed that there were quite a few people in the park from joggers to Frisbee golf, to car groups to people stupid enough to nearly roll over their Chevy Tahoe on a corner that usually saw walking and biking traffic! Extremely dangerous driving in a crowded area!

Just before this incident, the first hunter showed up on the scene, Bryon, KD9DPA, who had heard the microfox from across the street from Shoaff Park, and headed our way. At that point Charles, KC9MUT, showed up began searching. Not long after that we noticed Jim, K9OMA and Anne, KA9YYI appeared on the scene, too. We noticed that the ACARTS team was not heard from, we contacted them on the 76 intercom. Equipment troubles had joined them and they needed a little help, so we gave them a vector and shortly thereafter, we had all four teams at the location.

Finding the micro fox was more of a challenge, as Alex had hidden it in a branch of a dead tree where the branch had cracked. The micro fox was black and it blended in very

nicely, but we had forgotten to black out the small red tip on its antenna. Some of the hunters noticed the tiny red dot and spotted it quickly, but others didn't. The order of teams finding the micro fox is as follows:

- KC9MUT
- KD9DPA
- K9OMA
- KA9YYI
- KB9GAS
- W9TSB
- KD9NPL

It took about 1 hour and 25 minutes approximately for all teams to complete the hunt. We were lucky that the severe storms on Friday night, March 31st did not impact our hiding place, as we would have had to find another in a big hurry!

With the severe weather we have had of late, being able to deploy with portable stations in a moment's notice is a skill all we hams should practice and be ready to do! Fox Hunting is a fun way to accomplish that task. You are frequently faced with visits from Murphy. I have put together a kit of adapters and portable antennas that keep me hunting when the gremlins show up. Why not plan on joining us for Fox Hunting fun?!

73,

Steve, W9SAN

FOXHUNTER	APRIL SCORE	Y-T-D SCORE
WB9SSE	0	4
WB9RUS	0	4
K9OMA	2	3
KA9YYI	2	3
KC9MUT	5	11
ANGIE	0	5
W9SAN	1	5
W9LAN	1	5
ALEX	1	6
HALEY	1	4
W9TSB	1	5
KD9NPL	2	5
KC9GAS	3	4
KD9OPA	3	4



April Showers Bring... the INQP?

Contrary to popular belief, April showers bring more than May flowers – they also bring the Indiana Qso Party (INQP). Held every year on the first Saturday of May, the INQP is a fun and fast-paced event, with just enough activity to keep the participant interested but not overwhelmed.



The author's 40m, end-fed, half-wave antenna, deployed in a POTA activation in North Dakota

One of the most important elements for any radio contest is one's antenna – no antenna equals no contacts! For this year's contest, I will be trying something slightly different from

prior years, which is to use a 40m end-fed, half wave antenna as my main antenna for the event. This style of antenna has served me well for many years, with the majority of my Parks on the Air activations having been made with a 40m end-fed, half-wave. The convenience of being able to jump between bands using one antenna (such as jumping between 40 and 20 meters) is invaluable, particularly during a contest. One may ask what is important about being able to jump between bands without needing to retune? Does retuning really cost that much time? This question is exactly what I will attempt to answer in this month's *Tuning Up* column.

Band Changes: How Long Does it Take?

To begin, it should be noted that my antenna at my home station is a non-resonant, 110' doublet. This antenna has served me well over the last several years, but it has one major drawback – I must use an antenna tuner in order to use this antenna. Like many doublets, my doublet is a random length that is fed in the center with low-loss, 450 Ohm window line. The overall length of the doublet allows me to use the antenna on every single band from 80 through 10 (and 6) meters, simply because the swr on every band is low enough to be overcome by my antenna tuner. Were I to connect my Yaesu FT-450d transceiver directly to the doublet's feedline, the swr would be too high for the

FT-450d's built-in antenna tuner to overcome. Hence, an external tuner is required in order to use the doublet with a modern, solid-state rig like my FT-450d.

