

Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

December 2022

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*Merry
Christmas &
Happy
Holidays!*

From the Fort
Wayne Radio
Club, the Allen
County Amateur
Radio Technical
Society, and the
Fort Wayne DX
Association

Hamming It Up With the Editor

As I write this, December has already started according to Universal Coordinated Time. The wind is blowing hard, and there might even be some flurries outside. This is perfect weather to hunker down by the fireplace and to read this month's edition of HamNews.

Hamfest 2022

I hope that all of you enjoyed the hamfest as much as I did. From what I have heard, attendance was slightly up from last year. I found quite a few good deals, although my shopping list was short for this year.

One notable attendee at this year's hamfest was Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Many of us know his name and callsign from his time in the FCC.

Chris, W9TSB mentions in his column that a longer, more official synopsis of the hamfest will follow soon.

This month's edition of HamNews also includes a guest column by Michigan ham Ted, K8AQM. He provides an account of his adventures to Fort Wayne for the hamfest.

New Feature: DXpeditions

This month includes a short list of anticipated DXpeditions that should be on the air this month. See how many of these you might be able to hear and work!

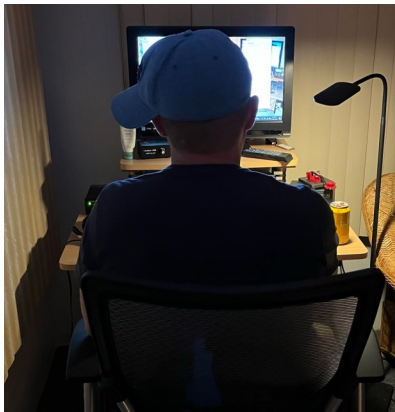
Christmas 2022: Random Musings

The holiday season is here. Another year is about to go up in smoke. Oddly enough, I just completed one logbook and just began a new one this week, including log entries for newly-worked DXCC entities of Benin and Iran. While 2022 has included a few losses, it included many blessings.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

73,

Josh, W9HT
(sometimes portable 4)



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
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ARES Operations and Tools of the Trade

By Brian Kibiger, AC9XU, AEC,
Allen County ARES

Preparation is the key to being a successful ARES radio operator. As part of Allen County ARES, we all have an internal desire to help our community. ARES members plan for the worst, ARES members operate in support of, and radio operators develop essential skills in the amateur radio hobby they all enjoy. The “Tools of the Trade” equip the ARES radio operator with the necessities to support the community. The question is, have we assembled our “Tools of the Trade”? Are we ready for planned activities? Are we ready for the unplanned events?

Definition

... tools of the/one's trade: **a set of tools or skills that are necessary for a particular kind of job or work.**

Key Development Points

Desire for continuous improvement – Continuous improvement requires the ARES radio operator to be in a state of constant evaluation. Is the equipment ready? Are the batteries charged? Should consideration be given to implementing a routine systems check? Has

time been devoted to learning proper procedures? A step towards being a prepared ARES radio operator requires a systematic approach to implementing a continuous improvement cycle.

- ♦ Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses
- ♦ Define a plan to overcome the weaknesses
- ♦ Make best use of the strengths
- ♦ Repeat cycle

Regular training and practice

Skills are developed over time and with a great amount of practice. Just when we think a skill has been mastered, a life event occurs, a technology change is too slow, or lack of interest enters the picture. What was once a fine-tuned skill, becomes rusty and out-of-date. When considering the idea of training and practice to be better prepared consider:

- Weekly net involvement
- Volunteering for public service events
- Recruiting a friend to share accountability
- Let training and practice become a habit

More than a HT The radio is just one of many tools an ARES radio operator needs. To be a prepared radio operator, much thought should be given to what is truly needed. As the mind wonders in the world of the

“What if disaster”, the shopping list gets bigger and bigger. Take time to consult with seasoned ARES radio operators, look for opportunity to dual purpose tools, and set limitations as necessary. For reference, look at the ARES Field Deployment “Go-Kits” Checklist at the following link:

<https://ema.arrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Go-Kit-Checklist.pdf>

Summary

Many great thinkers have said that what you focus on is what you become. As time is given to preparing the “Tools of the Trade”, consider setting time aside to focus on improvement, practice/training, and appropriate preparedness gear. Finally, while not mentioned above, find/ make time to have fun.

Reference

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tools%20of%20the%20trade#:~:text=Definition%20of%20tools%20of%20the%2Fone%27s%20trade%20%3A%20a,trade.%20Learn%20More%20About%20tools%20of%20the%2Fone%27s%20trade>



NWS Skywarn Liaison Retires

By Jay Farlow, W9LW

Michael Lewis, KG4KJQ, retired from the National Weather Service Nov. 30. For the past 15 years, Lewis has been warning coordination meteorologist (WCM) at the Northern Indiana weather forecast office, which serves Allen and 36 other counties in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Among the official responsibilities of any WCM are advising and working with community leaders to establish severe storm spotter networks and ensuring that storm spotter training is accomplished. This made Lewis the primary liaison between the weather forecast office and storm spotters, including ham radio operators.

