

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

August 2023

Volume 24

Issue 8

In this edition:

From the Editor

Page 2

Little Red Barn Net Update

Page 3

Tailgate Hamfest

Page 4

Titanic Wireless Operators

Pages 5

K9H Harvester Homecoming

Pages 7

ACARTS President's Column

Page 11

DX Advisory Committee (and kitties update)

Page 13

Foxhunt

Chronicles

Page 15

Churchill and more

Page 17

Tower Saga

Page 18

SKCC News

Page 23

Big Tower For Sale

Page 26

And much more!

August 2023

Allen County
HamNews

Summer Projects

TOWERS



Hamming It Up With the Editor



It seems that another new month is here. I hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer so far.

This month's edition of HamNews features a broad selection of stories and topics, including a few historical ones.

- Larry, KB9OS tells the tale of the heroism of the wireless operators on board the legendary RMS Titanic.
- Jim, AC9EZ takes a look at Churchill, British radar, and a few other related topics.
- Tom, KU8T provides the monthly update for the Little Red Barn Net.
- Steve, W9SAN introduces this month's K9H special event station and an update on the latest foxhunt.
- Chris, W9TSB provides an update on the 88 repeater and its ongoing repairs.
- Ken, N8KR relates the saga of a close encounter (of the third kind) with a tornado and the quest for a new tower.

And much more! Thank you to each of the contributors.

Several hamfests are coming up this month, including Elkhart and the Fort Wayne Tailgate Hamfests. See the flyers in this edition for more information.

July was a very busy month for me on the ham radio front. With the help of several local hams (including N8KR, KD9NRT, and KD9ODP), I was able to install a new 25 ft. tower for my station. After a long hiatus, I am now back on 6m in pursuit of grid squares and DX!

Another highlight from July was attending the ARRL Teachers' Institute in Dayton, OH. This was one of the best ham radio experiences that I have ever had. I will provide a longer account of this amazing experience in the next edition of HamNews.

Also, I spent several late nights operating as W1AW/9

to represent Indiana during the 2023 VOTA event over the last part of July (AC9EZ and N8KR also took part during this operation).

There is a slight chance that you might be able to catch me on the airwaves as W9HT/VE3 in the first part of August, likely on 20m phone or CW.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Tailgate Hamfest here in town on Friday, August 11th!

73,

Josh W9HT



ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

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

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

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



Update for July

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 lunches this month on 7/6/2023 at the Ziffles Rib Bar with 17 attending and 7/20/2023 at Rack & Helen's, 15 attending. Always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

Next Dates would be 8/3/2023, 8/17/23,

8/31/23.... 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, Friday W9RGM Ron Gregory or K9SKS Steve.

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.

We also have a group page at lrbn@groups.io this is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help I can invite you.

Also, our net controls use Netlogger. You may download the program at Download Center at www.netlogger.org. Also, for smart phones there is the Net Scraper, on the android go to Play Store, and on Iphone go to App Store and download this app.

73,

KU8T Tom





TAILGATE HAMFEST 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.
- Donations will be accepted to support the 2024 PFW Science Fair.
- Join in on the fun!

Lots of deals, fun, and no bees!

Ham splatter

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

**From the FWRC
President:
Larry KB9OS**



The Titanic's disaster and the involvement of the wireless operators

The Titanic's radio operators were extremely tired because of the hours they put in just before the collision. There were two reasons for their extended hours. One thing was that the Marconi spark gap transmitter had failed, and they spent six hours troubleshooting and did eventually fix the transmitter. This contributed to the wireless communications back log of messages that were to be sent out. So, when the transmitter came back online, they had a huge list of messages to be sent. One of the operators hadn't slept for more than 20 hours.

Here's where the controversy starts. They had gotten warnings from other ships in the area about the icebergs. All the other ships had stopped until dawn and the standard procedure would have been an iceberg watch. This is where a sailor would go up in the Crow's nest with binoculars, trying to get a visual on a possible iceberg in the path of the ship. Although other operators had transmitted that there were icebergs near their location, this technology hadn't been proven and they were still relying on a visual verification of the icebergs nearby. Here's where it gets even more controversial. Since all the senior officers that were on the bridge at the time perished in the disaster, there is no real way of knowing of what really happened leading up to the collision. One scenario says that be-

cause of the backlog of wireless messages they delayed the iceberg warning getting to the bridge. Another account said that there was no time to take the message to the bridge because of the time restriction that a radio operator would be away from the transmitter. In those days the only way to get a message to the bridge from the wireless company was to have a messenger take it to the bridge and at that time there was no messenger employed. The other scenario says that the message did get to the bridge, but wireless wasn't that reliable, so the captain didn't believe its accuracy. At this time, we must note that the wireless company was there to make money sending personal messages and promoting new wireless message technology and not navigational information. All of the code operators were employed by the communication companies. In this case they worked for The Marconi wireless company and they were not ship employees. Because most of the ships had stopped, the radio operators on other ships had gone to bed. This left a lot of wireless radio room unattended. At that time only the largest shipping vessels, which were mainly passenger ships, had any wireless code operators on board at all. Most freighters would not have used wireless operators yet.