The process of tuning my doublet is not difficult, but it is time consuming. As an example, in order to change bands from 40 to 20 meters, I must first hit the band-change button. Next, I have to manually lower my power output from my current power setting to the lowest power setting available on the rig (5 watts). Next, I need to place the tuner in "sense" mode, meaning that as soon as I hit transmit on the rig, the tuner will sense the antenna mismatch and begin the tuning cycle to find an acceptable swr (generally 1.5:1 or less for my station). This tuning process can take anywhere from a few seconds to up to 10 seconds, depending on a few circumstances (such as the band I am trying to tune, moisture build up on the window line, etc.) Once the tuner has found a match, I manually place the tuner back into its "manual" tuning mode, so if my swr changes while operating, the tuner will not suddenly act up and start another tuning cycle. Finally, I have to enter the rig's menu system and dial my power output back up to my chosen operating power level.



The above process can be shortened, especially if one has a matching rig/antenna tuner combo. In a matched tuner/rig situation, the rig automatically lowers its power output when tuning, saving two steps of the process (manually raising and lower the transmit power). Unfortunately, my tuner is not a matched set for my FT-450d transceiver, so I have to add a few steps to the tuning procedure.

The entire tuning procedure takes less than a minute to accomplish, but during a high-stakes contest, that lost time can be damaging to my score. If, for example, I change bands multiple times during a contest, the time it takes me to change bands will add up. Theoretically, if the process of tuning takes me 15 seconds, and I make 10 band changes during the contest, I have lost 150 seconds or two and half minutes of operating time just from changing bands.

What is the Big Deal with Two and a Half Minutes?

So, what is the big deal with using up less than five minutes of operating time with tuning? Well, the answer is, it depends. Simply put, it all comes down to rate. Rate, as used for contests, means the amount of time that elapses per a given number of qsos made in the contest. For example, if I make 3 contacts every minute I operate in the contest, my rate is 180 qsos per hour (3 contacts every minute means $3 \times 60 = 180$ contacts per hour). Such a rate is very achievable, even for a state qso party. At times, depending on operating conditions, that rate could increase to over 200 qsos per hour, perhaps even hitting brief stretches of 240 qsos per hour (4 contacts per mi-

nute).

If I am making 3 contacts per minute, and I lose 2.5 minutes of operating time simply for making band changes, this means that I have, statistically, lost at least seven contacts – contacts I could have made if I were not spending time tuning up the antenna. One can see what would happen if this time for tuning were to increase. If I spent five minutes of operating time in the contest tuning my antenna, and my rate were three qsos per minute, I would lose at least 15 potential qsos simply because of the time it takes for tuning.

What difference does it make though if I lose 7 or 15 contacts? Well, the answer again is, it depends. My total score for INQP is found by multiplying the total number of points I make from qsos by the total number of multipliers I work. For the INQP, multipliers are each of the 50 US States, all 92 Indiana counties, and the 13 provinces of Canada. If I work a total of 10 multipliers, and I earn 500 points from all of my qsos, my total score is $500 \times 10 = 5,000$ points.

Also keep in mind that every ssb qso in INQP is worth one point, whereas every cw qso in INQP is worth 2 points. If I lose 7 ssb contacts because of my tuning process, how low would my score be? Using the 500 qso point example, my total score would be $493 \times 10 = 4,930$ – a 70-point difference from my original score of 5,000 points. What about if I lose 15 points? Well, my score would be $485 \times 10 = 4,850$ points – a 150-point difference from my original 5,000-point score.

The situation gets worse with cw.

On cw, since each contact is worth 2 points, if I lose 15 contacts because of tuning time, that means I've lost a total of 30 qso points. In this case, my final score would be $470 \times 10 = 4,700$ points – a 300-point loss from my original 5,000 point score.

The above situations do not account for what happens if the qsos I lost due to tuning time were new multipliers. Let's say I lost 15 qsos, and 2 of those qsos were new multipliers. In that case, my final score would be $470 \times 8 = 3,760$. This is a drop of 1,240 points! In other words, depending on what contacts I lose, I can count on losing between 70 and 1,000+ points just because I was tuning up my antenna! Those point margins can easily determine the difference between placements on the scoreboard.