WANE TV produced [an informative news story about Lewis' 37-year NWS career](#).

Jay Farlow, W9LW, represented the Allen County Skywarn net at a retirement luncheon for Lewis at the weather forecast office November 28.

On an interim basis, meteorologists Lonnie Fisher and Amos Dodson will share the office's WCM duties until the NWS hires a permanent successor for Lewis.

NWS Indianapolis offers online winter weather spotter training

The Indianapolis NWS office plans a virtual presentation on winter weather spotting and safety Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. ET. Attendees will learn about winter weather hazards, how to stay safe and how to measure snow and ice and make valuable reports to the NWS. The office expects the online class to last approximately 90 minutes. Spotters at any location may participate but the office requires advance registration at <https://t.co/eqI9rFSTz9>.



Photo caption: National Weather Service Northern Indiana meteorologist Mark Frazier (left) presents a retirement plaque to warning coordination meteorologist Michael Lewis, KG4KJQ as Skywarn net manager Jay Farlow, W9LW (background) applauds.

Hamsplatter

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



FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2022

6:30 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IN RAUSCH HALL
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

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Josh Long, W9HT

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

11 November 2022

The November meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 11 November 2022.

President Carole Burke, (WB9RUS) welcomed all attendees (about 25) and led them in the pledge of allegiance.

Bob Streeter, (W8ST) provided the Treasure's report as of 11 November 2022 indicated the following account balances:

Savings- \$1,964.59

Checking- \$5,915.49

Vanguard Money Market- \$11,429.95

Year-to-Date Income- \$2,034.53

Year-to-Date Expenses- \$3,290.37

Club members count- 155

Prepaid for 2023- 12

Bob Streeter reported on an initiative to chronicle the history of the FWRC. We can utilize the History Center and the Indiana Historical Society to chronicle documents related to the club that were produced over the last 100 years. They have the capability to electronically capture images and documents. We have some records from the 1920's forward, but it would be good if we could find additional photographs, QSL cards and other documents that depict FWRC activities, especially during the Bill Kindred, (W9RAP) era, and before. Also of interest are copies of the Hamsplatter

prior to 2004, especially newsletters penned by former FWRC member Ron Koczor (K9TUS). Club members are requested and encouraged to bring forward any such historical documentation that can be used in this endeavor. Contact Bob Streeter or Al Burke (WB9SSE) if you have any questions.

Steve Nardin (W9SAN) presented examples of the FWRC decal produced with input from club members and the help of his daughter who rendered the final artwork chosen for the decal.

The club has procured 300 decals which will be available to all club members who re-up their dues for 2023. Each person who re-ups will be given one decal, and additional decals will be available for \$1.00 each.



Steve also presented the design of our Foxhunters decal which is being made available to all active foxhunters at no charge.



Carole announced that the annual Christmas Banquet is on for Friday, 9 December at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, in Rausch Hall, starting at 6:30 pm. The club will provide both fried and baked chicken, coffee and lemonade, cups, plates and cutlery plus condiments as usual. Attendees should provide carry-in dishes and / or desserts as they see fit. (Meat Balls and/or Deviled Eggs are always a great suggestion). We plan to have a gift exchange this year, something a ham can relate to with a value limited to \$10.00. Whom-ever participates in the gift exchange should mark the gift as 'a man's' or 'women's' and indicate who it's from.

Following the business meeting Adam Warrix, (KD9NRT) provided a program "DX-ing on the Satellites" describing his activities and techniques towards gathering 100 contacts via satellite on a hand-held. A very interesting program indeed and lot's of food for thought to those who might want to give it a try.

The meeting concluded about 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club

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!

We now have the Fort Wayne Hamfest 2022 under our belt! From just a visual observation it looked like we had a good turnout of people. By January's newsletter we should have some official number to share with everyone. I would like to thank Fred KC9EZP, Howard N9ADS, and all of those that worked inside traffic as well as security. You all made this a successful hamfest. Also, a big thank to our vendors and forum presenters. With out you it wouldn't be much of a hamfest.

We still have the Secretary position open on the ACARTS board. If anyone is interested in being a part of our board, please email me at w9tsb (at) outlook.com.

Our December general meeting will be a hamfest wrap up meeting. We will review thing to try to make the 2023 hamfest even better. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom; the link will be posted on the ACARTS website at www.acarts.com about a week or two before the meeting. Those that wish to join the meeting are welcome to do so.

Thank you, all!

