

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

June 2023
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Issue 6
July 2023

Written and produced
by Allen County hams

ham radio

Field Day
recap
and much
more!

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Hamming It Up With the Editor



Once again I discovered that this month's edition of the Allen County HamNews is kind of like an octopus—the articles, photos, for sale listings, and other items cover a wide range of topics. A few highlights include:

The **annual 13 Colonies special event** is in full swing. I have heard a few stations chatting on the local repeaters about working quite a few stations, and I have been listening on the bands for these stations also.

Some preliminary details and photos from the recent **2023 Field Day** operations are included. It seemed to me that everyone enjoyed the event and that a higher than normal number of contacts was made. A special thanks to everyone who operated and who helped this event to be a success. Next month's HamNews edition should include a more detailed account of Field Day.

Several local hamfests are slated for July and August. The **Auburn hamfest** is scheduled for Saturday, July 29th. Our local **tailgate hamfest** will be held next month. Details on both hamfests are included in fliers in this month's HamNews. I would encourage you to attend one or both of these events. (Note that both events will either be entirely or partially indoors/shielded from inclement weather!)

Carl K9LA includes a **late-breaking solar cycle update**, along with a discussion of increased noise on the lower HF bands.

Jim AC9EZ also inaugurates a **new column** this month. Check it out and see if you would like to collaborate on this new column in upcoming months.

Bob, W8ST provides an overview of the **online archives** for the FWRC centennial—very neat stuff!

Permit me to ramble for a paragraph or so. During the last FWRC meeting, we discussed what could be done to support the future of the club (and for the hobby by extension). Our discussion was just the beginning. We have a talented, dynamic group of local ham operators here in Allen County. I am excited to see what we can do as a community to help develop the new

generation of ham operators and to help the hobby flourish here in Allen County and beyond. If you have any ideas, please share them in the next edition of HamNews or within your club. End of rambling for now...

As mentioned later in this edition, stay tuned for a **new licensing class** and series of **hands-on sessions** to help people to get on the air and to stay engaged in the hobby. Folks, ham radio is truly the best hobby in the world—and maybe a best-kept secret. Let's get the word out even more!

Have a great month of July. God bless the USA!

73,

Josh W9HT

P.S. W1AW/9 will be on the air from Indiana later in July. Stay tuned to the airwaves and spotting networks for more details.



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



Update for June

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.

Also, we have a LUNCH every two weeks alternating from North Fort Wayne to South Fort Wayne. We usually have 15 to 25 participants at each lunch.

We had two lunch's this month on 6/8/2023 at the Big Eyed Fish on Wells St. with 17 attending and 6/22/2023 at Halls Tavern. It is always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

Next Dates would be 7/6/2023, 7/20/23, 8/3/23.... 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, and Friday W9RGM Ron.

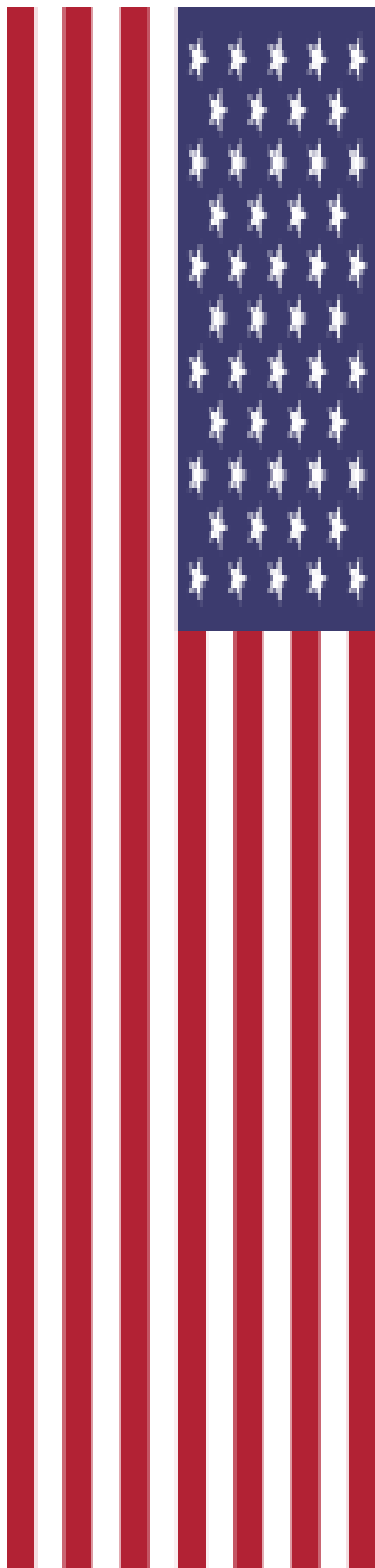
We have a mobile web page at <https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile> works with Mobile and Computers systems. On the mobile page is Lunch information times dates, pictures of previous lunches and other information

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 down load 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.

73,

KU8T Tom





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: _____


Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN



**From the FWRC
President:
Larry KB9OS**



Larry asked me to include a note that he will not be able to act as president due to chemotherapy treatments for the next several months. Please keep Larry in your thoughts and prayers during this time. Get well soon, Larry!

Our next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 5th at 6:30pm at Good Shepherd UMC (our usual location). Please note that everyone is welcome at the board meetings!

As noted in the box below, our next general meeting is also coming up on July 14th. If you would like to add any topics to our discussions, please send me a note in advance.

Jumping ahead a few months, officer elections will be coming up this fall. I encourage you to consider to run for either an officer or board member position. Please remember that any member is eligible to serve and that new ideas and visions are always welcome!

