

# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

May 2024

Volume 25

Issue 5

## In this edition:

From the Editor

Page 2

LRBN News

Page 3

Indiana QSO Party

Page 4

FWRC President's  
Column

Page 9

ACARTS Presi-  
dent's Column

Page 10

W6JKV and  
K5AND Six Meter  
BBQ

Page 14

Foxhunt Chroni-  
cles

Page 15

2024 Solar Eclipse  
from Station  
AC9EZ

Page 16

SKCC News

Page 17

Meeting Minutes

Page 18

Along with updat-  
ed radiosport  
events, local re-  
peater and net in-  
formation, and  
more!



**Indiana QSO Party 2024**

**INDIANA ROVER**

**INSERT YOUR CALL HERE**

**Sponsor: N9FN**



Another month is here—and what a month it should be. Not only will it be the start of summer vacation for some of us, but it also includes the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) and the annual Hamvention.

Extensive information on **INQP** is available in this edition of HamNews. Coming up on the first Saturday of May, this event is open to all hams. Whether you want to make one or a thousand contacts, this is a fun way to help put out state on the map!

**Hamvention** follows two weekends after INQP. Xenia, OH is just over a two hour drive from Fort Wayne. Whether you are a veteran or a first-timer to “Dayton” (as many of us still call Hamvention), this 3 day event represents the “highest holiday” for many hams in the United States. You can find deals in the flea market, catch up with friends, see hundreds of displays and booths for the ARRL and many vendors, and enjoy some camaraderie with hams from across the county and globe. And, no, I do not plan to sign up for QCWA this year—even though I will qualify to do so.

Have you been on **HF** lately? In the past week I was able to work two new DXCC entities: Bhutan (A52P) and Convoy Reef (3D2CCC). While FT8 and a few hundred watts come in handy for some of these rare entities, sometimes you just have to listen on the right band in the right mode at the right time. OK, the DX Cluster and/or a friendly spot from another ham comes in handy. Remember, you can get on a big chunk of 10m even as a Technician class operator.

Please note that an **in-person VE session** will

be returning to Fort Wayne this summer. Although many exam sessions are available online, several local VEs wanted to provide this opportunity to the local community. More information on the time and location for this will be available in the June edition of HamNews.

Do you have any travel plans for this summer? If so, consider taking a radio along for the trip and making contacts from the field. Who knows—maybe you might catch W9HT portable ? on the airwaves this summer.

73,

*Josh W9HT/VE9FWA*

## ALLEN COUNTY HAMNEWS

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

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

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





## LITTLE RED BARN NET

We had another great month on the Little Red Barn Net (LRBN) which meets on Monday thru Friday at 9:00am on 3.820 MHz LSB. We have about 14 to 25 check-ins per day, with self-generated topics each day by the check-ins. On Thursday 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 4/11/2024 at the Logans Roadhouse with 15 present and on 4/25/2024 at Salvatori's North on Washington Center Rd with 24 present. Always a great time to eat and socialize with friends.

The next upcoming lunch dates would be 5/9/2024, 5/23/2024, and 6/6/2024 at 11:30am on each date.

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

Net control operators are also follows: Monday KU8T Tom, Tuesday K9FW Al one, Wednesday KD9HAV Norm, Thursday W9GT Jack, and Friday WB9TYJ Don.

We have a web page at <https://gmrepair1.wixsite.com/mobile> works with mobile and desktop browsers. The page includes lunch information (times & dates), pictures of previous lunches, and other information.

Also we have at [lrbn@groups.io](http://lrbn@groups.io) | Home, but you will need to sign up. This is where we vote for the next lunch. Let me know if you need help .

Also, our net controls use Netlogger. You may download the program at the Download Center ([netlogger.org](http://netlogger.org)). Also, for smartphones, 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*



## ANNOUNCEMENT

***In person VE session coming to Fort Wayne this summer!***

Stay tuned to the upcoming editions of HamNews or contact the editor for more information.

## *Special Section to the Allen County HamNews*

Check out the following several pages to get the complete scoop on this fun annual event. Any amateur radio operator can participate—you do **not** have to be a Fort Wayne Radio Club member.

Although the event is 12 hours long on Saturday, 5/4, you do not have to be on the air the whole time. Hop on the airwaves. Make a few or a bunch of contacts.

Above all, just have a blast during this year's INQP.

### Message from the Editor

Special thanks go out to Ken, N8KR for sharing the following several pages of information on this year's Indiana QSO Party! Join in on the fun.





**2024 Indiana QSO Party**  
**Fort Wayne Radio Club Involvement**  
*Most Individual Club Members Involved*  
**This Saturday – May 4 11am to 11pm (local time)**

Once again, it's time to make our club **stand out**! The club competition for Indiana QSO Party relies on aggregate scores submitted by individual club members! That means all we need to do is get on the air from our home stations, makes some contacts on HF (SSB or CW or BOTH!), and submit our logs as members of the Fort Wayne Radio Club.

During the 12 hour event, stations from all over Indiana will be calling, "CQ Indiana QSO Party." Simply contact them, log their information (signal report and county . . . or, if out of state, signal report and state) and give out a signal report (everyone sends 59 for SSB or 599 for CW) and your county.

Logging of contacts **can** be made by using special logging software like WriteLog, N3FJP, or N1MM. The INQP webpage ([www.hdxcc.org](http://www.hdxcc.org) > Indiana QSO Party) also suggests several others but these are the ones that work the best! Both WriteLog and N3FJP are for purchase. The N1MM Logger+ is totally free and supports all contests and state QSO parties without having to download extra files. Like N3FJP and WriteLog, it can interface with your radio, connect to PacketCluster via telnet, interface and log FT-8, PSK, RTTY, along with producing files for uploading to LoTW and whatever computer logbook you operate! You can also have it submit your score!

This year, the INQP will only accept computer generated Cabrillo files. If you use a logging program, it has the ability to generate a cabrillo file for submission. Logging of contacts **can** also be done manually on paper but that information will need to be transferred into a cabrillo file before submission. I've designed a special log sheet for the FWRC along with a summary sheet. This will make it super easy for you to casually add to the **Fort Wayne Radio Club** participation. Directions on how to make the conversion is included in this newsletter. You can also simply mail the log sheets and summary sheet to N8KR and he will make the log conversion and send in your log. Several of our club members used these log sheets in the past. **WE WANT YOU TO PARTICIPATE!**

We ARE an active club! 2 years ago we set a new Indiana Club record, winning the Club Competition Category with 16 entries from our club – YES! 16 club members submitted logs accumulating a huge score of 1,187,825 points with nearly 6,000 contacts! Last year was on "off year" for us with only 330,296 points with 11 club members submitting logs. We all noted the marginal band conditions but even so, 4 INQP Plaques came to Allen County: Fort Wayne Radio Club, W9GT High scoring HiPower category, AC9EZ Multi-op, and N8KR Top scoring Rover.