73,

Chris McCullough, W9TSB

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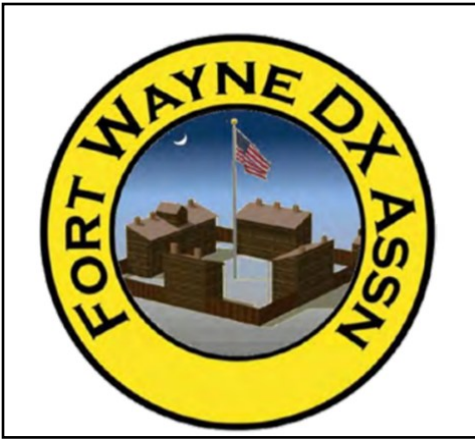
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The Ft Wayne Hamfest and the CQ WW DX CW Contest

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Ft Wayne Hamfest

For this year's Ft Wayne Hamfest, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH (formerly the Amateur Radio enforcement guy at the FCC and now the manager of the ARRL's Volunteer Monitor program) visited for his second time.

Riley gave an update on the Volunteer Monitor program in the ARRL Forum (which was well attended). Right after the VE Testing was done, he and I then did a forum on setting up your station for those newly licensed. We only had two from the VE Testing – one had upgraded to Extra and the other had passed his Technician. I donated my

2022 ARRL Handbook to the new Tech – that should keep him busy for a while! Riley and I also did a forum on resurrecting vintage equipment since we're both into that aspect of the hobby.

CQ WW DX CW

After having a good time on 15m in the CQ WW DX PH contest in October, I decided to see how many countries and zones I could work on 15m in the CW weekend at the end of November. I was hoping that 15m would be as good for the CW weekend as it was for PH weekend.

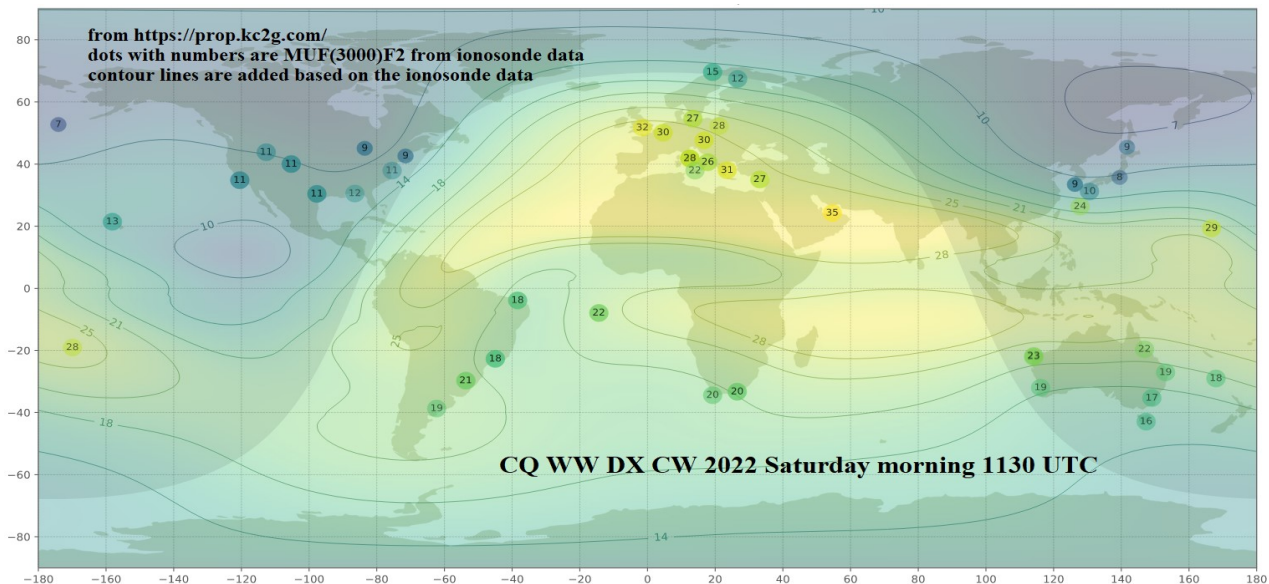
Friday night started out slow. I only worked a JA, a KH6 and a KH2 for 3 countries and 3 zones. The West Coast was spotting DU, YB, BY, V8 and others – but I heard none of them. Early Saturday morning (around 6:30 AM), I looked at the KC2G MUF (maximum usable frequency) map at <https://prop.kc2g.com/> to see how the ionosphere over Europe was doing since it was around noon over there (see the accompanying image). The MUFs for 3000 km distances were mostly above 30 MHz, so that said 15m would be good to EU after our sunrise – barring any major geomagnetic disturbance.