I hope to see many of you at one of the upcoming meetings or at the Tailgate Hamfest (more details will be coming soon—stay tuned!).

73,

Josh, W9HT

Next FWRC Meeting
Friday, July 14th
6:30pm
Good Shepherd UMC
Discussion topics: Field Day
Debriefing & Tailgate Hamfest

FWRC Officers 2023

President
Larry Temenoff, KB9OS
Temenoff(at)pfw.edu

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Treasurer
Bob Streeter, W8ST
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kc9mut(at)yahoo.com

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Carla Barrett, KD9ITZ

Terry Bowman, K9FMX
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Carole Burke, WB9RUS
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wb9rus(at)comcast.net

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

9 June 2023

The June meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 9 June, 2023. The meeting started at 6:30 pm.

In lieu of President Larry Temenoff (KB9OS,) Vice President Josh Long (W9HT) welcomed all attendees (about 22), led them in the pledge of allegiance, and had everyone introduce themselves by virtue of their name & callsign.

Bob Streeter, (W8ST) provided the current data for the Treasure's report as of 9 June, 2023 indicating the following account balances:

Savings-	\$1,965.15
Checking-	\$6,835.30
Vanguard Money Market-	\$11,724.00
Year-to-Date Income-	\$995.00
Year-to-Date Expenses-	\$2,081.28
Club members-	140

Josh discussed the progress to date on the club's support of the International Harvester Homecoming event that will

occur on Saturday the 5th of August at the former IH Engineering complex on Meyer Rd. The FWRC will set up and operate a Special Events station to help commemorate the event. Josh has obtained a special callsign, K9H for use that day. He noted that the occurrence of the Special Event activity will be publicized in QST.

We will set up and operate an HF station, most likely using an end-fed antenna on 40M thru 10M during the day Saturday, and perhaps an FM base station as well. Josh emphasized that volunteers are needed to help set-up and operate. If you are a former IH employee or are otherwise interested in helping out, please contact Larry or Josh.

Bob Streeter (W8ST) reported that the club's initiative to archive the club's history from its beginnings through the present day using the facilities of the Internet Archive is proceeding along nicely. A considerable number of issues of the Hamsplatter and the Allen County HamNews plus other historical club documents are already available at:

<https://archive.org/details/fortwayneradioclub>

with additional material, including club awards, Mayoral Proclamations, contest award plaques and so forth to be added shortly.

Steve Nardin (W9SAN) announced that the FWRC had once again taken top score in the Indiana-QSO Party competition. Many thanks to all who participated in the name of the club allowing it to take top honors again this year.

Josh noted that the minutes from the May FWRC meeting did not make it into the June edition of the Allen County HamNews. Al Burke (WB9SSE) and Steve Nardin will see to it that a copy of the minutes is distributed to all club members of record using the club member's e-mail database tool.

Josh stated that while we were working to document the club's past, via the archiving initiative, we should also be concerned about

the club's future. How do we motivate today's and the future's generation of new hams into participating more deeply in the hobby's many opportunities; cw operation, digital modes, satellite communications, foxhunting, Field Day, Parks on the Air, moon bounce, and so forth? Perhaps we can develop a "New Ham's Corner" article in the HamNews, or, active mentoring of new hams, especially young ones who often feel left out. Terry Bowman, (K9FMX) pointed out that mentoring is best done one-on-one, a view also shared by Adam Warrix (KD9NRT) who has considerable experience in what motivates young people based upon his experiences as a teacher at Snider High School.

Josh also announced that he and Larry intend to start up Technicians classes in the Fall at Indiana Tech that might also include CW classes if we can find enough volunteers to staff the effort.

Al Burke used to occasionally receive a "New Indiana Hams" report from someone within the ARRL organization that listed newly minted hams in Indiana. It included hams in the Allen County area and Al would send an invitation to them to join the club. Perhaps Carl Luetzelschwab, (K9LA) may know if the new hams listing is still available. If so, we could implement a more personalized communications activity with the new hams to get them involved and give them a sense of belonging to the fraternity of hams

Bob Streeter noted that we have 140 current members so far this year. But there are approximately 50 folks that were members in 2021 or 2022 that have not yet re-upped their 2023 dues. Al Burke

offered to prepare a list of these folks and provide it to Larry and Josh.

Steve Nardin led a discussion about preparations for Field Day. This year Field Day will occur on 24 and 25 June on the PFW campus on the east side of St. Joe Rd. in the area between Ginsberg Hall and the Dolnick Learning Center. We will be allowed the use of the rest rooms in Ginsberg Hall but not the building itself unless dangerous weather should erupt. Hence we will operate out of tents and perhaps the club trailer. Set-up will occur starting around 8:00 am Saturday morning, and operations will commence at 2:00 pm and continue thru 2:00 pm Sunday afternoon. We will probably use the 146.76 repeater for intercom.

Saturday evening we will enjoy the summer banquet cook-out featuring hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by Master Chef Charles Ward (KC9MUT) utilizing his high tech grill. The meal will be supplemented by attendee carry-in dishes. (As usual, ancient and honorary ham tradition strongly suggests that DEVEILED EGGS & MEATBALLS be a feature of at least some of the carry-in's). But baked beans and yummy desserts are appreciated too.

We should attempt to set up a GOTA station to allow new hams and wanna-be interested non-hams to get some experience operating. Sometime that sets the hook. Volunteers to man (or women) the GOTA station need to be found.