## **OUR GOAL THIS YEAR: 30 Logs submitted by our club members!**

If you have interest in downloading and using (FREE) N1MM Logger+ (Windows 7,8,10) here is the link and basic directions:

- [www.N1MMwp.hamdocs.com](http://www.N1MMwp.hamdocs.com)
- Downloads
- Program Files
- Full Install

2 step process:

1. Download and run Full Install (Base Install)
2. Download and run Latest Update Files

Start the program run N1MM+

Questions? Contact me on the repeater or [N8KR@ARRL.net](mailto:N8KR@ARRL.net)

73,

Ken – N8KR on behalf of The INQP Planning Committee for the FWRC



## 2024 Indiana QSO Summary

Station Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Station Location (county) \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Category \_\_\_\_\_

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

QSO'sPoints

Phone (SSB) \_\_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

CW \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Combined Points \_\_\_\_\_

### MULTIPLIERS

Different states/provinces worked on Phone (SSB) \_\_\_\_\_

Different states/provinces worked on CW \_\_\_\_\_

Different Indiana counties worked on Phone (SSB) \_\_\_\_\_

Different Indiana counties worked on CW \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Multipliers** \_\_\_\_\_

Multiply Total Points times Total Multipliers =

**TOTAL SCORE**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: **Fort Wayne Radio Club**



## INQP Logging Notes New for 2024

If you do not use a computer logger that can produce a *Cabrillo* file, you must hand log the contact information and when finished, enter all of the data and station information using the online *Cabrillo Webform* at [www://b4h.net/cabforms/](http://www://b4h.net/cabforms/) and click on Indiana QSO Party and follow directions. If you have problems with it, submit your logging sheets and summary sheet to:

Ken Rogner N8KR  
8526 Fox Home Dr.  
New Haven, IN 46774

Ken will be happy to make the log conversion and send it in for you. It is important for all to be able to participate and submit scores for the Fort Wayne Radio Club.

### Making Contacts

INQP runs from 11am to 11pm. If you are a phone operator, look for stations (any) on 40 (7.200-7.260) during the day/early evening or 80 (3.800-3.850) after dark. Find a clear spot and call, "CQ": here are 2 sample qso's:

- **CQ Indiana QSO Party CQ Indiana QSO Party from Whisky Nine Tango Echo W9TE**  
November Eight Kilowatt Radio
- **November eight Kilowatt Radio you're five nine in Allen County Indiana (INALL)**  
QSL you're five nine in Adams County Indiana (INADA)
- **QSL Thanks Whiskey Nine Tango Echo Indiana QSO Party**  
Kilo Eight Alpha Quebec Mexico
- **Kilo eight Alpha Quebec Mexico five nine in Allen County Indiana (INALL)**  
Roger you're five nine in Michigan
- **QSL Thanks for Michigan Whiskey Nine Tango Echo Indiana QSO Party**  
*Change "Whiskey Nine Tango Echo" to YOUR CALL*

### 8pm to 10pm (11)

If you only have a little time to be on, consider 8-10 pm looking for stations calling "CQ Indiana QSO Party" especially our own club members. You can also work and log anyone calling CQ (CQ NEW ENGLAND, CQ DELAWARE, CQ 7-LAND) **Also use the 146.91 repeater to spot stations**

**The Following FWRC Stations will be on – and probably more!**  
**N9SE W9SAN AC9EZ K9LA K9FW KE9IWX KR9U N8KR**  
**W9HT WA9BBN KB9OS AC9XS K9FMX WB9TYJ**

(Fort Wayne Radio Club Member)

| Name | County | Callsign | Date |
|------|--------|----------|------|
|      |        |          |      |

[illegible]



# Hamsplatter

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



Welcome to May. While I wish to keep this positive, I do have to start by addressing the most recent news. MFJ, a staple within the amateur radio community, will close its doors after 52 years of business. MFJ was known for making a wide range of affordable radio equipment. When you called or emailed, a real person responded. Many of us probably own/owned MFJ equipment. Their departure from the community will be felt.

On a more positive note, this weekend is the Indiana QSO party. Fort Wayne Radio Club always has a strong showing. It is a good way to get on the air. If you want to attract newcomers to the hobby, have them operate a contest under your call. It is an easy way to have them make a contact as the exchange is easy. Jump on. Make a few quick contacts.

In May, we have the Dayton Hamvention. Meghan and I attended for the first time last year and had so much fun. If you don't have plans for May 17, 18, or 19, try to attend. Last year, we saw operators we only ever talked to over the air. Lesson learned from last year: try

to attend in the afternoon. Attendance is a little lower, and most vendors are over the morning rush.

Finally, we have Field Day. The current plan is to be at the Old Fort, but this could change with construction. Keep an eye on the newsletter, the website, and on the repeaters for up to date information.

May's general meeting will be about Field Day. Charles, KC9MUT, will be discussing the plans as well as getting a general idea of who will be participating. Field Day is open to all club members. If you don't wish to be on the air, we will be holding a cook-out social at Field Day. Stop by and get a free meal. This is also open to all club members and friends and the public.

That is all from me. Thank you everyone for making this club what it is. Feel free to contact me at kd9nrt(at)mail.com. While I can't respond to every email, I do read them all, and your feedback is crucial for the club.

73,

*Adam, KD9NRT*

## FWRC Officers 2024

### President

Adam Warrix, KD9NRT  
kd9nrt(at)gmail.com

### Vice President

Meghan Warrix, KD9ODP  
warrixmr(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

Terry Bowman, K9FMX  
(260) 705-7128  
tjb Bowman(at)frontier.com

Jim Stephens, KD9NYZ  
kd9nyz(at)gmail.com

Larry Temenoff, KB9OS  
(260) 490-3089  
temenoff(at)pfw.edu

# State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



**From the  
ACARTS  
President**

Somewhat typical spring weather here in Indiana and glad we dodged any late snow storms. I was really expecting a final March or April snow storm with considerable precipitation amounts like 8"-12". Needless to say I'm not disappointed!

Other than the spring rains, the weather has provided many with early antenna or tower projects, POTA activations, Foxhunts etc.

ACARTS has some on-going projects of our "Helping Hams Group" has done with some initial exploratory antenna/tower assistance. We stabilized his tower temporarily but also warned that it needed to come down for safety reasons. We suggested a ground mounted HF vertical as a replacement. We are waiting for some tree work and will take down the tower. We are also waiting on the arrival of a new antenna for Laurel WA9RDL so it can be installed. I wish to thank Laurel and his family for joining ACARTS and making a donation to ACARTS. I have not heard back yet if the antenna has arrived yet but hopefully I will have time tomorrow to follow up on it. That same day we stopped by Bernie K9JDF's QTH to look at his situation. We are waiting on him to decide which option he wants to go with. Recently on a Saturday, we had to

cancel on checking on Steve K9SKS's situation, as Jim KD9NPL and myself were tied up at WANE with problems there that we are nursing along. We were short of help with only Ken WD9HIY and Steve K9SKS being available. We rescheduled last Sunday at 2 PM with Steve K9SKS, Jim KD9NPL, Stuart KD9LFW and myself taking a look at Steve's situation. The ground was awfully wet that day but we did find some issues with a balun etc and talked over various options. Steve is going to acquire some needed items and think about the mounting options we spoke about and hopefully in the mean time things will dry out. If we shout for help please help us by contacting me and letting me know of your availability. Right now because of health issues I am limited to what I can do. So I may not count as being of great physical help.