Sure enough, when I got on the radio Saturday (just after noon – we have our two grandsons Saturday mornings), 15m had many strong EU signals. I ended up add-

ing 57 more countries and 22 more zones on Saturday. Not getting on until just after noon resulted in missing many routine EU countries.

Sunday had good signals, too. I got on around 8AM and worked many of those routine EU countries that I missed on Saturday. I added 44 more countries and 5 more zones on Sunday, ending up with a total of 104 countries and 30 zones. Not bad – but others in the Central Division did better. For example, N9CO (just west of Chicago) worked 120 countries and 31 zones in his single-band high-power 15m effort with a Hy-Gain TH6DXX at 85 feet. W9XT (a bit northwest of Milwaukee) worked 113 countries and 30 zones in his single-band low-power 15m effort with a Hy-Gain TH7DX at 50 feet, a Cushcraft A3 at 65 feet and another A3 fixed to EU down lower. And WB9Z (south of Kankakee, Illinois) worked 130 countries and 34 zones (wow!) in his single-band high-power 15m effort with very tall towers, multi-band antennas and monobanders.

Two issues surfaced from this contest. First, when my laptop is running N1MM, the noise floor on 15m increases from S1 to S3. That doesn't help the weak signals. That's something to look in to on a cold winter day. Second, a bigger and higher antenna would certainly help – along with more antennas to cover multiple directions at the same time.





The WA7BNM Contest Calendar

With December now here, a warm “Merry Christmas” is in order from your author to all the readers out there! Although today didn’t feel much like Christmas temperature-wise (it was over 50 degrees today!), the Christmas lights are now up on the house, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and December 25 is eagerly anticipated.

But with December comes not only Christmas – there are a whole multitude of events coming up for those hams who enjoy contesting or on-the-air events, including the ARRL’s 10 Meter Contest, the ARRL’s 160m Contest, the Straight Key Century Club’s Christmas-themed Weekend Sprintathon (WES), and of course, the ever popular “Straight Key Night” also hosted by the ARRL.

With so many contests and on-air events coming up, it can be hard to keep track of what all is coming and how one may participate in those contests. Never fear! The internet of today has an answer for almost every query. This month’s article is a quick recap of what your author recommends as probably the best contest/on-the-air event calendar available to amateur radio operators worldwide – the WA7BNM contest calendar.

The WA7BNM Contest Calendar

The absolute first resource I recommend for anyone wanting to keep an eye on upcoming events or contests is the WA7BNM contest calendar, found at the following web address: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>. At

this website, run by radio amateur WA7BNM, one can find a listing of pretty much every national or international contest or operating event currently being held on the bands from dc to daylight frequencies. If this calendar doesn’t list a contest, it’s probably either brand new or just for local ops. Figure 1 is a screenshot that shows just a small sample of the many contests listed on the calendar for the month of December.

SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Dec 1
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 2
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 2
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 2
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Dec 2
ARRL 160 Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 2 to 1600Z, Dec 4
Kalbar Contest	0000Z, Dec 3 to 2359Z, Dec 4
UT Meeting	0900Z-0900Z, Dec 3 and 1500Z-1800Z, Dec 3 and 0700Z-1000Z, Dec 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0630Z, Dec 3 and 0630Z-0700Z, Dec 3 and 0730Z-0800Z, Dec 3
PRO CW Contest	1200Z, Dec 3 to 1159Z, Dec 4
INOC Contest	1400Z, Dec 3 to 1359Z, Dec 4
FT Roundup	1800Z, Dec 3 to 2359Z, Dec 4
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Dec 5
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 5
OKWC Memorial	1630Z-1759Z, Dec 5
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Dec 5
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Dec 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 6
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 6
RTTYOPS Wootprint	1700Z-1900Z, Dec 6
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 7
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 7
A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Dec 7
CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 7
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Dec 7
VHF-UHF FTB Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Dec 7
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Dec 7
CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Dec 7
CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 8
CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Dec 8
RTTYOPS Wootprint	1700Z-1900Z, Dec 8
F4CW Meeting	1900Z-2000Z, Dec 8
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 9
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 9
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 9
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Dec 9
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11
PQEAS QRP Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, Dec 10 to 2359Z, Dec 12
TRC Dipi Contest	Cancelled for 2022
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11
ARRL 40/80 Contest	1300Z, Dec 10 to 1359Z, Dec 11
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 10 to 1559Z, Dec 11
QRP ARRL Holiday Sprint Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Dec 11

Figure 1 - A snapshot of just a few of the many contests listed on the WA7BNM contest calendar

Not only are all these upcoming contests listed, there are also handy entries that give the date and times for that contest, who is the contest’s sponsoring organizer, what modes/bands are used for the contest, and most importantly, what the exchange is for that contest.