We need someone to volunteer to take on the role of the Safety Officer. A person intended to keep an eye out on things to make sure the operation is proceeding safely.

Field Day safety is paramount.

Steve will coordinate the employment of the club's low pass filters, chokes, and grounding to manage the co-site interference problem effects that can hamstring operations in a multiband operation.

Attendees should plan to bring chairs and perhaps tables, especially for the cook-out activities to insure that everyone can enjoy Field Day comfortably. Along those lines, Bob Streeter heard that the Allen County Parks Department had a surplus of chairs that they were offering first come, first serve for free. If they are foldable chairs we could store some in the club trailer. Bob is going to look into this potential opportunity.

We need a CW op to copy the ARRL CW Field Day bulletin to garner additional points. Contact Charles Ward if interested.

We will try to enlist a videographer again this year to capture Field Day events for broadcast on Face Book and the like.

Charles Ward and Al Burke plan to inspect all of the club's feedlines stored in the club trailer to be sure they are in good shape prior to Field Day.

Further planning sessions for Field Day will take place via Over-The-Air sessions (probably three) likely using the 146.76 machine. The date and time will be communicated to everyone once they are established.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club

Updates on FWRC 100 Year Internet Archives

We delivered the next round of artifacts (items to be archived) on June 22. Included in that set was the 1930 ARRL certificate signed by Hiram Percy Maxin (ARRL founder & President).

Don Gagnon completed our collection of *****ALL***** Allen County Ham News issues with an electronic donation of the issues we did not have. The first issue was February 2000, edited by Vic Guess.

Still to be decided are some QSL card issues and donations from Jim Pliett. Jim's donation includes many printed issues of the Hamsplatter, the FWRC-only newsletter. There are 2 boxes of historic treasury records to be examined also.

As a reminder, the September 2020 issue of ACHN (pages 6 to 8) has an article by AC9EZ about the early history of amateur radio in Fort Wayne, including some information on the FWRC.

The access to information on the Internet Archive DLARC 100 years of the Fort Wayne Radio Club can be ordered for convenient viewing of the newsletters by the following actions:

1 - Click on NEWSLETTERS in the "Topics and Subjects" (left hand side bar) on the collections (home) page.

2 - In the "sort by" bar, select

"Date Published".

That will present all the Allen County Ham News newsletters currently published on the Internet Archive in sequential order by date.

There have been some users who have looked at nearly all the newsletters we have placed in the archive.

73,

Bob Streeter, W8ST

13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT

JULY 1-7

K9H

COMING TO
THE
AIRWAVES
ON AUGUST
5TH.

K4A

COMING TO THE
AIRWAVES ON
SEPTEMBER 11.

Field Day Recap

While complete details about Field Day are unavailable at publication time for this month's edition of HamNews, here is a short synopsis from Steve, W9SAN:

"We had a great time and everyone is saying that they enjoyed the site. We had a total of 6 radio stations set up and made nearly a thousand contacts with other Field Day stations around the United States and Canada. One station contacted France, Hawaii, and Spain as well. We feel that the effort paid off and we once again learned a lot about how to handle technical challenges that always tend to spring up!"

While not captured in the photos here, Charles KC9MUT again wielded his barbeque skills and made a delicious meal of burgers and hot dogs. There were plenty of side dishes to keep the operators and attendees fueled for the day's (and night's) events.

Check back next month for a fuller account of Field Day. In the meantime, enjoy the photo evidence and mark your calendar for Field Day 2024! If it's anything like this year, it should be an event that you do not want to miss.



HIGHLIGHTS OF
**FIELD DAY
2023**
It's one for the
history books!





FIELD DAY





TAILGATE HAMEEST 2023

**Friday, August 11, PFW Campus,
2nd floor of Parking Garage 3**

- Out of the weather, and no pesky bees!
- Starts 7:00pm, setup begins at 6:30pm
- Free admission. Everyone is invited to come.
- More details will follow in the August Allen County HamNews--stay tuned for more!

Lots of deals, fun, and no bees!

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great Field Day!

The June meeting went very well! Sorry for the mix-up on the date in last months newsletter. July there will be no ACARTS meetings. We will be picking up our normal meeting schedule on August 15th.

Everyone have a happy and safe 4th of July!

73,

Chris McCullough, W9TSB



Next ACARTS
 Monthly Meeting
 Tuesday , August 15 at
 7:30 pm
 Live meeting at the
 Dupont Branch Library

ACARTS Officers 2023

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 Chris McCullough W9TSB
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 kd9lrw(at)gmail.com

Vice President
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Secretary
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Treasurer
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 n9ads(at)arrl.net

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 Kd9npl(at)gmail.com

Fundraising Manager
 Fred Gengnagel KC9EZP
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 kc9ezp(at)gmail.com

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 Bob Erb N9PWM
 260-466-7772
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Stuart Hall KD9LFW

W9INX Trustee
 Dave Lindquist W9LKH
 260-485-6135
 w9lkh(at)comcast.net



Our Increasing Noise Environment

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

In the early 1970s, the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) published Recommendation ITU-R P.372, which is titled Radio Noise. The latest version is P372-14 – it is available on the internet.

The Recommendation provides information on the background levels of radio-frequency noise in the frequency range from 0.1 Hz to 100 GHz. It takes account of noise due to lightning, due to man-made sources, due to the galaxy and due to temperature of the lower atmosphere. Noise figures or temperatures are given to provide a basis for the estimation of system performance.

For most of us, our interests in Amateur Radio dictate that noise due to lightning and due to man-made sources are the important categories. Further, we're generally interested in frequencies from 1 to 30 MHz (much of MF and all of HF). For this column, we'll focus on man-made noise.