The next FWRC meeting will be the tailgate ham-fest on Friday, August 11th at 6:30pm. See the flyer in this edition of the HamNews for more information.

**FWRC Officers
2023**

President
Larry Temenoff, KB9OS
(260) 490-3089
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

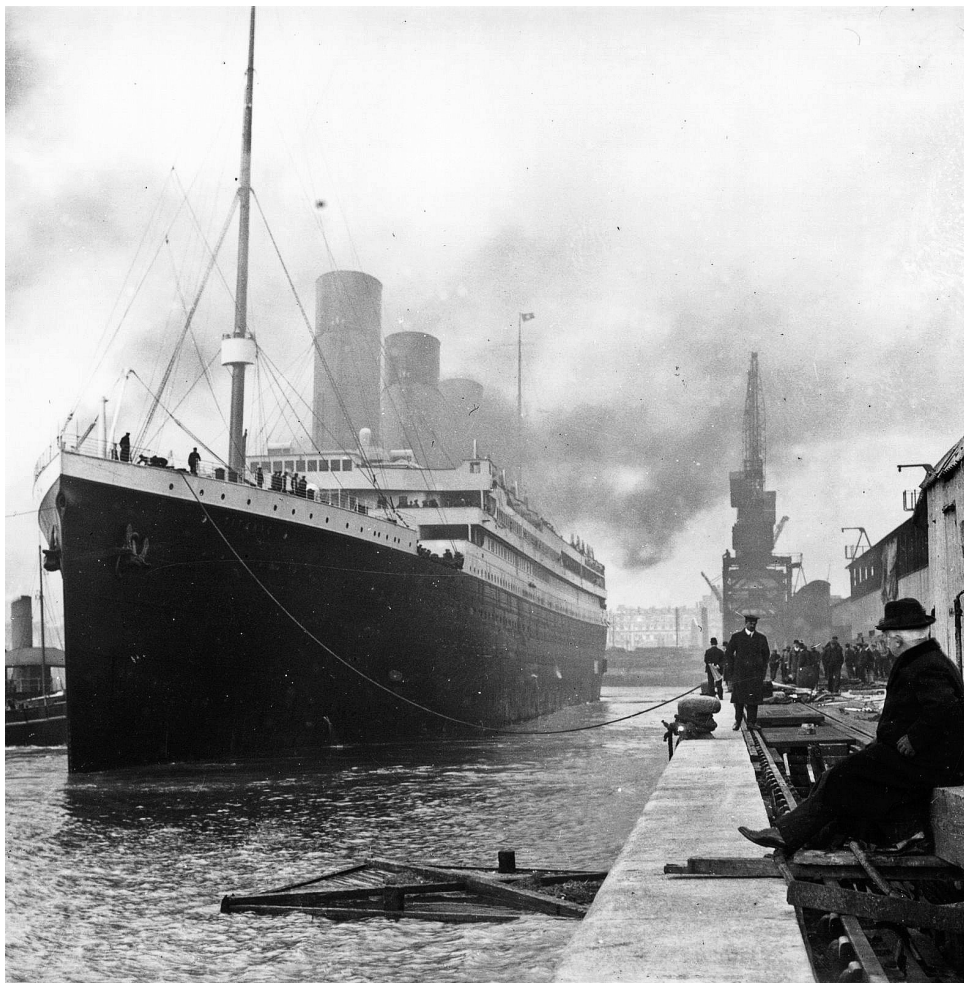
Carole Burke, WB9RUS
(260) 637-1989
wb9rus(at)comcast.net

At 11:15 p.m. April 14, 1912, the Titanic struck a large iceberg. In those days they were still using high sulfate steel which was very brittle and contributed to the sinking of the ship. The ships designers had estimated that 3 of the 16 watertight compartments could be breached without serious consequences to the ship. Unfortunately, five or six of the 16 watertight compartments were breached during the collision. It was also designed that all 16 watertight compartments would be functional just above the water line. Unfortunately, the so-called watertight compartments were open on the top. As the bow started to point downward the compartments would and did fill up quickly because of the open top construction.

There were 2 wireless operators on the Titanic. Senior officer John Phillips (11 April 1887 – 15 April 1912) who was a British sailor and the senior wireless operator aboard the Titanic. Unfortunately, he did perish during the sinking of the Titanic. His assistant, Harold Bride survived but was injured and experience frostbite on his legs. He died at the age of 65 from lung cancer. The ironic thing about the two operators is that they had gone against Marconi's policy of fixing their own transmitter, they spent several hours troubleshooting the transmitter and were successful in getting the transmitter functional again. This was just a few hours before the iceberg collision. The radio operators kept transmitting until the power went out. This was hours after they were officially relieved of their post. This heroic action saved hundreds of lives. There were approximately 2,200 souls on the ship, including the 900 workers and approximately 1,200 perished in the Titanic disaster. I hope this was interesting to you.