Here’s an example for the ARRL’s 10 Meter Contest (coming up the weekend of December 10). In figure 2, one can see a screenshot of the WA7BNM contest calendar for the ARRL’s 10 Meter Contest. This more detailed look at a particular contest is made possible by clicking on an individual contest in the broader list on WA7BNM’s calendar (part of that larger list is seen in Figure 1). Starting from the top, one can see a variety of broad information categories that apply to this contest, namely: the contest is active and ongoing, and that the focus of the contest is global participation. From there, more specifics are listed, such as the modes allowed for the contest (cw and ssb), what bands are used for that contest (10m in this case), and the nu-

merous entry categories, max operating time, and maximum power output allowed per power category.

ARRL 10-Meter Contest	
Status:	Active
Geographic focus:	Worldwide
Participation:	Worldwide
Mode:	CW, Phone
Bands:	10m Only
Classes:	Single Op (QRP/Low/High)(CW/Phone/Mixed) Single Op Unlimited (QRP/Low/High)(CW/Phone/Mixed) Multi-Single (Low/High)
Max operating hours:	36 hours
Max power:	HP: 1500 watts LP: 100 watts QRP: 5 watts
Exchange:	W/VE: RST + State/Province XE: RST + State DX: RST + Serial No. MM: RST + ITU Region
QSO Points:	2 points per Phone QSO 4 points per CW QSO
Multipliers:	Each US State + DC once per mode Each VE Province/Territory once per mode Each XE State once per mode Each DXCC Country once per mode Each ITU Region (MM only) once per mode
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points x total mults
E-mail logs to:	(none)
Upload log at:	http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
Mail logs to:	10 Meter Contest ARRL 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111 USA
Find rules at:	http://www.arrl.org/10-meter
Cabrillo name:	ARRL-10
Cabrillo name aliases:	

Figure 2 – A close look at the ARRL's 10 Meter Contest this December

Of special note is the listing for the contest's exchange. This is the information that stations are expected to give and to receive as a valid contact in the contest. Not only is the exchange information listed, but the exchange info is broken down depending on the location of the participating station ("W/VE" for inside the USA and Canada, "XE" for stations in Mexico, "MM" stations or "maritime mobile" stations for those who are on boats, and "DX" for all other stations.)

Going down the page, one sees a breakdown for how many points each contact is worth, depending on the mode of the contact, as well as what counts as a score "multiplier". Finally, there are all the "housekeeping" items for the contest, such as where one is upload one's contest, a mailing address for logs (not a common method of submitting contest logs nowadays), and a link to where one can find the full rules for the contest.

The beauty of the above detailed entry on the WA7BNM contest calendar is that one can find all the pertinent information pertaining to one contest in one handy resource. Rather than having to search through an individual contest sponsor's website to figure out the exchange, point values per qso, etc., WA7BNM's calendar provides all of that info and more in one spot.

The WA7BNM contest calendar has a lot of other information, including an 8-day calendar listing the contests for the next 8 days, a 5-week calendar, a listing of "perpetual" contests (described as contests that are very likely to continue perpetually every year), and several additional resources.

With low-band contesting in full-swing and several contests coming up in 2023, the WA7BNM calendar is a handy way to organize and plan one's contesting and event participation. Give it a try!

73 de Jim AC9EZ

Upcoming DXpeditions in December 2022

Vanuatu	YJ0CA
Maldives	8Q7BB
Solomon Is	H44SHD
Bangladesh	S21DX
Corsica	TK
Crozet	FT8/c
Costa Rica	TI7
Norfolk I	VK9MTO
Gabon	TR8CR



November 2022

On November 6th, 2022, the Fort Wayne Radio Club held its last fox hunt (hidden transmitter hunt) of the year. The weather was great with just a few clouds, lots of sunshine, and very moderate temperatures. Duties of the fox were done by Charles, KC9MUT, and his friend, Angi. Since so many locations in Allen County had been tried as the foxes' liar, Charles went back to one that was previously done, the Eagle Marsh area in southwest Allen County, with the parking lot at the Boy Scout office as the easiest access point. They used their truck with push up mast and 5 element LFA on 2 meters to transmit as the high-power fox, and the small mini Byonics fox as the microfox. Charles' choice of hiding spot for the tiny microfox would prove to be a rather good challenge!

At the start point located at the center of Allen County, two teams had gathered. The first on the scene were the team of Steve, W9SAN, Linda, W9LAN, and their grandson Alex. As the start time approached, the second team of Jim, K9OMA, and his wife, Anne, KA9YYI, showed up just in time for the first transmission. As the clock struck 1:30 PM EST, Charles began transmitting on 146.430 MHZ and the hunt was on! Both teams immediately left the starting location and headed toward the downtown area. Signals seemed to be coming from the Foster Park area, but as we got closer, it seemed that the distance would be further and looked like the Coventry shopping area.