The ITU Recommendation will serve us well. But remember, the data in the Recommendation is over 50 years old. I believe most of us recognize that man-made noise must be greater nowadays (compared to the ear-

ly 1970s) due to the proliferation of electronic devices in our lives. Thus the question is "How does man-made noise compare in the 2020s to the early 1970s?"

A couple weeks ago I read a paper written in 2019 titled Measurement Methodology and Results of Measurements of Man-Made Noise Floor on HF in The Netherlands. It appeared in the IEEE Transactions on Electromagnetic Compatibility (Vol. 61, No.2, April 2019). Two of the three authors are hams and belong to VERON (the ARRL-equivalent national amateur radio organization in The Netherlands). They are Koos Fockens, PA0KDF, and Peter Zwamborn, PE1GEX.

Their measurement technique was equivalent to the measurement technique that was used in the ITU Recommendation. They did this for many city, residential and rural noise environments throughout The Netherlands. Their results are in the same format as the results in the ITU Recommendation, and thus comparisons are easily made.

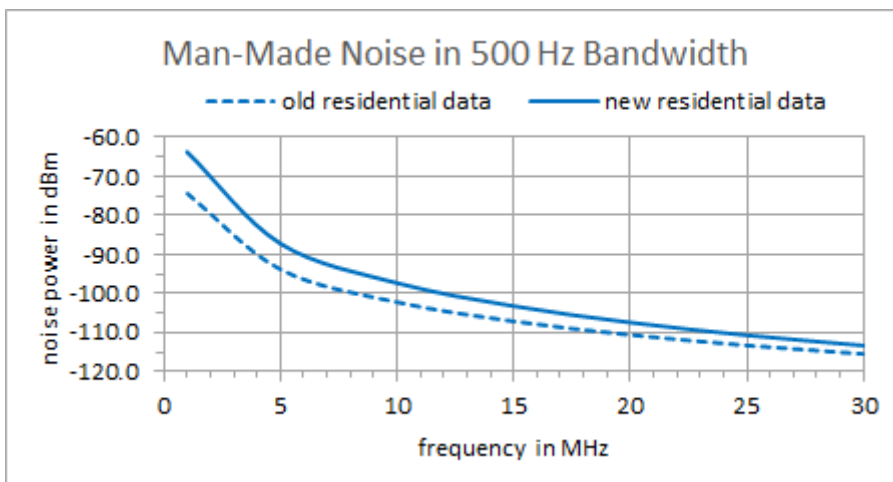
The accompanying figure shows the man-made noise data for a residential noise environment in the early 1970s versus nowadays. It's quite obvious that things are worse nowadays. If you're a low band aficionado

(160m and 75/80m), man-made noise can be about 10 dB worse nowadays. That's a bunch, and that will certainly affect your contesting and DXing activities. The good news is that as you go up in frequency, the difference in noise at 30 MHz is only about 2 dB. As a reference, an S9 signal is -73 dBm and an S4 signal is around -100 dBm.

I also did a plot for a rural noise environment. The difference for 160m and 75/80m is only 5 dB or so. And it's a couple dB at 30 MHz. If you live in a rural noise environment, you're better off than living in a residential noise environment.

In summary, man-made noise is getting worse. Is it truly 10 dB like the figure indicates on the low bands? A more fundamental question is "If the measurements in The Netherlands were done back in the early 1970s, would they be the same as the ITU results?" I don't have an answer to either question.

All I can say is the consensus among 160m DXers appears to be that something is making long-distance contacts extremely tough. The results of the recent summer Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge (June 17 and 18, 2023) tend to confirm this.