73,

Larry, KB9DS



RMS Titanic

**CHECK OUT 100
YEARS OF
FWRC HISTORY
AT:**

**[HTTPS://ARCHIVE.ORG/
DETAILS/
FORTWAYNERADIOCLUB](https://archive.org/details/fortwayneradioclub)**

JOIN THE FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB FOR HARVESTER HOMECOMING!

What: The FWRC will be on the air with a special event callsign from August 1st to the 8th.

Call: The special event station will use the call K9H. All club members are invited to participate. You can work any bands that you have privileges for! (Sorry, you are not automatically an "Extra" for the SES)

When: From August 1 to 8, FWRC members can operate the HH event as K9H from their home QTH! Please contact Steve, W9SAN at w9san (at) arrl.net to register when and what bands you would like to work. (Note that Larry, KB9OS will be hosting an outdoor operating event at his home on 8/4 and 8/5 at the time of publication. Please catch Larry on the air for more information.

Modes: All modes, CW, Phone, Digital, Smoke Signals; etc.

Bands: from 160 to 2 meters (and maybe above). And yes, we can have multiple people activating different bands at the same time slot! This would be the case in a multi operator setup. OK to get on Echolink, D-STAR, or other 'internet' modes, too! This is not a contest, just an on the air event, so WARC bands would be OK, too! Think of it like POTA; etc....

What info you need to log: Keep a log of all stations worked. The log needs to have call, day, time, and band. Mention to them that they can receive an emailed certificate by sending an email to drjoshlong (at) gmail.com with the contact information. Only one certificate per station, although it is OK for stations to work us multiple times and bands and modes. Operators will receive a certificate as well (see below); add to your wallpaper! We will have information on the W9TE QRZ page to help out.

Other: Have fun and spread the word about International Harvester and its legacy in Fort Wayne, once the heavy truck capital of the world!



FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES 14 July 2023

The July meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 14 July, 2023. The meeting started at 6:34 pm.

In lieu of President Larry Temenoff (KB9OS), Vice President Josh Long (W9HT) welcomed all attendees (about 18), led them in the pledge of allegiance, and had everyone introduce themselves by virtue of their name & callsign.

There were no corrections to the published minutes of the June club meeting.

The treasurer's report as of 5 July, 2023 indicating the following account balances:

Savings-	\$1,990.23
Checking-	\$6,809.33
Vanguard Money Market-	
	\$11,772.56
Year-to-Date Income-	
	\$1043.00
Year-to-Date Expenses-	
	\$2,141.28
Club members-	144

Charles Ward, KC9MUT provided a synopsis of Field Day activities. The weekend effort produced 491 CW contacts, 177 Phone contacts, 48 Digital contacts, 24 GOTA contacts and 1110 Bonus points for a submitted claimed score of 2510 points.

Charles noted that the set-up, operation and tear-down, and the Saturday evening dinner events went smoothly with no one getting hurt or anything blowing up. All in all it was an enjoyable and safe experience.

Charles reported that five of the club's laptops used for running the

networked logging software employ the XP Operating system which is no longer supported and is not compatible with the new networked logging software (ARDEX) that is to be implemented. Charles recommends that we acquire simple replacement laptops. Such devices are available as surplus units from several Allen County School Corporations.

Charles also noted that several of the club owned transceivers that we use for Field Day and other operating events are twenty five year old technology and are quite complicated to use. It has been recommended that the club sell these units and acquire more modern but simpler equipment. The thought is that the existing equipment could be sold and the newer equipment acquired requiring a minimal investment by the club. This idea will be explored.

Finally, Charles reported that we have acquired the use of the Old Fort as our Field Day operating venue for 2024.

Josh pointed out that the club has 144 members this year; we only had 18 folks show up for this meeting. Club attendance has been significantly depressed ever since the Covid crisis erupted. So Josh recommends we implement some type of outreach program, also suggested by club member Adam Warrix, KD9NRT. Use the outreach to promote club meetings, Foxhunts, our newsletter and more activities for our club members to participate in. It was also suggested that a club member, not necessarily a Board of Directors member, be recruited to head up such an activity and be appointed to this position and task by the Board.

Josh noted that the club will support the International Harvester Homecoming event on Saturday, 5 August and will operate a Special Evens station at the IH Engineering complex on Meyer Rd. with the call sign K9H. This Special Events station call will be valid from August 1 thru August 8. Club members, es-

pecially any former International Harvester employees, are encouraged to help support this initiative. Contact Larry Temenoff, KB9OS (temenoff (at) pfw.edu, 260-490-3089) if you are willing to lend a hand.

The August club meeting will be the Tailgate Hamfest occurring on 11 August on the 2nd floor of PFW Parking Garage #3. Attendance is free to all. Bring your precious jewels and attempt to sell them!

The Auburn Hamfest will occur at the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg museum on 29 July starting at 9:00 am.

Attendance and parking is free, and the club has reserved three tables with electricity. Club members are encouraged to attend and use the club tables to offer any goodies they would like to sell. The club plans to offer its U.S. Towers TX-472 seventy two foot self supporting crank up tower it acquired last year for sale.