Intermixed with the craziness of the hunt, we decided to try and live stream

the action using the FWRC's new Instagram page. Never having done this before, the results for those watching were on the hilarious side, as reported by my daughter, Courtney, who was watching from home. After streaming during the start, we shut down and concentrated on the hunt.

The Nardin team had crossed paths with the Pliett team in the downtown area, but now they were nowhere to be seen. At the intersection of Engle Road and Ardmore Road, the signal was now obvious to be in the Coventry area and we thought most likely around Fox Island. But at Yohne Road, a clue from Charles gave it all away as he said he was in a location previously used. We immediately knew it was Eagle Marsh! Now the worry was which of the Eagle Marsh access points, the one off of Engle Road, or the other at the Boy Scout office, could we pick the correct one.

While the foxes waited on hunters to arrive, they noticed another kind of 'hunter' on the scene as a large buck deer wandered across their hiding spot. We suspect that the deer had direction finding wires built into his antlers. Well, it could happen.....

We gambled on the Boy Scout office, and it paid off! At approximately 2:20 pm, we arrived and found Charles pickup truck. But, the microfox couldn't be heard. Hmmmmmm.... Charles demonstrated that he could hear the microfox, and soon we did pick up the signal coming from the base of a 137,000 volt I&M transmission tower, thankfully near the ground not up with the high voltage. It took nearly 40 minutes to locate the microfox, and we found it just as the Pliett team arrived on scene. Jim homed in on the fox in about 7 minutes. Skill counts, but we had a long head start!

During this time we did another live stream of the actual digging through the grass trying to find where the microfox was hiding. The location of the microfox was a tiny package magnetically mounted on the underside of one

of the braces of the transmission tower which was right at ground level and surrounded by overgrown vegetation. The metal structure of course made localizing the transmission that much more difficult. Afterward the fox and the Pliett team retired to a nearby Culvers and the Nardin team had to return home early.

For the first fox hunt of 2023, in February, the Alex-Linda-Steve team will serve as the Fox. Again, this was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon and a great challenge to use your skills as amateur radio operators! We will gladly help any newbies learn the ropes, so why not plan on joining us next year and get in on the fun!

FINAL FOXHUNT SCORECARD: 2022

Foxhunter	NOVEMBER	YTD
WB9RUS	0	4
WB9SSE	0	4
K9OMA	1	4
KA9YYI	1	4
KC9MUT	1	15
W9SAN	2	10
W9LAN	2	8
ALEX	3	13
KD9TST	0	2
KD9TTK	0	2
KD9TTL	0	2
IAN	0	2

73,

Steve, W9SAN

Fort Wayne Hamfest November, 2022

The Fort Wayne, IN hamfest is one of the bigger hamfests in the area. It is a two day affair inside and like most hamfest, attendance is spiraling down year after year. But Fort Wayne is a SKCC hotbed of members and activity! Check the number of participants in any SKCC event and you'll see a very large number is represented by IN and most of those entered are from the Fort Wayne area. This large number is a result of "pushing and pulling" locals into SKCC activity by several including Ken N8KR, Ed WA9BBN and Josh W9HT.



Seated L-R Ted K8AQM, Al K9FW (aka Nee NE9EE)
Standing L-R Josh W9HT, John NJ0U, Ken N8KR, Rose KA9GKE, Ed WA9BBN and Joe W9EAO

I decided to attend this year's hamfest and although a four hour drive through snow and very cold temperatures it was well worth the trip! A Friday night before the hamfest meeting was arranged with many of the regulars attending with a warm welcome at the home of N8KR. Those attending are shown in the picture. Pizza, salad, beer and sodas were on hand along with a dessert special made by Josh W9HT (really...no XYL

needed) of apple crisp and multi berry crisp! The talk through the evening was fast and furious with tales of adventures, great deeds and even misdeeds of the past and even future plans of adventures in SKCC!

The hamfest Saturday was a good time with lots of "I need that..." stuff. Of course you really don't need that but it was fun to shop around. By the way, No body sniffs out great finds better than W9HT and N8KR! How they found a TS-120 and Kenwood 30 amp supply both working, for \$75 is amazing and N8KR found a very good looking TS-751 for \$35 ... we determined it may need new finals but for \$35, it is still a good deal to part-out for much more than \$35!

At the SKCC booth there were buttons available, keys to try and best of all...a chance to make a real 10m QSO across the arena to the W9OU event trailer also on 10m with a Buddy Pole!

To the right is a group picture of all the SKCC members who were available at 11:30 for the group photo.

Bottom line; it was well worth the four hour drive to "hang" with so many great SKCCers at the Fort Wayne, IN hamfest.