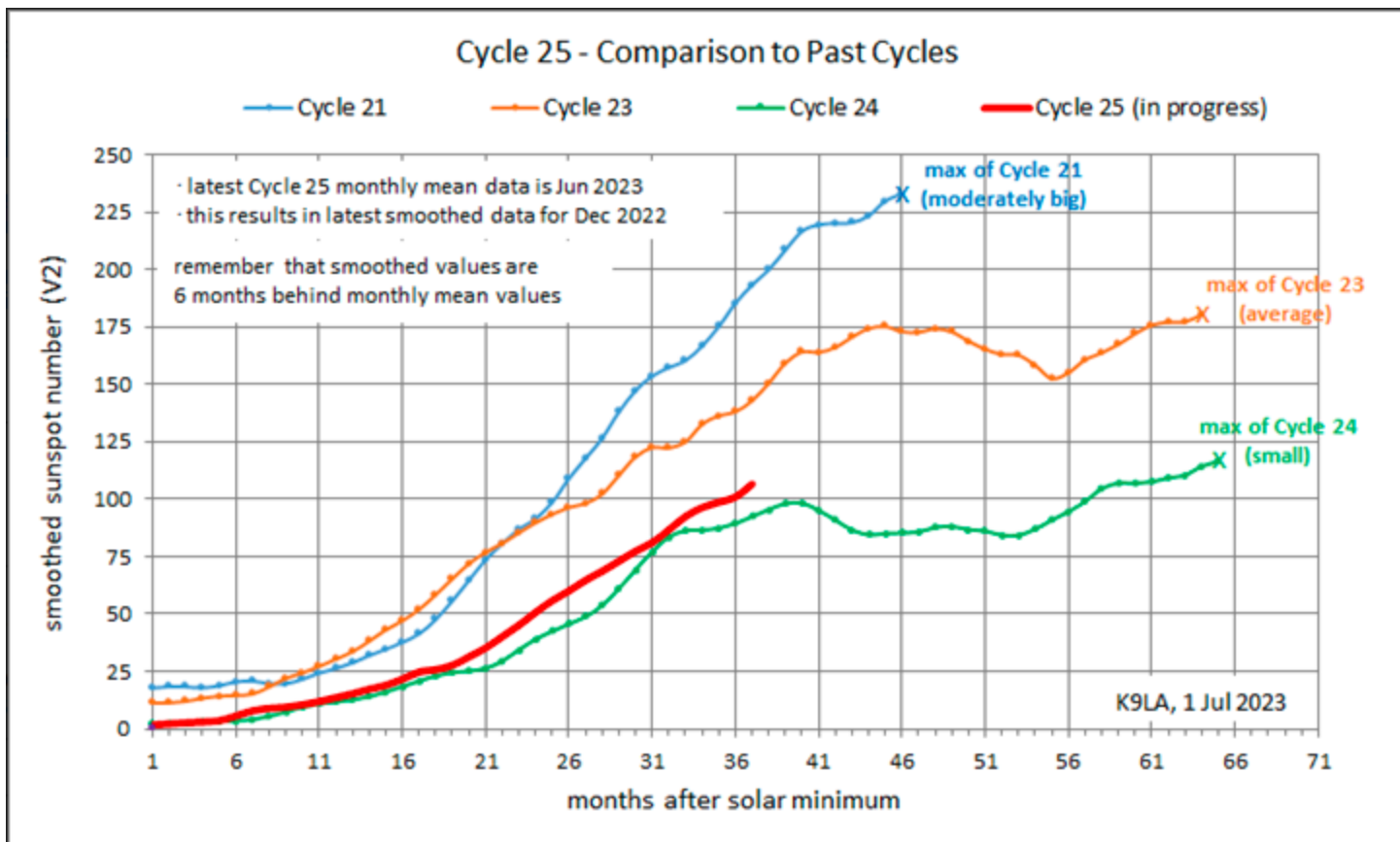
BREAKING NEWS

The June monthly mean sunspot number is in. The June mean value was better than the May mean value by about 20%.

Cycle 25 is getting closer to the maximum of Cycle 24. Propagation via the F2 region on the higher bands (15m, 12m and 10m) should be very good this coming fall and winter.

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday.

Carl K9LA





4 June 2023

The fourth of June turned out to be a beautiful day for foxhunting in Allen County with very comfortable temperatures and a partly cloudy (what else in Allen County) sky.

As it turned out, only one foxhunt team turned out, Steve and Linda Nardin, W9's SAN and LAN plus their grandson Alex and his girlfriend Haley. We think Charles Ward, WB9MUT- was otherwise occupied down in, or on his way back from Orlando Florida.

But despite this, the foxhunts must go on. So the June foxes, Jim Pliett, K9OMA and Al Burke, WB9SSE served as the foxhunter's prey for the June event. Their XYL's Annie, KA9YYI and Carole, WB9RUS were both under the weather so did not attend the affair.

They picked a hide spot on Archwood Lane near the Northcrest Elementary baseball diamonds in Northcrest Addition, in an irrigation ditch in a copse of trees that bordered the first base side of the north-most diamond, specifically at location 41.128146, -85.132813. Jim hid the microfox in a tree branch relatively close to the ground. It was really hard to see.

The microfox blurped out about 100 milliwatts on 146.430 MHz every two and a half minutes for one minute. In addition, Jim operated a high power fox on 146.430 MHz transmitting about 50 watts into a roof mounted quad every five minutes for one minute so that the foxhunters could hear him at the foxhunt starting location in the 20/30 Surplus Discount store off Coliseum Blvd.; roughly four and one half miles from the fox hide location.

Just before the hunt was to start we noticed that we had evidently driven the quad into some tree branches as the driven element and rear reflector were trashed. So an impromptu field repair was required which Jim was able to accomplish for the driven element, but not the reflector. But the repair evidently worked because when the hunt started at 13:30 hours and Jim started transmitting, he was heard right away by the Nardin team.

We know that the Nardin's made at least on trip into Johnny Appleseed Park and perhaps a few others before they showed up at our hide spot near Northcrest Elementary about one hour into the hunt. After they had localized us they started hunting for the microfox on foot and it took them another frustrating half hour to find it. But that microfox was really hard to spot.

Following the foxhunt Steve and Linda needed to get Alex back home so it was just Jim and I

who buzzed over to the Mister Coney's near Coldwater and Coliseum, he for a couple Coney Dogs, me for a Pork Tenderloin sandwich and fries. Very tasty indeed.

The next foxhunt will occur on Sunday 9 July with the Nardin crew serving as the fox. Why don't you join in on the fun? At least (I don't think) it won't be snowing.

Year-to-Date scores follow:

FOXHUNTER	JUNE SCORE	YTD SCORE
K9OMA	1	7
KA9YYI	0	5
WB9SSE	1	7
WB9RUS	0	6
WB9MUT	0	12
ANGIE	0	5
W9SAN	2	8
W9LAN	1	7
ALEX	1	8
HALEY	1	6
W9TSB	0	5
KD9NPL	0	5
KC9GAS	0	4
KC9DPA	0	4

73,

Al, WB9SSE

Next Foxhunt July 9th, 1:30pm

Stay tuned to the local repeaters and to
FWRC email bulletins for more information.

Join in on the
FOXHUNT
fun!



Walking on the Air” – a New Summer Activity?