Bob Streeter reported that of newsletters, the FWRC Hamsplatter and the Allen County HamNews dating from 1922 to the present have been uploaded to the Internet Archive website and will soon be available in chronological order for view along with other FWRC documentation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, FWRC

Fort Wayne Does It Again...

As many of you folks probably know, the Fort Wayne Radio Club once again took top honors in the 2023 Indiana QSO Party's Club Competition score with a total score of 330,296 points! Awesome job team FWRC! What many of you probably do not know is that this year's win by the FWRC is a record-setting year in two, unofficial ways.

CLUB COMPETITION

Fort Wayne Radio Club (11 logs) W9GT W9SAN W9HT W9SA AC9EZ KC9IPR AC9XS KR9U AA9H N8KR WA9BBN KB9OZI K9FMX	330296
Goshen Amateur Radio Club (3 logs) AA9DL - KC9UMP WT9U K9WPV	180790
NorthWest Indiana DX Club (5 logs) K9I K9LA KC9OYE W9DZ W3ML	44603
Patoka Valley Amateur Radio Club (7 logs) KA9GDW KD9QCM KD9RPS KE8ICE N9MZF WB9LIB N9NAU	27356
Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club (3 logs) KC9GUY N9YK N9TNT	1585
Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association (3 logs) KD9MGZ W9GOO KD9KMK	264

In the April, 2021 edition of the HamNews, the *Tuning Up* column compiled a series of statistics found on the website of the INQP. In that article, I mentioned that only two clubs, the FWRC and the Lafayette DX Association, had won first place in the INQP Club Competition more than once. At that time (2021), the FWRC

had won first place in the Club Competition three times, while the LDXA had won first place five times. Additionally, I mentioned that only one club, the LDXA, had ever successfully defended its first-place performance, with the LDXA winning first place in the Club Competition category consecutively for three years – 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Following the FWRC's 2023 Club Competition win, both of the above records have now been broken. The FWRC has now won first-place in the Club Competition a total of **six times** – 2012, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Additionally, the FWRC now also holds the record for most consecutive first-place finishes in the Club Competition – **four times**, from 2020-2023! These are some awesome records and the FWRC can be proud of a tremendous effort.

However, contesting life is not all smooth sailing. With so many first-place finishes, the FWRC is now the club to beat in the INQP, and you can be sure that other clubs in the state are actively planning on how to bump the FWRC off that top podium. The 2024 INQP is coming up and now only 9 months away. Can the FWRC do it again? Only you, the members of the FWRC can answer that question. Join the 2024 team FWRC INQP effort!



73 de Jim ac9ez

**Do you
want to
get more
involved?**

**Want to
help the
club
grow?**

**Have
some
great
ideas?**

**Run as an officer or board member
for the Fort Wayne Radio Club in
October!**

**We're
looking
for you.**

State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN

**FROM THE
ACARTS
PRESIDENT**

CHRIS, W9TSB



Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July! Also we've had some crazy storms these past few weeks, which brings me to the 88 repeater. Off and on we have had problems with this machine and after some digging and testing I think we might have found the problem. We are getting full power from the machine to the duplexer. But out of the duplexer to the antenna we are losing 90% of the power (70 watts in, 7 watts out).

The ACARTS and FWRC are working together to get a spare duplexer setup to replace the current one. This might be the root cause of the issues or it might not, but it is a high contributor to it. Please be patient while we work through this.

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

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
260-704-7801
kc9ezp(at)gmail.com

Directors at Large

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

Stuart Hall KD9LFW
stuarthall(at)aol.com

James Bassett KD9WCX
260-438-6664
Trrrrbo(at)aol.com

W9INX Trustee

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

As seen at the recent 2023 Auburn Hamfest...





DX Advisory Committee

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

In addition to being on the ARRL's Historical Committee, the Programs and Services Committee (PSC), the Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC), the Ethics & Elections Committee (E&E), the Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee (EMC – I'm the Chair) and the ARRL Foundation (we evaluate applicants for club grants and scholarships), I'm the Board Liaison for the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC). As a side note, Josh W9HT helps us with scholarship evaluations.

The DXAC looks at issues related to the DXCC program. The Chair is Chris K2CS, and there is a representative from each of the fifteen ARRL Divisions and one representative from RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada). The Staff Liaison is Bart W9JJ at HQ and the Administrative Liaison is Sharon at HQ (in other words, she and her assistants do most of the work!).

The PSC can task the DXAC to look at an issue, and the PSC will expect a recommendation from the DXAC. The DXAC can also take it upon themselves to look at an issue and provide a recommendation to the PSC. A general goal is to have the rec-

ommendation of the DXAC be unanimous (or near unanimous).

As the Board Liaison, I am the interface between the DXAC and the PSC. I participate in DXAC meetings, but I do not have voting privileges. Basically I'm there to make sure the DXAC does not go off in the weeds.

The next meeting of the DXAC is scheduled for Sunday August 6. Specific issues on the agenda include, but are not limited to:

- Should Jarvis Island be a separate entity from Kingman Reef?