With the release of our funds in our investment account we are now able to select and make our purchases for station equipment replacements and improvements. As of this morning we now have the needed proper length "T" jumpers made up with RG-214 for the Telewave TPRD-1556 Duplexer and I dropped the duplexer off for tuning today. This will be placed on the .88 Repeater. We are waiting on some final decisions for the new repeaters and other equipment. Their needs to be some clarification on site locations for some of the equipment. The W9INX Packet Node/Digipeater will be resurrected

## ACARTS Officers 2024

### President

Dan Dahms N9WNH  
260-503-4163  
n9wnh(at)yahoo.com

### Vice President

Chris McCullough W9TSB  
260-312-2750  
w9tsb(at)outlook.com

### Secretary

Stuart Hall KD9LFW  
(260) 418-1755  
stuarthall(at)aol.com

### Treasurer

Kevin Hecksher W9KMH  
260-755-8784  
kevin(at)r-kdigital.com

### 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

James Bassett W9YME  
260-438-6664  
Trrrrbo(at)aol.com

Howard Pletcher N9ADS  
260-747-5252  
hrpletch(at)gmail.com

### W9INX Trustee

Dan Dahms N9WNH  
260-503-4163  
n9wnh(at)yahoo.com

.soon and at some point it eventually will have Winlink capabilities. The W9INX APRS Digi-peater will also be moved soon to downtown Fort Wayne. More than likely the APRS move is the easiest so it will be accomplished hopefully in the month of May.

Again I want to encourage everyone to program all of their radios ahead of time to include transmitting 141.3 tone on the input of all ACARTS repeaters for future preparedness. Especially with the new equipment arriving. We will continue to announce this and will ramp things up as we get closer to the time. The 146.88 Repeater will remain mostly carrier squelch on the input but there maybe times that the PL tone on the input will be needed to be enabled. We hope to include a DTMF PL knock-down code as well but that needs to be discussed further.

Stuart KD9LFW is heading up our Committee for review of the

By-Laws, Constitution, Policies and changing our IRS 501 (c) (4) to a 501 (c) (3). We have had only one meeting so far, we have had to cancel one last week but will have one tonight to catch up. This is a process that will take some time.

Another job that has been created is that we need to re-research and select a new investment firm to place our funds

with. I believe that at a minimum the board can make this happen. But If anyone has good knowledge of investments I will encourage you to contact one of the officers or board members.

Since we are using ME Teams for online meeting uses, we purchased a wireless speaker and ten wireless microphones for use during the meetings and could be useful during other presentations such as at the Hamfest etc. Thanks to Kevin W9KMH for coming up with the idea and locating the equipment.

We have put ACARTS apparel on hold for the time being until we can lock down a way to possibly use a historic logo. We have a person or two looking into this. If you know of anyone that maybe able to help us with this please let us know.

Personally in between things I have been resurrecting and putting together RDF transmitters, receivers and antennas to pro-

mote and be prepared for fox-hunts in Allen and Whitley counties. I'm a little slow with the builds and repairs but have several working units and accessories already completed.

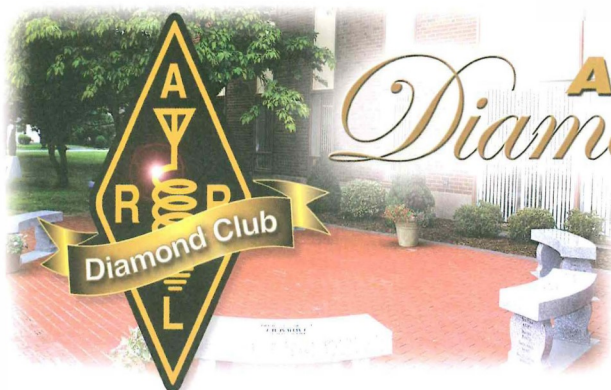
The next ACARTS General Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Northeast Chapter of American Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd. Fort Wayne. The program will be given by our own ARRL Central Division Director and Fort Wayne DX Association President Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA about the Fort Wayne DX Association (FWDXA) and ARRL updates. Are are welcome to attend any ACARTS General Meeting.

73,

*Dan N9WNNH*

### Upcoming Events of Interest

| Date      | Time               | Location                                                              | Event                                                       |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/4/24    | 9:00 AM - ?        | Hart's Celebration Center<br>3031E 450N Marion, IN.                   | North Central Indiana Hamfest                               |
| 5/4/24    | 11:00 AM -11:00 PM | On the Air                                                            | Indiana QSO Party                                           |
| 5/6/24    | 7:00 PM            | MS Teams (Online)                                                     | ACARTS By-Laws, Constitution, 501 (c) (3) Committee Meeting |
| 5/14/24   | 7:00 PM            | MS Teams (Online)                                                     | ACARTS Board Meeting                                        |
| 5/16/24   | 6:30 PM            | Allen Co. Public Library<br>Downtown - Room A 900<br>Plaza Fort Wayne | Allen Co. ARES Quarterly Meeting                            |
| 5/17-5/19 | 9-5/9-5/9-1        | Greene Co. Fair & Expo<br>Center 210 Fairground Rd.<br>Xenia, OH.     | Dayton Hamvention                                           |
| 5/21/24   | 7:00 PM            | Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd & MS Teams (Online)                   | ACARTS General Meeting                                      |



## ARRL Diamond Terrace

*This is to acknowledge that a brick has been placed in the Diamond Terrace at the ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut with the following inscription:*

**W9INX  
ACARTS  
FORT WAYNE, IN**

*With the placement of this brick in the Diamond Terrace, the ARRL is pleased to acknowledge your generosity to the ARRL and commitment to Amateur Radio through the Diamond Club.*

**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR nADJn®**

*The Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society was recently recognized in the American Radio Relay League's Diamond Terrace.*

**acarts.com**

**MAY  
5  
2024**

**NEXT  
FOXHUNT**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**





*New  
Date!*

The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

# AUBURN HAMFEST

*Saturday, July 20, 2024*

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.

**FOOD VENDOR**  
on the parking lot.

**NEED MORE INFO?**

**E-MAIL: W9OU@ARRL.NET**

**FREE**

**Parking**

Supervised by the DeKalb County  
ARES Team.