73, Ted K8AQM/VE9AQM



ELECRAFT XG3 RF SIGNAL SOURCE

OVERVIEW

"The XG3 is a miniature RF signal source that provides output from 1.5 MHz through 1400 MHz. Four commonly used selectable output levels are calibrated from 1.5 through 200MHz.

The XG3 may be operated from its internal battery or from an external 11-14VDC source. It is housed in a protective enclosure with easy-to-use front panel switches and LED indicators.

Since the XG3 is small and portable it's ideal for quickly checking the performance of equipment in the field as well as at the home station."

Those are the words from maker Elecraft on their small RF signal source. I received this for Christmas two years ago and have been delighted with the little unit since then. This device is very versatile and can be used for a wide variety of ham or RF uses.

WHAT DO I USE MINE FOR?

Wondering what a ham like me can do with this item? Here are the uses I continue to have for mine:

FOX HUNTING: I plug a quarter wave HT antenna into the BNC connector on the unit and have programmed the "2 meter" button to give me the Fox frequency. Then with the help of my grandson Alex, we check out the performance of our Fox Hunting systems, both in the car and hand held, prior to the hunt to make sure we have good sensitivity and direction finding.

TESTING HAM/SHORTWAVE RECEIVERS: When the club was given an HF transceiver, I used the XG3 plugged into the antenna input to check out sensitivity on all HF bands and each mode on every band. I discovered that some were not correct, and then took the xcvr to our favorite repair guy in Michigan! Running great now!

AT WORK: I have used this as a quick check on the EMI Spectrum Receiver at my consulting job at Regal Rexnord to give me a warm fuzzy that the setup is correct.

These are just a few of the many uses you can find around your shack. I ordered the USB programming cable with mine, and using the free software that you download from the Elecraft web site, you can easily change the frequency of each button. The buttons are labeled for the ham bands from 160 through 2 meters, but you can choose any frequency for any button, giving you max versatility, and you can be outside the ham bands, too. Check Shortwave or Broadcast FM receivers, scanners; etc. Just remember you cannot transmit into the unit or you may let the magic smoke escape!

There are many other modes that can be used such as beacon mode and it can be programmed to do sweep frequency output as well. All is described in the well written manual. Even running via a custom computer control is possible. This is a very useful addition to your ham radio tool kit! It comes fully assembled and is not a kit as are many of Elecraft's rigs and accessories, so you can start enjoying it right out of the box!

73, Steve, W9SAN



Specifications

Frequency Range: 1.5-200 MHz range, with a typical resolution of 1-24 Hz. (Up to 1400MHz via harmonics)

Frequency Stability: ± 50 ppm, maximum.

Signal Characteristics: Highly stable RF square wave; phase noise -105 dBc/Hz

Reverse Power: Shunt diodes and a fusible pc trace link provide limited protection.

Preset Frequencies: 12 frequencies preset at the factory - one in each Amateur band from 160 through 2 meters. Frequencies may be changed using a personal computer.

Sweep Mode: Two frequency ranges preset. The sweep speed and the frequency increment for each step may be programmed using a personal computer.

Computer Interface: RS-232 or USB: Allows changing the preset frequencies and operating the XG3 from a personal computer using the XG3 Utility program available free from Elecraft.

Selectable Output Levels: Four levels, calibrated from 1.5 through 200 MHz: 0 dBm (± 3 dB), -33 dBm, -73 dBm, - 107 dBm (± 1 dB typ).

Output Impedance: 50 ohms.

Power: Internal 9-volt battery or external 11-14 VDC supply
Power Consumption: External supply, 60 mA maximum at 0 dBm output. Less at lower output levels. Internal battery drain, up to 50 mA at 0dBm output, 25 mA typical at lower output levels. Programmable automatic power shutoff.

Frequency Resolution: Limited by the internal PLL divisor precision. Typical values are as follows: 1.5 to 66 MHz: 1 to 10 Hz. 67 to 159 MHz: 1 to 12 Hz. 160 to 200 MHz: 1 to 24 Hz