- Discussion of DXCC rules for remote operations

- Discussion of major rule changes to DXCC (loosely referred to as DXCC 2025)

- Discussion of attracting more youth into the DXCC program

The last two items center on the fact that someone entering the DXCC program nowadays has a very low probability of getting to the Honor Roll and even less probability to make it to the Top of the Honor Roll due to environmental issues and political issues. Of course, some long-time DXers also have the Top of the Honor Roll problem.

It should be an

interesting meeting, with many diverse opinions. Hopefully a near unanimous consensus will eventually result after more DXAC meetings for a recommendation to the PSC.

An update on the kitties

In early March, a lady down the road was blessed with a litter of seven kitties. Unfortunately, her husband had just passed away and she had much to do besides raising seven kitties. Thus Vicky and I stepped in and adopted all seven. We plan to keep all seven, too.

Needless to say, our house is very lively now with seven kitties flying around (when they're not napping). Tiger, our adult male cat, is slowly getting accustomed to them. The number of skirmishes between him and the seven kitties continues to decrease





LOCAL HAMS

at the recent Van Wert Hamfest

2023

Check out other local hamfests!



On the 9th of July, the Fort Wayne Radio Club held it July Fox Hunt. The date was not the first Sunday in the month, but that would have required we run on the 2nd, which was part of the Fourth of July week-end. Nonetheless, the weather on the 9th was darn near perfect, with sunshine, light breezes, and puffy white clouds overhead and temperatures in the upper 70's or low 80's. Really nice!

At the start point near the geographic center of Allen County Indiana only one team was there to enjoy the weather and fun of Fox Hunting, and that was the team of Jim, K9OMA, Al, WB9SSE, and Anne, KA9YYI. Carole, WB9RUS, was under the weather and not present for this hunt. The Fox team consisted of Linda, W9LAN, Steve, W9SAN, and their grandson, Alex, and his girlfriend, Haley. The hiding place chosen by the Foxes was Harlan Community Park in Harlan, IN.

Upon arrival at the park, the quest was on for a suitable hiding place for the tiny micro fox. There was ample amounts of chain link fence, which usually

'spreads' the signal along its length and makes for a more challenging search. There was a play ground which also has many places to hide a small transmitter. But when the foxes found a large bell, preserved from the old Harlan high school, this seemed the perfect Faraday shield for the 50 milliwatt box. Since the foxes' main antenna could hear it, albeit weakly, that was decided as the microfox hiding spot.

At 1:30 PM EDT, the foxes started transmitting with their 10 element 2 meter Yagi antenna on the roof of their daughter's minivan. The hunters heard it straight away and the hunt was on! After starting transmissions, W9SAN discovered he was set at only the 5 watt level, but the hunters were hearing us OK so he continued at the low power level.

One issue was that signs to the park in Harlan were not too specific on where you turn! After overshooting us, the Pliett-Burke team finally found the right way into the park and the hunt was on for the micro fox. Jim, K9OMA, finally localized the weak signal near the bell and got on his back to find the fox taped onto the clapper of the bell!

Fox hunting is a good fun way to spend beautiful Sunday afternoons! The equipment needed is pretty simple, just a 2 meter rig and a directional

antenna to get started, and a means to attenuate the signal strength and you are good to go! Fancy computer programs help, but not really essential, as we have hunted with a laminated map to use dry erase markers on for plotting bearings. An extra HT is helpful for monitoring the intercom channel (and most of us have more than one HT!). We love to teach newbies how to do it, so why not make plans to come out and join us!

73,

Steve, W9SAN

FOX-HUNTER	JULY 2023 SCORE	YTD SCORE
WB9SSE	1	8
WB9RUS	0	6
KA9YYI	1	6
K9OMA	2	9
KC9MUT	0	12
ANGIE	0	5
W9SAN	1	9
W9LAN	1	8
ALEX	1	9
HALEY	1	7
W9TSB	0	5
KD9NPL	0	5
KC9GAS	0	4
KD9DPA	0	4

Views of the July 2023 fox hunt—want to join the fun in August? Find the details below!



The next fox hunt will be held on Sunday, August 6th at 1:30pm. Join in on the fun!



Living History

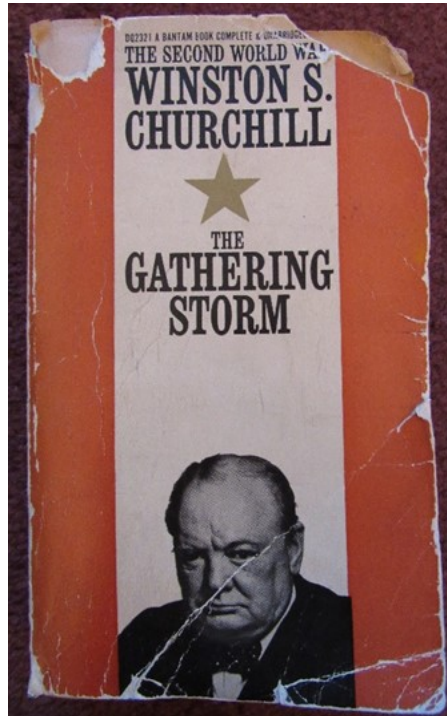
Hello my fellow “bugs.” August decided to do a major takedown on July, so for the next 31 days we will experience all that August has to offer, including more warm weather, potential severe storms, and another semester of school. I hope everyone had a chance to get out to the awesome Auburn hamfest this past month! What a great location for a hamfest!