**Indoor Vendor Tables: \$10 ea.**

Order online now at [www.w9ou.org](http://www.w9ou.org)

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

**Contact: W9OU@ARRL.NET**

**Raffle Prizes:**

1st- Yeasu FTM 500

2nd- Zumspot with MD UV380 DMR

3rd- N3FJP Software (Full Access)

4th- \$50 Gift Certificate, DX Engineering

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





## W6JKV and K5AND Six Meter BBQ

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

In early April, during Spring break, Vicky and I travelled to Laramie, WY to visit our oldest grandson. He's in Laramie at diesel mechanics school (officially known as WyoTech). On the way home, we flew through the Dallas-Ft Worth airport. That's always a good thing for us due to the BBQ restaurants at the airport.

Eating Texas BBQ on the Laramie trip reminded me of last September's W6JKV and K5AND Six Meter BBQ that was held near Austin. I was invited to do a presentation on Cycle 25 and what to expect with 6-Meter F2 propagation. The event was at W6JKV's ranch just outside of Austin. Vicky also attended.

First up with the presentations was Jon N0JK. He writes 'The World Above 50 MHz' column in QST and the 'VHF-UHF Contesting!' column in NCJ. He gave a nice summary of recent VHF and UHF activity.

Next up was Mike AB5EB. He was one of the operators at 3Y0J (Bouvet Island) and

talked about this shortened DXpedition (due to inclement weather and safety concerns) that occurred for just a week in early February 2023. They made more than 19,000 QSOs. No QSOs were made on 6-Meters.

The third presentation was by Joe K1JT. He was the co-recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of the first binary pulsar. He is well known in the Amateur Radio community for his work with the WSJT-X suite of digital modes. He gave a great review of the history of WSJT and how certain design parameters were established. This really helped me better understand these digital modes.

I was up next (K1JT's presentation was a tough act to follow), and I gave a review of where Cycle 25 was in September last year. I also talked about the possibility of F2 propagation on 6-Meters. It would sure help if Cycle 25 was bigger. Right now it looks like it will be a slightly-below-average cycle. If you'd like a copy of my presentation, just send me an e-mail.

The fifth presentation was by Lance W7GJ. He talked about his 6-Meter EME DXpedition to 3B9GJ (Mauritius) in late August through early September of 2023. For more information about this DXpedition and his other EME DXpeditions, visit <https://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/>.

Next was Ward W5LUA dis-

cussing EME on the microwave bands. To view his presentation, visit [https://www.ntms.org/files/Feb2022/W5LUA\\_EME\\_Presentation\\_Feb5\\_2022.pdf](https://www.ntms.org/files/Feb2022/W5LUA_EME_Presentation_Feb5_2022.pdf).

The seventh (and last) presentation was by Hector XE2K. He had a great discussion of coax cable, coax connectors and weatherproofing. He also put forth several recommendations that made me think hard and long about my installation. I have a lot to do to make sure that the integrity of my coax and connectors is sound. In truth, it's about time.

In summary, Vicky and I had a great time in the Austin area despite the heat. It sure helped that we had lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area from 1979 through 1988 – we were still accustomed to the heat.



*Joe Taylor K1JT  
discussing WSJT*



## FOXHUNT CHRONICLES

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, just a day before the 'big' solar eclipse to pass over the north American continent, several teams of Fox Hunters gathered once again at the start point for our April Hunt. The start point is near the geographical center of Allen County, Indiana, down on Coliseum Blvd where the old K-Mart store used to be. The fox for this hunt was the team of Linda, W9LAN, Steve, W9SAN, and their daughter, Courtney, and grandsons Alex and Wyatt, along with great granddaughter Zoey, and Alex's partner Haley.

New for the foxes this time around was the use of a Thor class 'A' motorhome as the base. The idea was to have space for antennas (on the ladder of the RV) and an operating position inside. However, this wasn't to be as Wyatt and Zoey decided they needed to take naps, so back to the Honda Odyssey as fox transmitter. All of this was taking place on the southeast side of the PFW/IVY Tech campus at the corner of St Joe Road and Stellhorn Road.

Down at the start location there were two experienced teams, Charles, KC9MUT, and the Pliett/Burke team of K9OMA & WB9SSE, minus spouses KA9YYI & WB9RUS. Two relatively new teams, Jim Stephens KD9NYZ with grandson Conner, and new to fox hunting, Don, WB9TWJ. The new guys were cooperation together to help each other and talked on the "intercom" frequency of 146.76 repeater.

At 1:30 pm, all were ready to start, so the high power (25 Watts) fox went live and the hunt was on! Since the fox

was not too far from the start point, we expected that the hunt would go pretty quickly, but it turned out to be tougher than thought. It was interesting to listen on 76, as we got a picture of how the teams were doing. As it happened, teams were in a virtual spiral around us. Some went up Maplecrest Road, then west to Shoaff Park, then south toward the PFW campus. Cooperation between the newcomers was helping them, and all of us were 'reading the mail', so to speak.

At about 2:00 pm, we lowered the fox power down to 5 watts. At this point, we felt all were closing in on our hiding spot, so low power was not a concern. We did another live stream about the fox process. These live streams do get a lot of viewers as we found. Carl Thomas, a former FWRC member in Florida, never seems to miss one. Usually, anywhere from 70 to 250 views are logged!



As 2:20 rolled around, the first team, Charles, KC9MUT, drove up. He was followed closely by new teams KD9NYZ and WB9WTJ, Don. People piled out of cars and started looking for the 15 milliwatt micro fox, which had been hidden along a chain link fence, 300 feet or so from the parking area. Although the micro fox signal was pretty weak at the parking site, everyone was able to pick it up and head in the direction of the fence. Charles was first to find, followed by Conner and granddad Jim. Next was Don, followed by Jim (who had an unfortunate encounter with a stick!) and finally Al.

This brought us to about 2:35, and all

had found the foxes. It was decided that all of us that could go would drive east on Stellhorn and go into the Culvers restaurant at Maple Wood Plaza, where tall tales of the hunt were shared over some good food.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

This Fox Hunt also featured our new emphasis on having fun and learning versus competition, and I believe that it was a success!

There is one experiment that we have been wanting to try, however, and it relates directly to how we hams use direction finding (DF) skills: How can all of us work together to find hidden transmissions quickly and efficiently? We are currently planning this for the May Fox Hunt on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Watch for more details as the time gets closer. We will need both mobile and fixed stations for the hunt, and we need someone to serve as a central coordinator.

Here is the idea: instead of the hunters gathering at a fixed start point, why not have hunters start from wherever is convenient for them (either mobile or at a home station), then once they have a bearing established, the information is sent to a central control station who plots the bearings on a map or computer, and then directs the mobile hunters to places to fine tune the hunt. In this manner, everyone is on the same 'team' and the goal is for everyone to help narrow the search. There is no competition, we all work together for a common purpose!

More details on this will be coming soon, so watch your email, club website, and Facebook. This will evolve as we go, and try to find hidden or unintentional transmitters wherever they may be!

73,

*Steve, W9SAN*





## The 2024 Solar Eclipse from Station AC9EZ

Hello my fellow radio bugs. Welcome to the May edition of the 2024 HamNews! As always, life has been busy at the AC9EZ hamshack. However, there's always time for some kind of ham radio activity and April was no exception. This month's column is a quick overview of my activity during the April 8 solar eclipse.