Local **SK** **CC** News

Straight Key Century Club

October/November 2022

New Members		
W9OU	NIARA	#26699
KD9VKZ	Steve	#26750
KC9Z	Kurt	#26758

Senator Award		
KA9GKE	Rose	#17764S
N9DGL	Bruce	#20725S

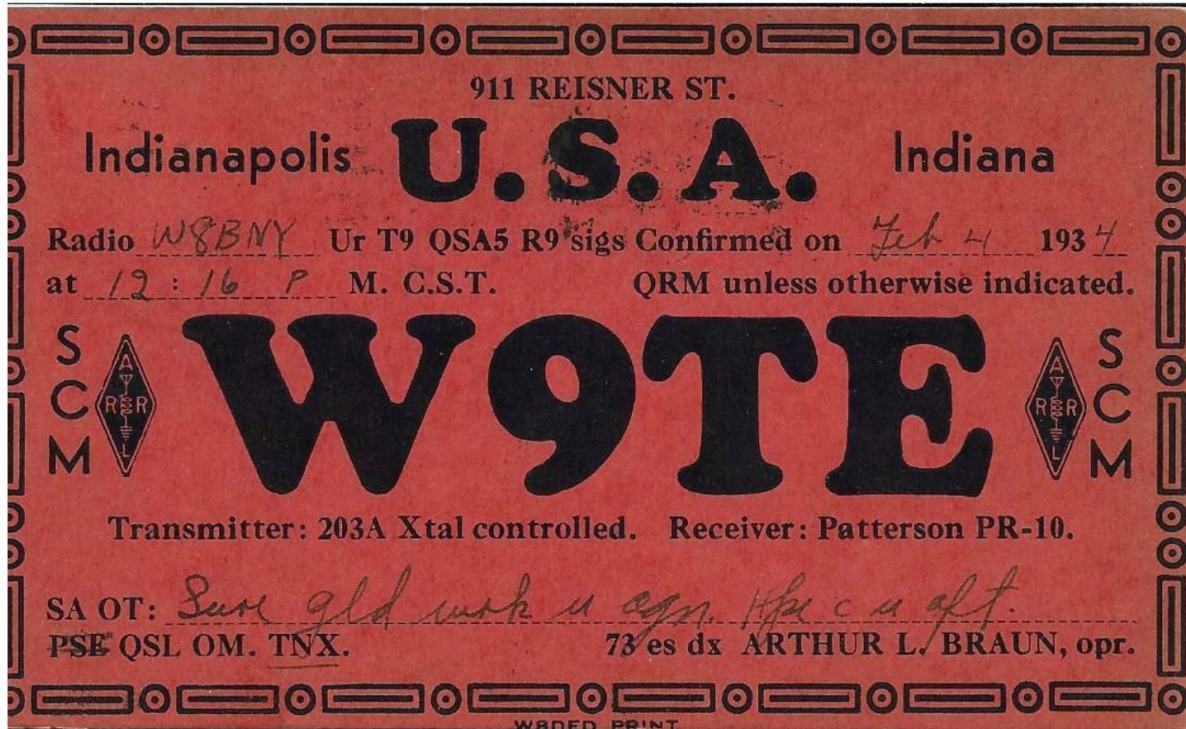
Did you notice the scores in November WES (SKCC Weekend Sprint)? Al - K9FW/NE9EE led the pack of nearly 300 worldwide SKCC participants with 400 qso's! Joe -WB9EAO made 198 qso's with his portable 4 band vertical. Jack-W9GT had 191 contacts and Ed -WA9BBN was right up there with 165 qso's. At their home station, Ed alternated with Rose - KA9GKE who made 77 contacts! That's 242 from the Zobacs! Steve - AC9XS continues to have success with his portable 34 foot vertical wire and added 147 contacts to the Indiana cumulative score of 1704 qso's! Additional contributors from our area included John - NJ0U, Josh - W9HT (who makes a "mean" Apple Crisp), John - W9GOO, Bill-W9SA, and N8KR.

For the Two Hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) on Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, 7-9 PM local. The following operators participated. QSO count is shown:

NE9EE (club call of K9FW)	40
NJ0U	37
KR9U	32
WA9BBN (portable from car)	26
AC9XS	24
KA9GKE	21
W9HT	20
N9DGL	14
N9SE	10
W9GOO	10
K9FMX	5

73, Ed, WA9BBN

WANTED



DIGITAL OR HARD COPIES (TO BE
SCANNED) OF THE FORT WAYNE
RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTERS PRIOR
TO JANUARY 2004

Contact Bob , W8ST at
rdstre (at) yahoo.com

**LOOK FOR THE
FOXHUNT
CHRONICLES
TO REAPPEAR
AFTER THE
NEW YEAR IN
2023.**

JOIN THE FUN!

RADIO SPORT for December

2022

**2-4
DEC**

**ARRL 160 Meter
Contest**

**ARRL 10 Meter
Contest**

**10-11
DEC**

**10-11
DEC**

**SKCC Weekend
Sprintathon**

**RAC Winter
Content**

**17
DEC**

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.

Area Nets (updated as of 12/1/22)

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.inarri.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

Area Repeaters (updated as of 12/1/22)

Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone/Notes	Callsign
53.3300	-1 MHz	--	W9FEZ	442.6375	+5 MHz	MDR CC1	N9MTF
145.330	-0.6 MHz	--	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 FM / C4FM	W9TE	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
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.



ARRL **FOUNDATION**

**Scholarships up to
\$25,000 for amateur
radio operators**

For application information, visit:

<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>

Applications are due by 1/4/23.