This month’s column is going to be a little bit different from the usual *Tuning Up* fare, and it was inspired by some summer reading I have been doing.

The Background

Over the past several weeks, I have enjoyed re-reading a book by Sir Winston S. Churchill entitled *The Gathering Storm*. This book is the first of a six-volume series written and published by Churchill between 1948 and 1953 that record the events surrounding the Second World War. *The Gathering Storm*, published in 1948, is Churchill’s account of the events that preceded WW2. The amount of detail provided by Churchill is extensive, from personal letters and conversations Churchill had discussing the looming specter of a second world war to influential

political actions that rocked entire nations (such as the rise of dictatorships in Nazi Germany.)



Sir Winston Churchill's book The Gathering Storm.

One fact that is important to note is that Churchill was quite politically active prior to his service as Prime Minister of Britain during the war. Before the actual outbreak of hostilities, Churchill, who was serving as an MP in the British House of Commons, was asked in 1935 to serve on the “Committee of Imperial Defence on Air Defence Research” (notice the British spelling of the word “Defense” with a “c” and not an “s.”) This committee was tasked with investigating technologies which could be used by the British to increase their defensive capabilities in case of an enemy air attack. Even as early as 1935, fears were rising in Britain that such an air attack would originate from Nazi Germany, as the Germans were increasing their

armament program at an aggressive pace (and in direct violation of the conditions by the Treaty of Versailles).

During his tenure on that committee, Churchill records that the British air force initially began testing the use of Radar for the detection of aircraft in 1935. In fact, the first proposal to the British government on the use of radio waves for such detection purposes had only been made in February of 1935. Churchill further writes that by 1939, the British radar system (called the “coastal chain” in Churchill’s book) had advanced to the point that aircraft could be detected at ranges of about 60 miles.

The key factor in these descriptions of early British radar are the frequencies used by the British. Churchill records that the longer-range (about 60 miles) radar utilized frequencies in the 10m band. Shorter-range radar used for detecting aircraft at low altitudes was accomplished using frequencies in the 1.5m band.

Let’s do a little math. The standard formula that almost every ham radio operator knows by heart is the formula $468/f = \text{wavelength}$, where “f” is the target frequency in Megahertz, and “wavelength” is the length in feet of a half-wave dipole antenna. Using simple math, we can convert the above formula to another formula giving us the full-wave wavelength (in feet) of an antenna for a given frequency. This new formula, derived by

multiplying 468 (and the wavelength) by 2 results in the following formula: **$936/f = \text{wavelength}$** , where, “f” is the frequency in Megahertz and “wavelength” is now the full-wave wavelength in feet of that frequency.

One last mathematical step. Using simple algebra, we know that we can swap “f” with wavelength, giving us this formula: **$936/\text{wavelength} = f$** , where “wavelength” is the full-wave wavelength of a particular frequency, and “f” is the resulting frequency, in Megahertz, of that wavelength.

Keep in mind that Churchill is using meters, not feet, so we should also add in the conversion factor to convert meters to feet. One meter equals ~ 3.28 feet. Now, let’s do the calculation. **$936 / (10\text{m} \times 3.28 \text{ft/m}) = 28.536... \text{ Mhz.}$** or rounded to 28.5 Mhz. Doing the same calculation for 1.5 meters, **$936 / (1.5\text{m} \times 3.28 \text{ft/m}) = 190.243... \text{ Mhz.}$** or rounded 190 Mhz.

The significance of these two frequencies is rather obvious to most of us hams – 28.5 Mhz. is right in the middle of our 10m band privileges. 190 Mhz., although not a ham frequency, is just below (or just above, depending on how you look at it) our 1.25m band privileges of 222 Mhz. In effect, what the British air defense stations were using were using frequencies for air defense that would later be used by radio amateurs for local

and international communication. Interesting!

There are a couple of other points worth considering, though, in this excerpt from Churchill’s book. Consider, for example, that the years this research was taking place were between 1935 and 1939.

“Wireless” or radio communication as it was better known had not become a strong, repeatable reality until about the turn of the century. This means that in ~ 40 years, radio communication had been advanced beyond operators straining to hear a weak signal only a few miles distant to operators positively identifying aircraft using the behavior of radio waves at ranges of almost 50 miles!

Consider also another fact; the US banned radio amateurs from using any frequencies with wavelengths longer than 200m in 1912, following the *H.M.S. Titanic* disaster in April of that year. At the time, the going thought was that the wavelengths shorter than 200m were “useless” and thusly could be given to ham radio ops. In the space of 23 to 27 years, the world had changed dramatically, from governments thinking that wavelengths shorter than 200m were useless to using these short, “useless” wavelengths

for national defense!