### The Problem

Although I knew the solar eclipse was coming up rapidly, I had not realized that my station was woefully unprepared for any type of portable operation, be that from a park or my own backyard. Thus, when April 8 rolled around, it was with shock and dismay that your author discovered a distinct paucity of portable antenna options that could be easily assembled and deployed. What to do?

### The Solution

Rummaging about the garage, I discovered some likely components to get me quickly on the air during the solar eclipse. About two hours of brainstorming, fiddling, and head-scratching yielded what I can honestly claim is a "garbage"



*Figure 1 The "Garbage" antenna - a 20m hamstick on top of a metal garbage can lid.*

antenna – a garbage-can lid antenna to be exact.

As can be seen in the accompanying image, the deployed antenna system was quite simple (Figure 1). A 20m Shark hamstick antenna is connected to a Hustler mobile antenna spring (ordinarily used to help give the hamstick more flexibility when the vehicle is in motion). The Hustler spring was connected to my MFJ, triple-magnet mount mobile antenna mount. Since Indiana clay is not known for its perfection as a ground plane, I needed some kind of ground plane to which to stick the magnet mount. The solution presented itself in the form of an old metal garbage can lid my parents had. The lid was flipped upside down unto the lawn, with the mobile antenna setup mounted on the inside of the lid. Since the MFJ mount comes with about 16 feet of coaxial cable, I was in business!

The rest of the station was fairly

straightforward. An external ac outlet on the house next to the back patio provided me with ac power for my power supply. A three-step stepladder provided a convenient and portable shelving unit for my Yaesu FT-818nd qrp transceiver, a set of cw paddles, my microphone, my Android tablet for logging (using the app *Ham Logger*, free on Android), and my baseball cap (in case of the stray rain drop).

### Results

The results of the operation were quite cheerful. Contact was made with stations in five US states, including Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Virginia, and North Dakota. Modes used included cw and ssb. Although a few calls were usually required before contact was established, I found it relatively easy to make contacts. Signals were strong, with s9 signals across the 20m band.

So, the moral of the story – one ham's garbage is another ham's gold. And if you ever need a handy antenna, try a metal garbage can lid.

73 and !

*Jim ac9ez*

**Local****News****April 2024**

Operating activities during the month follow.

For the Weekend Sprintathon (WES) on April 13-14 the following local operators participated. The QSO count is shown.

N8KR 140

AC9XS 67

K9FW 66

WA9BBN 61

W9HT 50

KA9GKE 38

For the Two Hour Straight Key Sprint (SKS) on Tuesday evening, April 23, 8-10 PM local, the following local operators participated. QSO count is shown.

WA9BBN 30

W9GOO 17

AC9XS 13

N9DGL 9

KA9GKE 6

73,

*Ed, WA9BBN*

**2024 MAY OPERATING EVENTS**

| Month              | Event       | Dates |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| INDIANA            | QSO PARTY   | 4-5   |
| SKCC WEEKEND       | SPRINTATHON | 11-12 |
| CQ-M INTERNATIONAL | DX CONTEST  | 11-12 |
| ARKANSAS QSO       | PARTY       | 18-19 |
| CQ WW WPX          | CONTEST, CW | 25-26 |

This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [contestcalendar.com](http://contestcalendar.com) and is gratefully acknowledged. It is deemed accurate as of the time of publication.



**JUNE 22-23**

## FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

12 April 2024

The April meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held on April 12th, 2024. It occurred at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church starting at 6:30 pm. It was hosted by club President Adam Warrix, KD9NRT and there were 30 attendees.

Adam led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited all present to introduce themselves with their name and call-sign.

The meeting then transitioned into a Zoom presentation provided by Joe Moell, K0OV who hosts the webpage "Homing In, the Art and Science of Radio Direction Finding (RDF)". His web page can be found at: <http://www.homingin.com/>

Joe is the author of "Transmitter Hunting-Radio Direction Finding Simplified", an all inclusive treatise of all aspects of the radio direction finding sport.

Following the presentation Josh Long, W9HT, took the floor to present an award and plaque to Carole Burke, WB9RUS which recognized her many years of service to the FWRC and extended to her a lifetime membership. Carole was not able to attend the April meeting so the plaque was accepted for her by her husband Al, WB9SSE.

Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the Treasurer's report. As of 12 April, 2024 the club account balances were as follows:

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Checking:               | \$1,773.19  |
| Savings:                | \$502.52    |
| Vanguard:               | \$27,598.43 |
| Year-to-Date income:    | \$685.00    |
| Year -to-date expenses: | \$1,301.85  |
| Members:                | 127         |

Bob also announced that all available issues of the Allen County Ham News and its forerunner, the

Hamsplatter are now archived and available for review, see:

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

Charles Ward, KC9MUT discussed the upcoming Field Day event (22-23 June). Plans are to utilize The Old Fort as the venue. However a fairly significant rebuild of the roof of the Blockhouse is planned at that same time which may complicate our use of the Old Fort in which case an alternate venue, the Purdue Fort Wayne north-east campus is also being explored. A final decision on this question will be made soon. Charles also noted that we plan to hold the Spring Banquet Saturday evening of Field Day at the Field Day site. As usual the club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs plus a new feature to the menu this year, pulled-pork sandwiches and the club will also provide drinks and cutlery as usual. The rest of the goodies will be provided by attendee carry-in dishes.

Ken Rogner, N8KR noted that the Indiana QSO Party will occur Saturday 4 May starting at 11:00 am EDT and ending at 11:30 pm that same day. The FWRC has been successful at being the top scorer in this contest for the past few years and we want to be the winner once again this year. Ken has set a goal of recruiting at least thirty hams to support the effort. He will hold a planning net using the 146.910 machine on Monday, April 22nd starting at 7:00 pm to discuss details.

Steve Nardin, W9SAN reported on the April foxhunt. It occurred on Sunday, April 7th and involved four foxhunter teams (Jim Pliett, K9OMA/Al Burke, WB9SSE, Charles Ward, KC9MUT, Jim Stephens, KD9NYZ and his grandson, and Don Sell, WB9TYJ, all of whom started out from the old K-Mart store location on Coliseum near Lakeside Golf Course.

Steve Nardin and his wife Linda, W9LAN, plus their daughter, Courtney, and grandsons Alex and Wyatt, along with great granddaughter

Zoey, and Alex's partner Haley all worked out of Steve's new class A motor home serving as the fox lair. It was located at the southeast side of the PFW/IVY Tech campus at the corner of St Joe Road and Stellhorn Road.

It was a pretty standard hunt before the microfox was located, first by Charles, then by Jim Stephens, Don Sell and finally by the Pliett/Burke team.