Happy Independence Day everyone! July is here and the 4th is just ‘round the corner. I hope everyone had a fantastic Field Day. It was a pleasure to meet both old and new friends. Based on the folks that I met at the FWRC Field Day, I am convinced that the Fort Wayne area is going to see some great future amateur radio activity from all the recent licensees.

In this month’s “Tuning Up” column, I would like to propose a new summer activity for both myself and my fellow radio amateurs that will, hopefully increase both one’s aerobic activity and repeater traffic on the local repeaters. I am calling it “Walking on the Air.” Here’s the summary.

Starting in the month of July, I propose that all radio amateurs who are physically capable of walking (and have the time available) take 20 minutes of their time each day to simply walk. It could be your backyard, your neighborhood, the local gym, or another location. The goal is simply to walk (at any speed)

for a total of 20 minutes for five days a week. Please note that one should consult with his/her personal physician before partaking in any physical exercise.

How does the “on the air” apply? For this event, I propose that amateur radio participants take a handheld radio with them and get on their local repeaters. If one’s handheld cannot reach the local repeater, perhaps try crossband repeat using a mobile transceiver. Alternatively, one can use echolink and access the echolink-equipped repeater of 146.910 to get on the air.

In this way, two goals will be accomplished. First of all, one will have (hopefully) some company on the radio that can accompany one on his/her walk, similar to how hams enjoy talking on their mobile rigs while driving about town. Second, talking and walking at the same time can be a great way to increase one’s heartrate. One has to take larger breaths and breathe slightly quicker to both talk and walk at the same time. How many of us have had the experience of quickly walking towards a destination while also trying to talk to someone, either in person or on our cell phone? This is the same idea.

To help spice up the event, I am including a little logging sheet. It consists of four columns: “Callsign(s) Worked,” “Number of Minutes Walked,” “Date,” and “Comments.” Here is how the system works. Let’s

say I head out for a walk on July 1, 2023. I walk for a total of 20 minutes on July 1, talking to two radio amateurs during my walk (W9HT and KB9OS in this example). When I return home, I write down in my log sheet that date of my walk (July 1), the two callsigns I worked during my walk (W9HT and KB9OS), the amount of time I spent walking (20 minutes), and any comments I might like to record during the walk (such as maybe W9HT has a new rig he is using.) That is all there is to it! For the summer, I continue to fill out my log sheet, recording callsigns worked and amount of time walking for each day I walk.

Sound like work? You bet it is! But I think at the end of summer I will be much better from the exercise. As a side benefit, my radio activity with my handheld will hopefully encourage others to become active on the area repeaters. Who knows? One could make some new friends or renew old acquaintances just with a simple walk and a handheld transceiver.

73 de Jim AC9EZ

Date	Number of Minutes Walked	Callsign(s) Worked	Comments



Yaesu FT-818nd

By Jim Danielson AC9EZ

Hello my fellow “bugs” (old slang for hams). You might be surprised to see a new column in the Allen County HamNews called “Magic Smoke.” That is because as of the July 2023 edition of the Allen County HamNews, a new column has been added. This column, entitled “Magic Smoke” is a review column, with reviews done by local hams on various pieces of radio equipment. The title comes from the common joke amongst hams that goes something along the line of, “As long as you don’t let the magic smoke out of the rig, the rig should work.”

This column does not currently have a fixed author, so I would like to encourage all of you readers that if you have a particular piece of equipment you would like reviewed, please write up a article about it and submit it to the HamNews! The more authors the better. This column is meant to be the voice of all of us hams in Allen County

and our unique perspectives on the radio equipment we use.

This Month’s Review: the Yaesu FT-818nd

For this first edition of “Magic Smoke,” I will be reviewing a new-to-me radio, the Yaesu FT-818nd. Spoiler alert: I do own this radio, so there is probably a wee bit of prejudice from your author.

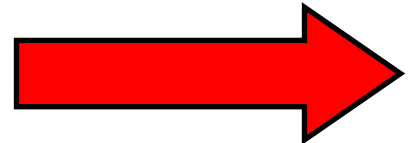
Some History

Let’s start with a little 817 rig history. In the year 2000, Yaesu released a small qrp transceiver called the FT-817. This radio covered 160 meters through 70 centimeters, all at the qrp power output level (5 watts or less.) Modes supported included almost every mode imaginable – cw, ssb, fm, am, and digital modes. The radio was a massive success, so much so that Yaesu re-released the radio as the FT-817nd in 2004.

The later ND version was basically the same thing as the FT-817, with a few upgrades. The ND model added 60m coverage,

a third color lighting choice for the lcd display, and a re-engineered final transistor stage. Unfortunately, some of the earlier 817 transceivers had issues with their finals failing. This issue was mostly remedied by the improvements included in the 817nd.

In 2018, Yaesu re-released the 817, this time calling it the “FT-818nd.” As mentioned the product review in the January 2019 edition of QST magazine, the FT-818nd is identical in size to the earlier 817nd. In fact, the only changes made for the 818nd were a larger rechargeable internal battery pack (boosted to 1900 mAh), one watt increase in the power output (to 6 watts instead of 5 watts when using 13.8v dc power), and a built-in TCXO-9 “high-stability oscillator.” This TCXO-9 is really quite an interesting addition, as it ensures that the rig is quite stable and doesn’t drift in frequency when transmitting/receiving.



The Yaesu FT-818ND

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The Manual Test

I do not have any test equipment, so I cannot speak as to the receiver/transmitter characteristics of the 818nd (e.g. cleanliness of the transmitter, receivers specs, etc.) For those interested in the technical specifications of the 818nd, I would highly recommend reading the review printed in QST of the 818nd (written by Sean Kutzko, KX9X.)