What is the takeaway here? The first takeaway is that using time during a contest to tune an antenna can and will force me to lose potential qsos, simply because of how long it takes me to tune up my antenna. The second takeaway is that every minute of time in the INQP can be valuable and can determine the difference for how and when I place in the contest. The best way to combat losing time in the contest? Use a multi-band antenna that doesn't require a tuner.

Good luck in the contest and see you next month!

Jim ac9ez



Local

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

News

April 2023

New Member: WB9TYJ, Don
Awards: W9GOO, Senator x 3
Operating Activities during the month.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) April 8 & 9. The following operators participated. QSO count is shown.

- AC9XS 106
- WA9BBN 57
- W9HT 52
- W9GOO 30
- KA9GKE 28
- W9SA 25
- N9DGL 4

For the Two Hour Straight Key Spirit (SKS) on Tuesday evening, April. 25, 8-10 PM local. The following operators participated. QSO count is shown.

- N8KR 71
- NJ0U 44
- AC9XS 29
- WA9BBN 27
- N9DGL 20
- W9GOO 10
- KR9U 5
- KA9GKE 1

Catch you on the airwaves!
73,

Ed, WA9BBN

RADIO SPORT for May

2023

6-7
MAY

**indiana
QSO Party**

**SKCC Weekend
Sprintathon**

13-14
MAY

20-21
MAY

**His Majesty King of
Spain CW Contest**

SKCC Sprint

24
MAY

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.

For sale: Ameritron AL-811H
\$700.00



I have incorporated all the reliability mods suggested by W8JI the original designer of the amp. They include all grids directly grounded, Kit 811KS power supply upgrade, 811HP Protec-

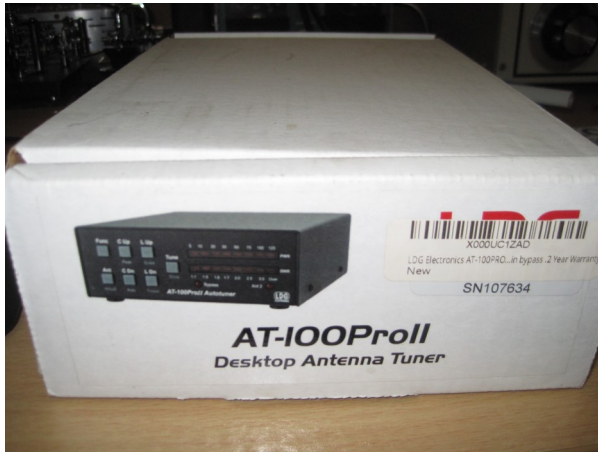
tion Kit, new input board, TOF1 Tuning aid and New 811A tubes (less than an hour on them).



MFJ-962D Deluxe Versa Tuner II.
\$200.00

Rich De Tommaso, KD9ISV
Rdetommaso (at) aol.com

For sale: Items from Ken – N8KR n8kr (at) hotmail.com or 419-534-0708



NEW Sealed in Box AT-100ProII \$175



Quiet Switching PS 25a continuous \$65



For Icom Radios – perfect Boomset - \$35



Hi-mound key - \$25



BENCHER BY-1 Paddles NEW in box \$90



Icom 7600 PERFECT! In box \$1100

Area Nets (updated as of 5/1/23)					
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 146.760)	Wednesday		
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter 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	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.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

Area Repeaters (updated as of 5/1/23)							
Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign
				442.6375	+5 MHz	MDR CC1	N9MTF
145.330	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9FEZ	442.99375	+5 MHz	D-Star W9TE-B	W9TE
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.100	+5 MHz	DMR CC1	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	P25 NAC # 293	K9MMQ
146.760	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.250	+5 MHz	141.3	W9AVW
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
		FM / C4FM					
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ				

FWRC Membership Application

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

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)
 May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:

Regular membership	\$25.00 / year
Family membership ¹	\$35.00 / year
Student membership ²	\$5.00 / year
Associate membership ³	\$20.00 / year

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

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:
 Fort Wayne Radio Club (check number _____) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:
 Fort Wayne Radio Club
 P.O. Box 15127
 Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

- 1: Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.
- 2: K-12 or full time student.
- 3: 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

- 1: Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.
- 2: K-12 or full time student.
- 3: Unlicensed member.

DAYTON 2023 OR BUST!