The May hunt will be an experiment where at least three mobile foxhunt teams will be located at three locations at the edges of the city limits (roughly north, south-east and south-west) at the beginning of the hunt. They will report their exact location and the bearing to the fox to a plotting team. The resultant bearings will be plotted on a map by the plotting team and the location within the city where the three vectors cross will, in theory, quickly localize the fox. Should be an interesting experiment.

Al Burke gave a short repeater status report. All five of our machines, with the exception of 146.76 are operating normally. The 146.76 machine is currently operating at reduced output power and it's suspected that the power amplifier is sick. The problem is currently being investigated.

Following the business meeting Josh Long, W9HT and Terry Bowman, K9FMX conducted a mini-Hamfest offering several items of ham radio equipment at bargain prices. We hope this to become a regular feature of FWRC meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Al Burke, WB9SSE*

Secretary, FWRC





During the April  
FWRC meeting,  
Carole, WB9RUS  
received lifetime  
membership in  
recognition of her  
many years of  
involvement.

# NEXT FWRC MEETING

May 10th at 6:30pm  
Good Shepherd  
Church

ACARTS General Meeting  
American Red Cross building  
1212 E. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN

Tuesday, April 16, 2024  
7:06pm – 9:29pm  
Meeting also streamed online via MS Teams

Attendance:

President: Dan Dahms (N9WNH)  
Online: Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)  
Secretary: Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)  
Online: Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)  
Station Manager: James (Jim) Sampiere (KD9NPL)  
Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP)  
Online: Board Member: Howard Pletcher (N9ADS)  
Board Member: Steve Shannon (K9SKS)  
Board Member: James (Jim) Bassett (W9YME)  
Members: 16 (13 in person, 3 online via MS Teams)

**Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)**

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) provided a report on current activity and balances for the club's financial accounts. (Exact numbers are available to all members upon request to the Treasurer and on Ham Club Online.)

The balance transfer from the UBS has been deposited into the PNC account. There are still some dividend payments to be passed through the UBS account which may take 30-90 days. At that point the UBS account will be closed.

**Video recording of the meeting was started at this time.**

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) opened the meeting, having everyone introduce themselves.

**Secretary Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)**

Secretary Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reviewed the minutes from the General Meeting of March 19, 2024.

**Motion: To accept minutes as read.** Made by Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL), seconded by Steve Shannon (K9SKS).

Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee**

Committee Chair Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) noted that the committee met on Tuesday, April 2 via MS Teams. The working document of the revised constitution and by-laws was reviewed. Committee members are submitting comments and the committee will meet again on Tuesday, April 23 at 7pm via MS Teams to review first draft.

Stuart noted it is hoped that a draft will be provided to the general membership at the General Meeting on May 21. We will then have a month for the membership to review the draft. At the next General Meeting there will be a discussion and time for input and final editing of the documents. The following General Meeting will be a review of the Final Draft and vote. This schedule is open to change as the process unfolds.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted again the need to update the Constitution and By-Laws, noting the change of the group to a 501c(3) organization.

**Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)**

Chris McCullough (W9TSB) reminded everyone of the VHF/UHF FM Simplex contest coming up next Saturday and that this year it also involves the activation of city parks for multipliers.

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that Chris is working on updating the club's logo per discussion at the club's Board Meeting from April 9.

### **Treasurer Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)**

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted the club spent \$1600 for new duplexer and did complete the purchase of liability insurance from Risk Strategies through ARRL.

### **Asset Inventory, Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL)**

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) and Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) have continued to research what new equipment to purchase. Jim noted it seems that a new antenna needs to be installed at the WANE-TV repeater site as soon as possible. Jim and Dan worked at the repeater site Saturday as the 443.800MHz repeater shut down. At that time they also worked on clarifying what the ongoing issue is with the 146.880MHz repeater. It is still unknown what is causing the intermittent problems with the repeater. The duplexer was replaced for the 146.880MHz repeater. President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) notes that there has been intermittent de-sense on the 146.880MHz repeater. The diplexer has also been removed and the 443.800MHz repeater has been shut down for now as the Yaesu repeater Dan has loaned the club was not putting out any power. Dan notes that these repeaters have a tendency to fail if run above low power (20 watts).

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted problems with the 146.880MHz repeater last night during the 6:30 IMO net after the repeater seemed to be working well all day. The repeater seemed to be working well today. Jim noted that the challenge in replacing the antenna is coordination with WANE-TV. Jim is still working at re-establishing the relationship with the club's contact (Jeff) at WANE. Jim has passed on a copy of the club's new liability insurance to WANE and invited Jeff to lunch.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) notes an interest in the new repeaters having the option of adding digital modes in the future.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) asked if anyone has a 30V power supply to try out as a replacement for the 146.880MHz repeater.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) notes that he can test the existing power supply at his office. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) thinks that the cutting-out occurring on the repeater is from the CAT1000 control board but thinks it is still good to test the Astron power supply. The controller can be tested using the Kendecom repeater.

### **Steve Shannon (K9SKS)**

Steve Shannon (K9SKS) noted that he still needs to get the antenna tower up at his home. Last Saturday the planned work day to get the tower up had to be cancelled due to Dan Dahms (N9WNH) and Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) needing to work on the repeater. There was discussion on what would work best at his site. It was set for Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) and Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) to meet with Steve at his house on Saturday, April 20 at 10am to at least come up with a plan for setting up his HF antenna.

Later in the meeting the workday at Steve Shannon's (K9SKS) house was moved from April 20 to Sunday, April 28, at 2pm to accommodate Kevin Hecksher's (W9KMH) work schedule.

**Jim Bassett (W9YME)** notes he is still waiting on the club for finalization of the club's logo before getting prices on club apparel. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) will talk with John Luckey (N9OBL) about doing the work.

**Howard Pletcher (N9ADS)** brought up if anyone has talked with Mike Stein who is a program developer at WANE. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) notes having talked with Mike and recognizes that as another option to making contact with WANE about the repeaters sited there. Howard encouraged Dan to talk with Mike further to get guidance before pushing forward.

**Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL)** suggested that we provide snacks and drinks for the meeting. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) notes he will talk with Grace Hochstetler, American Red Cross Disaster Manager NE Chapter to see if she is okay with the club bringing refreshments into the building.

Steve Shannon (K9SKS) volunteered to bring in home-ground coffee.

**Christie Settecase (KA9LLI)** noted that Gordon Matoon (WB9UBF) is a silent key. Though not a member currently it is unknown if he was a previous ACARTS member. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) indicated that notice will be provided in the ARRL section news and in the QST magazine.

### **Video: Care and Feeding of a 501(c)3**

The meeting watched a video of a presentation by the Rocky Mountain Ham Radio YouTube channel entitled “RMHAM U Quick Tip: Care and Feeding of a 501(c)3” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK\\_4Du8CqCA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK_4Du8CqCA)) This was a presentation by Wayne Heinen (N0POH) on the things needed to do to ensure that you can keep your 501(c)3 in good standing with the IRS.