The manual is always an important item for any transceiver, so I will comment on the “manual” reading experience. Some reviewers perform what is called the “no manual” test – trying to get the rig up and running without using the manual. In my case, I decided to read the manual first and operate later, so as not to commit any heinous error when using the rig.

The manual that comes with the ft-818nd is quite small at fewer than 80 pages. The manual is fairly well written, although there are some obvious translation errors which can be somewhat disconcerting. Overall, the manual is clear and concise. All de-

tails needed to effectively operate the radio are clearly labeled and easily found in the manual. I found the manual sufficient and ample for my operating needs.

Transceiver Ergonomics

The next important feature of any transceiver is its tactile set up – what does an operator have to do physically to get the rig to work. The 818ND is beyond question SMALL! With dimensions of roughly 6 x 5.25 x 1.5 inches (not including protruding knobs), the 818ND is smaller than some FM mobile transceivers for 2m/70cm. The 818ND’s screen is about the same size as a typical small handheld transceiver (such as the Yaesu VX-6R.) There are not a plethora of knobs or buttons on the radio, as this is a primarily menu-driven radio. That being said, I found the knobs to have a very solid feel. The buttons are a bit small for my hands. I have fairly large hands (very useful for my music avocation!), but even so, I did not find the buttons or knobs cumbersome to reach or access. Keep in mind this radio is meant for portable use, so the smaller buttons and knobs are an advantage for portable operation. The smaller the buttons, the less chance there is of something breaking when dropped in the field.

Connectivity on the rig for external devices (keys, mics, etc.) is adequate but limited. Real es-



Front panel of the FT-818ND

tate is at a premium, and once one starts connecting various accessories to the radio, room quickly begins to run out. Accessory jacks include the standard mic and key jacks (RJ-45 for the mic and a 3.5mm jack for a cw paddle/key), accessory and data jacks (mini-DINS as per usual Yaesu practice), a speaker jack for an external jack, and two antenna jacks (an SO-239 on the back and a chassis mount BNC on the front panel.) The power jack is somewhat unusual, being just a small wall-wort style power jack. These power jacks are the greatest weakness of the 818ND design, as some users have reported their power jacks failing after repeated usage of the included power cable. To help prevent the power jack failing, most users of the 817/818 rigs add aftermarket accessories that terminate the power jack in Anderson powerpoles. My 818ND came equipped with the Anderson powerpole adapter already installed, so I am set to go with any Anderson powerpole equipment I might have.

Overall, the ergonomics of the transceiver are good but small. If one has poor eyesight, large hands, or uses large amounts of accessories, then one might have some trouble using the 818ND. If none of the above apply (or if one treats the radio as an over-sized HT), then the 818ND will be quite enjoyable to operate physically.

Operating Experience

The most important part of any radio is how it operates. What is it like using a particular radio on the air and does it accomplish its intended purpose? In my testing, the 818ND operating experience was surprisingly good. I first used the 818ND during the final hour of this year's Field Day event. My home station uses a 110' homebrew doublet up about 30 feet in the backyard, fed with 450 Ohm window line which transitions to the RG-213 coax entering the house. A wide-range LDG auto tuner sits in the shack, allowing me to use the doublet on all bands 80-6 meters.

On Sunday afternoon following church, I connected my 818ND to the doublet, powering the radio from my LiFePO3 20 Ah battery, and tuned up on 20-meter cw. The band was packed with signals, with many s9+ stations calling cq. Tuning across the 20m band, I was able to pick out and call several loud stations. In roughly 20 minutes, I quickly worked Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Quebec, and Arizona, all while running 5

watts or less (I dropped the power down to 2.5 watts for the last three qsos). There were one or two partials, but I was quite pleased with the qrp power's results.

Overall, the receive audio is very pleasant to listen to. CW and SSB signals had a nice full sound, with very little harsh white noise. As long as one pays attention to the IPO and ATT settings, the user should find the audio of the 818ND a very comfortable listening experience.

It is important to say that the optional cw or ssb filter would certainly improve the 818ND's receiving ability. However, I find the stock radio to be adequate to the operating challenges of a signal-dense environment like Field Day. The optional filters are like the fancy icing edges on a cake – nice to see and nice to eat, but not necessary for the cake to be tasty.

Summary

Overall, I have been quite pleased with the Yaesu FT-818ND's performance. The radio is certainly not perfect and it will not best an Icom IC-705 or Elecraft KX2/KX3 in any receiving/transmitting contests. However, I find the radio to both meet and exceed my portable/casual operating expectations. I am looking forward to many years of operating time with this little qrp rig.



The rear panel of the FT-818ND

2023 ELKHART EAST HAMFEST
SATURDAY AUGUST 5, 2023
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway - Elkhart, IN 46514

More details are available on our website
at: <https://www.elkharteasthamfest.com>.

The Northern Indiana Event Center is
a state-of-the-art convention facility
located at the MH/RV Hall of Fame in
Elkhart, Indiana. (Toll Road at Exit 96)

Questions? info@elkharteasthamfest.com



Welcome and Join us!

Indoor 20,000 sq ft of Amateur Radio, Hobby Electronics, and More Convention
125 tables of retail and consumer vendors, HAM Radio license exams all classes

\$8.00 admission comes with discounted admission to the RV Hall of Fame

\$15.00 per table 120v/220v available at no charge

One free admission per vendor / children under 12 free

Talk-in: K9DEW Mishawaka Repeater (147.330+ 131.8 pl)

Additional Reserve Info.