A moral can be found in this riveting portion of the world’s history – technology is an ever-changing field. What is considered “trash” today can turn out to be the “gold” of tomorrow. Conversely, what is considered “obsolete” today may be what is considered “relevant” for tomorrow’s problems. Us radio amateurs are incredibly positioned to uniquely study and improve the field of radio communication. Who knows what those basement or shack experiments with that “odd radio” or “junk wire” may yield? You could just be on the cusp of another coastal defense network.

73 de Jim ac9ez



N8KR Tower Project

On Friday, March 31 of this year, a big storm hit the Fort Wayne area. Few people knew that there was an EF2 tornado that touched down in a small area in the northeast portion of the town with a “bulls-eye” in my neighborhood! Trees down, fences destroyed, sheds collapsed, roofs damaged and . . . one ham radio tower damaged. Deb and I returned from Florida on April 3rd to find the damage including the roof of the house.



The force of the wind buckled the house brackets attached to the Rohn 25 tower. Below the brackets one tower leg broke where two sections came together. That leg also bent causing the tower to lean over the house.

While no damage was done to the Hygain TH-5 antenna, all of the wire antennas were on the ground and it was very apparent that there was no safe way possible to climb the tower. Meanwhile, with a damaged roof and missing shingles, it was time to get the insurance people involved along with a reputable roofer. Thanks to a good insurance company, everything was covered, including the tower, so it was time to begin the tower replacement. With the tower in the fenced back yard, finding a bucket truck to reach the antenna was difficult. The first bid was a crane operating from the street at a cost of nearly \$3K. I soon noticed all of the tree trimmers and bucket trucks cleaning up neighborhood trees. A little “side job” for a few hundred and the tribander and rotor came down along with the top three sections of tower.



Once the bucket truck was done with the top of the tower, the bottom 20 feet was simply cut with a saw and pulled safely to the ground. After this experience, I decided the best replacement tower would be the heavier Rohn 45. Needing a yard of concrete to hold the base, it was necessary for me to “jack hammer” the old concrete base, enlarge the hole, and prepare for the larger and heavier footprint of new tower.



In the meantime, 4 sections of Rohn 45 was procured from the Chicago area with the help of Josh – W9HT and his pick up truck. While all of this was happening, I decided that as I continue to age, tower climbing will soon end. So, I decided to invest in RT Innovations *Razor*: similar to the Glenn Martin Hazer but built for Rohn 45. With the help of QTH, I found a new unused one in North Carolina . . . Road Trip! Deb and I had a fun long drive to the east coast of NC. I was pleased to find this one with the stainless steel options.



With the tower in the back yard and the difficulty bringing in a cement truck, I decided to mix the concrete onsite. How many bags of concrete???? 28 bags filled the hole. Fortunately, a portable cement mixer can be rented for a few bucks and does a stellar job doing all of the work mixing the concrete with water. Once again, Josh – W9HT as assistant! After 3 weeks for cement curing, it was time to erect the tower. Working with Rohn 25 is a piece of cake compared with the heavier Rohn 45. Even though the tower sections were new, nothing wanted to fit together perfectly. At one point we needed to use a come-a-long on the legs to make the next section fit. . . and that was done on the tower! But a good crew, good gin pole, good ropes all made it happen.



Once the tower was up, and special thanks to Jim – KR9U who joined me on the tower, it was time to get the Razor installed along with the antennas. Along with the TH5 tribander, I decided to add a Cushcraft 40 meter rotatable dipole. Since the Razor stops 1 foot under the top of the tower, a long mast was needed. Once again, a road trip to Michigan netted an 18 foot T-6 aluminum ¼ inch wall mast: perfect! How does one haul an 18 foot long mast? Boat trailer! An electric (AC) winch was purchased, a used and regreased TB-3 thrust bearing was bought online, and I was ready for the final install.



Early on Tuesday morning, a small crew assembled to get the tribander on the tower. Since the tower is next to the house, we had to maneuver the elements to miss the house windows and reach roof level. (Yes, I still have to climb but only roof level to work on antennas. As you can see in the picture, the rotor is accessible from the ground.) Once mounted a simple push of the button and the antennas went up the tower where they rest to this day! Finally, a job complete and just in time for the fall contest season. Thanks to Josh-W9HT, Jim-KR9U, Dave-AA9H and son, Al-K9FW, Bruce-N9DGL, Ron-KD9FBD, Ed-WA9BBN, and Scott - plus a very patient wife and generous insurance company for the new tower and new roof!



I am very happy to report that all works well. The first night both antennas were used simultaneously in the SKCC July 2 hour SKS sprint. Ed-WA9BBN joined me and we cranked out 105 qso's! My last project will be to add the 80 and 160 meter wire antennas. They will be attached to the top of the Razor. No climbing needed, though, as a push of the button and down comes the Razor! Pretty slick!

Do you have a neat antenna story? Have you tried out a new (or new-to-you) radio lately? Want to share a ham radio experience? Write an article for the September edition of the Allen County HamNews. See page 2 for more information.