The video covered the importance of an organization’s purpose clause and dissolution clause as well as the importance of documenting the group’s activities and finances. The video went into further detail concerning specific financial and tax concerns of a 501c3 organization both at the federal and state levels.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that this video is referencing starting a new organization whereas ACARTS is already a 501c4 organization and already has an EIN. He noted that currently the club is making sure the Purpose and Dissolution statements are in line with a 501c3 organization. He noted that our club’s activities follow a Scientific and Education group rather than a social group more befitting a 501c4 designation. Dan noted being a 501c3 allows individuals and organizations to make charitable donations and also makes the club qualified for more grants. As well as the advantages of changing tax status, the rewriting of the constitution helps bring it in line with how the group is now as the copy of the constitution on the club’s website is not current Dan noted.

Dan continued that, even with the Hamfest, the group still falls under the \$50,000 limit stated in the 501c3 requirements and so it does not make sense at this time to separate the Hamfest into another organization. Dan added that doing an inventory of the club’s equipment is also needed for record keeping requirements.

Dan encouraged members to participate in committee meetings, noting that they are held on MS Teams and easily accessible.

Dan explained his reasoning for why the club should transition to a 501c3. He notes he is open to questions though none were brought up at the meeting.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) noted that the use of the new speaker-phone and lapel microphones has worked very well to make the audio clear during club online meetings.

**Motion – “To purchase the package of wireless conference speaker phone and 10 lapel microphones for approximately \$124.”** Made by Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH), seconded by Dan Dahms (N9WNH). Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that some club members have been helping out local hams. One amateur helped recently helped by members with his antenna system gave a donation to ACARTS and also joined the club. Dan also noted that ACARTS member Bernie Holm (K9JDF) currently needs help with his antenna situation. Dan encouraged members to help out when e-mails go out asking for help.

**Motion to adjourn** at 9:29pm made by John Lazaro (KD9NIV) seconded by Steve Shannon (K9SKS). Passed by a voice vote.

### **Next meeting(s):**

Constitution & By-Laws Revision Committee meeting, Tuesday, April 23, 7pm, online via Microsoft Teams

Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 7pm, online via Microsoft Teams

General Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 7pm, American Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. Also online via Microsoft Teams. Recordings of meeting video will be posted on Ham Club Online, ACARTS YouTube channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.

ACARTS Board Meeting (online via Microsoft Teams)

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

7:02pm – 9:02pm

Attendance (8):

President: Dan Dahms (N9WNH)

Vice President: Chris McCullough (W9TSB)

Secretary: Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)

Treasurer: Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)

Station Manager: James (Jim) Sampiere (KD9NPL)

Fundraising Manager (Hamfest Manager): Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP)

Board Member: Howard Pletcher (N9ADS)

Board Member: Steve Shannon (K9SKS)

Absent: Board Member: James (Jim) Bassett (W9YME)

Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reviewed minutes for the Board Meeting of March 12. There were no corrections noted.

**Motion to accept minutes** made by Dan Dahms (N9WNH), seconded by Steve Shannon (K9SKS). Passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Treasurer, Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH)**

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) provided a report on current activity and balances for the club's financial accounts. (Exact numbers are available to members upon request to the Treasurer and on Ham Club Online.)

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) reported that UBS is ready to transfer account funds electronically once receiving the routing number. Final transfer should be done by Friday, possibly Monday. The UBS accounts cannot be fully closed until all the investments pay out their dividends in 30-90 days. Then a check will be issued and the accounts closed.

Ionis billing issue has been resolved.

Square devices have been purchased at \$73, including tax. Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) is working at getting them setup. Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) working at getting invoices into Quicken to invoice customers purchasing tables for the Hamfest.

At this point Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) is not aware of any fees from UBS for shutting down the accounts.

### **Membership Application**

Reviewing Kevin Hecksher's (W9KMH) draft of membership application, it was noted that the application is very involved and may need to be simplified with an optional additional form for further information.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) notes his office is willing to print forms for the club, up to folio size.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted changing student designation to "minor" – This will be noted in the draft of the Constitution.

Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) will try to print out copy of membership application for next week's General Meeting.

Chris McCullough (W9TSB) may work on updating the graphics on the application.

### **Repeater Update**

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted testing out the Kendecom at the 146.880 MHz repeater site, noting that there was still the same degradation of the received signals. It is still on warrantee from the previous work. The problem may be with the duplexer or antenna. Currently the Motorola machine is running on the 146.880 MHz repeater.

Station Manager Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted that Saturday the current Motorola machine was having episodic difficulty. Sunday night the IMO net had to be moved to another repeater. Jim and Dan Dahms (N9WNH) examined all the cabling at the repeater yesterday without finding any fault. The duplexer will be replaced and, if that is not the problem, the problem may be the antenna.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) will talk with the WANE contact, Jeff, to get technical help or find out if WANE has any scheduled tower maintenance. It does not seem likely that WANE would allow ACARTS to access the tower just for working on our antenna as that would likely involve reducing the transmit power of their transmitter temporarily. Jim notes there is no information available on the previous relationship WANE had with ACARTS and Jim is having to start the relationship anew. Jim invited any questions for WANE to be submitted to him. For now, Jim is focused on building the relationship and hopes to meet with their representative within a couple of weeks.

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) brought up that the newly purchased 2009 Telewave duplexer previously used by Aboite EMS needs to be re-tuned for the 146.880 MHz repeater for an estimated cost of \$150-\$300. The interconnect cables between the filters



do not need to be replaced. The jumpers between the duplexer and the other equipment may need to be replaced. Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) noted that it will be prudent to replace other cabling.

**Motion: “The new duplexers should re-tuned for use on the 146.880 MHz repeater.”**

Made by Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH), seconded by Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL). Passed by unanimous voice vote.

It was noted that the current duplexers are over 40 years old.

**New Purchases**

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) reported that the new repeater machines have been selected. There is some research to do on the power amplifiers. It may take a couple of weeks to do that research and confirm prices. A minimum cost of \$1000 each on power amplifiers is expected. Dan would like to move forward with purchasing the machines and power amplifiers as well as a new antenna. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) note that currently the 146.880 MHz repeater antenna is an amateur radio antenna, not truly suited for installation on commercial tower at 575 feet given the wind, lightning, and vibration. The idea is to replace the antenna with a folded dipole, all-metal commercial-grade antenna with internal harness. It is expected that there will be a 3dB gain in replacing the current antenna. Dan and Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) plan to get new price quotes, meet with WANE, and then go ahead with purchasing the planned equipment.

The Board was in agreement that Dan Dahms (N9WNH) and Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) are qualified to move ahead with purchasing the discussed equipment as they see fit. Jim expects he will send out an e-mail before actually purchasing equipment.

**Liability Insurance**

The new liability insurance has been purchased. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) is sending out the copies of ACART's new liability insurance policies to involved parties such as Parkview. Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) will find out for Dan who the Facilities Manager at Parkview is through his wife and daughter.

**Vice President, Chris McCullough (W9TSB)**

Chris McCullough (W9TSB) notes having setup the club's YouTube channel. Board members are added as Administrators on that channel. The channel does not yet have its own URL as it only has a couple of subscribers.