Info@elkharteasthamfest.com

Northern Indiana Event Center

21565 Executive Parkway

Elkhart, IN 46514



Local

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

News

June 2023

Operating activities during the month include the following.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) from June 10 & 11, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

AC9XS	73
WA9BBN	71
W9SA	65
W9HT	52
KA9GKE	49
KU8T	41
W9TE	40
W9GOO	15
K9FMX	15
N9DGL	13
N8KR	9

For the Two Hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) on Tuesday evening, June 27, 8-10 PM local, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

NJ0U	39
WA9BBN	34
AC9XS	27
KA9GKE	19
W9HT	12
N8KR	11
N9DGL	10
W9GOO	6

73,
Ed, WA9BBN

OPERATING EVENTS

2023

JULY 4TH

**13 COLONIES
1-7 SPECIAL EVENT**

**IARU HF WORLD
8-9 CHAMPIONSHIP**

**NA QSO PARTY
15-16 RTTY**

**CQ WW
15-16 VHF CONTEST**

**RSGB IOTA
29-30 CONTEST**

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.

**SKCC EVENTS
THIS MONTH**

- **JULY 8-9: WEEKEND SPRINTATHON**
- **JULY 26: 2 HOUR SPRINT**

FALL
2023

COMING THIS FALL

Get your FCC ham radio license

*Join the fun on the
airwaves!*



Join the best hobby in the world this fall!



STAY TUNED TO AN UPCOMING
EDITION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY
HAMNEWS FOR MORE INFORMATION!

For Sale Items from N8KR

146.91 or N8KR (at) hotmail.com



200 Watts! Yaesu 1000MP MK V w/PS \$950



Kenwood TS450 w/tuner \$400



Yaesu FT-847 near perfect! \$650



Yaesu Desk Mic \$100



Yaesu Power supply FP-1030A \$150



Mirage B1016 2m amp—160 watts \$200



Comet CF-416 Duplexer \$25



Yaesu VX-1R dual band \$75



Mirage MP-2 SWR/Wattmeter VHF \$75



MFJ-259B w/case \$175



Heil Headset for Icom! like new! \$175

All equipment fully tested and clean! The radios are all excellent and very clean with little to no marks. Will also be at the Auburn hamfest later this month with more "goodies!"



HAMFEST 2023



Randolph County 4-H Fairgrounds ★ 1885 South US Hwy 27, Winchester, IN 47394

FREE

- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Admission
- ◆ Vendor Spaces
- ◆ Door Prize Ticket

**Talk-in:
147.300+
PL: 110.9**

PRIZES

Door Prizes:

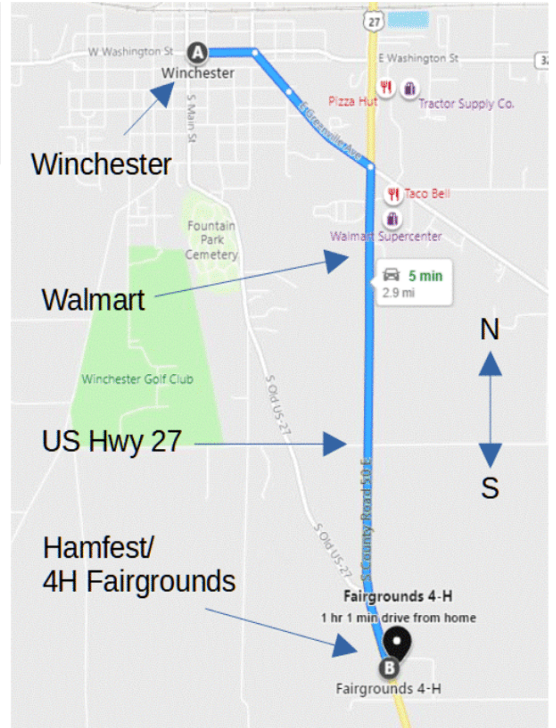
- Grand Prize — Yaesu FT-891 Mobile
- ◆ HF and 6 Meter
- ◆ 100 Watts SSB/CW/FM—25 Watts AM
- ◆ Retail \$639.95 @ Gigaparts



Plus—THREE chances to win a Yaesu FT-4XR HT!



Door prize drawings at least every half hour thanks to our awesome vendors and sponsors! See partial list on reverse side and a complete list posted at event.



EXTRA PRIZE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!

**Be sure to join our
FOX HUNTS!**

**VE Testing Sessions:
10:00 AM and 1:00 PM**

Last year, our Fox Hunts were amazing. We were tricky, so this year we're giving you a heads up. We had a mobile fox and it could happen again! We love those little twists that make it a challenge!

- Also Available:**
- ◆ Breakfast
 - ◆ Lunch
 - ◆ Camping w/Electric - \$25
 - ◆ Showers

The Randolph Inn
AND SUITES

890 E Washington St
Winchester, IN 47394
Ph: 888-584-8281

randolphinnandsuites.com

Call or book your reservation online

Mention the East Central Indiana Hamfest for a 10% Discount!



SKYWARN



Use your smart phone to link to our website or enter the URL below!

**Saturday, July 29, 2023
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Eastern**

Reserve your selling spaces on our website!
INhamfest.com | INhamfest@gmail.com

We reserve the right to change any of our scheduled activities. All food is provided by 4H Shooting Sports. No other food or drink vendors allowed.



Area Nets (updated as of 7/1/23)					
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 7/1/23)							
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.