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

July 2023

Operating activities during the month include the following.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) on July 8 & 9, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown:

- AC9XS 66
- WA9BBN 45
- KA9GKE 40
- W9GOO 30
- W9HT 5
- AC9EZ 6
- N9DGL 7

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

- N8KR (multi-op with WA9BBN) 106
- NJ0U 47
- W9HT 32
- AC9XS 27
- N9DGL 23
- KA6GKE 21
- KR9U 20
- AC9EZ 11
- W9GOO 5
- 73,

Ed, WA9BBN

SKCC Events

(August)

⇒ Weekend Sprintathon (WES): 8/12-13

⇒ 2 Hour Sprint (SKS): 8/23

FALL
2023

COMING THIS FALL

Get your FCC ham radio license

*Join the fun on the
airwaves!*



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

The **Hendricks County Tailgate Fest** will be on August 12, 2023 at the Avon United Methodist Church. Located at 6850 E. Hwy 36 in Avon, IN. Talk in will be on the 145.130MHz W9HCA repeater with a PL-Tone of 88.5Hz. For more information, go to:

hendricksares.org



VOLUNTEERS

ON THE AIR 2023



2023 FINDLAY HAMFEST

Vendor set-up 6AM.
Doors open at 8AM.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Hancock County Fairgrounds
1017 E. Sandusky St., Findlay, OH 45840

41.036717 -
83.631166

General Admission STILL JUST \$10
\$20 Vendor Table (\$15 each additional table)
Each Flea Market Space \$10
\$15 Overnight Fee

CONTACT US:

Talk In: 147.15+ (PL 88.5)
444.15+ (PL 88.5)

Phone: 419-423-3402

www.findlayradioclub.org/hamfest
hamfest@findlayradioclub.org



Box 587 Findlay, OH 45839
Organized in 1925

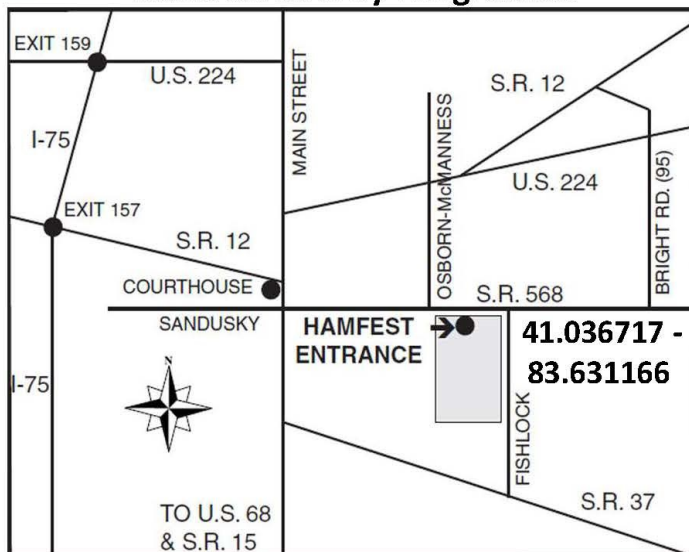
RAIN OR SHINE
FREE PARKING



For more information and online ticket sales, just point your cell phone's camera on this QR code.



Hancock County Fairgrounds

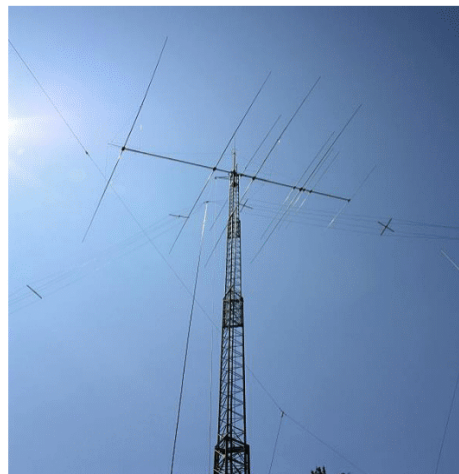


FOR SALE

US TOWERS TX-472 NESTED SELF-SUPPORTING TOWER

**HAS FOUR NESTED CRANK UP SECTIONS
EXTENDED HEIGHT – 72 FT.
WEIGHT – 1,040 LBS.**

**HOT DIPPED GALVANIZED STEEL
NESTED HEIGHT – 23 FT.
ON THE GROUND IN LEO, INDIANA**



OFFERED BY FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB, FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

TOWER HAS TILT-OVER CAPABILITY AND ASSOCIATED HARDWARE

MAXIMUM ANTENNA WIND LOAD – 107 LBS.

MAXIMUM ANTENNA WEIGHT – 200 LBS.

MAXIMUM ANTENNA WIND AREA – 6.1 SQ FT.

INTERESTED? CONTACT FT. WAYNE RADIO CLUB

STEVE NARDIN, W9SAN
w9san@arrl.net
(260)-482-4039

CHARLES WARD, KC9MUT
kc9mut@gmail.com
260-312-6338

AL BURKE, WB9SSE
aburke55@comcast.net
260-637-1989

Area Nets (updated as of 8/1/23)					
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 146.940)	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 8/1/23)							
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? Yes or No

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? Yes or No

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.