Chris notes still working on the Facebook page.

Dan Dahms (N9WNH) will work at promoting ACARTS VHF contest coming up on April 20. It will be promoted on the IMO net. Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) will contact Wells County Amateur Radio Club and Huntington County Amateur Radio Club to promote the event. Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) will look into posting info on area boards.

Steve Shannon (K9SKS) noted his agreement with how Dan Dahms (N9WNH) and Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) are moving forward with updating the repeaters.

Chris McCullough (W9TSB) asked whether there have been any problems with the repeater coordination with the 147.255 MHz repeater being off the air for so long. Dan Dahms (N9WNH) noted that there has not been any concerns raised. There is another repeater on that frequency 120 miles away. It is planned that the repeater will have an input/output tone of 141.3Hz.

Jim Sampiere (KD9NPL) asked for Howard Pletcher (N9ADS) to get a picture of the club equipment Howard has stored at his house so Jim can find another storage space.

Steve Shannon (K9SKS) noted the dog barking disruption on the 146.880 MHz repeater is continuing. It is believed to be malicious rather than an accidental VOX activation. It is believed that the disruptive station is located to the southwest of Fort Wayne. Fred Gengnagel (KC9EZP) has not heard the disruption on the repeater's input frequency on his drive home since that first time. Stuart Hall (KD9LFW), living on the southwest side has not heard the disruption on the repeater's input though he antenna is compromised by being inside his apartment. Kevin Hecksher (W9KMH) also lives on the southwest side and has not heard the disruption on input frequency using his tower-mounted antenna.

**Secretary Stuart Hall (KD9LFW)**

Stuart Hall (KD9LFW) reminded members of the Constitution & By-laws Revision Committee to submit their notes to him.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

General Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 7pm, American Red Cross 1212 E. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. Also online via Microsoft Teams. Recordings of meeting video will be posted on Ham Club Online, ACARTS YouTube channel, and the ACARTS Facebook page.



# MONROE HAMFEST

*and Computer Show*

---

## Father's Day - June 16, 2024

7:30am to 1:00pm - Set-up 6:30am Presented by:  
The Monroe County Radio Communications Association

---

### Monroe County Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)

FREE PARKING

Indoor Facilities / Trunk Sales

Computers and Equipment

Distributors / Hot Food

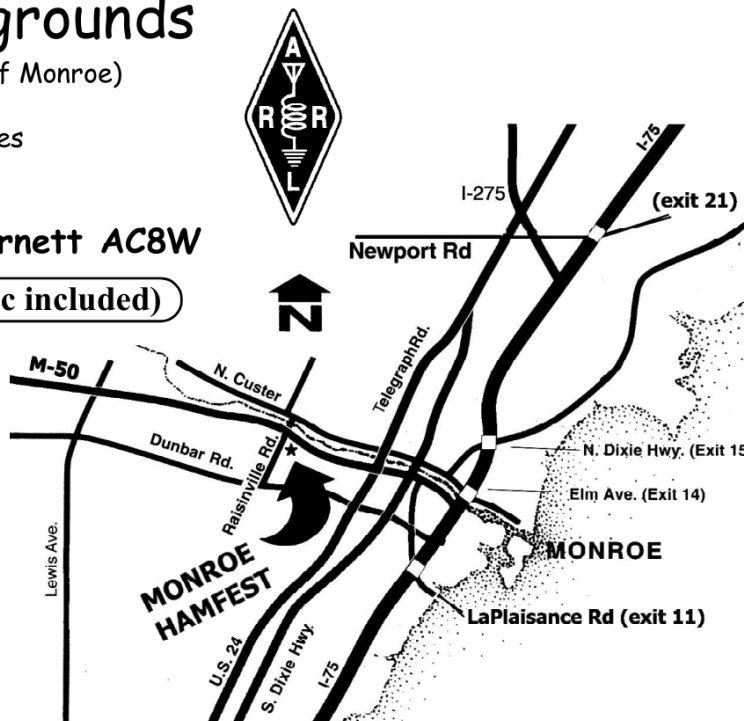
QSL Card checking by Stan Arnett AC8W

Over Night Camping \$40 (electric included)

Tables indoor 8': \$15 each, does not include admission ticket. Electric available in all buildings, bring cords.

Trunk 10' Spaces: \$10 each, does not include admission ticket.

Tickets Advance \$7 each.



---

Ticket, Trunk Sales, & Table Reservations online at: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Mail to: Fred VanDaele K8EBI, 4 Carl Drive, Monroe, MI 48162, [ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Trunk Spaces \_\_\_\_\_ Tables \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Advance Tickets \$7 ea. / 10 ft Trunk Spaces \$10 ea. / 8 ft Tables \$15 ea.

| Area Nets (updated as of 5/1/24) |                |                                                   |           |                 |                                                                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                               | —         | —               | —                                                               |
| Sunday                           |                |                                                   | Thursday  |                 |                                                                 |
| 8:00 PM                          | 444.550+       | Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL)       | 8:00 PM   | D-STAR          | Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)                                     |
| 8:30 PM                          | 146.910-       | "No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521 | 8:00 PM   | 50.580          | AM 6-Meter AM Net                                               |
| 9:00 PM                          | 145.53 simplex | Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2)   | 8:30 PM   | 145.510 simplex | Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4) |
| Monday                           |                |                                                   | Saturday  |                 |                                                                 |
| 8:00 PM                          | 224.780-       | Fort Wayne 224 Net                                | 8:00 PM   | 146.685-        | Huntington ARES(141.3 PL)                                       |

1. All times local time. **Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com.**

2. NEIPN is direct accessible via any BPQ Chat Node (or through Node hopping etc.) via other packet frequencies in this area and other areas through other nodes (it is locally direct accessible on 145.53 in NC & NE Indiana/NW Ohio and SE Michigan using KA9LCF-11, KC9VYU-11, N9LCF-11, N9PXO-11, K9BIF-11) Most BPQ Nodes use an SSID of -11.

3. Reflector REF024B.

4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred.

5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <http://www.inarrl.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts>

| Area Repeaters (updated as of 5/1/24) |          |                 |          |           |        |               |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|---------------|----------|
| 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 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.net domain is unreliable. Please use an alternate email address if you have one).  
 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 <sup>1</sup>    | \$35.00 / year |
| Student membership <sup>2</sup>   | \$5.00 / year  |
| Associate membership <sup>3</sup> | \$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 <sup>1</sup> | \$6.00 / year  |
| Student membership <sup>2</sup>        | \$6.00 / year  |
| Associate membership <sup>3</sup>      | \$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.

# HAMVENTION OR BUST!



**Largest  
hamfest in the  
USA!**

**Deals on new  
and used gear!**

**Forums!**

**Just about 2  
hours from  
Fort Wayne!**

**Don't miss it!**

**MAY 17-19, 2024**

**GREENE COUNTY FAIR AND EXPO CENTER, XENIA, OHIO**

[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)